

Report on the monitoring of local administration – The city of Prokuplje



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Summary

The analysis of information on the work of the public administration of city of Prokuplje resulted in the following data: The City Administration of Prokuplje was negatively assessed in the area of Policy development and coordination, the Public Services and Human Resource Management, in the segments related to the transparency of employment in local self-government and the effective protection of senior civil servants position from unwanted political interference. Also, the area of Public financial management, in respect of the budget calendar and the successful planning of income and expenses, transparency and availability of the budget and accompanying documents, was assessed with a small number of points. The local self-government of Prokuplje achieved positive ratings in the institutionalization of human resources management, in the area of Accountability, in the segment that monitors the proactivity of the local self-government in publishing information on the official website and the availability and quality of services for citizens, where, although it does not have a large number of points, it is highlighted as an example of good practice because it pays special attention to blind and partially sighted citizens. As a positive aspect of the work, the fact that it was among the first public administrations to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation on research and showed willingness to provide requested data and information can also be highlighted. Communication with the official appointed by the local self-government was correct and open, but the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of a large number of officials prevented the research team from obtaining all the documents needed for analysis, so the overall assessment of the work of the City Administration of Prokuplje is low. As an example of good practice, we can point out the part of the web presentation that is adapted to blind and partially sighted citizens, and what is necessary to do when it comes to the web presentation is to fully harmonize the content and technical standards with the Regulation on closer conditions for the creation and maintenance of web presentations of the organ.

Conclusions

Strategic framework for public administration reform

The analysis of the available information concerning this area gives the impression that the local self-government of the city of Prokuplje took seriously the work on the planning document and the improvement of the work of public administration through that document. Although it started transparently, the whole process did not have such a course until the end – which we can see from the fact that during this phase of the research, there are no available reports from the public discussion regarding this document.



Policy development and coordination

As for this area, we can conclude that the local self-government of Prokuplje does not understand the obligation and importance of the involvement of civil society organizations in the development of public policies, as well as the transparency of decisions made at city council's meetings. The main indicator is that for both indicators that show the success of the work of LGUs in this area, the local self-government of the city of Prokuplje won 0 points. In addition, it was observed that there is a lack of communication with citizens and civil society organizations regarding their involvement in the development and adoption of public policies, as well as the fact that the existing communication is not adapted to all population groups (lack of communication channels for older citizens and those living in the countryside or do not have access to the Internet).



Public services and human resource management

It was noted that this strategic area is also something that needs to be worked on, because apart from the institutionalization of human resources management, there is no indicator of openness and transparency of employment in the public administration of Prokuplje, nor the existence of an anti-corruption plan or mechanisms for monitoring its implementation.



Accountability

This area measures the proactivity of the public administration in publishing information on its website, and according to the points won – LGU of Prokuplje showed good results.



Service delivery

Although the services provided by LGU Prokuplje do not include a Single administrative point, Citizens' guest book, the possibility of enrolling a child in kindergarten, the city administration building is inaccessible, we must praise the local self-government of Prokuplje, because unlike the other analyzed local self-governments, it has an icon on its website that makes it easier for blind and visually impaired citizens to access and use the website, and therefore the services offered.



Public financial management

In terms of managing public finances, the city of Prokuplje has not made great progress, as shown by the points won. It is an area for which it is important to have open and transparent procedures, from the inclusion of citizens in budget planning, reporting on the budget process, publication of budget documents and public procurement. Documents related to the budget are not consolidated and publicly available, they are not published for each year separately (Decisions on the budget and Decisions on the final account).



This report was prepared as part of the project **Public administration Monitoring for better local Governance – Prati JA**. The project is implemented by the **European Policy Centre (CEP)**, together with partners: the **Centre for Balanced Regional Development (CenTriR)**, the **National Coalition for Decentralization (NKD)** from Niš and the **Stanište Ecological Centre from Vršac**. The project is financed by European Union, co-financed by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue. The content of this report is entirely the responsibility of CEP, CenTriR, NKD and Staniste and not necessarily expresses the views of the European Union or the Ministry.