



## PRESS RELEASE

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Yerevan

### **Expert Advice on Social Entrepreneurship was provided to CSOs**

On February 27, representatives of the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) received tax and business consulting on social entrepreneurship issues at the training organised in Gyumri in the framework of the EU funded “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” project.

The free expert consultation was provided during the workshop organised within the framework of another EU-funded “STRONG CSOs for a Stronger Armenia” project.

Non-governmental organisations already have the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurial activity. And in this case, a number of practical and theoretical questions arise related to the submission of reports on accounting, tax accounting, tax payers, and other details to the Authorized Body.

Hakob Avagyan, Business and Related Sectors’ Coordinator of the “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” project, Executive Director of the Project Partner SME Partnership Association of Armenia through active questions and answers session presented to the participants when their work can be considered as entrepreneurial activity, how to succeed in the field of social entrepreneurship and avoiding problems.

Training participant Eliza Petrosyan, from "Lori Development Center" NGO of Vanadzor noted that being an active member of the CSO, she was interested in amendments to the new law on NGOs. "During this course, I gained a lot of new knowledge to create social entrepreneurship, and what preconditions are needed, as well as whether our NGO has these opportunities or not? By taking this knowledge with me, and sharing experience with other members of the organisation, we can finally achieve the final result," she said.

"The training was very interesting as our non-governmental organisation has not been engaged in entrepreneurial activity and has not been involved in its separate accounting, and through this training it was interesting to know the peculiarities of accounting in the NGO sector," said Anna Hovhannisyanyan, from “Community Development and Social Support Center” NGO.

If you also are a civic activist and want to receive legal support, please contact us at [info@armla.am](mailto: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



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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.

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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