



**Non-governmental Organization Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE**

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PRESS RELEASE

The analysis “Youth and Transparency: Progress or stagnation?” published

On Friday evening in Prizren EC Ma Ndryshe organized a debate “Merr pjesë n’iftar për rininë dhe transparencën!” (*Attend to iftar for youth and transparency!*), within which the second analysis “Youth and Transparency: Progress or stagnation?” was published as a sequel of the first survey “Youth and Transparency: Excluded or ignored?” In addition, a documentary “How active, so transparent?” on the youth activism and transparency of the municipality was screened during this debate.

As panellists in this discussion attended Kujtim Gashi, Chairman of Prizren Municipal Assembly and Leotrim Gërmizaj, Head of Local Youth Action Council in Prizren, whereas participants in this discussion were municipal officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, the youth, university and secondary school students of Prizren.

Laura Lutfiu, project coordinator at EC Ma Ndryshe, when introducing the analysis has revealed that according to the perceptions of young people in Prizren and Gjilan/Gnjilane appears that in some areas related to municipal transparency, the local government of Gjilan/Gnjilane has a slight advantage over Prizren, although the trends do not significantly differ in terms of percentages. She pointed out that the second survey on municipal transparency shows that 47% of young people in Prizren have any knowledge on decision-making, while 43% of young people have knowledge on that matter. In relation to municipal transparency, at present 41% of young people think that local governance of Prizren is averagely transparent.

Luftiu added that over 18% of respondents in Prizren have knowledge on the opportunity of following the municipal decision-making through social media and that more than a quarter of respondents in Prizren, know they can initiate online petitions, while about 15% of them have knowledge that can address their complaints in relation to the municipal government in the “Ankohu”/“Complain” section at merrpjesje.org; against 10% of young people of Prizren who know they can submit proposals to a list of municipal capital projects, in the “Participatory budgeting” section. Based on the survey results, Luftiu asserted that data indicate that in certain aspects of the youth involvement in decision-making and transparency there is a progress opposite to some segments where there has a stagnation, while the social media is increasingly taking place in the everyday lives, a trend which should be followed also by local institutions in their communication with the public.

During implementation, according to her, the project has managed to produce some solid results that can serve as a roadmap to more positive developments towards the use of social media as tools for participation and transparency at the local level by both municipality and civil society.

This activity was carried out within the “Raising participation through social media” project, which was financially supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kosovo and at the same time marks the conclusion of the first cycle of project activities.

EC Ma Ndryshe shall continue with its commitments to further consolidate the “Merr pjesë” (“Participate”) platform.

The project “Raising participation through Social Media” of EC Ma Ndryshe aims to encourage young people of Prizren and Gjilan/Gnjilane to participate in local decision-making processes through innovative and educational approach, as well as to help them in better understanding the civil rights and responsibilities. Moreover, this project aims to bridge the gap between municipal government and the youth by supporting them through different activities on the ground and within the community by using social media which are increasingly available at present.

For more information visit website of the project, www.merrpjesje.org

Thank you for your cooperation,

Laura Lutfiu, Project coordinator
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