



## PRESS RELEASE

04 October 2018

Yerevan

### **The Efforts Aimed at Street Lighting, Waste Collection and Inter-Community Road Renovation Are Joined: A New Coalition Has Been Created**

On 4 October 2018, the first meeting of the coalition titled “Community Development and Participatory Governance Union” (“HamaZarK”) took place. During the meeting, the rules and regulations of the newly founded coalition were approved, the governing board was elected and new members were added to it. The “HamaZarK” coalition is implementing the “Participatory Monitoring for the Creation of Smart Communities in Armenia” project. It is implemented in the scope of a grant allocated by the “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” project (CCD) funded by the European Union.

It is mentioned that over the past three years 12-15% of the budget means of the communities of the Shirak, Lori, and Tavush marz centres have been directed at waste collection, utility services and environmental protection and yet no substantial changes are noticed. People are constantly dissatisfied with the services rendered and the relevant bodies do not apply alternative solutions.

The goal of the “Participatory Monitoring for the Creation of Smart Communities in Armenia” project is to contribute to raising the quality of the services rendered by local government in the enlarged communities selected in these marzes through improving, monitoring and advocating for the public policy in the sector.

“Due to the coalition, the efforts of a group of organisations have been joined for the benefit of the development of these fields. This is just the beginning of our systemic and consistent work,” said Gharib Harutyunyan, the President of the project lead “Compass” NGO.

Karen Zadoyan, the Project Manager of the “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” project and the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, delivered a welcome speech at the event. He also presented the CCD goals and the large-scale work already carried out. Speaking about the newly founded coalition and its work, he advised that the society was involved to the extent possible and that the ties with it were strengthened.



This Project is funded  
by the European Union.

Delegation of  
the European Union  
to Armenia  
Tel.: +37410 54 64 94



Armenian Lawyers' Association  
Address: 7 Nalbandyan Str., Suite 2,  
Yerevan, Armenian, 0010

Tel.: +37410 54 01 99  
Fax: +37410 58 02 99



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.

Today, memoranda on becoming members of the “HamaZarK” coalition have been signed with 21 non-governmental organisations. Project Manager Haykaram Drmeyan noted that the number of the membership applications reached several dozens. However, the applications were satisfied, taking into account a number of criteria, such as sectoral experience, reputation, capacities.

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.

**Astghik Karapetyan**

**PR Coordinator**

**Tel.: 540199**

**Fax: 580299**

**E-mail: [info@armla.am](mailto:info@armla.am)**

**URL: <http://www.armla.am>, <http://ccd.armla.am>**



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