



The Non-Governmental Organization “Emancipimi Civil
Ma Ndryshe” EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Major municipalities in Kosovo with less property tax revenue

The nine-month financial report for the budget of the Republic of Kosovo, drafted by the Ministry of Finance, highlights the fact that almost all major municipalities in the country had a decrease in property tax collection. An exemption is only the Municipality of Prizren, which managed to collect more property tax revenues compared to the same period of the previous year.

Based on the data of the Ministry of Finance, it results that the Municipality of Ferizaj has the largest decrease in tax property collection, followed by Gjakova, Prishtina, Gjilani, Peja and Mitrovica. “The decrease in the collection in several major municipalities, including especially Prishtina and Ferizaj, is inexplicable,” states the MF report.

Municipality of Ferizaj, during the nine-month period of this year, has collected 980 thousands Euro from property tax, while during the same period of the last year, this municipality collected 1 million and 240 thousand Euro, or 20 percent less.

Municipality of Gjakova, during the nine-month period of this year, collected 880 thousand Euro from property tax, while for the same period during the last year, this municipality collected 980 thousand Euro, or 10 percent less.

Municipality of Prishtina, during the nine-month period of this year, collected 3 million and 820 thousands Euro from the property tax, while for the same period of the last year, the municipality collected 4 million and 90 thousands Euro, or 7 percent less.

Municipality of Gjilan, during the nine-month period of this year, collected 940 thousands Euro, while for the same period of the last year, this municipality collected 1 million Euro, or 7 percent less.

Municipality of Peja, during the nine-month period of this year, collected 970 thousands Euro from property tax, while for the same period of the last year, this municipality collected 1 million and 20 thousands Euro, or 5 percent less.

Municipality of Mitrovica, during the nine-month period of this year, collected 400 thousands Euro from property tax, while for the same period of the last year, this municipality collected 420 thousand Euro, or 4 percent less.

Only the Municipality of Prizren managed to have a positive balance. This municipality, during the nine-month period of this year, collected 1 million and 470 thousands Euro from property tax, while for the same period of the last year, this municipality collected 1 million and 380 thousands Euro, so 7 percent more.

“EC Ma Ndryshe” considers the fact that this trend of property tax revenue collection is impacted by the central government decision for forgiving public debts. However, the central and local government should have realized a more real projection of budget for 2015.

In this situation, the budgets of six major municipalities in Kosovo will have less means, which would lead to the removal of certain projects from implementation list.

Therefore, “EC Ma Ndryshe” recommends major municipalities in Kosovo, as well as the Ministry of Finance, to be more careful during the planning of annual budget and realize this process in accordance with current circumstances in the country and with a more transparent approach.

Major municipalities of Kosovo and the Ministry of Finance are recommended that, during the remaining part of this year to carry out, an informing campaign for citizens and other entities related to the need for paying the last invoices of the property tax.

“EC ma Ndryshe” commenced the implementation of “Municipal Transparency Reform Index” project in march 2015 thanks to the support of the United Kingdom Embassy in Prishtina, and this project is extended in major municipalities in Kosovo, such as Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakova, as well as Suhareka, Rahovec, Malisheva, Dragash, Mamusha and Shterpce. The concerned project aims at assisting municipalities in identification of main shortcomings regarding the transparency, as well as providing guidelines for addressing and overcoming them. Transparency Index represents another structured attempt to support Kosovo municipalities in fulfilling standards of good governance, stipulated with the reform of local governance and European agenda of Kosovo.

Respectfully,

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