



## PRESS RELEASE

21 July, 2016

Yerevan

### *of the “Corruption Risks in Local Government” Anti-Corruption Event*

On 22 July, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association is organising an anti-corruption event entitled “Corruption Risks in Local Government”. The event will be held in Arax Hotel, Gyumri. The event is aimed at revealing the corruption risks in the field and outlining respective solutions.

The event is 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. Representatives from the EU Delegation to Armenia, the OSCE Office in Yerevan, state and local governing bodies, the governing bodies of the Shirak Region, civil society organisations, mass media, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, as well as the experts of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project, will attend the event.

Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association and the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia, Mr. Hovsep Simonyan, the Governor of the Shirak Region, Mr. Vagharshak Mkhitarian, a Deputy Mayor of Gyumri, Mr. Karen Hakobyan, the Head of the Penitentiary and Anti-Corruption Policy Development Department of the Staff of the RA Ministry of Justice, and Mr. Emin Yeritsyan, the President of the Union of Communities of Armenia, will give opening remarks at the event.

The opening remarks will be followed by reports on corruption risks in local government, implemented reforms and the possibilities for cooperation with CSOs in the field.

Participants’ recommendations, after being summarised in the event report, will further be sent to the relevant state bodies, which will contribute to the implementation of efficient reforms in the field.

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.

**For more information please contact Mrs. Narine Karapetyan, the PR Coordinator, on business days from 9:00-18:00. Tel.: 540199; Fax: 580299; URL: <http://www.armla.am>.**



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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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