



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

31 July 2014, Prizren

PRESS RELEASE

Management of public money core element of responsible governance

Today, in Prizren, EC Ma Ndryshe held roundtable “Public money as ‘dad’s money’”. Panellists at this roundtable were Lulzim Kabashi, deputy mayor of Prizren municipality, Zenel Ahmetaj, coordinator at the Directorate of Economy and Finances, Qerkin Morina, representative from the Office of the Auditor General and Naim Cahani from Kosova Democratic Institute.

In the first part of the roundtable, Elmedina Baxhaku from EC Ma Ndryshe presented the periodic monitoring report of Prizren Municipality, in which, given also the Auditor General’s report for the year 2013, it was ascertained that municipal officials have not shown proper consideration in the management of public money and that in certain cases the money of the municipality has been treated just as “dad’s money.” Baxhaku further underlined that categories such as procurement, budget execution, revenue collection, subsidies and transfers, as well as an inventory of nonfinancial assets remain unaddressed challenges by the municipality and that the lack of transparency in the management of municipal budget have caused for these problems be transmitted from year to year. She has also presented additional findings from monitoring the work of the local government, during which were found legal violations or various procedural omissions that should be circumvented in order for governance to be accomplished pursuant to legal provisions and democratic standards.

In their presentations, panellists reflected on the findings of the report and offered their views on the topic of this called roundtable. Lulzim Kabashi, deputy mayor of municipality asserted his willingness for reducing expenditures and sought for reporting of violations at the investigative unit and prosecutor’s office. The representative from OAG, Qerkin Morina, laid out the findings of the Auditor’s Report thus recommended Municipal Assembly to hold a special session, wherein the findings of this Report would be discussed. Whereas, Zenel Ahmetaj, justified the non-realization of the budget in some lines due to the non-collection of own source revenues of the municipality of Prizren. KDI representative, Naim Cahanaj, introduced the findings of KDI for the Municipality of Prizren as per the enormous expenditures in some categories of municipal budget.

Other participants from political parties, civil society and the media, raised various issues regarding the management of public money, noting the lack of transparency, mounting debts and inadequate planning of capital projects of the Municipality of Prizren.

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. To date, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren,

Mamuşa/Mamushë and Prishtina are being regularly published on the project's website:
www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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British Embassy
Pristina

The project "Online Transparency of Prizren, Mamusha and Prishtina Municipalities" is financially supported by the British Embassy in Pristina.