



## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Public Discussion with CSOs of Syunik Region on the “Draft of the Republic of Armenia Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014 – 2018”*

The “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO and its partner “Freedom of Information Center of Armenia” NGO are organizing a Public Discussion with CSOs of Syunik region on the “Draft of the Republic of Armenia Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014 – 2018” in the framework of the EU funded project “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” on 29 October 2014 in Kapan (“Darist” hotel).

Representatives of the RA Government, RA Ministry of Justice and other state bodies, Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, international organizations, CSOs and Mass Media of the Syunik region, the Armenian Young Lawyers Association, “Freedom of Information Center of Armenia, and experts of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” are invited to participate in the event.

Executive Director of the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Program Coordinator/Grants Manager Mr. Artak Saribekyan and Regional Coordinator of the Program Ani Asatryan will make welcoming speeches. The welcoming speeches will be followed by the presentation of the structure of “Draft of the Republic of Armenia Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2018” and discussions of the issues on creation of the Independent Anti-Corruption Committee in Armenia and criminalization of illicit enrichment. The participants will be enabled to participate in the discussions and present their suggestions.

Similar workshops were organized in Yerevan, Gavar, Vanadzor, Ararat and Gyumri cities.

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 – 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.

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