



## PRESS RELEASE

30 April, 2015, Yerevan

### ***“Challenges of Anti-Corruption Education in Armenia” Anti-Corruption Event***

An Anti-Corruption event on the topic of “Challenges of Anti-Corruption Education in Armenia” was held in Gyumri on 30 April 2015, with the participation of the CSOs and Mass Media of Shirak 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.

The AYL Executive Director/“Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Grants Coordinator Mr. Artak Saribekyan delivered a welcoming speech and wished the participants effective discussions.

“The international experience shows that the effective fight against corruption has been conditioned by the fact that serious reforms have been undertaken in the educational system and as a result individuals with a new mentality have been developed, who have substantially decreased the levels of corruption by taking positions in the state governance system”, said the local expert of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Mr. Marat Atovmyan.

The international expert of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Mr. Carl Ulbricht said that the anti-corruption education has three most important objectives: raising of awareness of the population, forming intolerance towards the corruption and perception of justice. And to achieve these objectives it is needed to work through formal and non-formal educational programs.

The CSO representatives of the Shirak Region also took part in the discussions underlining that the corruption is a corrosion depleting the state system, and one of the important tools for the effective fight against it is the implementation of anti-corruption educational programs.

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.

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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”.



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