

# Switzerland Supports OSCE Anti-Corruption Efforts in Armenia

Press release, 08.12.2020

On December 1, 2020, Switzerland joined ongoing anti-corruption efforts to support the Republic of Armenia in the implementation of its reform agenda to strengthen rule of law, human rights and economic development. The Government of Switzerland approved a grant worth of EUR 374'880 in view of a two-year project "Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Committee of Armenia", which will be implemented by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in close collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The project is part of a broader OSCE program "Strengthening anti-corruption reform in Armenia".

In the process of ongoing institutional reforms, an Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) of Armenia is to be established. This committee will be one of the leading state bodies for combating corruption, and will be in charge of disclosure of corruption-related crimes independently.

The Swiss funded project will focus on supporting the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) and ensuring that the committee's work to curb corruption is effective and acknowledged. The project aims to achieve this goal by enhancing the capabilities, efficiency and competencies of the committee. Furthermore, it will assist the ACC in collaborating with other government bodies, the civil society as well as towards the international donor community, thus contributing to the better functioning of the anti-corruption system. Launching on 01.12.2020 the project will last until 30.11.2022, with a budget amounting at EUR 374'880.

The Project translates principles and objectives of Switzerland's foreign policy and development cooperation into action. Switzerland supports the transition of Armenia towards a functioning democracy and market economy. It contributes to ensuring that the country's population benefits from inclusive economic development and more democratic and legitimate institutions. It emphasizes the respect for human rights, the rule of law and promotes diversity. The project is fully in line with the Government Program and its Anti-Corruption Strategy of 2019.

The project is part of a broader program of the OSCE and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia "Strengthening anti-corruption reform in Armenia", which is supported by the governments of Italy and Germany. This broader program is under way since 2019 and aims at assisting the Republic of Armenia in fulfilling relevant international commitments in good governance and anti-corruption. The new project will also be implemented by the OSCE, in close collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

For additional information, please contact Vardan Janazyan, Media and Communication Officer of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Yerevan.

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