



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

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Delayed access to public documents by the Municipality of Prizren**

Within the project of transparency monitoring of Prizren's municipal executive branch, EC Ma Ndryshe, in February, has looked at the efficiency of municipal administration in allowing access to public documents during the last year in accordance with relevant law.

According to the Annual Report of Prizren Municipality in relation to submissions for access to public documents, municipal administration has received 27 requests and has allowed access to all of these 27 cases, whereas in one (1) case only were sought additional clarifications. There are occasions when in a single request application two or more documents are requested for access. According to the report 6 responses have been delivered electronically and the rest (21) in hard copies. 10 requests were submitted for a budget and expenditures, 4 for decisions, 4 for statistics, 5 for contracts, 2 for projects, 1 for vacancy and 1 other request for the mayors Work Report. According to the Municipal's report, replies to all of these 27 requests are given within a term specified by law.

The experience of EC Ma Ndryshe's monitoring staff regarding access to public documents of Prizren Municipality during the year 2013 gives out a different account of what is presented in the aforementioned report.

During the last year, EC Ma Ndryshe, within the 'Online Monitoring' project only, has officially filed 35 requests for access to public documents, and in 17 cases it has evidenced delays in replies that have stretched up to 40 days in providing a response. (Specific cases of delayed replies to requests for access to public documents can be found in the document attached to this press release). Meanwhile, EC Ma Ndryshe has submitted 56 requests in total for access to public documents; whereas in the report of the Municipality of Prizren are listed only 11 requests submitted by this organization.

These findings indicate that the efforts of the Municipality of Prizren to provide access to public documents in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Law is insufficient and that an increased mobilization is required in order to guarantee the applicant's right of access to public documents.

Moreover, these findings demonstrate that Prizren Municipality has a room to elevate its transparency towards citizens. Same report corroborates a previous conclusion of EC Ma Ndryshe on the sluggish flow of information and documents from all the directorates to the Information and Communications Office, leading to the non-disclosure of the decisions in a real-time and inappropriate information to the public on various relevant matters, but also the flaws in the enforcement of the Law on Access to Public Documents.

In regard to the said reasons, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends Prizren Municipality the following:

- To accurately apply the provisions of the Law on Access to Public Documents;
- To increase transparency by publishing all public documents on the official municipal website;
- To eliminate delays in providing replies in relation to the requests for access to public documents, and
- To inform the officials and civil servants on the significance of enforcement of the Law on Access to Public Documents.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for the transparency oversight of the executive branch will continue on publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. So far, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren and Mamuşa/Mamushë, are being regularly published on the project's website: [www.online-transparency.org](http://www.online-transparency.org).

Thank you for your cooperation,

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### Concrete cases of delayed replies to the requests for access to public documents

From January to December 2013, EC Ma Ndryshe, within the 'Online Transparency of Prizren Municipality' project has submitted around 35 requests for access to public documents. The concrete cases of delayed responses to requests for access to public documents are as follows:

Year 2013	Directorate/department	Request	Date of request submitted	Reply/Delay
January 3 requests	Directorate of Economy and Finances Information Office	-Financial Report 2012 (2 repeated requests) -2012 Work Report	14.01.2013, 23.01.2013, 11.01.2013	15-Feb-2013 (32 days) 29.01.2013 (18 days)
February 2 requests	Directorate of Inspections	- The list of objects for demolition	12.02.2013	29.01.2013 (31 days)
April 8 requests	Directorate of Economy and Finances Directorate of Education Professional Service	-Publication of expenditures on monthly basis 2012-2013 -Conditioning of the pupils in schools -Decisions, Regulations, etc.	04.04.2013 24.04.2013 24.04.2013	A month of delay 07.06.2013 (40 days) 15.05.2013
May 2 requests	DEF and MDE	- Monthly Expenditures Statement	07.05.2013,07.05.2013	20.05.2013, 24.05.2013
June 8 requests	DUSP, DPS, DI...  Information Office Professional Service	-Activity of the Directorates after entry into force of the Law on Historic Centre of Prizren -Projects with contribution -Decisions, Regulations, etc.	28.06.2013 26.06.2013 26.06.2013	15.07.2013, 22.07.2014 04.07.2013 15.07.2013
July 2 requests	Directorate of Public Services Directorate of Economy and Finances	- Projects with contribution - The six-month work report	17.07.2013 24.07.2013	Pending reply 15.08.2013
September 4 requests	Directorate of Education Directorate of Economy and Finances	-Clarification on the request of B.C - Findings of the Auditor General	17.07.2013 07.09.2013	Two days delay Two weeks delay

December 2 requests	Directorate of Economy and Finances	-Own-source revenues - Disclose of the MPRC Consulting's research	05.12.2013 06.12.2013	10 days of delay After two weeks
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*Final result – a total of 35 recorded requests with about 17 of those requests delayed.*

These statistics are from 'Online Transparency' project alone. However, if taken into account the requests made from other projects as well, than the number of the filed requests made by EC Ma Ndryshe is over 55 submissions for access to public documents.