



PRESS RELEASE

29 April, 2014, Yerevan

CSO-Government Working Meeting on the “Presentation of the concept on “Fight against Corruption in the System of Public Administration””

On 29 April 2014 at 10:00 in Yerevan (“Picasso” Hall, Best Western Hotel) a CSO-Government Working Meeting on “Presentation of the Concept on “Fight against Corruption in the System of Public Administration”” was held in the framework of the EU funded project “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion.”

The First Deputy Minister of Justice of the RA, Grigor Muradyan, the Head of the Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation in Armenia, Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian and the President of the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO, Project Manager of “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project, Karen Zadoyan made welcoming speeches.

“When talking about drafting the activities of the concept on “Fight against Corruption in the System of Public Administration” Grigor Muradyan mentioned, “In this concept, we pointed those problems, which hindered to sterling solutions provided in the former strategic document.”

“I would like to remind you that EU cooperation budget spend in Armenia is around 50 million Euros a year, so we spend something like 25 billion drams per year. 60 percents of it go for budget support, meaning that the money goes directly to the treasury to help the government with the reform agenda,” Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian said.

“To have a model image of the public employee, whose behavior, adherence to the requirement of ethics, high level of responsibility, essence, why not the appearance will create confidence in any person,” said Hrayr Ghukasyan, the referent of the President of the RA, Head of the Working Group on Elaboration of the Concept on “Fight against Corruption in the System of Public Administration.” In the primary plan of the concept is the vision of having a model image of the public employee.

“While drafting the concept, we laid in its basis all the obligations, which the Republic of Armenia had undertaken in the framework of all international organizations,” Mr. Yeghishe Kirakosyan, Deputy Minister of Justice of the RA, Member of the Working Group of Elaboration of the Concept said.

“The concept is really well designed,” Mr. Karen Zadoyan, President of the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manager, considered. “In future, after the formation of the working group and development of the strategic document, we plan to continue such working discussions,” Mr. Karen Zadoyan said.

During the meeting the participants were given an opportunity to participate in the discussions, raise their questions and make their suggestions. Representatives of the RA Government, Ethics Committee of High Ranking Officials, EU Delegation, international and foreign organizations, CSOs and the media participated in the event.

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 workshops will be organized throughout Armenia with the purpose of enabling CSOs and media organisations to better comprehend the issues related to anti-corruption and freedom of information. These activities aim at deepening the existing opportunities for 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. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO in partnership with the “Freedom of Information Center” NGO. 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”.