FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Project Title: **"Access to Information and Investigative Journalism for Better Informed Citizens" ("Informed Armenia")**

General Information

Co-funded by the European Union (90%) And Freedom of Information Center of Armenia NGO (10%) **Contract number:** ENPI/2017/394-338 **Starting Date:** May 2018 **Ending Date:** December 2019 **Total Budget (in Euro):** 390000	**Project Evaluator:** Tsovinar Arevyan

December 2019

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ATI - Access to Information

CEPA - Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

CJSC - Closed Joint Stock Company

CSO - Civil Society Organization

EJC - European Journalism Centre

EUD - European Union Delegation

FAR FAA - Fund of Armenian Relief Fellowship Alumni's Association

FOICA - Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia

HR- Human Resources

LLC - Limited Liability Company

LSG - Local Self-Government

MoJ - Ministry of Justice

MTAD - Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development

PB - Project Board

PTV- Public Television of Armenia

SNCO – State Non-Commercial Organization

TPIO - Transport Project Implementation Organisation

1. Executive Summary

Acknowledging the importance of reinforcing the role of the civil society and investigative journalism in conducting effective monitoring of the Government's work and the state budget activities in particular, the Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOICA) NGO, the lead applicant, together with its partner organization, Maastricht-based European Journalism Center (ECJ), has implemented a 19-months project entitled "Access to Information and Investigative Journalism for Better Informed Citizens" ("Informed Armenia"), co-funded by the European Union.

The project has worked to raise awareness on EU-Armenia relations, reforms expected from these relations, access to information issues, international best practices in respect to policies and watchdog strategies relating to the promotion of EU integration, with a special focus in the sectors of health, transport, energy efficiency, anti-discrimination, etc, covered by the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed by the EU and Armenia on 24 November 2017. The project outputs are in line with the priorities identified under EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Armenia 2018-2020[1], including but not limited to supporting Armenian civil society efforts to act as efficient government watchdogs and provide constructive contribution to governance reforms; provide targeted capacity building for civil society to effectively engage with citizens and become more sustainable; etc.

The target groups of the project are the CSOs engaged in reforms' monitoring, legal defence and other human rights issues; and journalism/law students from 8 universities in Yerevan, as well as in all regions of Armenia. The project's direct beneficiaries include: i) 92 CSOs involved in the project (NGOs and media, of which 70 are regional and 22 are Yerevan-based), with a total number of 136 trained members of CSOs (out of which 96 (i.e. 70.5%) have been women); ii) 98 journalism and law students who have participated in the 1st and 2nd seasons of investigative journalistic battles. 88 of these students (90%) were women. The project's end beneficiaries include those individuals and communities who were impacted by the CSOs work, those using the services of media organizations engaged in the Project, and finally - public at large.

The project has offered targeted, yet comprehensive interventions, pursuing the following two **Outcomes:**

1. The watchdog capacity of CSOs, particularly the oversight of the State Budgets in sectors relevant for EU-Armenia relations is strengthened.
2. Investigative reporting on state budget and various human rights issues is increased among the youth.

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[1]

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia_en/63117/EU%20Roadmap%20for%20Engagement%20with%20 Civil%20Society%20in%20Armenia%202018-2020

The Project has fully delivered on all activities, outputs and outcomes detailed in the project document and log-frame. The findings on the implementation of all activities under each output are detailed in the relevant sections below and assessed by this evaluator using SMART indicators and means of verification. Sufficient evidence shows that the Project was implemented by maintaining close cooperation both with governmental and civil society/media actors. Engagement with qualified 23 sub-grantee organizations has helped to create strong synergies among project beneficiaries and to strengthen local capacity, thereby achieving the project **objective of reinforcing civil society in Armenia through capacitating the CSOs to conduct effective monitoring activity of state budget and the youth to conduct journalistic investigations.** The Government support has been ensured via regular consultations and initiatives by the FOICA and/or project sub-grantees. The project has provided sufficient space for government input by underpinning the importance of joint sponsorship, where appropriate, and through participation in various events/activities.

2. Methodology and Data Collection Instruments

The objective of the evaluation is to assess if the project has delivered on all activities, outputs and expected outcomes; to examine the effectiveness of the interventions, management practice, and implementation in general; and to investigate the potential for sustaining the activities that were implemented by providing recommendations regarding each output. The evaluation uses five OECD/DAC criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability) and two adapted EC criteria (coherence and the organization's added value). More specific objectives of the evaluation will be to answer the following questions:

➢ Were all project results delivered and explain deviations, if any;
➢ Did results lead to a change in the institutional capacity of direct beneficiaries (positive, negative, or no change)?
➢ Were the results delivered to all key stakeholders (including men and women) who are affected by the problem?
➢ How did the delivery of the results facilitate achievement of the project objective?
➢ Are the results likely to be sustained after the project support will end?
➢ With reference to relevance, coherence and added value, the evaluation will describe to what extent the project strategy was relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries and solving the problem.

The evaluation has employed a mixed methodology of quantitative and qualitative research tools in an integrated design to enrich the process and provide more insightful understanding. The sequence of the mixing is such that the quantitative tools have supported the qualitative ones: (a) the qualitative work was carried out to identify the main issues and complete or obtain information not provided by the quantitative surveys; (b) combining the quantitative and qualitative techniques ("mixed method") has allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the project's accomplishments and the lessons learned.

The evaluation has applied the traditional evaluation tools, both secondary and primary, in the following order: (a) the desk review (qualitative and quantitative) consisting of an analysis of project documents and supporting documentation to extract information; (b) identification of a list of respondents consisting of beneficiaries and project management staff, c) self-administered survey with the dissemination of evaluation questionnaires among project beneficiaries (sets of questions with closed and open answers), d) semi-structured interviews, meaning individual meetings in which the interviewer will apply a framework of themes to explore the issues in an open way, thus allowing the interviewee to bring up new ideas and approaches.

3. Results and Performance

3.1 Relevance of the Project Strategy

⇨ The Project strategy has been designed building upon the findings of a 2015 research[2] having revealed a need for developing civil society's capacity for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of public policy programs, especially of state budget monitoring, recommending development of training courses on methods for such M&E.

⇨ All planned beneficiaries correspond to the ones actually benefiting project activities.

⇨ The Project objective, outputs and activities have been well explained to sub-grantees and other project beneficiaries. All activities are duly described in relevant Terms of References and other documents circulated among project beneficiaries. The evaluator had access to sufficient evidence (interviews with and QNRs circulated among project beneficiaries, project documentation etc.), proving that the FOICA maintained regular dialogue and consultations with project beneficiaries which helped achieving higher relevance and effectiveness of Project activities.

⇨ Risks were analysed and detailed in the Project Document along with necessary management responses/control measures.

⇨ The project strategy reflected gender-sensitive approach, by ensuring gender balance when selecting trainers and participants for various project activities.

⇨ While the Project was not part of a larger programme, however it has created sound synergies with other ongoing projects by: supporting the effective implementation of the EU's budget support programme by monitoring State budgets in the sectors relating to EU Armenia relations; assisting the CSOs and media organizations during their monitoring efforts through the FOICA's access to information project which provides support to citizens and litigation in strategic cases to uphold the FoI right; benefiting from the EJC's expertise in designing training sessions and journalistic battles, ranging from basics to cutting-edge techniques such as storytelling with data, use of new media tools in professional journalism, etc.

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[2] Civil Society Organizations' Development Program (CSO DePo), 2015, by CRRC-Armenia,
http://www.crrc.am/hosting/file/_static_content/projects/CSO%20DePo/CSO%20Market%20Research%20Summary_English_final.pdf , http://www.crrc.am/427-Civil-Society-Organizations%E2%80%99-DevelopmentProgram-?lang=en

3.2 Effectiveness of the Project Results

Outcome 1. Watchdog capacity of CSOs, particularly the oversight of the State Budget in sectors relevant for EU-Armenia relations is strengthened.
Indicators: 1.a) The recommendations presented by all 23 sub-grantees in their papers are acted upon by the government.
Targets: The Government accepts min. 50% of all recommendations.
MoV: Official correspondence between the sub-grantees and the government agencies.

Output 1.1 CSOs and media organizations have strengthened their understanding of FOI issues and ability to monitor state budget ad engage in watchdog activities relating to EU-Armenia cooperation sectors.
Indicators: 1.1.a) 13 capacity building training sessions are organized for 90 national and regional CSOs/media (at least 50% of the participants are women).
Target: 90 CSOs are properly trained by the end of the 7th month of the Project.
MoV: participants' lists.

Activity 1, Output 1.1: To achieve implementation of this output, the FOICA has offered to its beneficiaries a series of activities, starting with a **Grand Training held in Yerevan, from 27-29 September 2018, entitled "Conventions and Best International Practice on Freedom of Information/Expression.** The FOICA has disseminated the training announcement on various channels (FOICA website and FB page, web site of Strong CSOs for Stronger Armenia, FB pages of partner NGOs and media organizations[3]) to reach out to as many CSOs as possible. As a result of this wide information campaign, 120 CSOs/media organizations have applied for the training courses. The assessment and selection of applicants has been carried out by a jury, according to the criteria clearly mentioned in the afore-said announcement. Based on a 21.09.2018 decision of the jury, 90 participants have been selected to take part in the training. According to the signed registration sheets reviewed by this evaluator, 87 participants from Yerevan and all regions of Armenia have attended the Grand Training - a mixture of CSO people and journalists. The gender and experience mix of participants has been good with 72% of the participants being women. There have been 7-8 representatives from each region and 15 representatives of Yerevan-based CSOs. The participants have been divided into 3 groups with about 30 participants each which is a reasonable size for this training format.

On 25.10.2018 the Project Board consisting of Shushan Doydoyan (FOICA), Ani Atoyan (FOICA) and Karen Andreasyan (EJC) has adopted in its decision the list of training topics, which are **fully**

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[3] http://www.foi.am/hy/news/item/1678/
http://www.foi.am/en/news/item/1679/,
https://shabat.am/am/article/190743/-Dramashnorh--qaghaqaciakan-hasarakutyan-nerkayacucichnerin
http://www.civilsociety.am/announcements/access-to-information-and-investigative-journalism-for-better-informed-citizens.html
http://ngoc.am/hy/2018/09/04/evaluation/trainings-and-grants-for-civil-society-organizations-and-media-organizations/

compatible with project log-frame indicators versus this output. The list of topics approved by the Board is as follows:

1. International Conventions and Best International Practices in the Areas of Freedom of Information/Expression;
2. Current challenges in fundraising;
3. Public oversight of the state budget;
4. The link between FoI with other human rights;
5. EU-Armenia relations and international best practices in respect of policies and watchdog strategies relating to the promotion of EU integration.

Examination of the training materials (including expert presentation, agenda) reveals that at the Grand Training of 27-29 September, the participants have been provided knowledge and practical skills on international regulations of freedom of information. The trainer has covered issues such as why Freedom of Information matters, analysing the contexts in which FOI has made a difference. The participants have also discussed case studies that showed the successes and failures of FOI. The following module presented by the international trainer **is completely in line with the training event's ambit and scope:**

Module 1 - Welcome and Introductions
Module 2 -Test your Knowledge – quick quiz on familiarity with FOI
Module 3 - Understanding the Basics – this module looked at the history of the laws and their implementation
Module 4 - Why Freedom of Information Matters – a workshop to analyse the contexts in which FOI has made a difference
Module 5 - International Conventions, Exemptions and Exclusions, Who uses it and Why?
Module 6 - What FOI isn't, and What it can't Do – this presentation showed the limits of the laws in a real-world environment
Module 7 - FOI and journalists – discussion of case studies which show successes and failures
Module 8 - Test your knowledge – quick quiz to test retention and understanding.
Module 9 - Next steps and key takeaways.

The FOICA has circulated **training evaluation forms** among the participants and analysed these filled-in forms. This evaluator had access to 79 evaluation forms which were filled out and handed back to the FOICA in all 3 days of the training, evidencing that all participants needed such training on the current topic and that they will use the given materials, knowledge and experience gained in these trainings in their daily work. Based on the feedback from trainees, it becomes evident that they found the training beneficial. They have stressed the importance of training sessions in guiding them through local and international legal norms on FOI and practical implementation mechanisms in a listener-friendly and interactive manner. 91% found the trainings fully satisfied their expectations and 9% - found acceptable. They all noted that they needed trainings on the given topic in their professional work. 94% noted that the knowledge they received was very useful; another 6% mentioned that the knowledge is just satisfactory. Overall training organization was also evaluated highly. 96% found it well-organized.

Activity 2, Output 1.1: Following the Grand Training and in line with indicator 1.1a), from 19 October to 24 November, 2018, the FOICA has organized 12 three-day training sessions for Yerevan-based and regional CSOs, including 136 participants of which 96 were women (70.5%). Below is a Table with the schedule of conducted training sessions, indicating the number of CSOs per region and total number of participants per training with gender disaggregated data:

N	Region	Training sessions in 2018		Participant CSOs	Number of representatives from the participating CSOs
1.	Shirak	Oct. 19, 20, 21		9 CSOs	13 (8 women, 5 men)
2.	Lori	Oct. 19, 20, 21		7 CSOs (6 NGOs + 1 media outlet)	12 (8 omen, 4 men)
3.	Kotayk	Oct. 25, 26, 27		5 CSOs	8 (6 women. 5 men)
4.	Gegharkunik	Oct. 25, 26, 27		10 CSOs (9 CSOs + 1 media outlet)	11 (6 women, 5 men)
5.	Ararat	Oct. 31, 31, Nov. 1		6 CSOs	9 (7 women, 2 men)
6.	Vayatos Dzor	Oct. 31, 31, Nov. 1		4 CSOs	10 (7 women, 3 men)
7.	Tavush	Nov. 1, 2, 3		8 CSOs (6 CSOs + 1 media outlet)	10 (7 women , 3 men)
8.	Aragatsotn	Nov. 13, 14, 15		8 CSOs	15 (13 women, 2 men)
9.	Armavir	Nov. 13, 14, 15		5 CSOs (4 CSOs + 1 media outlet)	8 (5 women, 3 men)
10.	Syunik	Nov. 16, 17, 18		8 CSOs (5 NGOs + 2 media outlets)	12 (8 women, 4 men)
11.	Yerevan	Nov.19, 20, 21	Nov. 22, 23, 24	22 CSOs (18 CSOs + 4 media outlets)	28 (21 women, 7 men)
	10 regions and Yerevan	12 training sessions		92 CSOs	136 (96 women (70.5%), 40 men)

All the training sessions have been carried out under the following title - **"Freedom of information and public oversight of budget"**, **fully in line with the scope and content of this project output**. As already noted, the selection of topics and trainers is documented in the Project Board decision of 25 September, mentioned above.

The selection of experts/trainers has been carried out on competitive basis. On 02.07.2018, i.e. 3 months prior to the commencement of training sessions, the FOICA has announced on its [website] and then disseminated though its [FB page] the announcement for filling trainers' positions in all 5 categories covered by the training. The job description and requirements are duly detailed in the respective ToRs for each position. The selection of experts is well-documented in the 15.07.2018 decision of the Project Board consisting of 4 persons. With view to avoiding potential conflict of

interest visavis two applicants for the position of FoI trainer, the Board Chairperson Shushan Doydoyan's has presented self-recusal and has been replaced by another Board Member, Ani Atoyan when deciding on this position. The Board Decision is inclusive of a detailed assessment of the qualifications and skills of the shortlisted applicants and their compatibility with the criteria mentioned in the announced position.

Below is the qualitative summary of the capacity building training sessions:

1. **"Current challenges for fundraising" (expert- Ms. Hasmik Hakobyan).** The review of training materials by this evaluator revealed that the course was designed to enhance the participating CSOs to develop transparent and long-term fundraising and spendings' planning. Issues included in these materials cover the purpose of fundraising and its importance, the current challenges in fundraising, possible types of fundraising such as grants, receiving awards, donations, charity programs by corporations, other funds, fundraising techniques – planning, methodology,- as well as the best practice in applying for grant programs.

2. **"Public oversight of state budget" (expert – Mr. Vanik Margaryan).** The course was designed to enhance the understanding of the concept and the structure of state budget, its financial (and the minimum legal) aspects and methodology for monitoring State budget. The emphasis has been on public procurement by state agencies as a main tool for expenditures, discussing the methods for maintaining sustained dialogue with authorities regarding the state budget oversight and proposals for budget expenditure alternatives.

3. **"Freedom of information" (expert- Ms. Liana Doydoyan).** The course explained to CSOs the national legal framework regulating FoI, the methods and sources for receiving information, what to do when being rejected the information. Practical examples on how to deal with difficult situations while requesting information are also part of the training package.

4. **"The link between freedom of information and other human rights" (expert- Mr. Karen Andreasyan).** The materials used for this session included guidance through the national legal framework of freedom of information/expression, as well as the link/risks between freedom of information/expression and other human rights (e.g. defamation, right to privacy, journalism ethics, etc.).

5. **"EU-Armenia relations: international best practices in respect of policies and watchdog strategies for the promotion of EU integration" (expert Ms. Anna Hakobyan).** The course is an introduction CSOs to the EU and Eastern Partnership, the EU integration requirements for Armenia, especially in the sectors of health, transport, energy efficiency, environment, anti-discrimination, etc; as well as to the EU budget support program. International best practices in respect of policies and watchdog strategies for the promotion of EU integration are also included in the training materials package.

According to information provided by the FOICA, in addition to the above, during the training sessions the participants were given additional information about the upcoming sub-grants call: "Monitoring and coverage of public policy programs and government's expenditures in sectors relevant for EU-Armenia relations", with the experts answering to the participants' questions regarding the sub-grants call, its goals and application procedure.

With view to bringing in additional beneficiary perspectives about their participation in and effectiveness of the training sessions, the evaluator circulated a questionnaire among training participants (35 participants including sub-grantees and additional, randomly selected participants). All respondents have rated the FOICA-conducted training sessions as very useful or useful. In addition, they have provided insights as to what they have learned, how the knowledge and skills gained at the training helped them design the sub-grants and other projects and how they will use this knowledge following the completion of the project to bring in positive change in their respective communities. Below are testimonials by some of the respondents:

➢ "Two members of our NGO have taken part in the training sessions and the idea of the projects we implemented later was born at this training. In addition, as a result of the training we're increasingly using the FoI law during our watchdog activities and organizing training for other organizations and initiative groups" – *Susanna Shahnazaryan, Goris Press Club*.

➢ ''Following the training we are implementing projects aimed at mobilizing regional youth and involving them in the process of decision-making together with local authorities, voicing community problems/soliciting solutions" – *Nane Yeghiazaryan, "Jermuk Youth Center", Vayots Dzor region*.

➢ "We did not face methodological challenges at the project implementation phase thanks to effective interaction with and professionalism of the FOICA during and after training sessions. We were always in receipt of timely step-by step guidance on various project implementation matters from the FOICA. This gave as a chance to use knowledge and skills gained at the training in practice'' - *Elmira Balasanyan, "Clean Goris" NGO*.

➢ ''Having participated both in the Grand Training and the Yerevan-based 3 days training I can rate these events are very useful. We consistently use the knowledge gained at the training by supporting citizens on how to receive government-held info, as well as by providing consultations on the rights protection and awareness raising issues" – *Arman Khachatryan, Democracy and Law Center, Yerevan*.

➢ "The training sessions were eye-opening especially in terms of gaining insights on how to effectively use publically available info resources, for instance on the community budget. We further used these skills when developing our information platform'' – *Hasmik Hakobyan, Rights Protection Initiative Foundation*.

Op. 1.2/1.2.a) Advocacy Grants

Output 1.2. State budget monitoring is done in sectors relevant to EU-Armenia relations.

Indicators: 1.2.a) 10 specific advocacy grants, focusing on state budget monitoring relating to specific areas of EU-Armenia relations, are successfully implemented.

1.2.b) 13 CSOs are selected to be provided with 13 core institutional grants.

1.2.c) 23 concept papers (with an analysis of the problems in state budget policy and recommendations are presented to the government and public at large during final grand two-day conference.

Target: min. 40 working groups meetings with relevant gov.agencies for developing concept papers, 10 joint concept papers (by the end of the 13th month of the Project);

MoV: concept papers, final grants reports, WG meeting agendas/minutes, press publications, press releases, official correspondence.

The maximum budget intended for each of the 10 specific advocacy grants has been 2000 EUR. The duration of each project - upto 4 months. As a general note, the Project's management has elaborated sub-grants policy with detailed procurement and narrative/financial reporting rules by using EU grant policy, procurement, and narrative/financial reporting rules for the current Project as a guiding principle.

On 23 November 2018 the FOICA has announced the call for 10 specific advocacy grants on its website. The announcement has clearly stated that the call is open to Yerevan-based and regional CSOs, media outlets and civil initiatives, which have participated in the training sessions described in the preceding section of this report. As regards the jury's composition, in addition to Project management/staff (3 persons), the FOICA has also invited a representative of the donor organization EUD as an observer and 3 external experts from civil society and UNDP, for evaluating this call for applications. The jury selection has been documented in the 25 December 2018 decision of the Project Board (Shushan Doydoyan, Josh Laporte, Karen Andreasyan). According to the Board report, as of 24 December 2018, 34 call applications have been submitted to FOICA. On 14.02.2019 the jury has made a decision to award 10 applicants with sub-grant **contracts based on clear criteria, as well as other requirements which ensure logical link with the project's relevant outputs, outcomes and indicators.**

Below is a list of 10 advocacy projects selected for funding, along with a summary of achieved project outputs and results. Links to the videos prepared on the results of all Advocacy and Core Institutional Grants (presented in the next item) are provided under ''Visibility'' section of this report.   .

Organization/Project Title and Budget	Brief Description of the Project	Achieved Outputs/Results
1."TV Media ALT" LLC (ALT TV) "Monitoring and publicity of efforts in irrigation system reforms" Budget: 1,101,000 AMD or 1999 EUR	The project envisaged conducting monitoring of irrigation system expenditures and activities in this sector and publicizing the final results. Project beneficiaries: all the farms and LSG bodies of Armavir marz. Target groups: RA Water Committee, Water Users and Contractor Organizations.	-"ALT" TV has monitored the state funds spent on the irrigation system. - 4 discussions with the contractor, LSG and water users were held. - TV debate concerning the irrigation system problems produced and aired on "ALT" TV: http://bit.ly/2H5tzNk). - Three reports were prepared and included in the analytical article http://bit.ly/2VVeQN8. - During project implementation, the executive directors of "Armavir" and "Etchmiadzin" water users' associations were released from their positions, following disclosure of abuses in the amount of 2 mln. AMD. A criminal case was initiated and the amount is subject to return to the state budget.
2."Armenian Camp" NGO Project title: "Accessible transport" Budget: 1,102,800 AMD or 1999.9 EUR	The project was aimed at monitoring and publication of budget expenditures on the adaptation of Yerevan transport system to the needs of the people with mobility restrictions and assisting in increasing the efficiency of transport services for citizens with mobility difficulties in Yerevan.	- Following monitoring, the project team has discussed with the Deputy Mayor the issue of 25 lifts, some of which are not operational and were purchased in 2014-2016 by Yerevan city budget and installed on city buses. An agreement was reached with the DM that Municipality will carry out inventory of working and disassembled cranes. - The received data was presented at a Yerevan Municipality meeting on 25 June 2019, interviews with beneficiaries of accessible busses and other actors were carried out by project team. -The "Armenian Camp" NGO has proposed to elaborate a public transport access rulebook for decision-makers. Council of Elders accepted the proposal and expressed readiness to apply it when discussing sectoral issues.
3."V.I.V Aysor ev Vaghe" LTD Project title: "Energetic alternative of Armenia" Budget: 1,098,500 AMD or 1992 EUR	The project envisaged preparing a journalistic longread covering energy efficiency, alternative energy, introduction of new technologies, energy-saving issues in Armenia and implementation of state, international and private projects in the field of energy, particularly renewable and alternative energy. This project aims at presenting the successful international practices in this area, and pointing out the prospects and potential of the	- Publication of the main longread - http://energyalternativeofarmenia.tilda.ws/, containing 5 videos on the following topics: Armenia's energy system stands out for its stability and reliability; Renewable energy is of strategic importance for Armenia; Solar energy usage in Armenia is increasing day by day; Increasing energy efficiency is imperative; Even renewable energy is not free of environmental issues. - Dissemination of the longread on ankakh.am and FB: https://bit.ly/33Gr6kt - Reproduction of the longread on the official website of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development: http://mtad.am/hy/publications/item/2019/08/09/mtadenergetika/ - Reproduction on the website of Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund (R2E2): https://bit.ly/2DIpf48,

		sector development in Armenia.	- Yerevan Today: https://bit.ly/2DDE73V - Solaron company: https://bit.ly/2sIVOwL - At a meeting organized by project team on 12.07.2019, government agencies, members of the private sector, international and local organizations agreed to continue awareness raising activities in the sector.
4. "Tookhmanook" Human Rights Protection and Educational Center" NGO "Together for Quality of Education" Budget: 1,093,000 AMD or 1982 EUR		The project entailed monitoring of the policy of Armenian Government in the field of preservation of the cultural identity of national minorities and the right to quality education, as well as transparency of funds allocated by the state to this end. The monitoring has focused on the funding amount, proportionality of distribution of funds according to the size of communities, the cost-effectiveness of the projects implemented.	- A study in five villages of Armavir marz (Nalbandyan, Tandzut, Ferik, Arax, Aknalich) was conducted, to identify the efforts by the state to provide quality education of the children of the Yezidi national minority, the policy and measures undertaken by the government for preservation of national identity and national education. - A report was produced and shared with local authorities revealing the problems faced by the national minorities, the level of public awareness on these issues, presenting recommendations on the possible solutions and generating public debate.
5. Partnership and Teaching" NGO "Youth for their future" Budget1,100,000 AMD or 1995 EUR		The goal of the project was to promote the participation of young people in public life in Goris and to increase public influence by monitoring the community budget, promoting and developing youth policy.	- Focus-group discussions have been held in 9 settlements of Goris enlarged community with the participation of 124 young people aged 16-35. Additionally, an analysis of Goris community budget, five-year development plan and relevant documentation of the LSG's working plan (2019) has been carried out. - Goris Community Youth Policy 2019-2022 draft strategy and related Action Plan were provided to the Goris community leadership. - The enlarged community of Goris will have a youth policy strategy, and community development plans will include a policy action plan that will make the implementation of these measures mandatory for the community. The municipality has given its preliminary positive response to the draft strategy and action plan.

6. "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO "Control of Community Budget through Dialogue'' Budget: 1,102,880 AMD or 2000 EUR	The project aims at analysing 2017-18 municipal budgets of the Alaverdi, Akhtala and Spitak cities through participatory monitoring, paying attention to environmental protection expenses and the effectiveness of environmental projects, as well as to promote good public engagement practices in the community budget process through electronic and participation tools. The project is also aimed at promoting public awareness and public involvement in 2019 budget execution and setting up effective practices for the participatory budgeting for 2020.	- An analysis of 2017-18 municipal budgets of Alaverdi, Akhtala and Spitak cities, as well an evaluation of environmental expenditures and programs implemented in the first quarter of 2019 is prepared and published in Urbanista platform; - On 15 July 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Municipality of Alaverdi, in which the local self-government undertook to consult with the NGO during its activities and to be guided by the monitoring results. The MTAD has noted in its response to NGO that Ministry attaches great importance to the proposals presented and noted that action will be taken in two areas: legislative changes and website design reforms. As part of these changes, the Ministry will also take into account the NGO's recommendations.
7. "National Road Safety Council" NGO "Issues of publicity and public control of road construction programs" Budget: 1,102,500 AMD or 1999 EUR	The project goal is to monitor the opportunities of publicity and public control of budget expenditure (state budget and loans) of road construction projects, which will essentially improve the effectiveness of budget expenditure by the authorities.	- A monitoring mechanism has been designed to evaluate the publicity, availability and accessibility of budgetary expenses of the country's major road construction project: North-South Corridor on the websites of MTAD (www.mtcit.am) and Transport Project Implementation Organisation (www.tpio.am). - 2 government websites were monitored according to the monitoring mechanism and the results were analyzed. -3 working meetings were held with Ministry and TPIO sharing key monitoring findings. -15 publications (in various formats text, video, online streaming) about online monitoring results were published on Facebook, Twitter and NRSC website (all links are provides in the sub-grantee's narrative report)? - The Freight Forwarding Organization SNCO has amended its website based on project recommendations and the MTAD has expressed readiness to take into account the observations when developing a new version of the Ministry's website.
8. "Goris Press Club" NGO	The project has explored and investigated the real reasons for low tax	-The observations presented in the report were considered acceptable by the municipality. Goris Mayor appealed to MPs to come up with a legislative initiative aimed at solving sectoral

"I Participate in Community Development" Budget: 992,000 AMD or 1799 EUR	collection in Tatev community, developing a package of proposals through discussions to improve the process, as well as raising the awareness of the population on community budget revenues collection and targeted use.	problems, presenting the report as a factual basis. - The Mayor, in an official letter of 22.07.2019, stated that he agrees with the report's problem-solving options and is not opposed to publicizing the report. - On August 7, 2019 a working meeting was held in Goris with the Heads of different communities of Syunik Province and MPs representing different factions. - A Memorandum has been signed with Tatev Community leadership to support their efforts in ensuring public awareness on community budget expenditures.
9. ("Hoosaber" CJSC (Yerkir Media TV) "Promotion of Transparency of Implementation of the e-Health System and Public Monitoring" Budget – 1,100,000 AMD or 1995 EUR	The project is aimed at raising public awareness on the status of introducing e-Health System in Armenia, a large EU investment, and elaborating as to what extent the system has been implemented, how different agencies have succeeded or failed in the implementation.	- The project team has had interview with Avet Manukyan, director of "National Electronic Health Operator" CJSC, to find out more about the functioning of the system. The team has tested the possibilities provided by the program e-health and their effectiveness for the citizens and explored ways to access the program, raising personal data protection issues. The team has also discussed the efficiency of the program with the Head of the Health Care Department at the Ministry of Health. - 3 videos were produced on the implementation of a unified E-health system in Armenia 1. Electronic Health Care: -9.05.2019 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJeXR1rBMVA) 2. E-Health - a way to make life easier for citizens: -6.07.2019 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wd1RiJqEIiM) 3. Electronic health care at the St. Gregory the Illuminator polyclinic. -12.08.2019 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-hyUDUaP3M) 4. TV interview prepared with the participation of Tsaghkanush Sargsyan, Head of the Department of Introduction of Electronic Health Care: 22. 07. 2019. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVIyTSi7iiI)
10. Centre of Democracy and Law" NGO "The Monitoring of Services Providing by E-Justice Platforms and Public Service Delivery Offices" Budget: 1,102,800 AMD or 1999.9 EUR	The project goal was to monitor the provision of services through e-justice platforms (www.e-draft.am and www.e-request.am) in order to increase the effectiveness of these e-tools, to raise awareness and eliminate barriers to its application.	- The analysis and findings of the monitoring of www.e-draft.am and www.e-request.am platforms has been sent to the MoJ, with recommendations on how to improve the operation of these platforms. The MoJ has agreed to provide solutions to the issues raised. - A draft law has been developed and shared with MoJ to remove the requirement of signature and mentioning of citizenship when sending online info requests. The MoJ representatives have taken part in the discussions of this draft legislation. - The e-mail writing tool on the Ministry websites has been united to e-request platform. - As of 30 April 2019 the MoJ Registration's service hour was changed by a Ministerial Order and now the working hours for queries are 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00 (4 hours longer than before). - Video about project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFX6qctphTYv

Op. 1.2/1.2.b) Core Institutional Grants

The call for 13 core institutional grants was announced on FOICA's website on 16 April, 2019, as well as e-mailed to all the participants of the capacity building training sessions. The maximum budget intended for each of the 13 specific advocacy grants has been 6000 EUR. The duration of each project - upto 4 months Deadline for application submission has been set on 24 May 2019.The purpose of the 13 core institutional sub-grants is to build the institutional capacity of CSOs that can foster the development of new digital tools for public oversight, to facilitate their implementation in the fields relevant to the EU-Armenia CEPA. The sub-grant may also be used to develop NGOs' capacity in the field and to acquire sector-specific knowledge/skills, as well as access to expert services. Similar to advocacy grants, the jury composition and selection criteria are well-documented. By the deadline the FOICA has received 29 applications. On 21 June 2019, the jury has made a decision to award 13 applicants with sub-grant contracts. Below is the list of 13 Core Institutional Grants along with their goals, outputs and main results. 5 Advocacy grantees have been also among the recipients of Advocacy Grants.

Organization/Project Title and budget	Brief Description of the Project	Achieved Outputs/Results
1."TV Media ALT" http://www.foi.am/en/IAproject/item/1796/ "Capacity building for conducting monitoring" Budget: 3.172.000 AMD or 5752 EUR	The aim of project is to develop the institutional and technical capacity of the TV company to monitor the transparency, accountability and participatory governance of local authorities.	-The website www.alttv.am is reconstructed and equipped with new tools/sections with results of the monitoring of the work of local self-governance bodies; - Relevant forms and samples are developed and in use by staff on how to conduct monitoring activities; - MoUs are signed with Armavir Governor's Office (15. 11. 2019); "Legal Progress Club' NGO" (15. 11. 2019) and "Association of Community Finance Specialists" NGO (14. 11. 2019)
2. National Road Safety Council" NGO "Speak up!" Budget: 3.308.000 AMD or 5999 EUR	In an effort to promote NRSC's mandate, this new media project was aimed at promoting the organization's outreach, establishing contacts with citizenry, public officials and raising overall awareness on road safety issues.	- The www.rstv.am website is created and operational as a centralized resource and interactive platform on road safety issues; - 4 TV shows are produced with civic activists and CSOs as the main guest-in-studio, covering a broad array of public transport-related issues: https://rstv.am/zruyc/

3. "Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre" NGO "Green Justice" Budget: 3.308.000 AMD or 5999 EUR	The "Green Justice" initiative of the Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre NGO is aimed at restoring justice, revealing corruption, protecting the harmed interests of Dalma Orchards land users, and preservation of the remaining part of the historical-cultural gardens.	- Legislation review regarding Dalma Gardens is completed; - Several inquiries have been sent to the State Cadaster and other state bodies to find out the actual size of Dalma Gardens (prior to their development by decision 1941-A), as well as to determine whether it was legal not to allocate these lands to collective farmers as was the case with the rest of the collective farms' lands on the territory of Armenia. - As a result of the project team's notification on the destruction of a 16-17 century wine-press facility, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports has established a task force, which currently examines the site, an inventory of the historical monuments is drawn up and the inclusion of this site among historical monuments list is initiated by the NGO.
4. "Partnership and Teaching/P&T" NGO "Public Control as a Community Development Impulse" Budget: 3.170.620 AMD or 5750 EUR	The project is aimed at improving the organization's capacity for community public control and monitoring by focusing on youth engagement.	- Groups of 5-7 young monitors are formed in the enlarged communities of Goris, Tegh, Sisian and Gorayk of Syunik Province, which were trained by the NGO on how to conduct monitoring and advocacy with special focus on youth engagement, education and roads construction related issues; - The monitoring results and recommendations were presented to LSG for inclusion in five-year development programs receiving positive feedback from these bodies; - The monitoring findings and recommendations were also discussed at a larger meeting with Syunik Governor's Office representatives - A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed on 27.11.2019 between the P&T NGO and Syunik Governor's Office, Municipalities of Kapan, Goris, Tegh and Sisian; and youth organizations active in the region.
5. "Clean Goris˒ Ecological" NGO "Youth Move for Clean Goris" Budget: 3.308.000 AMD or 5999 EUR	The project is aimed at building the capacity of "Clean Goris" NGO and "Plastic to Plastic" social entrepreneurship, through youth engagement and awareness raising.	- About 25 youth activists in Goris region are trained on how to monitor environmental problems and conduct awareness-raising activities; - An education model is developed and shared with project beneficiaries; - Cleaner Vararakn river, as a result of project activities, including placement of notice-boards along the river; -10 new garbage bins are placed in the city;

		-Technically refurbished NGO and social entrepreneurship capacitated to better do its work.
6. "Aware and protected consumer" NGO "Wide access online platform for operative communication and regulation of alarms" Budget: 3.306.500 AMD or 5996 EUR	The goal of the project is to develop the capacities of "Protected and Aware Consumer" NGO by creating an online platform at country level, which will give an opportunity for exercising of the rights of consumers to be informed and be heard.	- An online platform is established and operational, allowing the receipt of consumer complaints, verifying information and referring info to the respective agencies for their action, in line with procedures set forth by legislation: http://dimum.online/ - Availability of 1-2 moderators in Yerevan and regions; - MoUs were signed on 25 November with the Heads of state and non-governmental sector structures including Armenia's Food Safety Inspection; National Center for Disease Control; Research Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies, "Consumers Association'', FOICA and Armenian Lawyers Association.
7. "Goris Press Club" NGO ''Visualization as a means of public awareness'' Budget: 2.905.000 AMD or 5619 EUR	The project was aimed at strengthening the Goris Press Club capacity in effectively using open data available in online platforms and raising public awareness on number of regional/other priory issues through visualization of large data-sets.	- A team of community workers, journalists, and NGO representatives is formed by the GPC, with capacity on how to filter, process and summarize large data-sets with view to identifying various sectoral issues. -A two-day training on "Effective Data Management and Visualization" is organized by the GPS for journalists, researchers and local NGOs. -The materials developed by course participants are published on the restructured website: https://mediapoint.am/. - As a result, the website attendance has increased by three times.
8. Rights Protection Initiative Foundation "Youth for Information Accessibility" Budget: 3.098.670 AMD or 5619 EUR	The program envisioned capacity enhancement of RPIF in Armenia's poorest region – Shirak, to provide comprehensive legal support to the most vulnerable, including women, people with disabilities, refugees, the elderly, women with children under care, victims of domestic violence, etc., regarding their daily needs, in close collaboration with Shirak Progress University legal clinic.	- A group of 15 students from Shirak Progress University legal clinic were trained on how to monitor community budget, involve community residents in decision-making processes; - An LSG guide was developed and printed in 1500 copies and disseminated by students among community residents on their social and economic rights during awareness-raising meetings they held in 6 communities; - The guide was published on the RPIF and parter organization's websites: http://olp.advocates.am/mod/resource/view.php?id=334, https://hcav.am/en/http-rpif-am/ http://rpif.am/am/site/ViewOtherReport/3 . It contains info on the rights and responsiblities of community residents and availability of consultation platform.

		- At least 150 residents from vulnerable groups received information on how to monitor the effectiveness of the use of community budget and get involved in decision making processes. - Project beneficiaries can now receive online consultations on social, economic and other issues in the newly created platform on RPIF website: http://rpif.am/am/site/Contact
9. Fund of Armenian Relief Fellowship Alumni's Association "Informed Health Care" Budget: 3.308.000 AMD or 5999 EUR	The aim of the project is to improve the abilities of FARFAA, promotion of its public awareness and the acquisition of new local and foreign partners. The project target was raising awareness of the rare hereditary angioedema in different regions and among the physicians of Yerevan, as well as the general public, the patients and their relatives.	-The number of informed physicians has increased in the regions and in Yerevan as a result of series of training sessions organized by the project on the diagnosis and treatment of the disease (400 doctors and 100 students/interns have taken part in the training), -Information materials and a website: www.hae.am are created, new partners were found and National Patient Register was created. - A package of recommendations has been drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Health and the NGO will further follow-up in order to obtain the support of the Ministry. - On 27 November 2019 an international conference was organized to present project results, present the new websitea and Patients register and hear about best practices from the invited guest speakers. - 2 MoUs are signed with Tbilisi Immunology and Alergy Center (27,11,2019) and Gyumri Governor's Office respectively, to implement join projects and conduct training for doctors and nurses.
10."Info House" NGO "Accountable media" 3.299.400 AMD or 5983 EUR	"Accountable Media" project aims to minimize the public's skepticism about mass media by revealing their real owners through the creation of a register of beneficial owners of media outlets.	- Information platform http://info-house.am/ is created and operational on the real owners of the Armenian mass media, based on the data provided by the Legal Entities State Register of the MoJ; - Inquiries were sent to media outlets requesting information about who owns the media and its funding sources; - As a result, media are also voluntarily providing info about their owners and funding sources.
11. "Youth Ideas'' YNGO "Citizens Budget Initiative for Dilijan Community"	The goal of this project is to develop "Youth Ideas" YNGO's capacities in the spheres of freedom of information and budgeting, collaborative framework for "Youth Ideas" YNGO, local government	- Series of training sessions were held in Dilijan and adjacent rural communities on the public monitoring of state budget expenditures, with participation of CSOs, youth activists and local governance representatives.

Budget: 2.996.000 AMD or 5433 EUR	representatives and youth of nearby villages through the development of perceptible budget forms for citizens, as well as development of advocacy projects.	
12. NGO for Sustainable Development Initiatives "Astghatsolk" "Creation of the data visualization bureau for CSOs "I see" 3.305.640 AMD or 5995 EUR	The project is aimed at creating "I see" data visualization bureau, to strengthen the institutional capacity of "Astghatsolk" NGO and assist other CSOs in presenting their monitoring and research to the target audience in an innovative, creative and available way.	- A workshop is organized in Yerevan for 8 NGOs from Yerevan, Lori, Armavir, Kotayk, Shirak and Gegharkunik regions and press officers working in government bodies , who were trained by 6 local and 2 international marketing specialists, producers and designers from Moldova and Ukraine, helping the CSOs design their campaign using innovative data visualization tools. - 3 most successful campaigns were recognized as winners by the project jury. -"I See" Brandbook and FB page is created to ensure active communication between project beneficiaries and other interestdd parties; - I "See" Entrepreneurship is established and operational to provide services to all interested parties in data visualization and conducting successful campaigns. - Video about the project outcomes here: https://bit.ly/38lLRFU
13. "Association of Young Journalists" NGO "Media Bridge: effective communication for transparent governance" Budget: 3.307.000 AMD or 5997 EUR.	The goal of the project is to develop the AYJ NGO's educational and media service provision capacity by creating educational program and the online learning platform of Armenian regional NGOs engaged in monitoring and advocacy.	-The project has strengthened the NGO capacity which has positioned itself as a specialized organization producing PR and media literacy services; -The project has built the capacity of 52 project beneficiaries in PR and FOI, following needs assessment and compilation of a training module with 7 video lessons to meet these needs; - A newly created www.ayj.am website which incorporates all training materials; - 45 NGOs have applied to receive consultations in the area of public service monitoring, FoI and PR (instead of the planned 10 NGOs); - Online media platform established and operational allowing consultations and coaching with all interested parties.

According to the self-administered survey conducted within the frames of this evaluation, among 23 sub-grantees mentioned above, the 4 month project implementation period was often tight to ensure enough lead time for preparatory work, consistent monitoring of the activities of public bodies, particularly in terms of the state budget utilization oversight, and presenting findings visa-vis respective sectors. In addition, according to some of the CSOs and media, changes which took place in the government composition following Velvet Revolution in April 2018, impacting as well the positions of those officials who were responsible for providing information, caused additional waiting time after sending info requests to various public bodies. Nevertheless, all of the CSOs noted that the sub-grant projects were a great experience in learning and implementing various techniques, skills and methods on how to conduct monitoring and present large data-sets/complex sectoral issues in a concise and visually appealing manner. They also noted that the ambitious results produced as a result of these projects have opened windows for longer-term collaborations and synergies with governmental and CSO partners alike.

The sectors covered by the grants are rather diverse - from public transport, energy efficiency, health, environmental issues to education, anti-discrimination and e-governance. In addition there is a good mix between Yerevan-based and regional CSOs (4 out of 10 advocacy grants were implemented by regional CSOs, including 3 media outlets). The inclusion of media companies among grantees has played significant role in raising the project's overall effectiveness and publicity because of the media's mission in scrutinizing government activities and generating public debate on a number of pressing issues, including on grass-roots level. The latter element is often missing in the Yerevan-based media's reporting line thus the inclusion of regional media and increasing their institutional capacity is one of the strengths of the project which promises to bring results in the long-run, irrespective of the availability of grant projects.

Creation of Web Resources

Another significant result towards ensuring project sustainability through the use of innovative tools is the creation of a number of web-based resources within the frames of sub-grants, including websites and online platforms mentioned above. At least 8 online resources are up and running as a result of the sub-grants' implementation. These online resources include: http://dimum.online/ platform developed by the "Aware and protected consumer" NGO, allowing the receipt of consumer complaints, verifying information and referring them to the respective agencies for action; the "Info House" NGO-generated platform http://info-house.am/, functioning as a register of beneficial (real) owners in the media sector thus helping to achieve more transparency and accountability of media outlets; the www.rstv.am website of the "National Road Safety Council" NGO, as a centralized resource and interactive platform on public transportation and road safety issues in particular; the monitoring section of Armavir-based ALT TV's newly refurbished website www.alttv.am, which includes valuable data about budget expenditure monitoring and sector-specific situation in the province. Other examples include the Kotayq-based Association of Young Journalists' www.ayj.am website which incorporates FoI, strategic communication and campaign/advocacy related materials developed during the project and is to serve as a hub for consultations and education in afore-mentioned areas for other CSOs, media and all interested parties. The following platform on: http://rpif.am/am/site/Contact run by the Rights Protection Initiative Foundation, which has

implemented a project in Armenia's poorest region Shirak, will provide its beneficiaries and other interested stakeholders online consultations on their social, economic and other rights. The Goris Press Club has created a website www.mediapoint.am, presenting news, research and monitoring results in multi-media format. Finally, the www.hae.am has amended its website including a resource on rare diseases, which is intended for patients, doctors and various organizations in the sector as an awareness-raising tool to help patients find appropriate clinic/doctor and become member of the association created with the aim to protect the patients' rights.

Some of the sub-grants focus as well on monitoring the effectiveness of already existing digital platforms such as e-health, e-request and e-draft.am, to identify problems and propose solutions. The findings of this monitoring have been presented to MoJ and discussed at meetings with participation of the former Deputy Minister of Justice, Anna Vardapetyan and other representatives of the Government and CSOs. In an interview (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFX6qctphTYv) the DM has stressed the need for a fresh monitoring of the operability of digital platforms and reflection of user perspectives and acknowledged the importance of the project team's work to this end. As a result of the project, some technical problems causing difficulties to users in sending info requests to public bodies are eliminated on e-request. Further improvement is solicited via proposed legal amendments discussed during CSO/Government meetings held within the frames of the project. One example is the removal of the requirement for e-signature which causes difficulties for many users who do not have such signature to send requests using the above platforms. The FOICA's President Shushan Doydoyan has taken active part in above discussions, consistently advocating for the removal of undue restrictions to promote effective use of digital platforms and full-fledged exercising of the public right to information.

Memoranda of Understanding/Cooperation signed with government bodies and other structures

In general, CSO/Government cooperation within the frames of the Project was underpinned by initiating meetings and discussions with Government representatives. Despite their short duration, the sub-grant projects have pursued rather ambitious and tangible goals, often requiring close collaboration with government stakeholders on local, regional and central levels. Documentation review shows that in total at least 46 meetings with government representatives have been held by sub-grantees during the implementation of their advocacy projects. Some of these meetings have been held in bilateral format, others in a working discussion format with participation of other CSOs and relevant parties. As a result of these meetings and interactions, 22 MoUs are signed, of which 14 signatories represent local or regional government bodies. Other signatories include schools, research centers, CSOs, etc. Many MOUs are in multilateral format, involving all key actors – CSOs active in the respective area, state bodies, academic institutions, etc. The MoUs create new and ambitious dimensions for CSO/Government cooperation, addressing a rather broad array of issues depending on the nature of the project, often focusing on FoI, youth engagement, social, environmental protection and economic issues. In these MoUs the CSOs and government/other bodies commit to cooperation within the frames of community and regional development programs and ensure public awareness on and active participation in the elaboration and discussions of annual budget. While further progress will depend on the implementation of these commitments, the

signing of MoUs creates favorable soil for the promises to bear fruit and translate into reality to have lasting results.

The cooperation framework established with Government bodies as a result of sub-grants' implementation meets and exceeds the target requirement of at least 40 meetings set forth in the log-frame visavis this output. The availability of signed MoUs further consolidates the impact of achieving this target.

Concept Papers, recommendations packages, monitoring reports and other products presented to the Government and official feedback from state actors (Indicator and Target 1.2.c)

As an additional tool in assessing the effectiveness of project outputs and activities, the evaluation looked into various media products, monitoring reports and recommendations and concept papers produced within the frames of the sub-grants. As shown in the below summary of various products created as part of the sub-grants and their submission to relevant state bodies, the FOICA has not only actively followed up by soliciting the Government's feedback on these products but also has come up with forward-looking and well-thought initiatives creating new platforms for CSO-Government interactions and consolidating project results. It can be expected that the FOICA's initiation of joint discussions, training sessions, etc. with the use of monitoring results will motivate state actors assume stronger ownership for the solution of the identified problems and create new collaboration possibilities between NGOs/media and state bodies.

1.	**"TV Media ALT" – "Monitoring and publicity of efforts in irrigation system reforms'' Project** 1. **Four media products** as a result of project activities: • 2 long-reads/online publications; • 2 TV program with the participation of key sector actors. 2. **A recommendations package** addressed to Armavir Governor, concerning irrigation system reforms and mechanisms for improving transparency and accountability in this sector**.** **3. Official response from Armavir Governor (31.07.2019),** ensuring that monitoring findings and recommendations will be taken into account**.**
2.	**"Armenian Camp" NGO, "Accessible transport" Project** 1. **2 reports/analysis**, "On state budget expenditures towards ensuring accessibility of public transportation in Yerevan for persons with disabilities", and the "Effectiveness of transport services in Yerevan for persons with disabilities". 2. **CSO monitoring and recommendations package** addressed to Yerevan Municipality and Council of Elders. On 28 October 2019 the FOICA has sent a letter to Yerevan Municipality soliciting feedback concerning the monitoring findings and recommendations. In its response of 29 October the Municipality has acknowledged the the mentioned problems and confirmed that accessibility issues will be priority when developing the new transport network. While this wasn't planned as a project output, accessibility criteria too have been developed as part of the project and submitted to the Municipality and Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia.
3.	**Ankakh.com website, Armenia's energy alternative" Project**

	Media Production • **Production of a long-read material** on alternative energy issues. **Official reactions** • The material was published on the official pages of the state bodies (pls see links above, under Advocacy Grants, point 3) • On 28 October 2019 the FOICA has sent a letter to the MTAD soliciting the Ministry's view on organizing training for journalists on alternative energy issues and state policy in this sector and on the Ministry's participation in such event. In its reply of 5 November 2019 the Ministry has welcomed FOICA's initiative expressing readiness to participate in such training.
4.	**"Tookhmanook" Human Rights Protection and Educational Center" NGO, "Together for Quality of Education" Project** 1. **Analysis "What is the cost of my mother tongue"**
5.	**"Partnership and Teaching/P&T" NGO** **"Public Control as a Community Development Impulse" Project** 1. **Report and recommendations** "Assessment of the Youth's Involvement in public and local self-governance"; 2. **Strategy and Action Plan:** "Goris Community Youth Policy 2019-2022" **Official response** In a letter of 6 August 2019, the Head of Goris Community welcomes the strategy and expresses readiness to submit it to the forthcoming discussion of the Council of Elders.
6.	**"Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO** **"Control of Community Budget through Dialogue''** 1. **Community budget monitoring findings and recommendations** (for Alaverdi, Akhtala and Spitak towns) presented to the respective municipalities and to MTAD with special attention to environmental protection issues; 2. **Online questionnaire** developed and shared with the three municipalities and other state and CSO actors; 3. **An awareness raising animation** is produced**.** **Reaction** Municipality representatives have actively participated in the discussions presenting their budgets and using monitoring findings when developing these budgets. The MTAD and Ministry of Environment have officially informed about their readiness to cooperate and use monitoring data.
7.	**"National Road Safety Council" NGO** **"Issues of publicity and public control of road construction programs"** 1. **Analysis** of the official website of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT, and TPIO SNGO. 2. **A package of recommendations and analysis**, as well as a sample for presenting budget expenditures submitted to the Ministry and TPIO. **Official response**

	A letter from the Ministry (17.07.2019) informing that the website reforms were ongoing and that the recommendations will be taken into account. The TPIO has informed (16.07.2019) that several changes have been already introduced on their website based on monitoring findings and recommendations.
8.	**"Goris Press Club" NGO, "I Participate in Community Development"** 1. **Report** "Mechanisms for Own Revenue Collection in Tatev Community" 2. **Information leaflet/infographics** on Tatev community budget 2019; **Both products were submitted to the Head of Tatev Community.** **Official response** In a letter from 22.07.2019, the Head of Tatev Community noted about his agreement with the problems and possible solutions identifies in the report and considers this report to be a result of joint with with municipality.
9.	**"Hoosaber" CJSC (Yerkir Media TV) "Promotion of Transparency of Implementation of the e-Health System and Public Monitoring"** **Media production** **Investigative journalistic work is completed with preparation and publication of awareness-raising materials and 1 interview** with the Director of "National Electronic Health Operator" CJSC responsible for e-health system (links are available under point 9 of Advocacy grants).
10.	**Centre of Democracy and Law" NGO** **"The Monitoring of Services Providing by E-Justice Platforms and Public Service Delivery Offices"** 1. **Draft amendments to the Law on Freedom of Information;** 2. **Recommendations** on how to improve e-draft and e-request platforms; Both products have been presented to the Ministry of Justice. **Official response** In a letter of 28.10.2019 the FOICA has requested the Ministry to inform on the steps taken to address the above recommendations. The Ministry has presented the implemented activities towards eliminating technical irregularities on both digital platforms and has put the draft amendments into circulation.

The Component 1 of ''Informed Armenia'' Project has been concluded with the closing conference held on 29 November 2019 summarizing project outcomes. Beneficiary CSOs presented the results of their projects and their experience in working with the state, demonstrating their usefulness for the implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA. Furthermore, at the initiative of the FOICA, an Access to Information CSO Network has been created within the frames of the conference. The first network of its kind, the goal of the ATI CSO Network is to promote effective enforcement of freedom of information in various areas of public administration, using FOI tools to protect public interest, fight corruption and freedom of expression. The conference has been followed by an EXPO on Access to information and public oversight presenting various awareness-raising and visibility products created during the project.

With the above activities, the indicators and targets set for Op. 1.1 and Op. 1.2 are fully reached and Op. 1 is achieved.

Component 2: Organizing of competitions on investigative journalism

Outcome 2. Investigative reporting on state budget and on various human rights issues is increased among the youth.
Indicators: 2.a) The majority of the participating students (of which 50% are expected to be women) envisage to continue their future career as investigative journalists.
MoV: Pre/post training competition surveys/evaluation conducted among all the participants.

Output 2.1 An extensive campaign (in a form of reality competition show) is done both for promoting the profession of investigative journalism among the youth and for covering topical issues of public interest.
Indicators: 2.1.a) About 100 final-year law and journalism students (of which minimum 50% are female) are coached to be able to investigate dozens of topical issues in the framework of the competition.
2.1.b) 2 seasons of the reality competition show are produced and disseminated largely via mass media.
Target: In each season about 50 students (at least 30 females), 1st season: by the end of the 7th month/1st year of the project; 2nd season: by the end of the 12th month/2nd year of the project.
MoV: MoUs with universities, participants list, prizes.

Activities to achieve Output 2.1

Activity 1, Output 2.1: Identification of Universities, signing of MoUs

With view to identifying final year journalism students to be coached on how to conduct journalistic investigations, produce stories/reports and participate in journalistic battles, in June 2018 the FOICA has contacted 12 universities across Armenia, however has identified only 8 universities which have journalism departments or offer journalism courses:

- Yerevan State University,
- Armenian State Pedagogical University (Yerevan),
- Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences (Yerevan),
- Shirak State University (Shirak region),
- Vanadzor State university (Lori region),
- Gavar State University (Gegharkunik region),
- Russian-Armenian Slavonic University (Yerevan).
- Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture (Yerevan).

In July-September 2018 (Season 1) and February 2019 (Season 2), the FOICA has signed MoUs with the above-mentioned universities and 5-6 six students have been provided by each university to be involved in the project. These MoUs emphasize the need to promote the students' practical skills in investigative journalism and create solid basis for the students' effective participation in the project, as well as defining the FOICA-led activities.

Activity 2, Output 2.1: Training for journalism students

As shown in the registration sheets signed by participants, 35 journalism students (of which 31 were female) have participated in a short training on "Freedom of Expression, Investigative journalism and Media Ethics" conducted by the EJC International Expert Lisa Anne Essex on 29 September 2018 before the commencement of the battles. The following modules presented at the training are in line with the project objective and indicators versus this output.

Module 1 – Preparation for covering a story – workshop on how to prepare for field reporting

Module 2 – Journalism Ethics – workshop on ethical decision making when dealing with sensitive stories and photographs
Module 3 – Final Thoughts – role of journalists in supporting democracy through FOI

The gender mix at this two-hour event has been poor, with only very few male participants. This is explained with the fact that the gender mix in the journalism faculties in the Armenian universities is traditionally poor too, with the overwhelming majority of students being female. The interviews with some of Gavar and Yerevan-based training participants conducted as part of this evaluation show that the exposure to international expertise in the area of investigative journalism and media ethics has been highly valued by the participants. While they have gained deeper insights into above topics and into the specifics of their respective stories later, during the battles stage, general rules in light of the best international practices heard from an expert representing a reputable European institution has been a useful kick-off activity for the second component of the project. Thanks to the FOICA's good planning, the timing selected for this activity has ensured the effective use of project resources, since the same international expert has conducted sessions also for the 27-29 September training for CSOs and media, thus engaging with both target groups included in the project.

The FOICA's assessment and the students' feedback provided during interviews as part of this evaluation shows that the participants have been enthusiastic and enjoyed the interactive nature of the training. They have been engaged in discussions on the often challenging situations faced by journalists as they attempt to support democracy and cover sensitive issues of high public interest. The ethical decisions journalists face and the conflict thrown up by the pressure to provoke the interest of news consumers have been in the focus of these discussions.

As envisaged by the investigative journalism competition rules mentioned in the project document, after the training session 36 participants have consequently formed 12 teams before starting the competition, with 3 students in each team. The work of the teams during Season 1 (September – December 2018) has resulted in journalistic investigations presented in 12 episodes, including the Moot Court and Award Ceremony held in December 2018 (*see details under Activities 3, 4 & 5 below*).

Other pre-competition works

In order to identify a company to carry out the production, post-production and dissemination of the investigative journalism reality show-competition episodes, as well as to cover all visibility and public relations works for "Informed Armenia" project, the FOICA has announced a tender for purchasing these services. The production company has been thus selected and contracted via procurement process by announcing an open tender on 07 July 2018 on FOICA's website and sharing the same on FOICA's official FB page. The deadline for applications has been defined as 20 July 2018. The technical criteria for selecting the company have been developed and approved by the Project Board on 04 July 2018, as follows: ''a truly independent news agency, with high rating (listed in top 10 Armenian news agencies for the last 1 year), at least 10 journalistic video investigations carried out by the company; availability of a supporting legal/media ethics team; 2.5-3 mln monthly visits in average''. The financial requirements in the tender specifications requested by the FOICA have

envisaged that the total financial offer to be submitted by tenderers should not exceed 66 770 EURs (excluding VAT).

According to the FOICA, only one application has been received (the application of "Shabat AM" LLC) during the mentioned period. On 02 August 2018 a tender Evaluation Committee has been called to assess the submitted application, consisting of the Project Director, Project Deputy Director/Coordinator and one EJC representative who has participated in the meeting via Skype. The Committee members have read the Declaration on absence of conflict of interest and signed it. During the meeting, the Committee members have evaluated the application by comparing the applicant's technical offer to the criteria set out in the announcement. The evaluation results have been summarized in the Evaluation Report signed by the Committee on 02 August 2018. Since only one application has been received in response to the open tender, and considering that "Shabat AM" LLC's technical offer and price offer have been assessed as fully corresponding to the criteria listed in the announcement, the Committee has unilaterally decided there was no need to announce a new call and has granted the contract to the news outlet "Shabat AM" LLC .

In particular, according to SimilarWeb-generated info (a website providing web analytics), submitted by the applicant in the tender package, in the 6 months preceding the application, the average monthly number of visitors on the applicant company's website www.shabat.am has been 2.5 mln and more. Furthermore the FOICA's Evaluation Report notes that the Committee members have screened through the materials published on the tenderer's website in the past 1 year and did not find any political bias. As well, the Committee has taken into account the ethical Code of Conduct presented by the tenderer, which noted that "Shabat AM" is not affiliated with any political forces or parties. "Shabat AM"LLC has also provided the links to all 10 investigative video materials published on its website.

The specific obligations of "Shabat AM" LLC detailed in the Service Contract, signed with the FOICA on 17 August 2018, include: a. Develop and organize the Project's Communications and PR methodology and strategy; b. cover one press-conference, produce a video material, disseminate it on www.shabat.am website and on social networks; c. produce three text interviews and publish them on shabat.am website, in the most visible section; d. produce project video with a 1.5-2 minute duration, broadcast on "Shabat TV" and disseminate on social networks. **"Shabat AM" has provided all of the above services and products** which are detailed presenting relevant links under the "Visibility" section of this Evaluation Report, along with other production by the same company provided for the entire project based on a second Service Contract signed with the FOICA on 23 October 2018 (production and dissemination of 23 video reports on the sub-grants and 23 text reports in a success-story format accompanied by visuals).

Regarding Component 2 of the Project, "Shabat AM" has assumed the following obligations in the same Contract: "a. production and post-production of 24 stories and journalistic investigation episodes. This service includes provision of a crew consisting of a director, producer, 3 cameramen, editor, availability of a studio and equipment necessary for the production and post-production; b. dissemination of 24 episodes with journalistic investigation stories on shabat.am website, as well as broadcasting via other media sources, with a total duration of 6 months". **The links to all 24**

episodes produced by "Shabat AM" for the 2 Seasons of Journalistic Battles can be found in the "Visibility" section.

Season 1, Journalistic Battles (Sep., Oct., Nov, Dec. 2018)

On 08.10.2018 the Project Board has decided to appoint the following panel of judges for the 1st season of the competition-show: Josh Laporte, Investigative Journalism Expert, ECJ; Lisa Anne Essex, Expert on Freedom of Information and Freedom of Expression, ECJ; Vahagn Tevosyan, Journalism Expert, Director of News and Analytical Programs at Public TV company of Armenia. On 15.10.2018 the Project Board has also assigned the following topics to the competing teams of the 1st season of the competition-show:

- Corruption in the sphere of prostitution;
- Corruption in penitentiary institutions;
- Corruption in mining industry;
- Corruption in the sector of higher education;
- Corruption in the sector of Pensions and Benefits Allocations;
- Corruption in medical institutions;
- Poliitical corruption.

Activity 3, Output 2.1: Production and selection of the winners

36 journalism students have participated in the 1st season of the invetigative journalism competition TV-show entitled "Journalistic Battles". As noted above, these 36 students have been split into 12 groups with three members in each team. The FOICA has identified two coaches to work with these teams in a competitive process by announcing these positions on its website on 20 September 2018. Mariam Babayan and Gayane Balayan, reporters with experience in investigative journalism, have been selected. The selection of coaches is properly documented in the relevant decisions of the Evaluation Committee and Project Board. Declaration on the absence of conflict of interest has been signed by the selecting Committee members. A journalism coach has assisted each competing team by giving practical advice and guidance to the teams during their investigation. The average preparatory work for each episode has been one week. The coaches have guided the participants through the do-s and don'ts in investigative story-telling and helped them identify interlocutors, developed their interviewing skills.

Asked as part of this evaluation on the main challenges faced during story preparation period, several journalism students both from Yerevan and regions noted it was the fear to misrepresent facts when covering sensitive issues. They also noted they could overcome this thanks to the voluminous work by coaches in mentoring them on fact-finding and fact-checking and ethical standards, to avoid journalistic mistakes. Several journalists also noted that one week was too short to send info requests to various public bodies and conduct face-to-face interviews with the main interlocutors to get first-hand information for their stories. Some of them also noted about the lack of technical equipment as they had to act very promptly and prepare videos/audio materials for their later inclusion as one investigative story in a video format. Nevertheless they also stressed they can now better visualize the production process and have practical grasp of various techniques and methods they can use when acting in no time to create their stories. Some of the Component 2 beneficiaries also noted (Semi-Structured Interviews with winners and participants in the battles)

that their participation in journalistic battles has first and foremost helped them overcome the stereotype that as a student they will not be treated seriously by potential employers. The practical results of their work have given them confidence they can successfully work as a journalist and further develop their knowledge in the legal, ethical and practical aspects of the profession. They also stressed they would prefer participating in more training sessions prior to starting their practical work.

Overall, 12 episodes (including the Moot Court and the Award Ceremony) have been filmed during the 1st season. The episodes are available on the website of www.shabat.am, particularly at the following link: http://bit.ly/2LbQFGf. During the competition, the jury has judged the video-reports of the teams based on the following criteria:
- ✓ Complying with the requirements of journalism ethics
- ✓ Factfinding and journalistic sources
- ✓ Preparation of the videoreport (TV quality, shooting quality, text of the journalist).

On 13.12.2018 the Project Board has confirmed the winners of the 1st season of the "Journalistic Battles" competition as follows: in the final round of the 1st season, the participating teams in the "Journalistic Battles" competition were evaluated based on the following criteria: i) maximum number of Facebook views of the video-report of the team, ii) maximum number of YouTube views of the video-report of the team.

Accordingly, the 1st place has been taken by Yerevan State University team ("Open Labyrinth"), whose video-report received the following number of views:
1. 90,000 views on Facebook (http://bit.ly/2GRhXfw),
2. 110,658 views on YouTube (http://bit.ly/2VvPAwY).

The team has been awarded with 500.000 AMD. Each team member (Mkrtchyan Mariam, Pashoyan Araksia) is awarded with 250,000 AMD.

The 2nd place was taken by Gavar State University team ("Gavar's delegates"), whose video-report has received the following number of views:
1. 13,000 views on Facebook (http://bit.ly/2XTaaoz),
2. 1,893 views on YouTube (http://bit.ly/2USoNqp).

The team has been awarded with 300.000 AMD. Each team member (Asatryan Narek, Gozeyan Vahe, Gharibyan Gayane) has awarded with 100,000 AMD. Following the competition Gayane Ghzribyan has received an offer from Ampop.am media outlet, specialized in open data journalism and visualization of journalistic investigations.

Activity 4, Output 2.1: Moot Court and selection of the winner

Simultaneously with the journalism competition, the organizers of the Project have also initiated a law student competition. Within the framework of the competition, a Moot Court has been organized in December 2018 where a group of law students, acting as Plaintiffs, have filed mock claims against investigative journalists, and the other group - the Defenders - defended them.

In the opinion of the faculty members and students interviewed during this evaluation, the selection of this format by the FOICA and EJC has been a highly effective way to show to journalists

all the legal difficulties in their future work so that they may be more protected and informed in the future. This has been also a good school and practical exercise for the future lawyers.

The FOICA has invited more than 20 law students from Universities having law faculties, including the Yerevan State University, French University in Armenia, Russian-Armenian University, European University and Shirak State University via email to submit applications for participating in the moot court. However, only 10 applications have been recieved by the deadline. From these 10 applications, 4 applications have been shortlisted, based on the quality of the presented mock civil claims (a case of defamation against the winning team of the journalists). The shortlisted 4 applicants have further formed 2 teams: "the Plaintiff" and "the Defendant" teams (with 2 members in each team). One of the experts of the Project, Vanik Margaryan, has been invited to preside the moot court. The Moot Court episode is available at: http://bit.ly/2GU4vJf. The Defendant team, Inga Mkrtchyan and Maria Petrosyan from Yerevan State University, have won the court trial (semi-final round). The winner of the Moot Court has been then selected based on the following criterion:

- the maximum number of votes received by the audience present at the Moot Court for the skills of representation and public speaking.

The audience of the Moot Court has consisted of the other participants of the competition-show (journalism and law students), the journalism coaches, other lawyers; overall 10 people. Ballots with the names of the two defendants have been distributed to the audience, and they have elected the winner of the Moot Court based on the skills of representation and public speaking. Inga Mkrtchyan, the winner of the Moot Court has been awarded with 200,000 AMD.

As informed by the FOICA, at the Moot Court stage the project team has cooperated with "Arbitration Court" LLC, co-funder of the project, whose members have shared insights with law students on the practical aspects of case preparation and submission, as well as court procedures. This is a good example of practical interaction between law students and private sector as their potential employers.

During semi-structured interviews the participants in the moot court rated their experience in the project as highly beneficial because it has provided them with a chance to develop skills on how to effectively present theoretical legal knowledge. Furthermore, they noted that the moot court was an excellent opportunity to deepen their understanding about the challenging and complex institute of moral damage, which is hard to achieve within university walls. As a recommendation, they noted they would prefer to have longer time to prepare their submissions for the moot court.

Activity 5, Output 2.1: Award Ceremony

All the prizes have been awarded during an Award Ceremony organized by the FOICA on on 14 December 2018 at Yard Restaurant and filmed by Shabat.AM LLC. Journalism and law participant students, Heads of Universities and Journalism departments, representatives of the EUD and other international community, the Armenian Government, Parliament and others have participated in the Award Ceremony.

The whole process of the ceremony has been filmed as a final episode of the "Journalistic Battles" project and was broadcast on 22 December 2018 (see the link under "Visibility").

Overall 46 journalism and law students participated in the 1st season. 41 of them (89%) have been female. This is in line with the indicators and targets defined for this output in the project log-frame.

During Season 1 of Journalistic Battles, the FOICA has delivered on all outputs and activities toward achieving Outcome 2, by meeting all indictors and targets defined in the log-frame. All topics selected by the jury for journalistic investigations, as well as the mechanisms for selecting students and coaches are in line with the defined indicators and modalities described in the project document.

Season 2 (Feb., Mar., Apr., May 2019)

Pre-production:

On 11.02.2019 the Project Board has decided to appoint the following panel of judges for the 2nd season of the competition-show: Josh Laporte, Lisa Anne and Shushan Doydoyan and decided (on 15.02.2019) to assign the following topics to the competing teams of the 2nd season of the competition-show:

- Issues and corruption risks in primary health care facilities (polyclinics)
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere of urban transportation
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere of urban environmental
- Exclusion of discrimination against women in politics
- Protection of youth rights in the labour market
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere of food safety
- Issues and corruption risks while complying with norms of urban sanitary
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere of education
- Protection of women's rights
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere social security
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere of pensions
- Issues and corruption risks in the sphere of energy efficiency.

As shown in the above topics, the Board has selected diverse sectors for journalistic investigations, taking into account the main areas of EU-Armenia cooperation, as well as areas that are of high public interest.

Activity 6, Output 2.1: Training of students:

At the initial stage of filming of the first investigations during Season 2, on 13-15 March 2019, the students have participated in a training on "Investigative journalism as a tool for public oversight of the Government" conducted by the EJC Expert Karen Andreasyan.

Additionally, members of the CSOs awarded with sub-grant contracts have been also invited to give training to the students. They have provided important insights to the students on the spheres were the students were to conduct investigations. As noted by training participants,

such participation of the sub-grant CSOs in the competition as trainers has enhanced the communication between the professionals and soon-to-be graduates and helped them to conduct their investigations during the competition period by sharing their practical knowledge and experience with the youth.

The following modules have been presented:

- ✓ Topic 1: Preparation for covering a story – workshop on how to prepare for field reporting; Topic 2: Journalism Ethics – workshop on ethical decision making when dealing with sensitive stories and photographs;
- ✓ Topic 3: Public Oversight Mechanisms in the Field of Human Rights Protection (trainer-Arman Khachatryan, "Centre of Democracy and Law" NGO)
- ✓ Topic 4: Government oversight: master class from a news editor (trainer- Gegham Manukyan, "Hoosaber" CJSC (Yerkir Media TV))
- ✓ Topic 5. Public Relations in Public Agencies (trainer- Lilit Galstyan, "National Road Safety Council" NGO)
- ✓ Topic 6: Longrid: New Resolution on Multimedia Journalism (trainer- Gevorg Avchyan, "V.I.V Aysor ev Vaghe" LTD (www.ankakh.com website))
- ✓ Topic 7: Regional Media and Regional Newsletters as a Public Oversight Tool for Community Projects (trainer- Khachik Danielyan, "TV Media ALT" LLC (ALT TV))
- ✓ Topic 8: Public Oversight Mechanisms in the sphere of Environment Protection (trainer-Mary Chakryan, "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO).

Production:

36 journalism students have participated in the 2nd season of the invetigative journalism competition TV-show entitled "Journalistic Battle". Similar to season 1, they have formed 12 teams with 3 members each. The second season has been carried out in close cooperation between the Public Television of Armenia, "Shabat AM" and the coaches have been two hosts of a well-known program on public TV called "Let us Understand" (Եկեք հասկանանք) Aelita Chilingryn and Sona Abrahamyan.

During Season 2, 12 episodes have been filmed by "Shabat AM" LLC, of which 10 were aired by the Public TV Company of Armenia as of 25 May 2019. The last 2 episodes (the Moot Court and the Award Ceremony presented below) have been broadcast via www.shabat.am. The 10 episodes are available on the website of Public TV of Armenia at the following link: http://bit.ly/2ZSnjjE.

During the competition, the jury judges the video-reports of the teams based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Compliance with the requirements of journalism ethics;
- ✓ Factfinding and journalistic sources;
- ✓ Preparation of the videoreport (TV quality, shooting quality, text of the journalist).

Accordingly, the 1st place has been taken by Anush Melkonyan (from French University in Armenia), whose video-report received overall 254 points from the Professional Panel.

Anushik Melkonyan was awarded with monetary prize of 200.000 AMD. The 2nd place was taken by Rima Grigoryan (from Yerevan State University), whose video-report received overall 237 points from the Professional Panel. Rima Grigoryan is awarded with monetary prize of 100.000 AMD.

Also, Jury's Sympathy Award has been given to Mariam Avanesyan (from Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences). Mariam Avanesyan has been awarded with monetary prize of 100.000 AMD.

Activity 7, Output 2.1: Moot Court and selection of the winner:

Similar to Season 1, the Moot Court during Season 2 has been organized by the FOICA, following the same rules and modalities. 15 students from different universities of Armenia have applied for participation in the Moot Court by presenting mock civil claims (a case of defamation against the winning journalists' team). From the 15 applicants, 4 have been shortlisted by the FOICA based on how well they have substantiated the legal dispute and claim. These 4 students have formed two teams: "the Plaintiff" and "the Defendant" teams (with 2 members in each team). The same expert, Vanik Margaryan, has been invited to preside the moot court. The Defendant team, Inga Mkrtchyan, Svetlana Kirakosyan have won the court trial (semi-final round) and as they received an equal number of votes at the final round from the audience present at the Moot Court (10 people representing journalism coaches, other lawyers, journalism and law students), it has been decided to divide monetary prize between them. Thus the winners have each been awarded 100 000 AMD.

Activity 8: Output 2.1: Award Ceremony

The prizes for Season 2 of Journalistic Battles and Moot Court have been awarded during the Award Ceremony on 20 May 2019 in Grand Hotel Yerevan. The event has been filmed by "Shabat.AM".

Journalism and law participant students, representatives of the international community, CSOs, Government and Parliament have taken part in the ceremony. The Vice-Chairperson of the National Assembly, Lena Nazaryan has handed over the 1st prize to the winner.

According to the FOICA, the Public TV Company has agreed to film a 3rd season of the show, if the Journalistic Battles continue. Such expression of interest for cooperation by the Public Service Broadcaster is noteworthy as it has nation-wide coverage and thus the audience of the battles considerable enlarges when broadcast by PTV. In addition, this is significant contribution to the realization of the public service remit and mandate of the PTV since as per Armenia's legislation and international standards, the public service broadcasters should produce programming which caters for the interest of various groups in the society, including youth and pay special attention to social, economic, educational and other issues that stand at the very heart of public interest.

Overall 51 journalism and law students participated in the 1st season. 47 of them (92%) have been women. With this, the total number of participants in the 2 Seasons of Journalistic Battles is 97 of which 88 (91%) have been women.

During Season 2 of Journalistic Battles, the FOICA has delivered on all outputs and activities toward achieving Outcome 2, by meeting all indictors and targets defined in the log-frame.

4. Visibility

The EU visibility rules in "Communication and Visibility Requirements for EU External Actions – 2018" available at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/17974 have been followed throughout the project. The EU logo with relevant visual weight and location has been properly displayed on every material (pens, notebooks, files, brochures, agendas, invitations, etc.) provided to the participants of the capacity building training sessions, as well as any other materials used for the sub-granting procedure (calls, templates) and the investigative journalism competition (EU disclaimer for videos). As shown in the photos and videos, the EU banner, as well as the Project banner with the EU logo on it, have been displayed during all the events in the conference halls/training rooms where they have been very visible.

The FOICA has created a separate special page on its website for the Project "Informed Armenia". The page is being regularly updated about the progress of the Project and its separate components (capacity building training events, sub-grant projects, investigative journalism competition-show). The page is available both in Armenian and in English:

- http://www.foi.am/en/IAproject/ (Eng)

- http://www.foi.am/hy/IAproject/ (Arm)

The inclusion of media as project beneficiaries has enhanced the coverage, publicity and visibility of the project.

As noted above, al the FOICA has outsourced the public relations and visibility works within the frames of the Project to "Shabat AM" LLC, a local media/production company identified as a result of a procurement process. The FOICA has signed two agreements with "Shabat AM", on 17 August 2018 and 23 October 2018 accordingly, defining series of PR and visibility products, **which the company has successfully delivered.** In particular the first contract has included the production and dissemination of 24 episodes of the journalistic battles, as well as development and organizing the Project's Communications and PR methodology and strategy; covering one press-conference, production of a video material on the PC and its dissemination on www.shabat.am website/social networks; production of three text interviews and their publication on shabat.am website, in the most visible section; production of project video with a 1.5-2 minute duration, broadcasting on "Shabat TV" and disseminating on social networks. In the second contract "Shabat Am" has assumed the obligation to produce and disseminate 23 video reports on the sub-grants and 23 text reports in a success-story format accompanied by visuals.

Below is a summary of all deliverables produced by "Shabat AM", along with respective links.

- **The PR and Communications Strategy** for "Informed Armenia" project presents Basic communication targets and tools used to increase the publicity and visibility of the Project; the main events, communication tools and media platforms, according to the Project stages; Action Plan and budget per action and expected outcomes.

- **Project Press-Conference:**

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_JBEWiCG5Q

Website: https://shabat.am/am/article/192234/Aravel-teghekacvats-hasarakutyun-ev-petakan

Facebook: https://bit.ly/36vAt8w

- **3 interviews:**

Shabat.am:https://shabat.am/am/article/192707/-Irazek-Hayastan--tsragri-shrjanakum-teghekatvutyan

Facebook: https://bit.ly/2tbjuKg
Facebook:https://bit.ly/2YIvxdU
Website: https://shabat.am/am/article/192643/Petq-e-hzoracnenq-QHK-neri-karoghutyunnery
Facebook: https://bit.ly/2EhSSK4
The 1st video about Project
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JFW2VFzbMc
Website: https://shabat.am/am/article/195721/-Irazek-Hayastan--tsragri-arajin-puly

Component 1, 23 Sub-grants, videos in a success-story format

1. **Sub-Grant project N1: Monitoring and publicity of irrigation system reform activities**	
Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/203924/Miliardavor-dramner-en-nerdrvum--sakayn
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2lPdu6t
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1806/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1825/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2627050527306238?__tn__=-R
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7jJm3BA-5g&t=5s
2. **Accessible transportation**	
Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/205925/Teghasharjhman-djhvarutyunner-unecogh-qaghaqacinerin-transportayin
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2lTVEPr
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1807/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1824/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2636378426373448?__tn__=-R

FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1QAI_vv2Fg&t=63s
3. Energy alternative of Armenia	
Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/207094/Hayastanum-energetikayi-olorti-zargacman-herankarnern
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2kKVvO7
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1809/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1823/
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2lgv0At
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYOvt7Zx1fk&t=69s
4. Together for Quality Education	
Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/211944/Azgayin-poqramasnutyunneri-krtutyan-khndiry---Miasin
Shabat.am FB	https://www.facebook.com/pg/shabatarm/posts/?ref=page_internal
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1831/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1832/
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2mgTfil
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEcX_GAXB5Q
5. Youth for their Future	
Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/205542/Gorisum-aveli-qan-hing-hazar
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2mg6P5r
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1810/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1821/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2649627015048589?__tn__=-R
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnMgrhc3cYs&t=37s
6. Control of Community Budget through Dialogue	

Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/206028/Tapancik-byuje--amur-u-zargacogh
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2m833ea
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1814/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1819/
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2lIQE0I
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pok3E2S8ZPo&t=3s

7. Issues of publicity and public control of road construction programs

Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/205309/Hanrayin-verahskoghutyun--chanaparhashinakan-tsragreri-irakanacman
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2mgbBjm
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1813/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1818/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2629049783772979?__tn__=-R
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=innQRUHwgtk&t=7s

8. Participate in Community Development

Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/210498/Tatevi-bnakichnern-aysuhet-aravel-irazekvats
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2mKP4eJ
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1811/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1817/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2647659448578679?__tn__=-R
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krkvzvnnhTs&t=22s

9. Promoting the Transparency of e-Health System Implementation

Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/210358/Elektronayin-aroghjapahutyan-hamakargi-hanraynacumn-u
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2lSAOA0

FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1812/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1816/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2655276811150276?__tn__=-R
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCtz12LunGw&t=58s

10. Monitoring of the services proved by e-justice platforms and public service delivery offices

Shabat.am website	https://shabat.am/am/article/210395/Elektronayin-ardaradatutyan-hartaknerum-arka-khndirnern
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2mgTfil
FOI website	http://www.foi.am/hy/Success/item/1808/ http://www.foi.am/en/Success/item/1815/
FOI FB	https://www.facebook.com/FOICenterArmenia/posts/2624932517518039?__tn__=-R
FOI youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFX6qctphTY&t=2s

11. "Capacity Building for Conducting Monitoring of Government Activities"

Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/2PEb5I6
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/36Gt7Py
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvaMryjWL2Q
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2ElDegu

12. "Speak up!"

Shabat.am website	http://bit.ly/2S3NIZY
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2ssWCFZ
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFPBoIQP-A8
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/35DJSe0

13. "Green Justice"

Shabat.am website	http://bit.ly/38LKm3K
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2PrhGFW
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agiN7j4GYSI
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/36IjY94

14. "Public Control As A Community Development Impulse"

Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/38OY6el
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/38HpryU
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iunvTyotTpE
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2Ppiriw

15. "Youth Move For Clean Goris"

Shabat.am website	http://bit.ly/2sAxX1X
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/36Gt7Py
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fadwJuV11c
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2LZLN4O

16."Wide access online platform for operative communication and regulation of alarms"

Shabat.am websi	https://bit.ly/2rUh8iS
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2M0JZc2
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcbNBV3z43c
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2suIMCQ

17. "Visualization as a means of public awareness''	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/2Q3Q1d0
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2EmoONd
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y_zb7X8cw4
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/38LJcFo
18. "Youth for Information Accessibility"	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/35A3aRE
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/35rwtpx
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZso8Dcmn58
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2PqxvfJ
19. "Informed Health Care"	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/2EANRw8
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2rHZFtV
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bHF3icJzZU
FOI FB	https://bit.ly/37oWNSl
20. "Accountable Media"	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/2Ew6z8i
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/38He3mE
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfKKhqakJ8I

FOI FB	https://bit.ly/2v81Fgf
21. "Citizens Budget Initiative for Dilijan Community"	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/35EjOQ3
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2LZpoow
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ7rbyYuiNY
FOI FB	https://bit.ly/2GbnmOw
22. "Creation of the data visualisation bureau for CSOs "I see"	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/38ZpNRR
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/34nRz6H
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPl3yWPuq5Q
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2stjyoy
23. "Media Bridge: effective communication for the transparent governance"	
Shabat.am website	https://bit.ly/2Q2PYy7
Shabat.am FB	http://bit.ly/2RYKt6q
FOI Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPl3yWPuq5Q
FOI FB	http://bit.ly/2stjyoy

Component 2: Journalsitic Battles TV show Episodes

Season 1

1. https://shabat.am/am/article/194696/Pornkutyan-biznesi-korupcian.-LRAGRVOGHAKAN-MARTYER

2. https://shabat.am/am/article/216444/VOusanoghneri-merkacrats-khaytarakutyuny-LRAGRVOGHAKAN-MARTYER
3. https://shabat.am/am/article/194995/Inchi-hamar-en-kasharq-talis
4. https://shabat.am/am/article/195144/Ays-erku-timeric-o-ry-durs
5. https://shabat.am/am/article/195314/VO-v-aveli-shat-korupcion-aghb
6. https://shabat.am/am/article/195486/Verjin-nerhamalsaranayin-menamarty--kisaezrapakchic-araj.
7. https://shabat.am/am/article/195742/VO-r-hamalsarani-lragroghnery-amenalavy-handes
8. https://shabat.am/am/article/195923/Lragroghakan-marter.-YErkrord-kisaezrapakich-
9. https://shabat.am/am/article/196193/Lragroghakan-marter.-verjin-kisaezrapakich--Sezon1
10. https://shabat.am/am/article/196362/YEzrapakich-menamart.-Lragroghakan-marter--Sezon1
11. https://shabat.am/am/article/196550/Lragroghakan-marter--Sezon1--Epizod11
12. https://shabat.am/am/article/196693/Lragroghakan-marteri-mrcanakabashkhutyuny---Sezon1

Season 2

1. https://shabat.am/am/article/206456/KHndirnern-u-korupcion-riskery-bujhhastatutyunnerum.
2. https://shabat.am/am/article/206461/KHndirnern-u-korupcion-riskery-qaghaqayin
3. https://shabat.am/am/article/206523/KHndirnery-ev-korupcion-riskery-bnapahpanakan
4. https://shabat.am/am/article/206524/YEritasardneri-iravunqneri-pashtpanutyuny-ashkhatashukayum.-Lragroghakan
5. https://shabat.am/am/article/206527/Kananc-handep-khtrakanutyan-bacarum-qaghaqakanutyan
6. https://shabat.am/am/article/206991/KHndirnern-u-korupcion-riskery-snndi
7. https://shabat.am/am/article/206993/KHndirnern-u-korupcion-riskery-qaghaqi
8. https://shabat.am/am/article/206994/KHndirnern-u-korupcion-riskery-socialan
9. https://shabat.am/am/article/206996/KHndirnern-u-korupcion-riskery-npastneri
10. https://shabat.am/am/article/207002/Nakhagtsi-haghtoghy-haytni-e.-Lragroghakan
11. https://shabat.am/am/article/206061/Inchpe-s-ein-datum-Hanrayin-herustaynkerutyan-
12. https://shabat.am/am/article/206107/-Lragroghakan-menamart---herustanakhagtsi-mrcanakabashkhutyuny

PTV broadcast episodes:

1. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/120444

2. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/121100

3. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/121734

4. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/122360

5. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/123071

6. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/123848

7. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/124507

8. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/125100

9. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/125760

10. https://www.1tv.am/hy/video/%D4%BC%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF/126378

5. Efficiency of the operations

⇨ The preliminarily developed plan of operations has been realistic, with logistical arrangements having been made well in advance (this concerns travel and accommodation for regional and international experts, catering, printing, etc. for various activities that the FOICA has procured via tender or through logistical company). Thanks to the FOICA's good planning, the timing selected for CSO training activities has ensured the effective use of project resources, since the same international expert has conducted sessions on 27-29 September (training for CSOs and media) and on 29 September (journalism students) thus engaging with both target groups included in the project.

⇨ The FOICA has submitted timely Narrative and Financial reports to the EUD, presenting detailed information and supporting documentation, in line with EU reporting templates, guidelines and standards;

⇨ The Project had efficient governance structure, a Project Board, with clear roles and responsibilities, regular meetings, formal minutes and management response. The

recruitment of experts, procurement of goods and services is well-documented with clear ToRs and Evaluation Reports signed by the members of Committees called for the respective procedures.

⇨ The FOICA has consistently monitored the sub-grants implementation, which has ensured adequate management response to the newly emerging needs and situations within the frames of sub-grants, as well as timely clearance of narrative and financial reports by the sub-grantees.

⇨ In addition to planned coordination mechanisms set forth in the contracts with sub-grantees and individual experts, the FOICA has coordinated project work on ad-hoc basis as well, which has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of various project outputs, both in Component 1 (collaboration with Sub-Grants) and Component 2 (Journalistic Battles).

6. Impact

⇨ The three main OECD/DAC questions in assessing project impact are: What has happened as a result of the program or project? What real difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries? How many people have been affected? In response to the first question the evaluation finds that the CSOs have experienced significant capacity-related gains that have contributed to their ability to monitor the work by public bodies and to engage in constructive dialogue with these bodies around various advocacy and policy reform aims. This is evidenced in 14 MoUs signed between CSOs and local, regional and central government representatives within the frames of sub-grants and the inclusion of CSO recommendations into various policy reform documents by the Government, including Youth Policy of Goris Community 2019-2022 (Partnership &Training NGO), and improvement of e-request and e-draft platforms, as well as of FOI legislation (Centre of Democracy and Law" NGO), just to name a few examples. This will improve the CSOs' visibility, credibility and sustainability and help them be part of policy changes and reforms in diverse sectors covered by the Project. The enhanced collaboration among civil society (some MoUs are in multilateral format, including several CSOs active in the respective field/region, state bodies and academic institutions, etc.) and between civil society and state actors has contributed to greater success in achieving specific advocacy goals. While the expected ultimate sectoral changes are long-term and do not necessary fall within a single project's scope and remit, the project has undoubtedly created strong capacities and synergies. The practical and forward-looking interventions offered by the Project under the second Component as well, promise a long-term impact, as some of the journalists who showed good performance during journalistic battles have been already offered jobs with well-known media outlets and have gained deeper insights into the nuances of journalistic work, which will help them pursue the final stage of their studies, as well as career opportunities in journalism in a more effective and well-informed manner. The students have clearly stated that they have received these job offers as a result of their work within the frames of the project. The project has thus brought the above changes to about 240 direct beneficiaries but also to those who are impacted by the CSOs work, those using the services of media organizations engaged in the

Project, and finally - public at large. The greatest impact of the project, however, is on the self-confidence of the CSOs and students, especially the regional ones, who, in their replies to the survey conducted as part of tis evaluation have said they feel much more capacitated and confident monitoring the work of state structures, engaging in dialogue with them and conducting journalistic investigations accordingly.

7. Sustainability

Based on several indications, the project benefits will be sustained after the donor funding ends as of December 2019. The beneficiaries under Component 1, i.e. CSOs and media, are now provided with practical tool-sets on how to further conduct monitoring activities. In addition they have already started successful collaboration with state bodies both at local, regional and central levels, toward implementation of ambitious programs, as evidenced in the CSO/state actor MoUs signed within the frames of the project mentioned above. In these MoUs the parties commit to further cooperation to reach goals that fall out of the short, 4 month scope of the respective grants. Another great way to achieve sustainability will be the use of 8 web resources created within the frames of the grants in diverse sectors – from transportation, consumer rights, beneficial owners (in the media sector) database to various platforms providing consultations to community residents on their social, economic and other rights. These web sources are well-linked with the main mission and advocacy goals of the respective NGOs and media, which will be a motivation for the beneficiaries for continuing the use of these sources after the project ends. In addition, thanks to the FOICA's use of best international standards in grants management, as well as consistent efforts in training the sub-grantees on how to write and report on projects, the CSOS are in a better capacity now to solicit donor support after the project ends.

In the Component 2 there is already enough evidence that the project sustainability will be ensured with the MoUs signed with 8 Universities acknowledging the need to promote the practical capacities of journalists and law students. Some university representatives (Bryusov University and YSU) have expressed willingness to continue incorporation of such practical exercises in their academic schedules. As noted before, several students (including winners of journalistic battles, both Yerevan and Gavar-based) are already working with reputable media outlets, following their participation in Journalistic Battles. Others have established links with the media industry and legal firms which is a significant contribution to ensuring lasting results of the project.

Finally the first of its kind Access to Information CSO Network created by the FOICA and joined by project sub-grantees by signing a Declaration on 29 November 2019, will ensure further collaboration among project beneficiaries and involve other CSOs, using FOI tools to protect public interest, fight corruption and freedom of expression and promote effective enforcement of access to information in various areas of public administration.

8. Coherence and Added Value

➤ The main coherence and added value related questions looked at by this evaluation are as follows: How coherent are project objectives with those of other public interventions which interact with it and has such coherence been achieved? What is the value resulting from EU and FOICA intervention which is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by the project? While the Project was not part of a larger programme, however it has created sound synergies with other ongoing projects by: supporting the effective implementation of the EU's budget support programme by monitoring State budgets in the sectors relating to EU Armenia relations; assisting the CSOs and media organizations during their monitoring efforts through the FOICA's access to information projects which provides support to citizens and litigation in strategic cases to uphold the FoI right, benefiting from the EJC's expertise in designing training sessions and journalistic battles, ranging from basics to cutting-edge techniques such as storytelling with data, use of new media tools in professional journalism, etc.

➤ The FOICA's many-year pioneering role in monitoring the openness and transparency of the government work has been a strong added value throughout the project implementation. Equipped with legal and practical knowledge, skills, statistics and toolkit to conduct such monitoring, the FOICA has provided outstanding support to its beneficiaries. The creation of the ATI CSO network is a new cooperation avenue opened as a result of the project which will ensure further coherence to efforts in the project area.

9. Recommendations and Lessons Learned

➤ As it has been noted, 4 months has been a short period for the CSOs' monitoring of state budget expenditures in specific sectors, presenting recommendations on local, regional and central levels and especially following up on their implementation. The FOICA has ensured close interaction with 23 sub-grantees and state bodies to support CSOs establish collaboration mechanisms with state actors and to provide them with monitoring techniques and skills using various innovative methods. However considering that the final impact of some projects can be assessed after various recommendations, concept papers, etc will be adopted and implemented by state bodies, the FOICA and CSOs would benefit from additional financial resources to continue the monitoring work and cooperate with government bodies in implementing reforms. Also, some projects which show impressive results are inclusive of only 2-3 communities per region, often because of budgetary and time restrictions. With additional resources becoming available, these success stories in those few communities (including but not limited to Lori, Syunik and Shirak regions) could be used to advocate for similar reforms in other communities of the region. Other potential activities could include CSO and media monitoring of the implementation of the Government's Action Plan 2019-2023 and their participation in Government programs and policies. It is thus recommended that the FOICA continues securing funds for above activities.

➢ The creation of ATI CSO network by the FOICA is a promising format for creating synergies among project beneficiaries and to involve more CSOs. It is highly recommended for the FOICA to reach out to more CSOs and share the best practices in conducting monitoring of government activities and budget development/implementation.

➢ Some CSOs have raised the issue of small budgets and rather voluminous reporting standards for a low-budget project. However, by using comprehensive narrative report templates and demanding relevant supporting documentation, the FOICA has been building the capacity of the CSOs in project management and reporting which is an added value. The FOICA may wish to consider to further strengthen the NGO's project management capacities by offering them more extensive courses in project and report writing.

➢ During interviews conducted as part of this evaluation, some representatives of journalism faculties in Armenian universities have noted they would deem necessary to have stronger involvement in journalistic competitions' preparatory phase and their conducting, in addition to their students' active participation. The main justification for this is that this way they will gain better insights on the project outputs and their possible incorporation into academic schedules on long-terms basis. It is thus recommended that the FOICA follows up with faculty management to discuss how the various synergies, skills and knowledge provided during competition can be better used in the universities to achieve lasting results.

10. Annexes

1. Evaluation Questionnaires

2. List of respondents

3. List of documents reviewed

1. EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONG 23 PROJECT SUB-GRANTEES
(Oc. 1 in the Logframe)

Կազմակերպության/ռեսպոնդենտի անունը, ծրագրի անվանումը և իրականացման ժամանակահատվածը **Organization/respondent name, project title and implementation period:**		Բյուջեն **Budget**	
Ծրագրի նպատակը՝ **Project objective :**			
1. Արդյո՞ք իրականացվել են ծրագրով նախատեսված բոլոր գործողությունները՝ հասնելով ծրագրով ակնկալվող բոլոր արդյունքներին: Did the project deliver on outputs, activities and outcomes, as planned?	*Scoring: 1-3* *1= ամբողջությամբ* *2= մասամբ* *3= չեն իրականացվել (մանրամասներ)* *1= completely delivered;* *2= partially delivered;* *3=did not deliver (please specify)*		
2. Նախատեսված գործողություններից շեղումներ եղե՞լ են և ինչու՞: Were there any deviations in the process and why?			
3. Ի՞նչ ազդեցություն է ունեցել ծրագիրը շահառուների համար և ինչպիսի՞ կարողություններ է այն հզորացրել: How has the project influenced the appropriate stakeholder community, and what capacities has it built?			
4. Ի՞նչ արդյունքներ (նախատեսված և չնախատեսված) են արձանագրվել ծրագրով: What range of outcomes (intended and unintended) has the			

project contributed to?	
5. Որո՞նք են այն գործոնները, որոնք խթանել կամ խոչընդոտել են այդ արդյունքներին հասնելուն։ What factors helped and hindered the results?	
6. Ի՞նչը կփոխեիք կամ կբարելավեիք ծրագրում։ What would you change or improve in the project?	
7. Ինչպե՞ս եք ապահովելու ծրագրի շարունակականությունը ծրագրի ավարտից հետո։ How will project results be sustained after the project support has ended?	
8. Անհրաժեշտ համարու՞մ եք շարունակել ծրագիրը և ինչու՞։ Do you see necessity to continue the project and why?	
9. Դուք մասնակցե՞լ եք 2018 թ. սեպտեմբեր-նոյեմբեր ժամանակահատվածում ԻԱԿ-ի կողմից կազմակերպված՝ «Տեղեկատվության ազատություն և բյուջեի հանրային վերահսկողություն» թեմայով դասընթացներին։ Եթե այո, նշեք ամսաթիվը և մանրամասնեք՝ արդյոք դասընթացն օգտակար էր ծրագրի մշակման և իրականացման ընթացքում, ինչպես նաև ներկայում՝ Ձեր առօրյա աշխատանքում։ Have you participated in training sessions on FoI and state budget monitoring, organized by the FOICA from September to November 2018 within the frames of the project "Access to Information and Investigative Journalism for Better Informed citizens? If yes, please indicate the date and elaborate on whether the training was helpful in designing and implementing your project, as well as now, in your daily work.	
Շնորհակալություն։	

Annex 1: Evaluation questionnaire for distribution among participants in CSO/journalists training sessions on the monitoring of state budget expenditure processes, organized by the FOICA in October-November 2018 (Oc. 1 in the logframe)

Գնահատման թերթիկ

2018 թ. հոկտեմբեր-նոյեմբեր ժամանակահատվածում ԻԱԿ-ի կողմից կազմակերպված՝ «Տեղեկատվության ազատություն և բյուջեի հանրային վերահսկողություն» թեմայով դասընթացների մասնակիցների համար

Ձեր անունը/կազմակերպությունը և դասընթացի ամսաթիվը:	
1. Գնահատեք վերապատրաստման օգտակարությունը Ձեզ համար:	○ շատ օգտակար էր ○ օգտակար էր ○ այնքան էլ օգտակար չէր ○ բոլորովին օգտակար չէր
2. Ո՞ր թեման էր Ձեզ համար առավել օգտակար և կիրառելի Ձեր առօրյա աշխատանքում:	• ԵՄ-ՀՀ հարաբերություններ- ԵՄ ինտեգրման և այդ գործընթացի նկատմամբ քաղաքացիական վերահսկողության լավագույն փորձը • Ֆոնդահայթայթման ներկայիս մարտահրավերները • Տեղեկատվության ազատության կապը մարդու այլ իրավունքների հետ • Բյուջեի հանրային վերահսկողություն • Տեղեկատվության ազատություն
3. Եթե նշված թեմաներից ստացած գիտելիքները կիրառում եք Ձեր առօրյա աշխատանքում, մանրամասնեք:	

4. Նշեք այն թեմաները, որը կցանկանայիք, որ ներառված լինեին վերապատրաստման ծրագրում:	
5. Արդյո՞ք զգու՞մ եք Ձեր գիտելիքը դասընթացի թեմայով լրացնելու կարիք: Եթե այո, մանրամասնեք:	· Այո · Ոչ

1.1 Questionnaire for Semi-Structured Interviews with beneficiaries under Oc. 2 (Season of Investigative Journalism Battles)

Հարցաշար

Լրագրողական մենամարտերի մասնակիցների շրջանում անցկացվելիք հարցազրույցների համար (փուլ 1)

Ձեր անունը և կրթական հաստատությունը	
1. Գնահատեք 2018 թ. սեպտեմբերի 29-ին ԻԱԿ-ի կողմից կազմակերպված՝ «Տեղեկատվության ազատությունը, հետաքննական լրագրողությունը և մամուլի էթիկան» վերնագրով վերապատրաստման դասընթացի օգտակարությունը Ձեզ համար:	· շատ օգտակար էր · օգտակար էր · այնքան էլ օգտակար չէր · բոլորովին օգտակար չէր
2. Հատկապես ո՞ր թեման համարեցիք առավել օգտակար և ինչու՞:	Module 1 – Preparation for covering a story – workshop on how to prepare for field reporting Module 2 – Journalism Ethics – workshop on ethical decision making when dealing with sensitive stories and photographs Module 3 – Final Thoughts – role of journalists in supporting democracy through FOI
3. Ինչպե՞ս կիրառեցիք դասընթացի ընթացքում ձեռք բերված գիտելիքները լրագրողական	

մենամարտերի ընթացքում:	
4. Ձեզ գրհացրե՞ց լրագրողական մենամարտերի ընթացքում ուսուցանողների կողմից տրամադրված գիտելիքները, հմտություններն ու փորձը:	
5. Ինչպե՞ս եք կիրառում այդ գիտելիքներն ու փորձը կրթական և/կամ աշխատանքային գործընթացներում:	
6. Այլ դիտարկումներ, որոնցով կցանկանայիք կիսվել դասընթացի կամ լրագրողական մենամարտի մասին:	

1.2 Questionnaire for Semi-Structured Interviews with beneficiaries under Oc. 2 (Season 2 of Investigative Journalism Battles)

Լրագրողական մենամարտերի մասնակիցների շրջանում անցկացվելիք հարցազրույցների համար (փուլ 2)

Your name and educational institution	
1. Գնահատեք 2019 թ. մարտի 13-15-ը ԻԱԿ-ի կողմից կազմակերպված` «Հետաքննող լրագրությունը՝ որպես Կառավարության գործունեության հանրային վերահսկման միջոց» վերապատրաստման դասընթացի օգտակարությունը Ձեզ համար:	• շատ օգտակար էր • օգտակար էր • այնքան էլ օգտակար չէր • բոլորովին օգտակար չէր
2. Հատկապես ո՞ր թեման համարեցիք առավել օգտակար և ինչու՞:	☐ Topic 1: Preparation for covering a story – workshop on how to prepare for field reporting (trainer - Karen Andreasyan, EJC) ☐ Topic 2: Journalism Ethics – workshop on ethical decision making when dealing with sensitive stories and photographs (trainer -

	Karen Andreasyan, EJC)
	$\square$ Topic 3: Public Oversight Mechanisms in the Field of Human Rights Protection (trainer- Arma Khachatryan, "Centre of Democracy and Law" NGO)
	$\square$ Topic 4: Government oversight: master class from a news editor (trainer- Gegham Manukyan, "Hoosaber" CJSC (Yerkir Media TV))
	$\square$ Topic 5. Public Relations in Public Agencies (trainer- Lilit Galstyan, "National Road Safety Council" NGO)
	$\square$ Topic 6: Longrid: New Resolution on Multimedia Journalism (trainer- Gevorg Avchyan, "V.I.V Aysor ev Vaghe" LTD (www.ankakh.com website))
	$\square$ Topic 7: Regional Media and Regional Newsletters as a Public Oversight Tool for Community Projects (trainer- Khachik Danielyan, "TV Media ALT" LLC (ALT TV))
	$\square$ Topic 8: Public Oversight Mechanisms in the sphere of Environment Protection (trainer- Mary Chakryan, "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO)
3. Ինչպե՞ս կիրառեցիք դասընթացի ընթացքում ձեռք բերված գիտելիքները լրագրողական մենամարտերի ընթացքում:	
4. Չեզ գրհացրե՞ց լրագրողական մենամարտից առաջ և դրա ընթացքում ուսուցանողների կողմից տրամադրված գիտելիքները, հմտություններն ու փորձը:	
5. Ինչպե՞ս եք կիրառում այդ գիտելիքներն ու փորձը կրթական	

և/կամ աշխատանքային գործընացներում:	
6. Այլ դիտարկումներ, որոնցով կցանկանայիք կիսվել դասընթացի կամ լրագրողական մենամարտի մասին:	

Annex 2: List of Respondents

PROJECT STAFF		
Organization	**Name**	**Title**
1. Freedom of Information Center	Shushan Doydoyan	President, Project Manager
2. Freedom of Information Center	Astghik Vardanyan	Deputy Project Manager, Coordinator
3. Freedom of Information Center	Mane Madoyan	Grants Manager
4. Lisa Essex	(EJC)	
5. Karen Andreasyan	(EJC)	
Sub-grantees (Oc. 1)	**Project title**	**Name of respondents**
6. ALT Telecommunication LLC	Controlling and publicizing the efforts of making the irrigation system much healthier	Khachik Danielyan, Angela Stepayan
7. "Armenian Camp" NGO Yerevan, Gr. Artsruni 90, apt. 4	"Accessible transport"	Varduhi Aramyan Samvel Rostomyan

8. "V.I.V Aysor ev Vaghe" LTD, Ankakh.com website. Baghramyan 1st Alley, Home 9/4	Energetic alternative of Armenia	Varduhi Ishkhanyan, Gevorg Avchyan
9. "Tukhmanuk" human rights and educational center NGO Yerevan, Davitashen, 4th district	Together for the Quality of Education	Mariam Chakhoyan
10. Partnership and Teaching P&T NGO Syunik region, Goris, Khorenatsi 41/ Yerevan, Papazyan 32	Youth for their future	Artashes Torozyan, Anna Danielyan
11. "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO, PA&MC" Yerevan, Vardananc st. 18/2	Control of Community Budget Through Dialogue	Mari Chakryan
12. National Road Safety Council NGO (NRSC) Yerevan, Vagharshyan 1/3	Issues of publicity and public control of road construction programs	Lilit Galstyan
13. Goris Press Club NGO Syunik region, Goris, Orbelyanner 18/2	I participate in community development	Susanna Shahnazaryan
14. Husaber CJSC, Yerkir Media TV Yerevan, Charents st. 94	Promotion of Transparency of Implementation of the e-Health System and Public Monitoring	Gegham Manukyan
15. Centre of Democracy and Law NGO, CDL Yerevan, Andraniki st. 76/33	The Monitoring of Services Providing by E-Justice Platforms and Public Service Delivery Offices	Arman Khachatryan
Sub-grantees (Oc. 1) **Advocacy Grants**	**Project title**	**Name of respondents/Contacts**

16. "TV Media" ALT" LLC, ""ALT-TV", Armavir region, Armavir, Hanrapetutyun street, 10"	"Capacity building for monitoring"	"Anjela Stepanyan
17. "National Road Safety Council NGO (NRSC)", Yerevan, Vagharshyan 1/3"	"Speek up!"	Poghos Shahinyan
18. "Public Awareness and Monitoring Center" NGO, PA&MC", Yerevan, Vardananc st. 18/2"	"Green Justice"	"Mari Chakryan
19. Partnership and Teaching P&T NGO, "Syunik region, Goris, Khorenatsi 41/ Yerevan, Papazyan 32"	"Public Control as a Community Development Impulse"	Artashes Torozyan
20. Clean Goris environmental NGO, Syunik region, Goris community, Syunik 144/17"	"Youth move for clean Goris"	Narek Mkrtchyan
21. "Aware and protected consumer" NGO, Yerevan, Artsakhi 30, 401 office"	"Operative communication and regulation of alarms with wide access"	Babken Pipoyan
22. Goris Press Club NGO, Syunik region, Goris, Orbelyanner 18/2 "	"Using visualization as a form of public outreach"	Anahit Baghdasaryan
23. Rights Protection Initiative Foundation (RPIF), Yerevan, Al. Manukyan 9, 202 offace"	"Youth for Information Accessibility".	Hasmik Hakobyan

24. Fund of Armenian Relief Fellowship Alumni's Association (FAR FAA), Yerevan, Rubinyants 29/3"	Informed Health Care"	Armine Hakobyan
25. Info House, Yerevan, Vilnyus str. 75"	" Accountable media"	Armenuhi Abrahamyan
26. "Youth ideas" YNGO" "ՀՀ, Tavush region, Dilijan, Myasnikyan str.87 "	"Citizens budget initiative for Dilijan community"	Shushanik Sahakyan
27. Astghatsolk NGO, Gegharkunik region, Chambarak, Getapnya street 37"	Creating the ""I see"" visualization bureau for CSOs"	Irina Hovhannisyan
28. "Association of Young Journalists" NGO ("AYJ" NGO) , KOtayq region, Tartu street, Community Library Building, 2nd floor	"Media Bridge: effective communication 4 the transparent governance"	Arman Ghazaryan
Semi-structured interviews, Oc. 2, Season 1	**Name**	**Institution**
29.	Mariam Mkrchyan	Yerevan State University, 094242130
30.	Araksya Pashoyan	Yerevan State University, 077352691
31.	Gayane Gharibyan.	Gavar State University
32.	Vahe Gozeyan, Gavar University	Gavar State University
33.	Narek Asatryan, Gavar	Gavar State University

	University	
34.	Ինգա Մկրտչյան (lawyer)	098436777
Oc. 2, Season 2		
35.	Rima Grigoryan (2nd place, French University of Armenia)	French University of Armenia 094048899
36.	Anushik Melkonyan (1st place, French University of Armenia)	French University of Armenia 077515032
37.	Mariam Avanesyan	Brusov University of Foreign Languages and Social Sciences
38.	Inga Mkrtchyan (lawyers) Svetlana Kirakosyan	098436777
Universities (Oc.2)		
39.	Tatyana Hovhannisyan, Head of Journalism Chair, Bryusov Foreign Languages University	093556659
40.	Naghash Martirosyan, Dean, Journalism Faculty, Yerevan State University	091 76 74 34
41.	Ruzanna Hakobyan, Rector, Gavar State University	094887070

ANNEX 3: LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- "Access to Information and Investigative Journalism for Better Informed Citizens" ("Informed Armenia") Project Document, log-frame and budget,

- Co-funding agreement with "Arbitrage Court" LLC;

- The FOICA's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Narrative and financial reports submitted to the EU;

- Agendas, list of participants, signed registration sheets, participant evaluation sheets;

- Project Board and Evaluation Committee decisions, minutes , evaluation reports on the procurements of goods and services, grant awards, experts' selection, training topics selection and other issues;

- ToRs for various expert positions;

- Tender packages;

- Contracts signed by the FOICA with project suppliers and experts;

- Project proposals by applicant CSOs both for Core and Advocacy Grants;

- FOICA's contracts with sub-grantee CSOs;

- Grantee narrative and financial reports submitted to the FOICA;

- MoUs signed with Universities, local, regional and state bodies, CSOs;

- Policy papers, recommendations and other materials produced as part of the 23 grants;

- Project related correspondence between the FOICA, state actors and CSOs;

- Questionnaires filled in by project beneficiaries as part of the Evaluation;

- Visibility Materials including Communication Strategy, videos and text materials.