



**Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDARYSHE**

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**Press release
Prizren, a "museum city" without museums?**

EC Ma Ndryshe has published the research "Prizren, a 'museum city' without museums", in which the existing state of the total of six museums in the city of Prizren is reflected and issues related to their functioning have been addressed. Since most of the museums in Prizren are either closed or unknown to the general public, EC has taken this initiative to present the current situation and make concrete recommendations for the revival and promotion of these cultural institutions. This research also analyzes the practices of other museums at local, regional and international level in order to bring in other examples that can serve as positive practices which can be applied by Prizren museum cities.

The city of Prizren, in addition to the epithet of the cultural capital of Kosovo, according to the general perception of the Kosovar public is a city of ancient cultural and historical values and holds the epithet of the "Museum city". This title necessarily reflects the preservation of its historical structure and consequently implies the promotion of this wealth to the general public. One of the means of promoting the city of Prizren are the museums which themselves have such a mission. But does Prizren deserve such an epithet? How many museums are today in Prizren and how many of them are functional and open to the public? How much is the cultural diversity of this city reflected in its museums?

The research has analyzed different aspects of the functioning of the six museums of the city and has mapped their contents to contemporary standards of museums in the region and the world. The museums involved in the research are: 1. Museum of the Albanian League of Prizren, 2. Archaeological Museum - Hammam of Shemsidin Bey and Clock tower, 3. Ethnological Museum - Shehzada House, 4. Open Archaeological Museum and two other museums 5. Museum of Electro-Economics - Hidroelektrana "Prizrenasja" 6. Museum of Mother Teresa.

Based on the data presented in this research it turns out that in Prizren two museums are completely closed to the public; other museums do not fully meet the applicable international standards; the presentation and maintenance of the items inside them are not being treated adequately; and there is a significant lack of human and professional capacities in the service of these museums. Consequently, it appears that the epithet "Museum city" including the loss and degradation of recent years in the cultural heritage sites seems to be undeserved for the city of Prizren. The research ends with conclusions and recommendations addressed to the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Prizren and the management of the city's museums. Here you can find the full research: <https://bit.ly/2sDEdNQ>

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Respectfully,

NGO EC Ma Ndryshe

Str. Saraçët, No. 5 - Prizren

Mother Teresa Boulevard, E 30 B1 No. 5, Prishtina

www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org

+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771