

URBANISM WATCH

Urban Planning of Prizren Under
Constant Watch

30 March 2015, Prizren

Press Release #20

PRESS RELEASE

Municipality Continues its Works in Ryzhdije Courtyard without MCYS Approval

Over the recent days, EC Ma Ndryshe followed closely the developments related to the Project of Library construction in the vicinity of the old school "Ryzhdije".

Based on information received from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports it comes out that this Ministry did not give any final approval for the construction of Library. While, from the observations in the field one can see that works in this area have already started.

The electronic memo sent by the MCYS Department of Cultural Heritage indicates that this Ministry reviewed the project submitted by the Municipality of Prizren in compliance with the recommendations given by the Committee requesting project review and its further complementation. "This Project is not fully completed. In this respect, we have contacted relevant municipal Directorate, and despite their good will and commitment, the complete Project has still not been submitted. The Project as such has still not been approved by the MCYS", points out the MCYS memo.

MCYS also confirmed that Regional Centre of Cultural Heritage in Prizren notified it for the beginning of works and that it has already received the first field visit report.

In this situation, it is clear that for the implementation of this Project, Prizren Municipality has still not met all legal requirements. In January, EC Ma Ndryshe indicated that Municipality of Prizren laid the foundation of the Library without obtaining MCYS approval (link: [http://online-transparency.org/repository/docs/Komunikate, UË_21012015.pdf](http://online-transparency.org/repository/docs/Komunikate_UË_21012015.pdf)), and now, it is continuing its works without adhering to legal requirements.

EC Ma Ndryshe would like to bring to attention that former Ryzhdije School is cultural heritage protected site included in the MCYS Temporary List of Protected Sites, and as such deserves an increased attention by the authorities.

Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe would like to call upon the Prizren Municipality to immediately halt the Library construction works and to pursue the legal way of obtaining the approvals by the relevant authorities.

On the other hand, the Government of Kosovo should step in with concrete actions in order to ensure protection of cultural heritage values in this protected zone.

In July 2013, “EC Ma Ndryshe” started the implementation of the Project “Urban Planning of Prizren under Constant Watch” that is financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS). Project will continue with monitoring and publication of findings in the sector of urban and spatial planning, as well as addressing the institutional responsibility.

Kindly yours,

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