



PRESS RELEASE

04 June, 2015, Yerevan

“Corruption Risks in the Environmental Field” Anti-Corruption Event

An Anti-Corruption event on the topic of “Corruption Risks in the Environmental Field” was held in Kapan on 04 June 2015, with the participation of the CSOs and Mass Media of Syunik 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.

“Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manager Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association opened the event and spoke about the corruption risks that exists in the sphere. He referred to the activities of the Anti-Corruption Coalition as well. Mr. Zadoyan said that the Coalition did not join the Government created Anti-Corruption Council. “However this does not mean that the Anti-Corruption Coalition shall not cooperate with the Government. We shall cooperate referring the issues aimed at the introduction of the institute against illicit enrichment, establishment of the anti-corruption body and other important issues,” said Mr. Zadoyan and added, “Our organization as well as the Anti-Corruption Coalition shall always be committed to in-depth partnership cooperation with the state bodies, including cooperation aimed to reducing corruption risks in the environmental sphere as well.”

During the event the Local Expert of the Project Mr. Marat Atovmyan, International Expert Mr. Carl Ulbricht, journalist of the Iravaban.net website Mr. Gevorg Tosunyan came up with presentations.

Discussions were rather active. Representatives of CSOs as well as the employees of mining industry companies, state bodies and advocates participated in the seminar. The issues of the citizens’ health were actively discussed at the seminar as well. A number of NGOs raised the problem that in Syunik mars, the mining companies poison the nature (environment), and instead demonstrate that they are restoring/innovating schools and kindergartens.

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>



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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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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.

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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.