



PRESS RELEASE

25 September 2014, Yerevan

“Public Discussion with CSOs of Gegharkunik on the Draft (Concept) of the RA Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2018”

On 24 September 2014, an anti-corruption event on the topic “Public Discussion with CSOs of Gegharkunik on the Draft (Concept) of the RA Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2018” took place in Gavar City. It was organized by Armenian Young Lawyers Association in the framework of the EU-funded “Multi-faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project.

President of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association and the Project Manager of “Multi-faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project, Karen Zadoyan made the opening speech and also presented the Draft of the Republic of Armenia Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2018. The program experts presented the possibilities of establishing an independent multi-functional anti-corruption body and of criminalizing the illicit enrichment in Armenia.

The RA Anti-Corruption Strategy envisages coordination of anti-corruption reforms in Armenia and endows their implementation control to the Anti-Corruption Council which will have only 2 CSO representatives in its structure. NGO representatives at the public discussion share this opinion - 5 NGOs should be included in the Anti-Corruption Council instead of 2, as for the coordinated anti-corruption fight in Armenia it is necessary to have an active and real civil society participation and not a formal one.

According to the participants 1 more target sector should be added to the 4 target sectors in the Anti-Corruption Strategy. As they claim, they constantly become a part of the violations in the social security system, in particular with regard to socio-medical expertise commissions and social benefits, and that the social security sector also needs to be included among the primary sectors of the project”, said Lusine Toplaghtsyan, head of the Gegharkunik regional branch of the Human Rights Protection NGO after Sakharov

The project aims at increasing the role of 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”.