

URBANISM WATCH

Urbanism of Prizren under
Constant Watch

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Communiqué #13

PRESS RELEASE**An open letter addressed to the candidates of Prizren running for MPs**

Given the adverse developments in Prizren's urban landscape, with particular emphasis on the degradation of cultural heritage, 'EC Ma Ndryshe' decided to address this open letter to the candidates of Prizren running for seats in the Assembly of Kosovo.

By this letter we seek from the candidates standing for elections to vow for raising the issue of urban and cultural heritage degradation in Prizren to the highest decision making level of the Republic of Kosovo, in order to safeguard remaining urban values of this settlement.

The need for such address comes as a result of the continual inability of the Municipality of Prizren to act in this regard, which in turn has led to the damage of the traditional values of this historic city, despite the fact that years ago Prizren Municipal Assembly has approved the Conservation and Development Plan for this zone.

Meanwhile, legislative and institutional framework of the Republic of Kosovo is very conducive to the protection of cultural heritage. Moreover, in the case of the historic centre of Prizren, besides basic legislation (laws on cultural heritage and spatial planning), separate laws on the special protective zones and that of the Historic Centre of Prizren have been also adopted. Even though the legal framework for the Historic Centre of Prizren is quite extensive, so far has seen no proper implementation on the field.

Therefore, on the wake of national elections of 2014 EC Ma Ndryshe seeks from the candidates of Prizren nominated for members of the Assembly of Kosovo to publicly vow for being committed to building a permanent parliamentary monitoring system that would oversee the work of the government in the field of the management and urban development in Prizren, with particular emphasis on the conservation of cultural heritage. Along with the stopping the degradation, prospective MPs are sought for commitment to exercise their authority to create an enabling environment for the development of controlled and sustainable urban development, by ensuring at all times conservation of traditional urban values of Prizren.

'EC Ma Ndryshe', in July of 2013, began with the implementation of the "Urbanism of Prizren under Constant Watch" project, financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS). The need for overseeing developments in the sector of urban planning has naturally emerged as a result of a numerous adverse developments during the post-war and transition period that were manifested in urban degradation and lopsided spatial planning. The project will continue to monitor and publish findings from the field of urbanism and spatial planning, as well as in addressing institutional responsibility.

With regards,

Valon Xhabali, Project Coordinator
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
Saraçët 5 – Prizren
Perandori Dioklecian 14, (5th floor), 10000 Pristina
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771

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