



PRESS RELEASE

22 November, 2016

Yerevan

***Expanded Working Meeting of the Government-Civil Society Anti-Corruption Working Group
Theme: Development of the Institutional System of Fight against Corruption and Presentation of Recommendations on Two
Anti-Corruption Agency Models***

On 23 November, 2016, at 10.00AM, an expanded working meeting of the Government-Civil Society anti-corruption working group (theme: Development of the Institutional System of Fight against Corruption and Presentation of Recommendations on Two Anti-Corruption Agency Models) will be held in the Combined Meeting Room of the Best Western Congress Hotel in Yerevan. Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, the RA Government and other state and local government bodies, the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia, NGOs and mass media have been invited to participate in the working meeting.

The meeting is organised by the Freedom of Information Centre and the Armenian Lawyers' Association (ALA) in partnership with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia and the RA Ministry of Justice, along the same lines of the "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project funded by the European Union and co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

RA Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Suren Krmoyan, Ms. Naira Gyulnazaryan, the Coordinator of Anti-Corruption Projects at the OSCE Office in Yerevan, 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 working meeting.

The results of the work carried out by the working group formed to conduct research on the institutional system of fight against corruption will be summarised during the event. In addition, the proposals on two models of institutional system of fight against corruption will be presented to the public. These proposals have been drafted and submitted by the experts from ALA and the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia.

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.

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 Centre (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 Deputy Project Manager Ms. Liana Doydoyan on business days from 9:00 to 18:00. Tel.: 091 43 51 36; URL: www.foi.am; e-mail: foi@foi.am.



This 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".



This 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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