



PRESS RELEASE

28 November 2014, Yerevan

Anti-Corruption Coalition of CSOs was Established

Anti-Corruption Coalition will be functioning in Armenia from today on with the membership of around 70 NGOs. On 28 November 2014, the ceremony of Establishment of the Anti-Corruption Coalition took place in Yerevan. The event was organized by the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO in the framework of the EU funded project called “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion”.

“Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO President, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manager Mr. Karen Zadoyan delivered a welcoming speech and also presented to the participants the Declaration and the Regulation of the Anti-Corruption Coalition of CSOs. Afterwards as a result of voting the Coalition was unanimously established and further approved the Monitoring program of 2015-2016. The establishment of this institution is an unprecedented action, confessed the CSO representatives.

After the establishment of the Coalition the participants referred to the RA Draft Anti-Corruption Strategy of 2014-2018. CSO Representatives unanimously adopted a Message addressed to the RA Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan, requesting to include the sphere of social security in the Draft strategy, to undertake effective measures directed at the criminalization of illicit enrichment, to extend the representation of NGOs in the Anti-Corruption Council envisaged by the Draft, increasing the places allocated from 2 to 5, as well as undertake measures in the near future towards the establishment of an independent anti-corruption body.

During the second part representatives from the RA Government and international organizations joined the participants of the discussion. Expressing the position of the RA Ministry of Justice, Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Suren Krmoyan highlighted that with the participation of only state bodies and governmental structures it wouldn't be possible to fight against corruption, the civil society and every member of our society should have its participation in this.

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”.