



## PRESS RELEASE

9 December 2017

Yerevan

### The Annual Anti-Corruption Award Ceremony took place

On 9 December, the Annual Anti-Corruption Award Ceremony was held on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day. Advocates of transparency and integrity, individual citizens who have walked the extra mile to fight corruption, received awards and prizes at the ceremony.

The award ceremony was organised on the initiative of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia within the framework of the EU-funded “Commitment Constructive Dialogue” project aimed at reinforcing civil society voice and dialogue with the government.

**Mr. Davit Harutyunyan**, RA Minister of Justice, **Mr. Artur Davtyan**, RA Prosecutor General, **Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian**, Head of the Cooperation Section of the European Union Delegation to Armenia, **H.E. Mr. Petr Mikyska**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Armenia, attended the ceremony and handed out the four anti-corruption awards. Other representatives of state and civil society organisations participated in the event as well.

Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association and the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia noted in his welcome speech that cooperation between the government and civil society has already resulted in serious achievements in the fields of two pillars of effective fight against corruption, corruption prevention and anti-corruption education. He said, *“We hope that constructive dialogue will result in achievements in the third field as well, which is the inevitable punishment for corruption.”*

Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian noted in his speech that supporting fight against corruption is among EU priorities in Armenia. He said, *“The EU takes note of all the progress done, the ambitious civil service reform in line with the best EU practices, and the challenges to overcome. Let me confirm that the EU will stand by Armenian citizens to make a better future”.*

Davit Harutyunyan handed out the award **“Young People of the Year”** to the creative team of the Tales of Neto computer game. This game tells the story of the Planet Neto, and how it came to be damaged by corruption.

Artur Davtyan handed out the **“Mass Media of the Year”** award to the “Liberty” Radio Station for active coverage of electoral processes and restraining as well as detecting corruption risks.

Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian handed out the **“CSO of the Year”** award to Impact Hub Yerevan for the implementation of the “Art of (anti) Corruption” project.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Petr Mikyska, handed the **“Business Organisation of the Year”** award to the “Caffeine Brew Lab” Café, which operates



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Armenian Lawyers’ Association



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.

in Dilijan. A few months ago, tax inspectors fined the café for unsubstantiated reasons. However, the founders of the café appealed the decision in the court and succeeded.

Coordinator of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition Secretariat Karen Zadoyan handed out letters of gratitude to other individuals who have been involved and distinguished in the fight against corruption this year. Letters of appreciation were handed out to Minister of Justice Mr. Davit Harutyunyan, Minister of Finance Mr. Vardan Aramyan, Chief of the RA Government's Staff Mr. Vahe Stepanyan and the Czech Ambassador to Armenia **Mr. Petr Mikyska**.

The "**Commitment to Constructive Dialogue**" project is implemented with the financial support of the European Union by a Consortium of civil society organisations, which are the Armenian Lawyers' Association (lead organisation), Agora Central Europe (NGO based in the Czech Republic), the Armenian Centre for Democratic Education-CIVITAS, the International Centre for Human Development, the SME Cooperation Association and the Union of Communities of Armenia.

The project aims to enhance the influence of civil society organisations (CSOs) and CSO coalitions/networks on public policies in Armenia. This will allow organisations that are already working in sectoral coalitions to access additional resources, new groups of civil society experts to come together and encourage place their causes on the local and national policy agenda, to identify common concerns and priorities and approach government bodies with constructive and strategic policy engagement initiatives.

The project will provide sub-grants to CSOs and CSO coalitions for developing public policies and bringing significant changes in the 9 target sectors selected within the project, including those of justice, education and business.

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 used to be called Armenian Young Lawyers Association.

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