



## PRESS RELEASE

22 April, 2015, Yerevan

### «Corruption Risks in the Social Sphere: Public Control Challenges» Anti-Corruption Event

An Anti-Corruption event on the topic of “Corruption Risks in the Social Sphere: Public Control Challenges” was held in Ararat on 22 April 2015, with the participation of the CSOs and Mass Media of Ararat Region.

The event was organized in the framework of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project co-funded by the EU and the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

“What corruption brings, it’s first of all wrong incentives to society. Corruption also lowers the accountabilities of the local authorities and municipalities. Citizens need to feel that they can hold the Government accountable. At the moment there are discussions on the anti-corruption strategy, action plans, and we also need to engage citizens. We are here to contribute and support, we are not here to lecture”, said the Deputy Head of the Cooperation Section of the European Union Delegation to Armenia Mr. Jose-Maria Medina-Navarro.

“Without citizens’ participation these reforms won’t be effective, and thus we mark the importance of the participation of the Civil Society Organizations, as well as the role of private sector in this sphere”, said the the Coordinator of the anti-corruption projects of the OSCE Yerevan Office Mrs. Naira Gyulnazaryan.

“Our organization, as well as the Anti-Corruption Coalition will pursue a deep cooperation with the state authorities, as the objective of both the society and the state authorities should be one – provide high quality efficient services to the people also in the social sphere” said the President of AYLA, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manager Mr. Karen Zadoyan.

The welcoming speeches were followed by the presentations on the existing issues in the social sphere and the challenges of public control over those

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, of which 585.000 EUR contributed by the EU and 15.600 EUR contributed by the OSCE Yerevan Office.

**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.

**For more information please contact: Mrs. Narine Karapetyan, PR Coordinator, on business days from 9:00 – 18:00. Tel. 540199; Fax 580299; URL <http://www.ayla.am>**



Եվրոպայում անվտանգության և համագործակցության կազմակերպություն  
Երևանյան գրասենյակ

Armenian Young Lawyers  
Association  
Address: 7 Nalbandyan str.,  
suite 2, Yerevan, Armenian,  
0010

Tel: +37410 54 01 99  
Fax: +37410 58 02 99

Freedom of Information  
Center  
Address: 1/3 Buzand str.  
Yerevan, Armenia, 0010

Tel: +37410 56 03 60  
Fax: +37410 56 03 60

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by the European Union

Delegation of  
The European Union  
In Armenia  
Tel: +37410 54 64 94  
Fax: +37410 54 64 95

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”.

The Project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan

Tel: +374 10 229610  
Fax: +374 10 229615

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has been operating since 1999, and its mission is to support Armenia in developing its democratic institutions and strengthening civil society, acting in the areas of legislative reform; combating corruption and trafficking; environmental activities; raising awareness for human rights; media freedom; gender equality, etc.