



## PRESS RELEASE

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Yerevan

### CSO Capacity Building Certification Programme Was Launched at the American University of Armenia

On 4 June, the American University of Armenia launched a CSO capacity building certification programme within the EU-funded “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” project.

15 CSO representatives from Yerevan and different marzes of the Republic of Armenia are participating in this five-day advanced training course.

Syuzanna Soghomonyan, the CSO-Government Dialogue Coordinator of the Project and a lawyer at the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, mentioned in her speech that the results of similar trainings conducted in five stages had been analysed before.

*“We may say that CSO representatives that have participated in the training developed skills such as the development of evidence-based public policies, conducting monitoring, including budget monitoring, coalition building skills, finding supporters, and achieving success through constructive dialogue with the government and local authorities,”* she said.

Representatives of civil society organisations who have won the grants competition for coalitions and have signed grant agreements are participating in this training.

*“Grant programmes are expected to achieve at least two key results. The first one is the formation of coalitions: In case of facing problems everyone will know that there is one important, strong network that they can apply to for support, and it can serve as a platform for discussing the issues raised. The other important outcome must be the implementation of such public policies created by CSOs, design of concept papers and their incorporation in special programmes,”* Syuzanna Soghomonyan said.

It should be noted that in the end the educational programme will have been implemented for a total of 120 CSO representatives from Yerevan and marzes. Within the framework of the educational programme the participants will be trained on the issues of public policy development, monitoring of public budgets and public policies, coalition building and developing constructive CSO-government dialogue.

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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