



**Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDYRSHE**

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PRESS RELEASE

The Municipality of Prizren contracts the cable car despite the rejection of the project by the cultural heritage authorities

The competent bodies of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports have rejected the conceptual project presented by the Municipality of Prizren for the construction of the access infrastructure to the Castle of Prizren. Similar actions have been taken also by the Cultural Heritage Council of the Historic Center of Prizren. Despite this fact, the Municipality of Prizren is finalizing the process of running the tendering procedures for this project.

Based on the information that EC Ma Ndryshe has got from the competent MCYS bodies, the Commission for Reviewing and Assessing Claims and Restoration-Conservation Cultural Heritage Projects/KIPM has recommended the rejection of the conceptual project for the construction of the access infrastructure to the Castle of Prizren. "The concept project is refused - Construction of access infrastructure in Prizren Castle because it is in contradiction to the general conditions given by the IAK and in violation of the Law No.02 / L-88 on Cultural Heritage" It is said in the recommendation of the aforementioned Commission.

Also, KCCH for the Historic Center of Prizren, in its recommendation, wrote that "The Council does not consent to the concept project - construction of the access infrastructure to the Castle of Prizren because it is in contradiction with the general conditions given by the IAK also in contradiction to Law No. 02 / L-88 on Cultural Heritage ".

Meanwhile, in the website of Public Procurement of Kosovo, there are the respective announcements of the Municipality of Prizren on "Building a cable car for easier access to the Castle of Prizren ", where it says that the estimated value of the contract is 3 million and 470 thousand euros.

Since it is a capital project of particular importance and considerable cost, which takes place in the Historic Center of Prizren, where the starting point of the cable car is in the neighborhood of Marash and the end point at the northern edge of the Castle, EC Ma Ndryshe requests from the Municipality of Prizren to not take any urgent or biased steps in this regard, even in procurement, and to respect all legal requirements that come from competent institutions of cultural heritage.

EC Ma Ndryshe also recalls Article 4, point 14 of the Cultural Heritage Law which states that "any intervention that may affect the integrity or values of the Cultural Heritage requires written permission from the Competent Institution". Even the provisions of the Law on the Historic Center foresee that the Institute for the Protection of Monuments under the Cultural Heritage Legislation, must consent or refuse the request of a project.

For these reasons, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the Municipality of Prizren that before they take any steps regarding the project for the construction of the access infrastructure to the Prizren Castle; they have to fulfill the obligations arising from the cultural heritage legislation respectively to be coordinated with the authorities of Cultural heritage for getting necessary consents for project implementation.

The project "Spatial Planning Transparency in Prizren" aims to open the spatial planning documents of Prizren, in order to meet the obligations of the Charter for Opening Data, and to increase the level of public accountability in this sector. The opening of the database and of the spatial planning documents will create greater opportunities for supervising the work of public authorities in relation to urban planning, building permits, development planning and management of cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Valon Xhabali, coordinator

OJQ EC Ma Ndryshe

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