



## PRESS RELEASE

17 November, 2016

Yerevan

### *Youth-Business-Government Anti-Corruption Working Meeting*

On 18-20 November, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers' Association, in cooperation with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia, the Freedom of Information Centre and "The Future Is Yours" Non-Governmental Organisation, is organising a meeting entitled **"Youth-Business-Government Anti-Corruption Working Meeting"**.

The working meeting is organised along the same lines of the "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project funded by the EU and co-funded by OSCE. Representatives of state bodies, business organisations and associations, international organisations, civil society organisations and youth will participate in the meeting.

This working meeting is the continuation of three previous working meetings entitled *"The Business Sector in Armenia: Corruption Risks and Integrity Issues"* (10-11 December, 2015), *"Corruption Risks in the Business Sector of Armenia: Recorded Problems and Upcoming Activities"* (28-29 May, 2016) and *"Corruption Risks in the Business Sector of Armenia: Final Working Meeting"* (29-30 October, 2016) organised in cooperation with the RA Ministry of Justice.

The sections pertaining to fight against corruption and business as envisaged in the RA Government's programme adopted on 21 October, 2016, the anti-corruption activities carried out in the business sector by the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia in the Government-CSO-Business format, the recommendation package (in the tax and customs sectors, public procurement sector, fields of free competition and monopolies, licences and permissions), as well as the "Young Citizens Take Action" Programme, the recommendation package addressing the problems in the RA tax and customs sectors as elaborated in the frame of the "Young Citizens Take Action" Programme, will be presented at the three-day working meeting. Group work will follow and recommendations on future anti-corruption activities in the business sector will be prepared.

As a result of the meeting, the existing recommendations will be updated and sent for consideration to the RA Government and other relevant agencies, in line with the sectors discussed. This will contribute to the implementation of efficient reforms in the mentioned sectors.

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.

The **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.

The **Freedom of Information Center** (FOI) has been operating for 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.

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The Project is funded by the European Union.

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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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