



26 January 2018

Yerevan

## What we were doing was Intuitive, now we have Basic Knowledge about it: Graduate of the CSO Capacity Building Educational Program

On January 26, 16 representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Yerevan and the regions received graduation certificates from the CSO Capacity Building Program of American University of Armenia.

The training is implemented within the framework of the EU-funded "Commitment to Constructive" project, which aims to make the voice of civil society heard at the public debate. On 26 January, CSO representatives completed the 6th phase.

Mr. Tevan Poghosyan, President of the International Centre for Human Development NGO, member of the Consortium of "Commitment to Constructive Dialogue" Project handed certificates to CSO representatives from Yerevan and marzes who had successfully participated in the course.

"The course was very useful in terms of development of coalition as well as public policy. The course was really academic. I think that in most cases what we were doing was intuitive, and not calculated we basic knowledge about it," Zaruhi Hovhannisyan, an activist from the Coalition to stop Violence Against Women said.

Garegin Galustov, Business Development Officer of the European Business Association, noted that during the course, they learned the skills of forming coalitions and networks, and to be strong in developing them and public policies. "It was also a great opportunity to establish links with the regional organizations, to start a reliable partnership," he said.

The educational program already has 88 graduates. It should be noted that the educational program will be implemented for a total of 120 CSO representatives from Yerevan and marzes. Within the framework of the educational program the participants on the issues of public policy development, monitoring of public budgets and public policies, coalition building and developing CSO-government constructive dialogue.

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.



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.

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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