



Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe  
EC MA NDRYSHE

## URBANISM WATCH

Urbanism of Prizren  
under constant watch

6 May 2016, Prizren

Press Release #32

### REACTION

#### **It is about the time for Kosovo government to intervene in the Historic Centre of Prizren**

Destruction of old buildings, that enjoys legal protection as provided by law, is continuing at the Historic Centre of Prizren. The latest case of destruction of cultural heritage in this protected zone has occurred on Thursday at "Marin Barleti". Pursuant to the authorities, there are several other buildings at this street risking to collapse. It has been a long time since the state haven't undertaken appropriate actions to maintain and conserve these buildings considering that they represent precious value of Prizren architectural heritage.

Buildings at "Marin Barleti" street, mostly residential, are already in risk of total destruction. All these buildings enjoy legal protection status and fall under Nën-kalaja Complex, Pantelis and Potok Mahalla, part of the List of Cultural Heritage under Temporary Protection (database unique number 002983). The same enjoys legal protection pursuant to Article 4 paragraph 2 of the Law on Historic Centre of Prizren, provides as follows: "The protected Historic Centre of Prizren, as a property of cultural heritage under protection, shall be included in the list of cultural heritage, under permanent protection of Republic of Kosovo"

Therefore, it is about the time for Kosovo state institutions to actuate this legal protection status. Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning cannot remain indifferent in relation to recent developments in the Historic Centre, nor expect actions from the Municipality of Prizren, which proved its non-readiness to act in this regard.

Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe appeals to the Kosovo Government to intervene in the Historic Centre, a zone with a situation not under control where destruction of cultural heritage is alarming.

Buildings located at street "Marin Barleti"Urgent require immediate intervention in order to retain and conserve them. Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in cooperation with other authorities should take immediate actions to prevent further destruction of old buildings in the Historic Centre, and to invest in their conservation.

MCYS budget for 2016 under its budget code 'Preventive measures' and 'emergency interventions' projected allocation of 200 thousand EUR. In the previous year, the MCYS has not invested nether a single dime, from this budget, in the Historic Centre of Prizren, even though the condition of many buildings is deplorable. Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe appeals to MCYS to urgently allocate these funds for emergency interventions in the Historic Centre of Prizren. At the same time it requires from Government and Assembly of Kosovo to engage in finding additional funds during the annual budget review.

EC Ma Ndryshe re-appeals to prosecute cases of damage to cultural heritage. The inability of the judiciary to deal with these cases is a direct encouragement for recidivism "damage to cultural heritage". Despite dozens

of reported cases in recent years, there is yet up to date no court verdict sanctioning damages to the heritage within the Historic Centre.

In addition to the enormous damage to the country's cultural heritage, recent cases of destruction and eventual repetition of these scenarios will go in favour of those who opposes Kosovo's membership in UNESCO.

*In July 2013, "EC Ma Ndryshe" commenced the implementation of the project "Urbanism of Prizren under constant watch", a project financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS). The project will continue to monitor and publish the findings from the field of urbanism and spatial planning, as well as addressing institutional responsibilities.*

*Sincerely,*

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### **URBANISM WATCH**

Urban Planning of Prizrenit Under  
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