



PRESS RELEASE

08 June, 2016

Yerevan

of the “Corruption Risks in Taxation Sphere” Anti-Corruption Event

On 8 June, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association (formerly “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO), in cooperation with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition, organised an anti-corruption event entitled **“Corruption Risks in Taxation Sphere”**. The event was held in “Kirovakan” hotel in Vanadzor and was organised in the scope of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project funded by the EU and co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Mr. Tigran Badoyan, a Deputy Governor of Lori Region, highlighted in his welcoming speech the fact that the event was attended not only by participants from Lori, but also by representatives from the whole country, who are all driven by interest in the issue.

“This project was launched last year during the event organised in Aghveran, as it was clear that there is much work to be done and there is a great need for this project. And the goal of this project is to achieve concrete results, for which we have mobilised all the interested parties,” said Ms. Naira Gyulnazaryan, the Coordinator of Anti-Corruption Programmes at the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

“By fighting against corruption and reducing the corruption risks, we fulfill our tasks more easily”, said Mr. Razmik Arakelyan, Deputy Head of the Organisation and Control Department of the State Revenue Committee.

“At the previous event an opposition newspaper journalist and the representatives of the state institutions discussed sectoral issues. And it was clear that those were painful regardless of whether you represent the civil society sector or a state institution. The representatives of the state sector began to discuss the problems, without trying to defend themselves and without claiming that no such problems exist,” said Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition.

According to the participants, the time has come when everybody is interested in choosing the path of carrying out anti-corruption activities in Armenia, as well as jointly raising issues and finding solutions.

The welcoming speeches were followed by reports on corruption risks in taxation sphere, challenges of overcoming them and opportunities for cooperation with CSOs in this sphere. The directions of future cooperation and activities in this field were outlined.

The project aims to increase the role of the Civil Society Organisations (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 organised 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 co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan. It is implemented by the “Armenian 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 was contributed by the EU and 31,117 EUR was contributed by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Armenian Lawyers’ Association (ALA) 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 where their rights are protected. Before February 2016, ALA was called Armenian Young Lawyers Association.

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 Yerevan.
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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.



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