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Press release

MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN WITH DEFICIENCIES IN APPLICATION OF THE LAW ON ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

NGO EC Ma Ndryshe within the project “Index of the Reform on Municipal Transparency” has reviewed the efficiency of Prizren Municipality in enabling access to the public documents in accordance with the appropriate Law.

Within its projects EC Ma Ndryshe during the period January-June 2015 in Municipality of Prizren has deposited over 30 requests for access to public documents and information, in which case it registered delays which take more than two weeks in offering a response, while some requests are still without an official answer.

Within the most irresponsible directorates in offering access to public documents was the Directorate of Inspections, which has neglected five requests addressed for various issues by not offering any answer. In the meantime in certain cases Directorates of Urbanism and Public Services didn't see reasonable to offer information on requested explanation requested based on legal disposals of the Law for access on Public Documents, as well.

These findings once again show that the efforts of Prizren Municipality to ensure access to public documents in accordance with respective legal disposals are insufficient and that there is a need for additional mobilization to guaranty this right for the requesters of public documents.

These findings as well are evidence that Prizren Municipality has space to improve its transparency towards the citizens. At the same time it's a confirmation of an earlier conclusion of EC Ma Ndryshe on slow flow of information and documents from all directorates to the Information Office and Communication, which brings to the non-publication of decisions in real time and non-information of the public for different relevant issues, but also deficiencies in application of the Law on Access to Public Documents.

That's why; EC Ma Ndryshe once again invites Municipality of Prizren to:

- Apply in accuracy disposals of the Law on Access to Public Documents;
- To increase transparency, by publishing all public documents in WEB site of the municipality;
- To eliminate delays in offering answers related to requests for access to public documents; and
- To inform officials and civil servants on importance of application of the Law on Access to Public Documents

EC Ma Ndryshe started to implement the project, “Index of the Reform on Municipal Transparency” in May 2015, thanks to the support of the United Kingdom Embassy in Prishtina, an it will stretch in seven main municipalities of Kosova, Prishtinë, Prizren, Pejë, Mitrovicë, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakovë. There are 13 groups of indicators of special importance which are designed to draft the Index of Transparency they are of special importance in evaluation of transparency of municipalities, the evaluation for each municipality will be based on equal criteria.

The projects aim is to assist the municipalities in identification of main deficiencies as far as the transparency concern and also offer advices in addressing and overcoming them. Index of transparency presents one more structured effort to support municipalities of Kosova in fulfillment of good governance standards, set in reforms of local government and European agenda of Kosova.

With respect,
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