



PRESS RELEASE

10 July, 2015, Yerevan

“Corruption Risks in the State Procurement Sphere” Anti-Corruption Event

An Anti-Corruption event on the topic of “Corruption Risks in the State Procurement Sphere” was held in Gavar on 10 July 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.

“The European Union is interested in the reforms in the area of public procurement in the Republic of Armenia. There are two reasons for that, first there is an agreement between the RA Government and the EU on harmonization of the standards in the public procurement sector, and second The EU provides budgetary support to the Republic of Armenia, 17 percents of which is targeted to this sector, said Mr. Alessandro Zanotta, International Aid/Cooperation Officer of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia.

“We should break the stereotype that the fight against corruption is the state problem. The civil society shall fight against the corruption as well,” Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the AYLA President said in his welcoming speech.

Mr. Carl Ulbricht, International Expert of the project presented the international experience: corruption risks in public procurement, the causes of infective costs and options for their prevention. Mr. Marat Atovmyan, Local Expert of the project spoke about the public oversight in public procurement sector. According to him the objective of the oversight is to induce the state to ensure law enforcement.

Representatives of CSOs, government agencies, the Ministry of Justice, Gegharkunik marz administration, Gavar City Council of Elders and staff representatives participated in the discussion.

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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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.

“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.