



PRESS RELEASE

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Yerevan

The Head of the Education Inspectorate and Deputy Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs met with CSO Representatives

On 29 June, 27 representatives of civil society organizations, members of CSO Incubators in the framework of the EU-funded “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” project met with the Head of the RA Education Inspectorate and the Deputy Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs.

Mr. Alexander Shagafyan, the Head of the RA Education Inspectorate mentioned that months ago he could have acted as a representative of the civil society and understood the concerns of NGOs working in the field of education. He also presented to the participants the functions, powers of the Inspection Body, as well as ongoing and upcoming tasks.

Issues related to the modernization of high school curricula, programs aimed at improving the curriculum of vocational and secondary vocational education institutions, problems facing the pre-school education, as well as the need for professional orientation of pupils in high schools were discussed during the meeting as well.

The parties also discussed the positive and negative aspects of multidimensional education in communities, where in many communities the school has fewer pupils and pupils of the second, fifth, and in some cases even the representatives of a third age groups study in the same class.

The head of the RA Education Inspectorate said: “This should be based on the peculiarities of our country, otherwise they would not have done it; all the age groups would be at school in corresponding classes and study the corresponding program. The fact that education is multidimensional can already cause concerns about having a problem of quality of education. If the first grade pupil is in the same classroom with the fourth grade pupil, and the teacher has to teach two different programs, this is simply a situational solution.”

On the same day, at the meeting with the deputy Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs the issues related to the work of the social security bodies were discussed.

According to Arsen Manukyan, the social security authorities in provinces do not do enough work, and often they only consider themselves bodies “disseminating benefits”. That is why the support of non-governmental organisations is also needed in order to clarify sectoral issues and present and implement reforms.

“We, as a ministry, think about developing a separate format for co-operation with NGOs and to have a team of NGOs to support current activities,” Deputy Minister Arman Udumyan said.

Participants of the CSO Incubator shared their experiences in social sector work as well as the difficulties and obstacles they faced during their work.



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At the meetings the officials expressed willingness to have constructive cooperation in other formats with CSOs working in both sectors.

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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