



PRESS RELEASE

03 July 2018

Yerevan

Right to Be Forgotten: The International and Local Experience of the Origin and Application of New Law was discussed

On 3 July 2018, an event entitled “Right to Be Forgotten and Reports of Mass Media on Crimes as a Pretext to Initiate Criminal Cases” was held in the scope of the EU-funded “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” Project.

Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Personal Data Protection Agency, human rights defenders and civil society representatives, and experts attended the event.

“The essence of the right to be forgotten is that finding certain information about individuals is difficult or impossible, even if the information has been known to the public for many years. And a person demands that information be removed from the web site that hinders to his/her integration in the society and other rights,” Mr. Tigran Danielyan, Expert Lawyer of the Project said.

He introduced the origin of the right to be forgotten, the international jurisdictional precedents and the current applicability. The precedent experience of the media of realization of the right to be forgotten was presented as well. From June 16th, the Iravaban.net news website based on the application of a person, is editing the publications related with the latter that had been published two or more years before. Editing is done based on the application of an individual and based on the other defined criteria (removing the person’s identifiable information) and indicating that the material has been edited.

Ms Kristine Ghukasyan, Expert Lawyer of the Project, introduced the cases when and based on what procedures the media information are accepted as reports on crime and the criminal case is filed.

Mr. Gevorg Hayrapetyan, Acting Head of Personal Data Protection Agency, emphasized the event. “The right to be forgotten, as a rule, is not reflected in the laws of the states, but it is time for the society to think about it. And it is very good that this issue has already been considered and this new law will also be applied in practice.”

Participants of the event assessed the organization and information on this new law effective, taking into consideration the fact of frequent demands to the media to remove or edit publications.

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 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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