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PRESS RELEASE

Undefined boundaries, the main issue of “Historic Centre” of Prishtina

Last month, within the “Online Transparency” project, EC Ma Ndryshe has published its study report “Historic Centre of Prishtina counts its last days”, in which, amongst others, significant issues are exposed related to its missing legal protection, preceded by its undefined boundaries. The entire report “*Historic Centre of Prishtina counts its last days*” can be read [here](#).

These issues, among all other developments, appear to be the most critical and, concurrently, creating greater opportunity for continuation of its degradation, and also one of the reasons why this zone is brought into the state in which is found today. This zone appears in different documents with various names, which illustrates the unsustainable approach to the treatment of this Historic Centre. Even though Historic Centre is often referred to as the Historic Zone of Prishtina, actually it is not defined as such at all.

Without definition of the boundaries of what would be defined as a zone, the surface area treated with potential content of the values of cultural heritage cannot be defined by legal status. The fact this area is not protected has a direct impact on its ongoing degradation. In case this zone would enjoy legal protected status this would then help in prevention of degrading activities within and its surrounding. The current status alone, that of temporary protection of individual monuments, has not helped at all in this regard.

The Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Prishtina have expressed interest in the definition of the boundaries of the Historic Centre that would represent the initial step in the normalization of the situation in it. However, to date, hasn't been noticed any reinforcement of this will and institutional commitment. In recent months, as a first step in this regard, MCYS has established a committee that will begin with this process, but, so far, no concrete activity has been undertaken.

Given these findings and the downgraded state of this centre, EC Ma Ndryshe calls upon the relevant ministries and the Municipality of Prishtina for prompt actions thus recommending the following:

- To speed up the process of defining the boundaries of the historic zone of Prishtina through the Joint Commission established by MCYS,
- Historic zone to enjoy a permanent legal protection status that would protect and regulate construction activities and other functions within it,
- To proceed with the drafting of the conservation plan and then with the management plan of this zone,

- To file under permanent protection the buildings and complexes which already are on the list under temporary protection.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for overseeing transparency of the Municipality of Prishtina shall continue with publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. All monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information in relation to the local government of Prishtina will be regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you,

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