



PRESS RELEASE

15 June, 2016

Yerevan

of the “Corruption Risks in the Sphere of Police in terms of the Services Rendered to Citizens” Anti-Corruption Event

On 15 June, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, in cooperation with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia, organised in Ararat town an anti-corruption event entitled **“Corruption Risks in the Sphere of Police in terms of the Services Rendered to Citizens”**. The event was 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. The event was aimed at the revelation of the corruption risks existing in the field and outlining respective solutions to the problems.

Colonel of Police Mr. Arthur Tonoyan, the Deputy Head of the RA Police Road Police Service on Registration-Examination and Technical Expertise, said that the Police, taking into account the public opinion, had introduced significant changes in different areas, e.g. the reduction of the time needed to register a car, the steps taken in the direction of reducing the corruption risks related to obtaining a driver’s licence. According to him, the licences have been brought into line with international standards and the electronic register of the Road Police has been created and developed.

“Corruption is an evil hanging from the neck of our society. Fight against corruption has had its unique place in all types of projects implemented in the RA over the past years. This is a matter of improving our country’s security and statehood. I am glad that representatives from non-governmental organisations actively participate in these activities”, said Deputy Governor of Ararat Mr. Ilich Shadyan.

Ararat Mayor Mr. Hayk Haykyan expressed belief that such working discussions are very productive and thus wished to see more meetings of such kind, which would enable people to live in a legal state.

The speeches were followed by reports and presentations on the corruption risks in the sphere of Police in terms of the services rendered to citizens, challenges of overcoming these risks, implemented reforms and upcoming activities, as well as possibilities for cooperation with CSOs in this field. Based on the corruption risks identified at the anti-corruption event, possible solutions to the existing problems were presented and discussed. The suggestions, after being summarised in the event report, will further be used in contributing to the implementation of reforms in the sphere of Police and to the visible reduction of the existing problems in the scope of the above-mentioned “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project.

The project aims 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 will be built. Anti-corruption training workshops will be organised throughout Armenia with the purpose of enabling CSOs and media organisations to better comprehend the issues related to anti-corruption and freedom of information. These activities aim at deepening the existing opportunities for carrying out anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be given for raising the effectiveness of public monitoring and implementation of appropriate monitoring, watchdog and investigative activities. A sustainable dialogue between CSOs and the Government will be developed with the participation of CSOs, to strengthen the anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

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.

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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”.



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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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