



PRESS RELEASE

28 September, 2016

Yerevan

of the “Corruption Risks in the Health Sector” Anti-Corruption Event

On 28 September, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, in cooperation with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia and the Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia, organised an anti-corruption event entitled “Corruption Risks in the Health Sector”. The event was held in the town of Gavar. It was aimed at revealing the corruption risks in this sector and outlining respective solutions to the existing problems. The event 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.

Artak Saribekyan, the Grants Coordinator of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project, gave opening remarks at the event. He attached importance to the participants’ actions that are aimed at holding active discussions and revealing problems. He also informed them that the Armenian Lawyers’ Association and the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia submitted to the Government three important legislative bills which are being discussed currently.

Further, local and international experts presented reports on their research in the health sector, highlighting the existing corruption risks and the steps taken towards reducing and eliminating these risks.

Marat Atovmyan, the Local Expert of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project, stressed that the ability of the state to react to people’s needs and promptly improve itself, as well as the involvement of the civil society in the reform process, are crucial factors in the advancement of the health system.

Ashot Melkonyan, the Healthcare Expert at the “Centre for Regional Development and Research” NGO, presented to the participants of the event the results of his monitoring which addressed the corruption risks in the field of medication procurement. He believes that serious qualitative expertise should be carried out in the field of medication. He also spoke about the possibilities of introducing medical and economic standards, as well as treatment schemes, considering such standards to be necessary and important. Ultimately, he suggested introducing systemic changes in the health sector.

The reports were followed by a lively discussion in the course of which the participants raised problems and outlined possible solutions.

The recommendations, after being summarised in the event report, will be sent for consideration to the RA Government and the RA Ministry of Health, which will lead to the implementation of reforms in the field.

The main goal of the “**Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion**” project is 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 has been enhanced. Thus, 100 CSOs and media organisations have strengthened their understanding of corruption issues and freedom of information as well as their ability to monitor and engage in watchdog activities. Small sub-grants have been allocated to 15 CSOs and media organisations for raising the effectiveness of public monitoring and the implementation of appropriate monitoring, watchdog and investigative activities. In 2014 the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia was established in the scope of the project. The Coalition now comprises more than 80 CSOs and media organisations and plays a key role in the sustainable CSO-Government dialogue developed in the scope of the project. The joint work of the Government and the Coalition on the issues of the criminalisation of illicit enrichment and the establishment of an independent anti-corruption agency in Armenia has been a particularly remarkable achievement in the scope of the project.

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 PR Coordinator Mrs. Narine Karapetyan on business days from 9:00 to 18:00.

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The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.

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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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