



PRESS RELEASE

11 October, 2016

Yerevan

of the “Problems of Increasing the Transparency of the Declaration System of High-Ranking Officials’ Income and Assets and Their Related Persons, as well as the Reforms Implemented” Anti-Corruption Event

On 12 October, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, in cooperation with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia and the Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia, organises an anti-corruption event entitled “Problems of Increasing the Transparency of the Declaration System of High-Ranking Officials’ Income and Assets and Their Related Persons, as well as the Reforms Implemented”. The event will be held in the Conference Hall of “Kirovakan” Hotel in Vanadzor (Address: 11 Mashtots Str., Vanadzor City). It is aimed at revealing the corruption risks in this field and outlining respective solutions to the existing problems.

The event will be 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 Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials, civil society, mass media, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, including the experts of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project, will be attending the event.

Mr. Armen Khudaverdyan, the Vice-President of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials, and Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association and the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia, will give opening remarks at the event. The latter will be followed by presentations on the current system of declarations of income and assets by high-ranking officials; the implemented reforms; the improvement of the electronic system for declaration; the existing problems and implemented reforms; the importance of cooperation with CSOs and the role of mass media in ensuring transparency in the field.

The recommendations, after being summarised in the event report, will be sent for consideration to the RA Government and the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials, 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 20 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.

“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”.



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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