



## PRESS RELEASE

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### *“Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Official Opening Ceremony*

An official opening ceremony of the EU funded “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project was held on 25 March, 2014 in Yerevan.

“The purpose is to avoid having an extensive document of some 100 pages, so that afterwards we shall not know what was realized and what not, or which part was not implemented. The purpose is to plan distinct anti-corruption actions in the document,” RA Deputy Minister of Justice Aram Orbelyan said.

“European Union has increased the support to civil society in Armenia and we have knowledge its important role both in engaging with the Government, as well as holding it accountable for its deeds,” the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea said.

“The fight against corruption is not only the task of the government, but in the first place, it is foremost task of the civil society, because if the civil society shall not raise the issue, be demanding and make the issue an urgent task for the government, we shall hardly be able to go forward and to curb this occurrence,” Mr. Karen Zadoyan, President of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manger said.

The project aims to increase the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting anti-corruption reforms and their implementation. In the framework of the project, CSOs and the media will build their capacity to engage in monitoring and watchdog activities. 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, Karen Zadoyan introduced the project. Representatives from the state and international bodies and the representatives of the CSOs and the media 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. The project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016) and the 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”.