



PRESS RELEASE

16 October, 2015

Yerevan

“RA Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2018: Challenges” Anti-Corruption Event

On 16 October 2015 the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO and its partner “Freedom of Information Center of Armenia” NGO organized an anti-corruption event on the topic of “RA Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2018: Challenges” in Gyumri in the framework of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project co-funded by the EU and the OSCE Yerevan Office. CSOs and Mass Media of Shirak Region participated in the event.

“The creation and establishment of an independent anti-corruption body in Armenia is one of the primary goals of the fight against corruption. It is expected to be created at least by the end of 2016,” said the Project Manager of the Cooperation Unit of the EU Delegation to Armenia Alessandro Zanotta. The latter presented to the participants of the event the anti-corruption activities carried out by the European Union that resulted in positive progress to which CSOs greatly contributed as well. This year the imperatives were the following: the establishment of the anti-corruption strategy, the issue of independence of the Ethics Commission of High-Ranking Officials, the creation of legislation mechanisms for the encouragement and protection of people providing information, etc. Another key problem is the creation and establishment of an independent anti-corruption body which is expected to be finished by the end of next year.

AYLA Board Member, advocate Syuzanna Soghomonyan mentioned in her welcome speech that this year, on 19 February, an Anti-Corruption Council was established by the decision of the Government and some days ago the new 2015-2018 anti-corruption strategy was adopted. The civil society has not been included in the Anti-Corruption Council yet as the two places allocated to CSOs in the Council have not been taken.

Local expert of the project, advocate Marat Atovmjan, international expert Carl Ulbricht, journalist at the professional independent news website Astghik Karapetyan, as well as AYLA regional coordinator, advocate Gayane Gevorgyan delivered separate presentations that were followed by an active discussion. One of the issues discussed was the question about the analyses that served as a basis for the Government’s choice of four target spheres of fight against corruption, given the fact that the majority of the society’s complaints come from the social sector.

The main goal of the project is to increase the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the promotion and implementation of anti-corruption reforms. Monitoring skills of CSOs and Mass Media will be enhanced in the framework of the project. Anti-corruption trainings will be organized in the RA regions for CSOs and Mass Media in order to help them perceive the problems of corruption and freedom of information much better. The goal of these events is to increase the present opportunities of anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be provided for increasing the efficiency of public control and the implementation of monitoring, control, and investigative projects. A sustained CSO-Government dialogue will be developed with the participation of CSOs in order to strengthen anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

The EU-funded project is implemented by the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO in partnership with the “Freedom of Information Center” NGO. The duration of the project is 3 years (January 2014-December 2016). The budget of the project is 650.000 EUR, 585.000 EUR of which were provided by the EU. The investment of the OSCE Office in Yerevan totals 15.600 EUR.

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) has been operating for 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 civil society’s involvement in the governance system.

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The project is co-funded
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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 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.