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**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

11.09.2017

Yerevan to host EU-funded conference on  
**Social Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Conference venue: **Congress Hotel**, Italy 1 street, Yerevan, RA  
Conference dates: **September 19-20, 2017**

The **Armenian Association for the Disabled “Pyunic”** together with its international partner, the **Advocacy Centre on the Council of Europe Standards (ACCESS, Strasbourg, France)**, are pleased to announce the opening of a **two-day conference** on **“Protecting the Social Rights of Persons with Disabilities”**. The event is organised by the project **“Promoting the Social Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Building the Capacities of Armenian Civil Society Organisations to Engage with Council of Europe Monitoring Mechanisms”**, which is funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

The Conference will bring together European and Armenian experts specialized in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD), as well as persons with disabilities, representatives of the Armenian Government, local authorities, representatives of civil society organizations, international organisations and students. The conference will be opened by EU Ambassador Piotr Antoni Świtalski, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Armenia with representatives of the Republic of Armenia and experts from the European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe.

A **dance performance** will open the event.

The Conference will include the presentation of key findings and recommendations emerging from a **study on the protection of social rights of PWD** in Armenia conducted by European and Armenian experts in May-June 2017. The recommendations include concrete actions, which the Armenian authorities can take to improve the legislative framework and the supporting mechanisms.

The project is also organising a **six-month extensive online course** for activists involved in the protection of the rights of PWD, which will be available via the Council of Europe’s Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP programme). The training focuses on Council of Europe and UN human rights standards

concerning PWD. The complete course will be available on the **Council of Europe's HELP** platform via the Pyunic and ACCESS websites (**www.pyunic.am; www.accessrights.org**). The course will be presented and time will be set aside for participants to ask questions.

The Conference will further allow for exchanges of experiences from other Council of Europe member states in addressing disability issues, accessibility and universal design, employment of persons with disabilities, NGO-Government cooperation, Council of Europe standards and mechanisms to combat discrimination, and other cross-cutting issues. Agenda is attached.

The Conference will in particular welcome persons with disabilities and students representing different universities to take part in public debates and voice their own concerns and recommendations.

End.

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