

# **Environmental and Social Assessment**

## **Non-Technical Summary**

### **Prizren Public Buildings – Energy Efficiency Project Kosovo**

**January 2021**

# Contents

## Table of Contents

I. Introduction .....	3
II. Project description .....	4
III. Summary of Environmental, Social Legal and Policy Framework .....	5
1. Kosovo Legal Framework for Environmental and Social Protection .....	5
2. Summary of EIA Procedure and Permitting Process .....	7
IV. Stakeholder Engagement Activities during the project development .....	8
V. Summary of Baseline Environmental and Social Conditions .....	9
1. Environmental Baseline .....	9
2. Social Baseline .....	10
VI. Environmental and Social Benefits, Impacts and Mitigation Measures .....	11
1. Assessment of Impacts and Benefits .....	11
2. Adverse impacts .....	11
VII. Environmental and Social management and Monitoring .....	12
1. Environmental and Social Management .....	12
2. Environmental and Social Monitoring .....	12
VIII. Further Information and Contact Details .....	13

## I. Introduction

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is considering providing finance to the Municipality of Prizren. The transaction consists of a loan to the City to co-finance energy efficiency measures and, potentially, installation of renewable energy systems in municipality-owned buildings, which will include kindergartens, schools and primary healthcare centres (approximately 50 public buildings in the City and surrounding villages). The Energy Efficiency investments are expected to be recovered through savings from the lower energy and maintenance bills post implementation. The Project is also expected to improve comfort levels and quality in renovated buildings, which is quite important for buildings of this nature (children and health care). The Project will be implemented by the Municipality and a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established for this purpose.

### **Description of the current situation:**

The city of Prizren lies in the southern part of the Dukagjini Plain, on the road that first connected the northern coast of Albanian lands and its civic-commercial centres with the interior regions of Kosovo and the Balkans.

The Municipality of Prizren has an area of 627 km<sup>2</sup> (5.94% of the territory of Kosovo), which is located in the Southwest of Kosovo with 76 settlements with 177,781 inhabitants, urban population 94,517 inhabitants and rural population with 83,264 inhabitants.

Prizren is most often called: Prizren side, Prizren Basin or Dukagjini Plain. It borders the municipalities of Gjakova, Rahovec, Suhareka, Strpce and Dragash, as well as Albania and North Macedonia.

The Prizren plain is located at an altitude of 400 meters where some peaks of Sharr exceed the altitude of 2000 m above sea level. The climate of the city is extremely diverse.



Figure 1: Geographical position of the Municipality of Prizren

The city of Prizren has inherited a large number of cultural and historical buildings. The most important are: “Fountain Complex”, “Kalaja” (Castle), Church of St. Friday, Church of St. Salvation, Bajrakli Mosque, Safi Sinan Pasha Mosque, City Hammams, city springs, Stone Bridge and a number of large folk houses of citizens, inherited over the centuries. (<https://kk.rks-gov.net/prizren/en/the-city/the-history/>). Prizren has been known as a city of culture and tradition, as a city not only of Albanian culture, but also of other people’s living in this region such as: Turks, Bosnians, Serbs, and Roma.

Currently, there is a strong interest from the City to refurbish the majority of the buildings as most of the building stock was constructed between 1927 and 2016 and remains in its original state, without energy efficiency standards in place. The City's Energy Efficiency Action Plan estimated that the annual energy saving potential was estimated around 58 per cent in buildings for education, 32 per cent in administration and 57 per cent in buildings for healthcare services.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has engaged an environmental and social consultant (HPC International and Earth Active) to carry out an Environmental and Social (E&S) Assessment of the Project. This Non-Technical Summary (NTS), prepared by the environmental and social consultant, provides a summary of the Project settings in terms of environmental and social baseline conditions, environmental and social impacts and recommended mitigation and enhancement measures in order to meet the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy and associated Performance Requirements (PRs) (2019).

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has also been developed for the Project, outlining the Project's commitments relating to stakeholder engagement, consultation and disclosure activities in connection with the proposed EBRD investment.

## **II. Project description**

This Project aims to improve energy efficiency at the public building level for up to 50 buildings in the City and in the surrounding villages (schools and healthcare buildings). The main aims of the project are to:

- Support the Prizren Municipality to renovate its public building stock;
- Enhance health and safety and life quality, in and around the buildings; and
- Achieve energy savings and environmental benefits.

An energy audit will be undertaken in order to prioritise the buildings to be renovated. The exact number of municipal buildings which will benefit from energy efficiency measures under the Project will be determined during the energy audit.

At the time of writing of this Non-Technical Summary (December 2020), the feasibility study is in process. The next stages will include Detailed Design, development of tender documents and refurbishment of the public buildings. It is intended that renovation works will commence in first quarter of 2021.

The energy efficiency measures will include installation of variable speed pumps in heating systems and replacement of the heating source, thermal insulation of facade, thermal insulation of roof and installation of new windows and doors.

Particular intervention per location will be decided in later stages. During the environmental and social assessment, eleven buildings were inspected (see map and list below), as a representative sample of the full project. They comprise 7 educational facilities (7 schools), 3 health care centres and 1 Library. In general, all subprojects (buildings) to be treated under this project, are educational and health care facilities. Any other types of buildings are not eligible for refurbishment. An overview of the inspected sites including the number of people currently using the buildings as demonstrational example is presented in the table below. The project location is represented by urban and rural spaces containing residential, public, and commercial facilities around. The roads are of typical city roads category.



Figure 2: Map with buildings selected for the E&S site visit

Number of locations	Name of location and type of facility	Type of facility	Number of people currently employed at the buildings	Estimated number of the users of the buildings (excluding employees) – every day
1	SHFMU “Haziz Tolaj”.	Educational facility	37	
2	Municipal Library.	Library	15	200 readers
3	QMF “Bajram Curri”.	Healthcare centre	11	120 patients
4	QMF Mushnikova.	Healthcare centre	02	130 patients
5	QMF Lubinje.	Healthcare centre	03	140 patients
6	SHFMU ‘25 Maji”.	Educational facility	17	128 children
7	SHFMU “Zenun Qoqaj”.	Educational facility	02	35 children
8	SHFMU.“Deshmoret Kabashit”.Korishe	Educational facility	37	403 children
9	QMF Pirane, str “Eksodi”.	Healthcare centre	05	120 patients
10	SHFMU.“Shtjefan Gjegovi”.	Educational facility		No data
11	SHFM “Zef Lush Marku”. Caparc	Educational facility		30 children

Table 1: Overview of sites selected for environmental and social assessment

### **III. Summary of Environmental, Social Legal and Policy Framework**

#### **1. Kosovo Legal Framework for Environmental and Social Protection**

To date, Kosovo has pursued alignment with EU environmental standards with important advances made in legislation concerning the Environmental Protection as a whole and Nature Protection. In addition, the establishment of new environmental laws and further recruitment of staff at both central and local level are positive steps forward. Many laws have been recently revised and adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo and other secondary legislation (administrative instructions, administrative orders and ministerial regulations) have been approved mainly by Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

**Law No. 03/L-214 on environmental impact assessment,**

**Law No. 04/L-060 on waste,**

**LAW No. 02/L-102 on noise protection,**

**Law No. 04/L-147 on waters,**

The main Environmental Laws and Administrative Instructions in Kosovo related to project are:

- Law on Environmental Protection No. 03/L-025,
- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment No. 03/L-214,
- Law on construction No. 04/L-110,
- Law on spatial planning No. 04/L-174,
- Law on Waste No. 04/L-060,
- Law on noise protection No. 02/L-102,
- The Administrative Instruction No. 07/2009 for management of wastes containing asbestos of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Kosovo,
- The Administrative Instruction 02/2011 on Waste management of Fluorescent Tubes Containing Mercury,
- The Law on Integrated Prevention Pollution Control (No. 03/L-043), March 26, 2009,
- The Law on Air protection from pollution (no. 03/L-160) on Feb 25, 2010.

The main Health and Safety Law and Administrative Instructions in Kosovo, related to the project are:

- The Labour Law (03/L-212),
- Health and Safety Law (04/L-161),
- Law for Public Health No. 02/L-78,
- The Penal Code No. 04/L-082,

The other Regulations described below, supplement and develop the occupational safety and health provisions of the Health and Safety Law:

- Regulation on minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace.
- Regulation on minimum requirements on health and safety on use of working equipment's on working places.
- Regulation on minimum safety and health requirements for the use of personal protective equipment at the workplace.
- Regulation on minimum requirements for the provision of safety and health signs at work.
- Regulation on the protection of employees from risks related to noise at the workspace.
- Regulation on safety and health protection of employees from the risk related to chemical

agents at works.

- Regulation on minimum requirements regarding occupational safety and health of employees at risks from explosive atmospheres.
- Regulation (MPMS) No. 06/2016 on minimum safety and health requirement for work with display screen equipment.
- Regulation No. 05/2017 for minimal requirement for health and safety at temporary or mobile construction sites.
- Regulation No. 06/2017 for protection of employees from risk from asbestos exposure.
- Regulation No. 03/2017 for protection from sharp working equipment at hospitals.
- Law on fire protection No. 04/L-012.
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 04/2018 on categorization and classification of buildings in appropriate category of fire risk.
- Law on protection from natural disasters and other.
- Regulation (GOK) No. 07/2014 on the type and minimum quantity of tools and equipment for personal and collective protection from natural disaster and other disasters.
- Regulation (GOK) no. 01/2015 for type of objects, measures of space, urbanism, construction and other technical measures of protection against natural and other disasters.
- Law No 02/L-102 for protection from noise
- The Administrative Instruction No / 2009 on allowed values of noise emissions from pollution sources determined allowed values of noise emissions and measures for reduction and prevention.

## 2. Summary of Environmental Permitting Process

In order to be in line with Administrative Instruction 01/2017 on issuance of the Municipal Environmental Impact Permit, the contractors that will implement the renovation works will need to apply for Municipal Environmental Permit before getting the permission to start with works. Apart from Municipal Environmental Permit there are no other permits required within the scope of this project.

**Administrative Instruction No.1/2017 for the release of the Municipal Environmental Permit** determines the rules and procedures for identifying, evaluating and reporting the environmental impacts of certain projects and administrative decision making by the Municipality. As per requirements by above mentioned Administrative Instruction there is a need to be equipped with municipal environmental permit for renovation works of each building.

#### **IV. Stakeholder Engagement Activities during the project development**

Stakeholder engagement activities directly related to this project are yet to start. However on general basis the municipality maintains its own official webpage ( <https://platformadigjitale.com/Prizreni/> ) which is regularly updated and will inform the stakeholders via this communication tool prior the project commencement.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo in cooperation with the Municipality of Prizren, as well as the Director of Administration, within the project of the Digital Platform for Public Participant (DPPP), have designed another message board for the Integrated Services Centre (IAC) - ONE STOP SHOP. The mural aims to inform citizens who are driven by the digital platform, which can communicate interactively and transparently between residents and municipalities.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed in the framework of the Project in accordance with EBRD PR10 requirements. The main objective of the SEP is to ensure that all stakeholders will have the chance to express themselves through the public hearings, continuous discussions as well as implemented grievance mechanism where they can share their opinions or grievances, suggestions on how to improve environmental/social baseline conditions found at each site during the E&S assessment, to be informed on the potential impacts, construction schedule, mitigation measures, etc. All collected opinions/comments will have to be assessed and relevant corrective/preventive measures will have to be implemented. The responsible entity for the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is the Municipality of Prizren.

As per the SEP, all the information related to the project implementation, reports, grievances and other relevant information will be published on the Municipal website and, where relevant, in hard copy in the Municipal premises (Municipality building in Prizren: Rr. Remzi Ademi p.n. 20000 Prizren – Kosovë). Specific information will also be shared timely at building level for the affected people (children and parents for educational buildings, patients for health buildings).

Municipality will consider complaints and will monitor the implementation of the grievance mechanism. A separate grievance mechanism will also be established for the workers.

## V. Summary of Baseline Environmental and Social Conditions

### 1. Environmental Baseline

The territory of the project is represented by urban and rural spaces containing residential, public, and commercial facilities around. Some of the roads are of typical city roads category, some are roads of villages. There are no protected areas neither any other areas considered to be in the risk of biodiversity loss in the neighbourhood of the project focus buildings.

#### **Water Resources.**

In general, most of sites are provided with potable water from City Water Supplier “Hidroregjioni” Company and Radoniqi Water Supplier Company. Some sites are connected to the water system installed by the initiative of the village, which takes water directly from a natural water body (river or spring). Two of the schools visited have groundwater wells. One of the wells is not used anymore and the other one the water is extracted with pumps only for sanitary purposes.

#### **Air Quality and Noise**

Air quality monitoring is carried out by the Kosovo Hydro-meteorological Institute (KHMI), which manages all air quality monitoring stations in Kosovo.

The air-quality data for Prizren from KHMI show that PM (Particulate Matter), notably, exceeds the European Community limit value of average annual concentrations of 40 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for PM10, in the city centre, and often exceeds the one-day limit value (not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year) of 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  ( However, this measurement is general for the centre of Prizren and no particular measurement is available for project sites. Overall, the facilities visited in the villages of Prizren Municipality, visually and empirically seemed to have good air quality.

1). However, this measurement is general for the centre of Prizren and no particular measurement is available for project sites. Overall, the facilities visited in the villages of Prizren Municipality, visually and empirically seemed to have good air quality.

#### **Noise**

Noise is a very familiar occurrence in urban areas, mainly due to road traffic, where in dense traffic, acoustic pressure levels during the day can exceed 70 dB. During the site-visits and during interviews with the stakeholders, there were no complaints received regarding the noise coming from actual operations at the sites despite its location in near-by the city roads. In rural areas in general noise is not assumed to exceed the allowed levels, as there is not any high frequency road nearby the schools or Health care centres.

#### **Sources of Pollution**

Each of the site has potential sources of pollution mostly due to disposal of untreated wastewater directly to the rivers or at the surrounding areas.

The pellet and firewood boilers used for central heating are of modern technology that have components that help burn combustible gases and particulates before they exit on the outside air

and produce very little pollution. However, the fire wood individual stoves, were not of certified types and consequently they are considered to have high emission impact on the outside air, as well as are not a good indicator at indoor air quality.

The diesel burning heater at the City Library is also considered as source of the pollution. Remaining underground diesel tanks at some sites may also contribute to the soil pollution as there is no technical check performed to confirm their condition.

## Cultural Heritage

The Municipality confirmed that none of the buildings planned to be renovated by the Project is considered as Cultural Heritage site. The list of Cultural Heritage has been checked and none of the inspected buildings belongs to the list of Cultural Heritage.

## 2. Social Baseline

According to Law 03/L-040/2008 on Local Self-Government, the municipality is the basic unit of local self-government in the Republic of Kosovo and exercises all powers that are not explicitly reserved for the central institutions. Municipalities are legal entities run by a Municipal Assembly and a Mayor. The Municipal Assembly is the highest representative body of the municipality and is directly elected by the citizens for a four-year mandate. The number of members in the Municipal Assembly of a Municipality is proportional to the number of citizens in the Municipality.

According to the Constitution, Kosovo is "...a multi-ethnic society consisting of Albanian and other Communities..." Language follows ethnic lines with Albanian and Serbian the official national languages, but multiple languages spoken by different ethnic groups. Kosovo Albanians make up approximately 93% of the population, followed by 1.6% Bosnia's, 1.5% Serbs, 1.1% Turks and other minority/cultural groups such as Ashkali, Roma and Egyptians. Population by ethnicity in Prizren Municipality, based on census 2011, is presented on the table below.

Popullsia sipas gjinisë etnicitetit dhe vendbanimit

Tab 1.2. Popullsia e Kosovës sipas komunave, gjinisë dhe etnicitetit

Komuna	Gjithsej	Gjinia		Etniciteti										
		Meshkuj	Femra	Shqiptar	Serb	Turk	Boshnjak	Rom	Ashkali	Egjiptian	Goran	Te tjerë	Preferoj të mos përgjigje	Te dhënat nuk janë në
Gjithsej	1,739,825	875,900	863,925	1,616,869	25,532	18,738	27,533	8,824	15,436	11,524	10,265	2,352	912	1,840
1 Deçan	40,019	20,125	19,894	39,402	3	-	60	33	42	393	1	19	2	64
2 Gjakovë	94,556	47,226	47,330	87,672	17	16	73	738	613	5,117	13	92	71	134
19 Prishtinë	198,897	99,361	99,536	194,452	430	2,156	400	56	557	8	205	334	79	220
20 Prizren	177,781	89,176	88,605	145,718	237	9,091	16,896	2,899	1,350	168	655	386	222	159

Table 2 Population by ethnicity in Prizren Municipality, based on census 2011; Source: Kosovo Agency Statistics 2011/ population by gender, ethnicity and place of residence

## **VI. Environmental and Social Benefits, Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

### **1. Assessment of Impacts and Benefits**

The expected benefits of the Project are summarized below:

- Improvement of health conditions in the premises for the primary users. In the buildings after reconstruction, the microclimatic conditions such as thermal comfort, humidity, hygienic comfort, Indoor Air Quality etc. will be improved for inhabitants.
- Short-term Local Employment during renovation: The Project could provide short-term opportunities for local employment during the renovation period.
- Improved Energy efficiency: The Project is expected to improve building conditions, as when the buildings are properly insulated, the loss of heating during the winter and prevention of overheating during the summer will be controlled, in this way the need for using electricity for this purpose will be decreased.

### **2. Adverse impacts**

Most of the impacts are expected to occur during the construction/refurbishment phase. Short-term impacts are anticipated that are usually associated with reconstruction projects, affecting, directly and indirectly, the quality of life of the users and employees of the buildings and the local communities.

During renovation works, a temporary impact on air quality is expected caused by exhaust gases from the machinery involved in the construction works, as well as dust generation that will come as a result of site preparation and construction works, and transportation of waste materials from the sites to landfills.

It is expected that there will also be noise and vibration impacts caused during working hours.

There is a risk of groundwater contamination as a result of construction works in case of improper site management and in particular, management of hazardous wastes such as: chemicals, paints, lubricants etc. while the same impacts are likely to occur also on soil, thus causing soil pollution. Therefore, a Waste Management Plan as a part of Construction Environmental, Health and Safety Plan, will be developed and implemented by the Contractors prior to any construction works.

As in some sites there might be traces of asbestos it is highly likely that if not properly managed (removed-transported-disposed) the negative impacts will be both on workers engaged in removal but also on the environment. The potential for having asbestos containing materials within their buildings structure is higher at the building constructed before the year 2000 therefore, asbestos surveys will need to be conducted before work commencement, at 22 building and Contractors will be required to develop and implement an Asbestos Management Plan.

In terms of community health and safety issues, commencing with those related to the educational facilities; as the modernisation works will be performed during the spring or summer holidays, there will not be any interference with teaching at the time of construction.

Therefore, the children and teachers will not be impacted by noise, health and safety risks, and while in the wider residential area some community members may experience noise, no major disturbance is foreseen. Regarding the medical centers, the main impact on communities is expected to be a temporary need to travel a further distance for obtaining the medical care away from the immediate neighborhood.

To manage and mitigate these risks, several measures will be implemented, such as the development of a Construction Environmental and Social Management plan (CESMP) which will be prepared and implemented by the refurbishment Contractors, under the supervision of the Municipality. The CESMP will be in line with the national regulation and international practice including EBRD requirements. This will include construction health and safety, construction environmental controls, plans for community health and safety, waste management, and emergency preparedness and response plans. In addition, the Municipality will assign responsibility for environmental, health, safety and social management at the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to ensure adequate management of EHS (Environment, Health and Safety) aspects during the Project.

With regards to asbestos, the Municipality will conduct an intrusive asbestos survey. Where asbestos has been identified, the Municipality will evaluate the risks to workers and communities and where necessary implement measures to reduce the risks of exposure to asbestos fibers. Municipality in cooperation with MESP, also should provide landfills for hazardous waste such as asbestos and mercury lamps.

## **VII. Environmental and Social management and Monitoring**

### **1. Environmental and Social Management**

Measures to manage the environmental and social effects of the Project are included in the Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan and the Environmental and Social Action Plan. An Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) will be developed for the renovation works. This will include a Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan (CESMP), which will draw together all the management requirements to minimize disturbance to environmental and social receptors during construction.

### **2. Environmental and Social Monitoring**

In order to ensure the quality performance and good project outcomes, the project will be continuously monitored. The Municipality in cooperation with contractors will monitor the disturbing elements such as noise, air pollution (dust) in the construction sites and around, caused by the project intervention, including the progress of the project works and all operational phases. The Municipality will designate a person for regular site inspections and will keep track record of inspections. Additionally, there will also be a regular control that all grievances are registered and timely addressed, and no major constraints or unresolved pending issues are in place. This will also be responsibility of the Municipality.

## **VIII. Further Information and Contact Details**

### Municipality details

Attention: Komuna e Prizrenit  
Address: Rr. Remzi Ademi p.n. 20000 Prizren – Kosovë,  
WEB: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/prizren/arkiva-e-ueb-faqes/>  
Tel: Alo komuna : 0800 19 200  
Contact information for enquires: +383 45 119 200 [Viber -WhatsApp](#)

Web: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/prizren>  
Public Information office: [krenare.koqi@rks-gov.net](mailto:krenare.koqi@rks-gov.net)  
Tel/Fax: + 383(0) 38 200 44-702