



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Remainder: MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN WITH A NEGATIVE COUNT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

During 2013 and the first four months of 2014, the transparency project tasked with monitoring the Prizren municipal government, EC Ma Ndryshe published research findings and its recommendations for improving specific departments. Furthermore, EC Ma Ndryshe has reacted to sensitive issues as well pushed for greater action by those responsible within the municipal government of Prizren.

Within this monitoring period, the local government has taken some actions towards implementing several of recommendations, but these must nonetheless be followed by further steps in order to create improved standards of democratic governance. In addition, there have been several cases in which the municipal executive branch has ignored proposals coming from civil society, making the goal of building of inter-sectoral partnership still a distant goal.

Based on these experiences, EC Ma Ndryshe has brought forward a number of recommendations to the municipal government of Prizren, so that the remainder serves as a document for reflection and concrete action by the municipal bodies.

The Municipality of Prizren has taken a number of steps to address the requests of the organization's monitoring staff, including participating in the meetings of EC Ma Ndryshe's executive board. The decisions, however, by the Mayor of Prizren were submitted to the monitors in incessant and untimely manner. Monthly expenditure reports from the municipal budget have marked progress during this period. We should also note that there has been a willingness to reply to numerous applications made for access to public documents. Communication with the monitoring staff has been productive and during this period there have been several occasions in which civil society has been encouraged to take part in the development of certain projects. While this has been a positive step, participation of civil society should be expanded to the preparation of public policies as well.

However, in many cases, the executive branch of Prizren Municipality has been reluctant to seriously review and effectively deal with the findings and recommendations brought to light by EC Ma Ndryshe monitoring staff. Therefore this paper aims to remind Prizren's municipal government of unimplemented recommendations which have yet to be addressed:

- Strict enforcement of the provisions in Administrative Instruction 2008/09 of MLGA on

Transparency and informing the citizens of decision-making;

- Reporting, especially to media sources, on matters related to the use of the municipal budget, economic development, the use of municipal property, urban planning, investments, municipal revenues and other matters;
- Supplementing the municipal Regulation on Transparency- managing and responsible spending of public money;
- Implementation of recommendations deriving from audit reports from the past 5 years;
- Adherence to the Law on Public Procurement for every service, supply or tendering;
- Payments to be cleared in accordance with contract requirements and only after proper checks that contracted goods and services are received in proper quantity and quality;
- Mastering a plan for effective payment of the debts of the Municipality;
- Increase the activity for the collection of own-source revenues and debts owed to the Municipality;
- To not invest public money in projects subject to property disputes and without a thorough elaboration of their functionality and usefulness to the citizens of Prizren;
- Undertake actions for prevention and demolition of structures built without a permit and overruns which did not comply with the Urban Regulatory Plans;
- To carefully listen to remarks voiced by the citizens on concerns related to their neighborhoods and villages;
- Enforcement of the provisions of LLSG, Municipal Statute of Prizren and of Transparency Regulation on 'Petitions' and respecting the right of citizens to address matters by petition;
- Coordination between directorates during the review of applications for permits for the use of public spaces;
- Increase capacities to enforce the Law on Access to Public Documents on each case, without exception;
- Ensure the participation and inclusion of citizens through data disclosure.

EC Ma Ndryshe's transparency oversight of the executive branch program will continue to publish its monitoring findings through regular press releases as well as the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. To date, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren, Mamuşa/Mamushë, and Prishtina are regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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