

PRESS RELEASE

25 May, 2016

Yerevan

of the “Corruption Risks in Customs Sphere” Anti-Corruption Event

On 25 May, 2016, the Armenian Lawyers’ Association (formerly “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO), in cooperation with the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition, organised an anti-corruption event entitled **“Corruption Risks in Customs Sphere”**. The event was held in “Arax” hotel in Gyumri.

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 Yerevan Office.

“Last year we decided to introduce a new direction and launch an anti-corruption project with the private sector, attaching importance to this sector and understanding that it might become the moving force that will fight against corruption using its potential. Last year we laid the foundation and started quite a successful project. This year we decided to continue it and carry out the project in thematic format, trying to find specific solutions to specific problems,” said Ms. Naira Gyulnazaryan, the Coordinator of Anti-Corruption Projects at the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

“With respect to reforms, we have serious work to do. And when the civil society gets involved in the reform process its efficiency grows significantly. There are many examples one of which would be the positive experience we had as regards the notary system. I also want to speak about the “fears” of the public sector. We spoke about this in the course of our work with the notary system when we proposed to conduct a monitoring. At the last moment they refused to allow us to start it. However, we managed to do it at length and revealed big corruption risks as a result,” said Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association and the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia.

“Corruption is a morbid phenomenon. Corruption is a universal phenomenon, an evil for the society. Any public official, finding himself/herself in this situation, becomes infected with this disease. I do not think that there is a sick person who doesn’t want to recover,” said Mr. Karen Manukyan, the Chief of Shirak Regional Customs House.

The welcoming speeches were followed by reports on corruption risks in customs sphere, challenges of overcoming them and opportunities for cooperation with CSOs in this sphere.

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.

For more information please contact: Mrs. Narine Karapetyan, PR Coordinator, on business days from 9:00 – 18:00. Tel.: 540199; Fax: 580299; URL: <http://www.armla.am>.



The Project is funded by the European Union.

Delegation of the European Union to Armenia
Tel.: +37410 54 64 94
Fax: +37410 54 64 95

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”.



Եվրոպայում անկախության և համագործակցության կազմակերպություն
Երևանի գրասենյակ

The Project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.
Tel.: +374 10 229610
Fax: +374 10 229615

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.



Armenian Lawyers’ Association
Address: 7 Nalbandyan Str., Suite 2, Yerevan, Armenian, 0010
Tel.: +37410 54 01 99
Fax: +37410 58 02 99



Freedom of Information Center
Address: 1/3 Buzand Str., Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Tel.: +37410 56 03 60
Fax.: +37410 56 03 60