



PRESS RELEASE

27 February 2018

Yerevan

Draft Law on Introduction of Volunteer Institute may cause Serious Problems to NGOs

On February 27, the regulations envisaged by the Draft Law "On Volunteer Activities and Volunteer Work" and the existing legislation were presented to the representatives of the civil society organisations (CSOs) at the training organised for them in the framework of the EU-funded "Commitment to Constructive Dialogue" project.

The Project Lawyer Mary Harutyunyan mentioned that one of the positive aspects of the draft is that the costs for compensation of the volunteer work are included in the list of deductible income. The project regulates the issue of coverage of the travel costs for volunteers and compensation for travel costs in accordance with the procedures for reimbursement of travel costs under the labour law.

However, the draft also establishes provisions, which, in case of entry into force, will be a serious challenge for the effective use of the volunteer institute. One of them is that the organisation can involve volunteers with a ratio of up to 5 per cent of its employees. That is, the organisation should have at least 20 volunteers to have the right to involve one volunteer.

"The draft is imperfect, there are a number of gaps and problematic issues, and it is important to be information about them. I got the information that was of interest to our organisation," said Ms Anna Khachatryan, Human Resources Officer of "Save the Children" NGO said.

Armenuhi Sargsyan, vice-president of the International Women's Union in Yerevan, who is constantly working with international and local volunteers, also highlighted the awareness of the new amendments to the draft. Make legislative regulations in this area is acceptable, but there are unacceptable provisions in the draft as well.

It should be noted that representatives of 8 civil society organisations participated in the training. Most of them were women and young activists.

If you also are a civic activist and want to receive legal support, please contact us at info@armla.am, register for the upcoming training to receive legal advice.

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



This Project is funded by the European Union.

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



Armenian Lawyers' Association
Address: 7 Nalbandyan Str., Suite 2,
Yerevan, Armenian, 0010

Tel.: +37410 54 01 99
Fax: +37410 58 02 99



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.

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.

Astghik Karapetyan

PR Coordinator

Tel.:540199,

Fax: 580299,

E-mail:info@armla.am,

URL: <http://www.armla.am>, <http://ccd.armla.am>



This Project is funded
by the European Union.

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

Armenian Lawyers' Association
Address: 7 Nalbandyan Str., Suite 2,
Yerevan, Armenian, 0010

Tel.: +37410 54 01 99
Fax: +37410 58 02 99

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.