



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDREYSHE

EC MA NDREYSHE ANNUAL WORK REPORT 2014

NGO Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe (EC Ma Ndryshe)

Saraçët Str. no. 5, 20000/Prizren ~ Perandori Dioklecian Str. 14 (floor V),
10000/Prishtina www.ecmandryshe.org ~ info@ecmandryshe.org ~ 038-224-967
&029-222-771

EC MA NDRYSHE

The non-governmental organization “EC Ma Ndryshe” was established in March 2006. The main goals of the organization are the promotion of active citizen participation and the raising of civic awareness for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage. EC Ma Ndryshe is one of the founding organizations that represents Kosovo in the South East European Heritage Network - SEE Heritage Network, of organizations that deal with issues regarding cultural heritage. Furthermore, EC Ma Ndryshe is the founder of the Cultural Heritage Forum of Prizren, the Network of Cultural Organizations (RrOK) of Prizren, and the Network of Independent Cultural Organizations in Kosovo’s Cultural Forum. Since its establishment, EC Ma Ndryshe has been exercising direct pressure on the local government in Prizren to generate greater access for civil society and its citizens to the decision-making process. In addition to direct participation in the public consultation processes, EC Ma Ndryshe has regularly advocated for the adherence to legal requirements for public consultations, wider community involvement, and the inclusion of the community’s needs in public policy documents.

Main projects: Cultural and Urban Activism in Prizren (2014 – 2015), Linking communities to justice providers (2014), Urbanism Watch – Urbanism of Prizren under constant watch (2013 – 2014), Civic participation through social media in Gjilan and Prizren (2013 – 2014), Inclusive city Participatory planning for sustainable urban development in Prizren (2013 – 2015), Cultural heritage, the central pillar of local and regional sustainable development in Prizren (2013 – 2014), Volunteers of Culture (2012 – 2013), Civic participation in drafting and implementation of cultural policies in the municipality of Prizren (2012 – 2013), Online transparency of Municipalities of Prizren, Mamusha and Prishtina (2012 - 2015), The role of civil society in promoting cultural heritage (regional project) 2011 – 2013, A Balkan tale, Ottoman heritage in the Balkan (regional project) (2011 – 2013), Raising cultural awareness of the youth through documentaries (2010), Strengthening of civic actions for promotion and protection of cultural heritage (2009), “Culture 2013” platform (2008 – 2009), Restoration Camps (2007, 2008 & 2009), Open Civic Forums (2007), European Heritage days in Kosovo (2006, 2007 & 2008), Lilly of Prizren 2006.

Publications: Where is the cobble-stone of Prizren (2014), Prishtina Historical Centre counts its last days (2014), Public money as “dad’s money” (2014), Youth and Transparency: Progress or stagnation? (2014), Documentary – How active, so transparent? (2014), Guide Municipal Transparency (2014), Laws are not protecting the Historic Centre (2014), Reading the city through Urbanism (2014), Historic Centre of Prizren – a(n) (un)protected area (2014), Inclusive city (2014), Who guards the guardians – accountability of civil society in Kosovo (2013), Youth and Transparency: Excluded or ignored? (2013), Urban planning for citizens (2013), Civic participation in drafting cultural policies in Prizren (2013), Prizren “City of culture” – documentary (2013), Erroneous – An analysis of numerous and continuous faults in cultural heritage (2013), Five analysis of the “Online Transparency” project: 1. A year of monitoring for greater transparency 2. Natural and Urban degradation, 3. Adherence to the law in local governance, 4. Good governance is not just a phrase, 5. Transparency of local governance in Prizren (2012 – 2013), Silent Balkan, documentary of the “A Balkan Tale” project (2012), Cultural life in the Municipality of Prizren (in cooperation with ODA theatre) (2010-2011), Prizren through the rear-view mirror, comparison of old and new photos of Prizren (2009), Volunteering and Cultural Heritage (2009), Low cost intervention (2009), Strategic document on Organizing European Heritage Days in Kosovo (2008), Cultural heritage and Cultural tourism in Prizren (2008), Cultural spaces in Kosovo (in cooperation with ODA theatre) (2008)).

PROGRAMS

Since its establishment in 2006, EC Ma Ndryshe was actively involved in strengthening active citizen participation to influence local level public policies (Municipality of Prizren), with a special focus on cultural policies. The organization aims to achieve a responsible citizenry at the local level and use of culture as a means for local economic development. During 2014, EC Ma Ndryshe operated with two main programs: civic participation and cultural heritage. The work of the organization is focused on three levels of action: addressing public policies, mobilization of the community and use of direct intervention means for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage. The work strategy uses a triangle approach of culture – participation – development. This approach views culture as a resource to be used, participation as a method of action, while economic development as a wanted result.

Cultural Heritage Program

EC Ma Ndryshe is an organization profiled in cultural heritage. Since its establishment in 2006, it has proven itself through concrete action on behalf of protection and promotion of cultural heritage of Kosovo, with a focus on the city of Prizren. As a result of its performance, EC Ma Ndryshe represents Kosovo within the most successful regional network of cultural heritage South East European Heritage Network (www.seeheritage.org). The central engagement of the organization in the field of cultural heritage is the promotion of said culture by bringing to light its potential for development.

EC Ma Ndryshe has set the following mid-term objectives of its cultural heritage actions in the Municipality of Prizren:

- Approval of all legal acts for protection and promotion of cultural heritage by the Municipal Assembly of Prizren,
- Substantial integration of the cultural heritage component in development planning (Municipal Development Plan, Urban Development Plan and Urban Regulatory Plan),
- Building the capacities of civil society (and the community) for direct action for the protection of cultural heritage,
- Economic growth based on cultural tourism (specifically cultural heritage tourism),
- Establishment of alternative mechanisms for decentralization of decision-making in the field of culture and cultural heritage.

Civic Participation Program

EC Ma Ndryshe is committed to changing the cultural policy of the Kosovar society, through amending the approach of the citizens toward state authorities. This transformation may be achieved through empowerment of the role of citizens in decision-making processes. Specifically, EC Ma Ndryshe is committed to creating and advancing the legal mechanisms of participation, increasing institutional responsibility and transparency in decision-making and overcoming psychological barriers of the society in relation to state authorities. The level of commitment for civic participation provides the organization with a distinguished advantage as well as greater opportunities for achieving results and concrete changes.

EC Ma Ndryshe has set the following mid-term objectives of its actions for civic participation in the Municipality of Prizren:

- Approval of all legal acts related to civic participation by the Municipal Assembly of Prizren,
- Increasing the participation of citizens in public consultation processes,
- Intensification of usage of direct democracy mechanisms,
- Increasing the level of municipal transparency in relation to decision-making and policy implementation,

- Establishment of alternative mechanisms for the decentralization of decision-making in the field of culture.

PROJECTS

During 2014 EC Ma Ndryshe executed seven projects. Some of these projects were continued from previous years, while some others will also continue to be executed during 2015. The projects of the organization during 2014 extended geographically through the following areas of Kosovo: Prizren, Mamusha, Malisheva, Suhareka, Dragash, Rahovec, Gjilan and Prishtina.

Online Transparency of Municipalities of Prizren, Mamusha and Prishtina

During 2014, the project was expanded with the Prishtina component, where the focus was on urban planning and cultural heritage. Once again this year, the project of Online Transparency was the central activity of supervising the local government. As a result of supervising and monitoring activities within the three respective municipalities, a great number of information was produced in forms of communiques and analysis. In Prizren, the program published findings on a number of decision-making fields, including urban planning, cultural heritage, education, public procurement, budget expenditure, etc. The monitoring of the decision-making of the executive branch of the government took place, thus shedding a light on management of public funds. While in Prishtina, the project was focused on illegal construction and degradation of cultural heritage.

The main achievements during 2014 were:

- Opening of the decision-making process of the executive branch of the government, by changing the practice of closed meetings of the Mayor of Prizren Municipality,
- Increased fiscal transparency through regular publication of budget expenditure of the Municipality of Prizren,
- Establishment of Transparency Forum, as an entity for joint action of civil society activists and journalists of Prizren,
- Addressing a number of cases containing irregularities of the Municipality of Prizren to the central government and judiciary institutions,
- Encouragement of institutional action to address the challenges of the Historic Centre of Prishtina through publishing cases of degradation and permanent advocating,
- Documenting cases of illegal construction (and other urban irregularities) in Prishtina neighbourhoods as a precondition for drafting a strategy for addressing illegal constructions (support for the process of legalization),
- Regular updates of the transparency webpage, which has been transformed into a hub of local transparency and serves a large number of beneficiaries.

Inclusive City – Participatory Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Prizren

Due to the lack of capacities of the Municipality of Prizren to organize public consultation for urban planning, the project ensured the participation of a larger number of citizens in identifying needs and translation of the same into implementable urban plans for Prizren. By targeting under-represented groups of the community (the elderly, women, the young, persons with special needs, poor neighbourhoods, etc.), the project facilitated their communication with the municipal policy-makers. In addition to activities for mobilization and development of the community, the project also implemented a number of public performances that served as a reminder of the obligations of the municipality toward the citizens and, at the same time, produced a concrete solution for existing public spaces.

The main achievements of the project for 2014 were:

- Inclusion of hundreds of citizens in activities that aimed to identify needs and translate the same into implementable urban plans,
- Production of solutions and visions for addressing the challenges of public spaces in Prizren,
- Treatment of a number of cases reported by the Municipality of Prizren, including the placement of wheelchair ramps, removal of physical obstacles from the pavements, etc.
- Opening of the decision-making process through partnerships between the Urban Directorate and organizations of the civil society for organizing public discussions,
- Recording the needs and concerns of the citizens through a permanent tool of wide-ranging surveys in the city (projection of trends and measuring the level of satisfaction of the citizens),
- Inclusion of the findings resulting from working with citizens into the regulatory plan of Arbana neighbourhood.

Linking communities to justice providers

The project has aided the Basic Court in Prizren in structuring the public information unit. Specifically, during 2014, certain means of communication were produced, including here the Communication Strategy of the Court (and plan of action). On behalf of increasing the transparency of the Court, the project aided with the preparation of an informational TV clip relating to the work of the Court as well certain other educational materials. Facilitating communication of community groups with the justice providers was also an essential component of the project. Certain thematic meetings were organized with greater participation to increase communication between the citizens and the Court, thus installing a new practice of action of this institution. The Office for Information of the Court now already operates with a number of permanent communication tools (social media profiles, quarterly informational bulletin, 'visit the Court' program, etc.)

Main achievements of the project during 2014 were:

- New products of communicating with the public: TV clip, Communication Strategy, quarterly informational bulletin, 'visit the Court' programs, informational brochures,
- Increase of communication between the citizens and Court through thematic discussions and visit-the-Court programs,
- Increased transparency in the work of the Court as a result of creating new means of communicating with the public (regular information, meetings, etc.),
- Consolidation of capacities of the Information Office through regular technical support in drafting and implementing new means of communicating with the public.

Urbanism Watch – urbanism of Prizren under constant watch

Supervision of the sector of urbanism focused on the Historic Centre of Prizren was the central engagement of the organization during 2014 also. The project monitored the entirety of the institutional cycle (local government, central government, Assembly of Kosovo, judiciary, police, etc.) to bring additional transparency to the work of the state in relation to the protection of the Historic Centre of Prizren. Concerns that were regularly articulated by the organization also found their place in the Progress Report of the European Commission for 2014, where for the first time the failure of the municipality and of the central government to offer adequate protection for the cultural heritage in Prizren was explicitly ascertained. The project also influenced a number of actions and decisions of the Municipality of Prizren and central government to establish law and order in the Historic Centre of the

city.

The main achievements of the project for 2014 were:

- Increased transparency in institutional actions and decisions in relation to the Historic Centre of Prizren,
- Establishment of a Task Force by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning to address urban degradation (illegal constructions) within the Historic Centre,
- Documenting cases of illegal constructions within the Historic Centre and regular publishing of the findings to continue the pressure toward state institutions,
- Structuring communication with the European Commission influenced a more realistic reflection of the condition of the Historic Centre in the Progress Report,
- The undertaking of certain corrective actions in the Historic Centre by the Municipality of Prizren, including freeing public spaces, removal of advertisements that exceed the criteria, limiting vehicular traffic, etc.,
- Investigations initiated by the Basic Prosecution in Prizren on reported cases of degradation of cultural heritage in the Historic Centre,
- Decrease of the number of illegal constructions and other irregularities within the Historic Centre of Prizren.

Cultural and urban activism in Prizren

During 2014, the organization initiated a cycle of public discussion for the needs of cultural and urban activism, to transform the cultural and artistic potential of the city into activism and action for the protection of the city. The central component of the project was the call for artistic intervention in public spaces, which aims to carry the discussion about the degradation of the city into public spaces through interventions and performances. A special research during the year assessed the potential for cultural activism in Prizren. Three acts of artistic intervention in public spaces, publishing of the research report and the regional conference for cultural activism will be implemented in the first half of 2015.

The main achievements of the project during 2014 were:

- Regular discussion forums to promote cultural and urban activism in Prizren, as a reaction toward urban degradation in the city,
- Promotion of the concept of intervention in public spaces through artistic activities that will carry the discussions about the city to the spaces of the Historic Centre of the city,
- Research of the potential for cultural activism in Prizren, which will produce recommendations for the local government and cultural community of the city on cultural policies and activism.

Cultural Heritage, the Central Pillar of Regional Development in Prizren

Following the establishment of the cultural heritage regional database (2013) and HAJDE pilot undertaking (2014), the project entered its peak stage and at the beginning of 2015 the drafting of a Regional Strategy on Cultural Heritage is expected. During 2014, the project continued to offer opportunities for the community to interact with the cultural heritage in Prizren and other cities of Kosovo. Central activity of the program during the year was the Week of Spiritual Heritage, which promoted the craft of filigree (workshop for the young) and brought practices of spiritual heritage to the public spaces within the Historic Centre. The project is a part of continuing efforts by the organization to integrate cultural heritage in the developmental plans of Prizren region municipalities.

The main achievements of the project during 2014 were:

- Implementation of the Week of Spiritual Heritage in Prizren, as an attempt to preserve the cultivate spiritual practices of the Prizren region,
- Regular visits to community groups in order to interact with the spiritual practices of cultural heritage in Prizren and other cities of Kosovo,
- Consolidation of the cultural heritage database for Prizren, as the main database upon which the Regional Strategy for Cultural Heritage will be built.

Increasing civic participation through social media

Online activism platform Merr Pjesë (Participate) continued to receive cases from the citizens through four modules of activism (complain, participatory budgeting, e-petitions and online consultations). All of the cases submitted were analysed and forwarded to the respective sectors of Municipality of Prizren. During 2014, the platform had the fourth module on public consultation added to it, which publishes draft-documents of the municipality (urban plans, budget, regulations, etc.). The online activism platform also encouraged a number of institutional processes, by influencing the decisions of municipal authorities as a reaction toward cases that were submitted by the citizens. During 2015, further functionalization of the Merr Pjesë platform will be aimed for by increasing the number of users. The project aims to encourage online activism as one of the means of organizing the community and participation in local decision-making. During 2015, an expansion of the platform into other municipalities of Prizren region will also be aimed for.

The main achievements of the project during 2014 were:

- Tens of cases reported by the citizens were forwarded to respective sectors of the Municipality of Prizren,
- A number of reported cases resulted in concrete solutions, while another part of them were offered budget pledges for the future years from the municipality,
- Mobilization of the community for online activism mostly through electronic petitions.

PUBLICATIONS

During 2014, the organization produced 16 publications, including analysis, policy documents, reports, research studies, bulletins and video products.

First newsletter "Open court"

October, 2014

The first newsletter issued by the Basic Court in Prizren is a new window on the transparency of the work done by this Court, which aims to strengthen the public trust for the justice system in general and the work of this Court in specific. This periodic newsletter will offer information about the work of the courts, statistics of cases handled, activities and projects, citizen access to the court, media involvement, and others in service of transparency and accountability toward citizens.

Third Newsletter of OPIC Partners

October, 2014

Partners of Olof Palme International Center in Kosovo have published the third issue of "Focus Kosovo" newsletter (INFORMATIONAL leaflet). This newsletter contains the work of OPIC partners and other developments related to cultural development, gender equality, participation in decision making, as well as the current social and political issues in the country. The editor of the newsletter on behalf of OPIC partners is EC Ma Ndryshe organization.

Urban planning for citizens 3

October, 2014

The third survey was conducted in June this year in order to emphasize the concerns of the daily lives of the citizens of Prizren, as well as understanding how acquainted they are with the actual process of planning and opportunities for civic participation on decisions that are related to them. The findings from the survey were gathered from a wide range of the population of Prizren. This report summarized the findings and offers recommendations based on the most critical problems identified through this survey.

Historic Centre of Prishtina counts its last days

October, 2014

The research report on the Historic Centre of Prishtina, which aims to raise the awareness of the wider public on the level of degradation of the same, emphasizing the detrimental activities in it and raising the concerns for its future.

Second Newsletter of OPIC partners in Kosovo

August, 2014

Partners of Olof Palme International Center in Kosovo have continued with the publication of the second newsletter (informational leaflet) "Focus Kosovo". This newsletter contains the work of OPIC partners and other developments in Kosovo and will be published quarterly. The editor of the newsletter on behalf of OPIC partners in EC Ma Ndryshe.

Where is the cobble-stone of Prizren? August, 2014

For centuries now, Prizren, through its architectural features, is distinguished as an architectural centre. Throughout history, the city has been constructed using traditional materials, among which cobble-stone comprises the historic identity of its roads and alleys. As such, the cobble-stones gave character and beauty to the squares and roads of Prizren in the past, and continue to do so even nowadays in

those areas where it remains.

Youth and transparency: Progress or stagnation? *July, 2014*

This reports reviews the transparency of the Municipality of Prizren and Gjilan in relation to the young. The analysis stems from the second round of research held separately with this category of the society, in these two municipalities, within the project "Participation through social media" which was implemented during the past 15 months in the Municipality of Prizren and during a whole year in the Municipality of Gjilan.

Public funds as "dad's money"

July, 2014

The report titled "Public Money as "dad's money"" includes the work of four months of NGO EC Ma Ndryshe in monitoring the transparency in the municipalities of Prizren, Prishtina and Mamusha.

Newsletter of OPIC Partners in Kosovo

June, 2014

Partners of Olof Palme International Center in Kosovo have published the first issue of "Focus Kosovo" newsletter (informational leaflet). This newsletter contains the work of OPIC partners and other developments in Kosovo and will be published quarterly. The editor of the newsletter on behalf of OPIC partners in EC Ma Ndryshe.

Protection and promotion of cultural heritage

June, 2014

EC Ma Ndryshe at the invitation of the European Union Office in Kosovo has presented an analysis on the state of cultural heritage in Kosovo in EU consultative meeting with civil society representatives. The report "Protection and Promotion of Cultural Heritage" was developed with the support of the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society.

Documentary – How active, so transparent? *June, 2014*

The documentary "How active, so transparent?" is realized within the project "Increasing Participation through Social Media", financially supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and SMILE supported by Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF). The project was implemented by EC Ma Ndryshe.

Guide to Municipal Transparency

April, 2014

Non-governmental organization EC Ma Ndryshe has produced this document in order to introduce legal obligations and duties of local government on transparency and accountability. Additionally, this paper is intended to provide an overview of the situation in the municipalities, in terms of implementation of the obligations and duties of municipalities in the field of transparency and accountability.

Laws are not protecting the Historic

Centre April, 2014

The country of Kosovo has a very favourable legislative and institutional framework for the protection of

cultural heritage, however the degradation that is taking place is an indicator of institutional failure to protect the Historic Centre of Prizren as well as a confirmation of the finding that laws are insufficient to ensure urban order and protection of cultural heritage in this centre.

Historic Centre of Prizren, (un) protected area

March, 2014

The report "Historic Centre of Prizren, (un)protected area" covers the half year work (August 2013 – January 2014) of the monitoring of urbanism sector in Prizren municipality, as part of the "Urbanism Watch – Urbanism of Prizren under constant watch".

Reading the city through

urbanism *mars, 2014*

The city of Prizren came to life without the help of the planners and was shaped by adapting to the everyday life of its citizens. The battle between this (urban) adaptation, the coming and the going, creates the current landscape of the city.

Inclusive City

January, 2014

This publication summarizes the reports of seven experts, whose task was to structure the findings of a long cycle research and present them in the form of guidance documents for local government in Prizren, as a contribution to the urban planning process.

NETWORKING

Network of Cultural Organizations of Prizren (RrOK Prizren), is an informal network of cultural organizations in the Municipality of Prizren. The mission of this network is to achieve a developed local economy in Prizren through the enrichment and development of a tourism offer based on the increase of the quality and the number of cultural activities. At present, EC Ma Ndryshe coordinates the Secretariat of the Network through which, and in collaboration with other member organizations, is involved in a structured dialogue with local government of Prizren on encouraging the development of local cultural policies.

Along with its efforts in local cultural policies, EC Ma Ndryshe is one of the founders of the Cultural Forum (The Network of Independent Cultural Organizations of Kosovo), which promotes cultural policies at the central level. The actual activity of the Cultural Forum is the advocacy for Kosovo's National Cultural Strategy as a guiding document for the development of cultural policies.

EC Ma Ndryshe is also a member and one of the founders of the well-renowned regional network on cultural heritage – **South East European Heritage Network**. Members of this network are the most prominent organizations of Balkan countries operating in the field of cultural heritage. EC Ma Ndryshe is active in regional cooperation projects, which have surfaced from Network's activity, cooperating at the same time with a large number of regional organizations.

Furthermore, EC Ma Ndryshe is a member of **Civikos Platform**, the largest network of non-governmental organizations that are engaged in the dialogue between the civil society sector and the government.

DONORS

A considerable portion of the activities of EC Ma Ndryshe is supported by institutions and donor organizations. Their aid is very important to the institutional sustainability of the organization and in fulfilling its mission

Donors that have support and continue to do so:

Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS)

Cultural Heritage Without Borders, office in Prishtina (CHWB Prishtina)

American Embassy in Prishtina

USAID Kosovo

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS)

European Commission

Swiss Office for Cooperation in Kosovo (SCO-K)

United Kingdom Embassy in Prishtina

Olof Palme International Center (OPIC)

Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)

United Nations Development Program Kosovo (UNDP)

British Council, Prishtina Office

European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo

National Endowment for Democracy through YIHR Kosovo

Annual work report for 2014 was approved at the annual meeting of the Members of the Assembly of EC Ma Ndryshe held on 24 January 2015, in Prizren

On behalf of the Assembly of Members
Kreshnik Basha, President of the Assembly of Members

Hajrulla Ceku, Executive Director

Cultural Heritage Without Borders, Office in Prishtinë (CHWB)

American Embassy in Prishtinë

USAID Kosovë

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS)

European Commission

Swiss Cooperation Office in Kosovo (SCO-K)

United Kingdom Embassy in Prishtinë

Olof Palme International Center (OPIC)

Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)

United Nations Development Program Kosovo (UNDP)

British Council, Office in Prishtinë

Council of Europe, Office in Kosovo

National Endowment for Democracy, through YIHR Kosovo