



PRESS RELEASE

18 May, 2015, Yerevan

“Corruption Risks in the State Revenue Collection Sphere: Public Control Mechanisms” Anti-Corruption Event

An Anti-Corruption event on the topic of “Corruption Risks in the State Revenue Collection Sphere: Public Control Mechanisms” was held in Gavar on 18 May 2015, with the participation of the CSOs and Mass Media of Gegharkunik 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.

Mr. Artak Saribekyan, AYLA Executive director and the Grants Manager of the project welcomed the participants and wished them a successful and efficient discussion.

“Although the Government presents that as a result of anti-corruption measures undertaken in 2009-2012 the direct contacts between the tax payers and the representatives of tax services had significantly reduced, and the tax authorities had increased the efficiency of their human resources, as well as the openness and accountability of tax services, however, serious problems still appear in the sphere”, stated the Local Expert of the Project Mr. Marat Atovmjan.

Mr. Carl Ulbricht, the international expert of the project spoke about the anti-corruption public control mechanisms in the sphere of state revenue collection.

The representatives of regional CSOs were very interested in the subject and raised a number of issues related to the field: among them the illegal and unethical behavior of tax inspectors, creating of unequal conditions for citizens by the customs inspectors, and other issues.

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>



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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“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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Երևանյան գրասենյակ

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.