



PRESS RELEASE

26 September 2014, Yerevan

Recipients of the Golden Key and Rusty Lock announced

Freedom of Information Center announces for the 12th time the recipients of the "Golden Key and Rusty Lock" awards on 26 September 2014 in Yerevan. The award ceremony was devoted to the International Right to Know Day.

Prime Minister of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan welcomed the guests on this occasion and stressed the importance of transparency and openness in the government system of Armenia. The Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea mentioned in his welcoming speech: "The EU reiterates that free, diverse and independent media constitutes one of the cornerstones of a democratic society by facilitating the free flow of information and ideas, and by ensuring transparency and accountability".

The host of the event President of the Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia Shushan Doydoyan welcomed the guests and announced the winners. The independent jury awarded the following institutions with Golden Keys, as a symbol of openness and transparency:

- Positive Award for the state institution that was best applied the Armenian Freedom of Information Law was presented to the **Armavir Governor's office**
- The best official web site in terms of access to information was recognized **the official website of the Police of RA: www.police.am**
- Special Positive Award for best implementation of Open Government Partnership Commitment of the Armenian Action Plan for 2012-2014 was awarded to **the Ministry of Territorial Administration;**
- Positive Award for an NGO that best used the right for access to information was presented to the **Armavir Development center NGO**
- Positive Award for the media outlet most actively covering Freedom of Information issues was presented to the **Public Radio of Armenia: www.armradio.am**

- Positive Award for most actively using the Freedom of Information right was awarded to the yerkir.am on line media.
- Advocate Karen Mejlumyan was recognized as the most consistent human rights advocate for the access to information right.

The independent jury awarded the following institutions with Rusty Locks, as a symbol of secrecy:

- Negative award for a state institution, which is the author of the most ridiculous official answer, was awarded to.
- Negative award for a state institution, which provided the latest responses to the citizens, was awarded to the Armenian State University of Economics.

The winners of positive and negative awards were decided by the independent jury represented by 7 organizations in the Freedom of Information sphere.

The selection criteria for the most open and secret agencies can be found at <http://www.foi.am/en/award-standards>. The previous years results are available here <http://www.foi.am/en/awards-winners/>.

The Award Ceremony was organized by the Freedom of information Center of Armenia NGO in cooperation with the Armenian Young Lawyers Association by the European Union financial assistance in the frames of Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion Project.

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 three 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.



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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".