



Եվրոպական միությունը և  
ՆԱՏՕ-ն ֆինանսավորում են  
և աջակցում են Հայաստանի  
և Աբխազիայի հարաբերությունների  
կարգավորմանը:



The project is funded by the European Union	The project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan g	Implementer: Armenian Lawyers Association	Partner: Freedom of Information Center of Armenia	Implementer: "Flora" Young Christian Association Non-Governmental Organization of Gyumri	Partner: "Center of Community Initiatives and Advocacy" Non-Governmental Organization
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# REPORT

## *Results of the “Monitoring of Medical/Sociological Expertise Committee’s (MSEC) Functions”*

Gyumri

2016

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## REPORT

“Flora” Young Women's Christian Association Non-Governmental Organization of Gyumri in cooperation with its partner “Center of Community Initiatives and Advocacy” Non-Governmental Organization implemented “Monitoring of Medical/Sociological Expertise Committee’s (MSEC) Functions” Project with funds of small sub-grants provided in the framework of “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project implemented by the “Armenian Lawyers’ Association” NGO and the partner “Freedom of Information Center” NGO. Project budget is 1,495,000 AMD. Project duration: April 1 – June 30, 2016.

“Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project is funded by the European Union and co-funded by OSCE Yerevan Office.

In the framework of the project Monitoring of the RA Medical/Sociological Expertise Committee’s Functions (from now on MSEC) located in the northern region was implemented, the results of which are summarized in this report.

## **Background**

Back on 3 October 2012, during the urgent consultation in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the former Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan considered discreditable the situation in the field of disability. According to studies there were procedural, organizational and administrative irregularities and corruption risks.

Corruption risks were / citation/:

1. Reportedly there are corruption risks in the medical examination procedures, where in order to provide the form 0-88, about 5000 - 20.000 AMD is required, the same situation exists in MSECs, here the amount of illegally required money is from 15,000 to 35,000 AMD, and in order to obtain MSEC's positive decision in case of an obvious absence of disability 150.000-200.000 AMD is required (the latter, however, are not widespread).

2. The 3rd disability group can be obtained by paying an amount of 1 month pension. In such cases the transactions are carried out through transferring money using the work record card or passport. According to the survey, in the duration of many years during the expertise, a number of retired applicants transferred their 1 month pension to the committee and received a disability group, and in some cases because of transferring less than the amount of pension, they were deprived of disability group despite the fact of being disabled. The results of the survey of the applicants who have not received disability group, it became clear that in some cases the applicants had not been recognized disabled because of not paying the required amounts. Moreover, the citizens note that a member of MSEC usually indirectly points the possible way of receiving disability group by illegal money.

The RA Prime Minister was really angry with the fact and instructed the RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Artem Asatryan to get acquainted with the materials of Prime

Minister's Control Service and in all the areas where there are cases of corruption, carry out personnel changes.

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Personnel changes were made. Medical/Sociological Expertise Agency head Michael Vanyan and other employees were dismissed from work. It seemed that in these institutions corruption will disappear or at least will reduce, but citizens who applied to our organizations claim that the corruption continues at large scale as it was formerly in Medical/Sociological Expertise Committees of Gyumri City.

### **Objectives and Methodology**

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the level of corruption in the functions of Medical/Sociological Expertise Committees in Shirak Region.

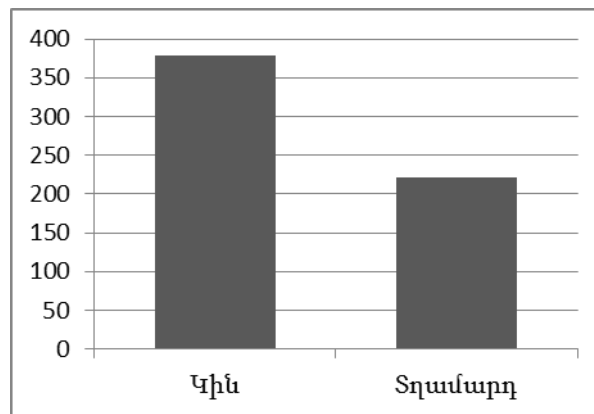
The following methodology was selected and used for the research:

- Provision of advice and information collection at company's office.

- Information collection through visiting the patients and interviews.
- Qualitative evaluation and analysis of the information obtained.

### Monitoring Results

The total number of respondents were 600 citizens (221 men and 379 women), 190 with higher education. 23 citizens are employed, 587 are retired or unemployed. Questionnaires are anonymous, however 13 people mentioned their names.



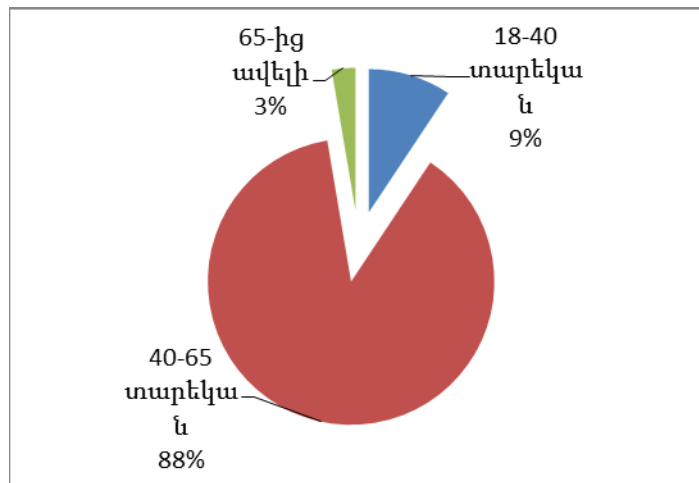
*Provision of advice and information collection at company's office.*

Local television and radio were regularly disseminating announcements, that citizens having MSEC problems can contact the office. The applicants were provided proper consultancy, participated in the interviews, and provided the necessary information.

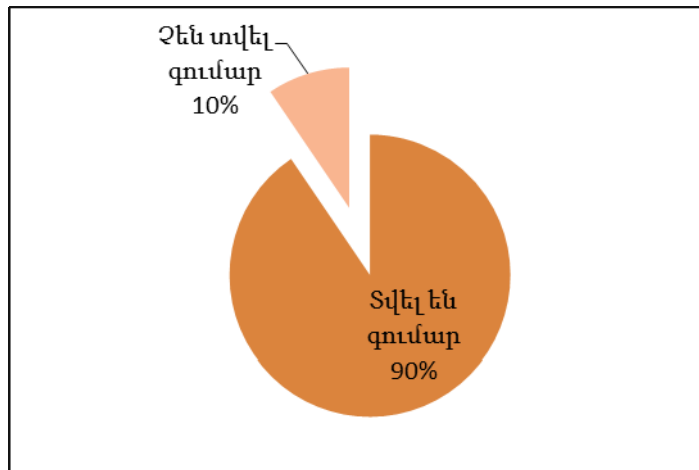
*Information collection through patient visits and interviews.*

The survey was conducted with the individuals applying for recognition of disabilities to Gyumri 1 and Gyumri 2 MSEC, in their homes and in Gyumri "Samariter" hospital in June and July 2016.

A total of 600 people of the following age groups participated in the survey:



To the question "How did you gain 0-88 Form from Medical Institutions (whether money was demanded or not?)." 90% of respondents answered "yes".





The next question referred to the MSEC, "How committee meetings were held (was money demanded?)."

The answer is the same, the disabled who acquired the form 0-88 with money paid to the committee as well.

### **Conclusion**

Thus, the process of recognition of disability is one of the areas of public services, where corruption is outrageous, which has been repeatedly talked both on the governmental level and among beneficiaries and NGO-s. There is lack of responsibility among authorities. There is an environment of impunity in the area.

### **Suggestions**

1. To increase transparency in the process of recognition of disability and create effective mechanisms of public control. It is true that now, by the government decision, the representatives of public organizations

dealing with the questions of people with disabilities can participate as observers in the investigations carried out by Medical/Sociological Expertise Committees, but the observer status is not sufficient to fully influence the process. For this reason, many organizations simply do not want to participate in the investigations.

2. Clarify the criteria for recognition of disability in order to avoid different approaches to the same diagnosis from different medical professionals when determining the levels of limitation of vital capacity.

3. Create effective mechanisms for appeal.

4. Apply responsibility mechanisms.

5. There is also a proposal to eliminate the agency and to trust the process of recognition of disability to the doctors treating the patient.

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This report has been published in the scope of the “Monitoring of Medical/Sociological Expertise Committee’s (MSEC) Functions” project implemented by “Flora” Young Women's Christian Association Non-Governmental Organization of Gyumri in cooperation with its partner “Center of Community Initiatives and Advocacy” Non-Governmental Organization with funds of small sub-grants provided in the framework of “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project implemented by the “Armenian Lawyers’ Association” NGO and the partner “Freedom of Information Center” NGO.

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The report is not for sale. The report summarizes the approaches of the working group and may not reflect the views of The European Union, the OSCE Office in Yerevan, "Armenian Lawyers’ Association" and "Freedom of Information Center" NGO.