



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Anti-Corruption Training for CSOs and the Media of Syunik and Vayotsdzormarzes

Three-day training for the representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and media of Syunik and Vayotsdzormarzes took place from 03-05 September 2014 in Yerevan.

“It was planned to organize 10 anti-corruption trainings in the framework of the project in Yerevan and in the marzes. Five training were organized in Yerevan. This is the tenth one,” Artak Saribekyan, Executive Director of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association, Coordinator of the “Multifaceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project said.

Soon the finalized “Draft of the Republic of Armenia Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2018” will be presented to the public attention. The concept on fight against corruption in the public administration sphere foresees to reserve the coordination of anti-corruption reforms and control over their implementation in Armenia to the Anti-Corruption Council and provided only 2 places in it to the CSO representatives. In the opinion of the CSO representatives that participated in the training, representation of the public interest by only two NGO representatives in the Council is not enough. “I think this number is definitely not enough, and the CSOs’ involvement should be wider to organize the activities,” Edgar Hovhannisyanyan, representative of “Legal Society” NGO noted.

“I think this is not enough, as currently the civil society tends to the development and some definite steps have been made to ensure involvement of more than two civil society organizations in this Council.” Hrayr Khachatryan, representative of “Foundation Against the Violation of Law” MGO said.

What is the role of CSOs and media in the fight against corruption, which are the mechanisms and sources for getting information, how to implement journalistic investigation. These and other topics were on the agenda of the training.

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.

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