



PRESS RELEASE

27 September 2016, Yerevan

The Recipients of the Golden Key and Rusty Lock to be announced

The annual "Golden Key and Rusty Lock" award ceremony will take place *on 28 September, 2016, at 11:00-13:00 in Yerevan, Hotel Regineh* (address – Norqi Ayginer 235-1). The ceremony is devoted to the International Right to Know Day and the 15th Anniversary of the Freedom of Information Centre.

The Golden Keys awards will be awarded as a symbol of openness and transparency, and the Rusty Lock awards will be awarded as a symbol of secrecy.

The nominees are selected by an Independent Jury represented by local and international organisations' members, journalists, and scientists in the field. The Jury sums up the results of the monitoring conducted by the Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia (FOICA) and their own experience. Another source for unbiased decision-making is the monthly black list of those officials and institutions which infringed people's right to access to information (quarterly composed by the Freedom of Information Centre). The selection criteria for the most open and secret agencies can be found at <http://www.foi.am/en/award-standards>. The previous years results are available here <http://www.foi.am/en/awards-winners/>. Since 2002 more than 100 countries celebrated 28 September as the International Right to Know Day. In Armenia since 2003 after the adoption of the Armenian Freedom of Information Law the FOICA jointly with its partner NGOs, has initiated the FOI Annual Award Ceremony which become an important awareness raising campaign tool and a stimulus for developing good access to information practices by public bodies.

The Award Ceremony is organised by the Freedom of information Centre of Armenia NGO in cooperation with the Armenian Lawyers' Association by the European Union financial assistance in the frames of Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion Project. The event is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the "Armenian Lawyers' Association" NGO in partnership with the "Freedom of Information Centre" NGO. The project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016) and the budget is 650.000 EUR.

NOTE TO EDITORS!

All journalists are welcome to cover the event. Please find the contact details of the project below.

Armenian Lawyers' Association 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) 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:

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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".