



## PRESS RELEASE

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Yerevan

### Deputy Ministers Culture and Sport & Youth Affairs met with the Representatives of the Civil Society

On 16 July, 22 participants of CSO Incubators had a working meeting with the Deputy Ministers of Culture and Sport & Youth Affairs in the framework of the EU-funded “Commitment to Constructive” Project.

During the meeting with the RA Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Gabriel Ghazaryan, CSO representatives presented their scope of activities, as well as hold discussions on sports federations and their financing, various grants programs and other issues.

At the meeting with Deputy Minister of Culture Vahe Budumyan, representatives of the civil society discussed a number of issues, in particular touched upon social advertising, the launch of puppet theatres, operation of houses of culture in the provinces, frequent visits of pupils to the cultural centres and other issues.

Representatives of civil society organisations expressed their readiness to cooperate and assist the ministries in elaborating and implementing public policies on systemic issues.

At the same time, the Deputy Ministers welcomed the idea of cooperation and noted that they are ready to work together on constructive, reasonable proposals and ideas.

Civil society organisations (CSO) incubators are aimed at promoting CSO capacity building and enhancing productivity.

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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