



Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC Ma Ndryshe

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PRESS RELEASE

Lack of institutional coordination is stimulating degradation

Institutions responsible for preserving the values of Historic Centre of Prizren have not established a proper system for coordinating the tasks among them, as well as the justice authorities are still not applying sanctions for violations in this particular zone.

The monitoring related to the actions of institutional chain, during the period July-November 2015 has highlighted the lack of proper institutional communication, which had a negative impact on preserving the values of cultural heritage and prevention of degradation in the center.

Statistical data provided by the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren show that this mechanism has identified 5 projects or works accomplished in this zone without consideration of RCCH and the same were addressed to the Department of Inspections in Municipality of Prizren

Whereas the statistical data provided by the Department of Inspections emphasize that there was only 1 case in administrative procedure, since the investor possessed a demolition permit, but commenced the construction work without obtaining construction permit. According to Department of Inspections the same person was fined two times with mandatory fines and construction works seized on the facility. The Department of Inspection noted that there were no other cases during this period in the Historic Center.

Meantime, the Basic Prosecution in Prizren has noted that during this period of time filed two indictments against two individuals suspected for violating the law.

Whereas the statistical data provided by the Basic Court of Prizren for this period show that sanctioning measures were imposed regarding urban irregularities for 4 criminal cases in other parts of the city, where among the defendants there are also municipal officials who have abused the official duty, and it was not reported about any judgment related to the violations in the Historic Centre of Prizren.

The fact that judicial authorities have started to address urban irregularities is encouraging, but there is still much work to be done in this regard. On the other hand, the difference between the data reported by RCCH and cases evidenced by Department of Inspection is noticeable. And this gap should be narrowed in order to protect the Historic Center of Prizren from further degradation.

NGO EC Ma Ndryshe recalls that the protection and development of the Historic Centre of Prizren is a shared responsibility of both levels of government and of a considerable number of institutions. Lack of sanctions for violations represents the inability of institutions to ensure the rule of law.

Due to this reason, it is recommended to enhance the coordination between state institutions in order to establish an urban order in the Historic Center, but without compromising other parts of the city.

This coordination should be applied at several levels, including that within the municipality of Prizren (Departments, Council of Cultural Heritage), municipality in relation to RCCH and relevant ministries (Culture, Spatial Planning and Local Governance), law enforcement institutions and institutions of justice as well as parliamentary oversight in relation to the government and municipality.

NGO Ec Ma Ndryshe started implementing the project "Municipal Transparency Index Reform" since May 2015, thanks to the support of the UK Embassy in Pristina, which covers the largest municipalities of Kosovo such as Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakova, as well as Suharekë, Rahovec, Malisheve, Dragash, Mamusha and Shtrpce. The project in question aims to assist the municipalities in identifying major gaps in terms of transparency as well as providing guidelines for addressing and overcoming them. Transparency Index presents a structured effort to support Kosovo municipalities in meeting the standards of good governance, defined with the reform of local government and Kosovo's European agenda.

Respectfully

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