



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDARYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Remainder: MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN WITH A NEGATIVE COUNT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

During 2013 and the first four months of 2014 within the project of monitoring the transparency of Prizren municipal government, EC Ma Ndryshe has disclosed the findings from various researches and thereto has provided recommendations for improving the situation in certain departments. Furthermore, our organization has reacted on sensitive issues as well requiring proper action by the responsible ones of Prizren Municipality.

Within this period, the local government has taken some actions towards the implementation of several recommendations, which nonetheless must be followed by further steps in order to have an enhancement of standards of good and democratic governance. In addition to this, there were also cases when the municipal executive branch has ignored proposals coming from civil society, making the building of inter-sectoral partnership to remain a desired target only.

Based on these experiences, EC Ma Ndryshe has brought in a balance of implemented and unimplemented recommendations by the municipal government of Prizren, so that this remainder serves as a document for reflection and concrete action by the municipal bodies.

Among the positive steps of the Municipality of Prizren in relation to the requests of the organization's monitoring staff was the allowing of their participation in the meetings of the executive board, while the conclusions, respectively the decisions of the Mayor of Prizren were submitted to the monitors in incessant and timely manner. Provision of monthly reports regarding expenditures of the municipal budget has marked progress during this period. Should also note the willingness to reply to numerous applications made for access to public documents regardless of some delays in this respect. Communication with the monitoring staff was correct and, during this period there have been some initiatives for which civil society was invited to be part in the development of certain projects, although such a thing should be expanded on the preparation of public policies as well.

However, in many cases, the executive branch of Prizren Municipality has been reluctant to seriously review and effectively deal with the findings and recommendations brought to light by the monitors of EC Ma Ndryshe. Therefore, by this paper, Prizren's municipal government is reminded of unimplemented recommendations which need to be addressed:

- Strict enforcement of the provisions of Administrative Instruction 2008/09 of MLGA on Transparency and informing the citizens on decision-making;
- Reporting to the media on matters related to the use of the municipal budget, economic development, the use of municipal property, urban planning, investments, municipal revenues and other matters;
- Supplementing the municipal Regulation on Transparency;

- Managing and responsible spending of public money;
- Implementation of recommendations deriving from the Audit Reports of the last 5 years;
- Adherence to the Law on Public Procurement on every service, supply or tendering;
- Payments to be cleared in accordance with contract requirements and only after proper checks that contracted goods and services are received in proper quantity and quality;
- Mastering a plan for effective repayment of the debts of the Municipality;
- Increase the activity for the collection of own-source revenues and debts owed to the Municipality;
- To not invest public money in projects subject to property disputes and without a thorough elaboration of their functionality and usefulness to the citizens of Prizren;
- Undertake actions for prevention and demolition of structures built without a permit and overruns which did not comply with Urban Regulatory Plans;
- To carefully listen to the remarks voiced by the citizens on concerns related to their neighbourhoods and villages;
- Enforcement of the provisions of LLSG, Municipal Statute of Prizren and of Transparency Regulation on 'Petitions' and respecting the right of citizens for addressing the matters by petition;
- Coordination between directorates during the review of applications for permits for the use of public spaces;
- Increase capacities to enforce the Law on Access to Public Documents on each case, without exception;
- Ensure the participation and inclusion of citizens through data disclosure.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for the transparency oversight of the executive branch will continue on publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. To date, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren, Mamuşa/Mamushë and Prishtina are being regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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