



## PRESS RELEASE

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### *“Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project First Awareness Raising Seminar*

*The first awareness raising seminar in the framework of “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project was held on 26 February, 2014 in Ararat city.*

“In order to effectively fight against corruption, we do need a strong role for civil society. That means for you all in the room. We will carefully follow the implementation of the project and will look forward to an effective cooperation,” said the Head of Political, Economic, Press and Information Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, Dr. Dirk Lorenz.

“Currently corruption is really a major problem in Armenia and the fight against corruption is not only the main objective of the government, the international organizations but also the objective of our civil society. And only the joint efforts of all of us may provide opportunity to curb this evil,” Mr. Karen Zadoyan, President of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manager said.

The project aims to increase the role of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting anti-corruption reforms and their implementation. In the framework of the project the capacity of CSOs and the media to engage in monitoring and watchdog activities will be built. Anti-corruption training will be organized throughout Armenia with the purpose of enabling CSOs and media organizations to better comprehend the issues related to anti-corruption and freedom of information. These activities aim at deepening the existing opportunities of carrying out anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be given for raising the effectiveness of public monitoring and implementation of appropriate monitoring, watchdog and investigative activities. A sustainable dialogue between CSOs and the Government will be developed with the participation of CSOs, to strengthen the anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

In the framework of the event the Project Manager introduced the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project, its objectives and directions.

Representatives of CSOs and media organizations from Ararat and Armavir marzes of the RA participated in the event.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO – Applicant and “Freedom of Information Center” NGO – Partner. Project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016). Project Budget is 650.000 EUR.

**Armenian Young Lawyers Association** (AYLA) was established in 1995 with a Mission to promote to the establishment of the rule of law, democracy and formation of the civil society in Armenia, where the people are aware of their rights and their rights are protected.

**Freedom of Information Center** (FOI) operates over 10 years. The Mission of FOI is to promote application of the RA Freedom of Information Law, contribute to the transparency and openness of the Armenian government system and to stimulate civic society's involvement in the governance system.

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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.