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More informed society and state budget oversight: the project "Informed Armenia" has been launched

On September 27, 2018, the project “Access to information and investigative journalism for better-informed citizens”, co-funded by the European Union, was launched by “Freedom of Information Center” NGO. The EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr A. Świtalski, representatives from the Freedom of Information Centre, Maastrich-based European Journalism Centre experts, as well as representatives from the EU, civil society organizations and media companies were present at the event. The project launch was accompanied with the opening of the Grand training session.

The event was organised by the Freedom of Information Center, with financial support of the European Union and in cooperation with the Maastricht-based European Journalism Centre.

Opening speeches were delivered by the EU Ambassador to Armenia H.E. Mr. Piotr A. Świtalski and the President of the Freedom of Information Center Ms. Shushan Doydoyan.

"Civil society and journalists play an important role in gaining access to, analysing and presenting information to fellow citizens in ways that allow them to understand important societal issues. I hope this project will be one of the means to access timely and relevant information that allows Armenians across the country to follow the current political transitions as well as important decisions on reforms and budget allocations that are awaiting ahead", said Ambassador Switalski in his opening remarks.

“Freedom of information is a powerful tool for investigative journalism and civil society organisations, so they strengthen their watchdog capacity and make Government accountable to the society. We hope this project will be helpful for the CSOs to perform their watchdog activities in a much better way”, stated the President of the Freedom of Information Center Shushan Doydoyan in her opening speech.

At the opening of the Grand training, the experts involved in the project, delivered opening speeches presenting the general content of their regional training courses.

The national budget is one of the most important government tools to implement its government policies. However, many Armenian citizens - and particularly young people – do not know how the national budget is spent. The project “Access to information and investigative journalism for better informed citizens” seeks to ensure that journalists and civil society organizations (CSOs) produce and share easy-to-understand information, news articles and contributes to a real debate about budget allocations and spending in Armenia.

The project aims to strengthen the watchdog capacity of civil society, particularly regarding the oversight of the state budget in sectors relevant for EU-Armenia relations, as well as to promote investigative journalism among youth.

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