



**This project is funded
by the European Union**

Joint PYUNIC – ACCESS Project

“Promoting the social rights of persons with disabilities by building the capacity of Armenian civil society organisations to engage with the Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms”

OPENING CONFERENCE “Social Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

Aware of our rights, able to protect them!

PROGRAMME

19-20 September 2017

*Venue: Best Western Congress Hotel
1 Italy Street, Yerevan, Armenia*

*Conference organised by PYUNIC and the Advocacy Centre on Council of Europe Standards (ACCESS)
Funded by the European Union (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights)*

DAY 1 **Tuesday, 19 September 2017**

9:00-9:30 **Registration of Participants**

Location: The Grand Ballroom

Coffee Break & Opening of the Exhibition Space "My Social Rights"

9:00-9:30 **Press Conference** “The project and its desired impact amid the social and legal situation of persons with disabilities (PWD) in Armenia

Location: Combined Room

- **H.E. Mr. Piotr Antoni ŚWITALSKI**, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Armenia
- **Arthur KESOYAN**, Head of the Department of Persons with Disabilities and Ageing People, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
- **Anna KUZNETSOVA-WERLE**, Council of Europe, Department of the European Social Charter
- **Ruzanna SARGSYAN**, Project Manager of Pyunic
- **Evgenia GIAKOUMOPOULOU**, Co-Founder of ACCESS
- **Constantin COJOCARIU**, international expert, Co-author of the HELP online course on the rights of persons with disabilities and the project's analytical report
- **Dr Delia FERRI**, Lecturer in Law, Maynooth University, Co-author of the HELP online course on the social rights of persons with disabilities

9:30-10:00 **Dance performance by Ensemble led by persons with disabilities**

Location: Grand Ballroom

10:00-10:30 **Keynote address**

Location: Grand Ballroom

- **H.E. Mr. Piotr Antoni ŚWITALSKI**, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Armenia
- **Natalia VOUTOVA**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Yerevan
- **David KARAPETYAN**, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia
- **Lusine SARGSYAN**, Head of Human Rights Research and Education Center, The Human Rights Defender's Staff of the Republic of Armenia
- **Ruzanna SARGSYAN**, Project Manager of “Pyunic”
- **Evgenia GIAKOUMOPOULOU**, Co-founder of ACCESS

Session 1 - Setting the Scene

Location: Grand Ballroom

- 10:30-11:00 **Presentation of the Analytical Report on the Rights of persons with disabilities in Armenia:** main challenges and recommendations
- **Constantin COJOCARIU**, Expert in the European Social Charter, Co-Author of the HELP online course on the rights of PWD and the project's Analytical Report
 - **Narine SOLOMONYAN**, Legal Expert, Co-Author of the project's Analytical Report (TBC)
 - **Marat ATOVMYAN**, Lawyer, Board Member of the Armenian Lawyer's Association
- 11:00-11:20 **Discussion, Questions and Answer**
- 11:20-11:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30-12:40 **International advocacy and mechanisms on disability rights**
- **Evgenia GIAKOUMOPOULOU**, Co-Founder of ACCESS (Strasbourg, France)
 - **Anna KUZNETSOVA-WERLE**, Council of Europe, Department of the European Social Charter (Strasbourg, France)
 - **Etienne CUCHE**, European Union and Advocacy Officer, European Disability Forum (Brussels, Belgium)
 - **Tamar DEKANOSIDZE**, Lawyer, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) (Tbilisi, Georgia)
 - **Arevik SARIBEKYAN**, Director of British Council Armenia, Regional Lead for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Yerevan, Armenia)
 - **Priscila RODRIGUEZ**, Associate Director for Advocacy of the NGO Disability Rights International (Washington DC, USA) via video
- 12:40-13:00 **Discussion, Questions and Answers**
- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

Session 2 – Steps forward
Location: Grand Ballroom

- 14:00-14:40 **Presentation of the HELP programme and the new online course on the rights of persons with disabilities**
- **Dr. Delia FERRI**, Lecturer in Law, Maynooth University, Co-Author of the HELP online course on the social rights of persons with disabilities
 - **Constantin COJOCARIU**, international expert, Co-author of the HELP online course on the rights of persons with disabilities and the project's analytical report
- 14:40-15:00 **Discussions, Questions and Answer**
- 15:00-15:15 **Coffee Break**
- 15:15-16:30 **Thematic Working Groups: Taking Steps forward to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities**
1. **Accessibility and Universal Design**
Moderator: **Armen ALAVERDYAN**, “UNISON” NGO
 2. **Employment of Persons with Disabilities**
Moderator: **Tsoghik BEJANYAN**, State Employment Agency
 3. **NGO – Government Cooperation**
Moderator: **Suren MAGHAKYAN**, “Full Life” NGO
 4. **Open Society Foundation (OSF) and its Public Health and Civil Society Programmes**
Moderator: **David AMIRYAN**, Deputy Director of Programmes, Open Society Foundations in Armenia
- 16:30-17:30 **Closing of Day 1**
Presentation of results and recommendations of the thematic working groups by the moderators
Conclusions from PYUNIC and ACCESS

DAY 2 **Wednesday, 20 September 2017**

Public Event

- 9-00-9:30 **NGO Agora with Coffee:** NGOs sharing organisational material, booklets, reports, networking
Location: Picasso Hall
- 9:30-10:30 **Panel Discussion on National Advocacy Strategies**
Moderator: Constantin COJOCARIU, international expert, Co-author of the HELP online course on the rights of persons with disabilities and the project's analytical report
- **Lilit CHITCHYAN**, Advocacy Expert, The Country Office of Save the Children International in Armenia
 - **Dr. Armineh SOORENIAN**, PhD Researcher in Disability Studies, University of Leeds, Disability Advisory Panel Member, British Council
 - **Lilit KOCHINYAN**, Communication and Campaign Officer, OxYGen Foundation
 - **Anaida PAPIKYAN**, Senior Coordinator, Public Health Programme, Open Society Foundations Armenia
- 10:30-12:00 **World Café**
Table 1: Applying gender-sensitive approach to protecting the rights of PWD
Facilitator
Lilit KOCHINYAN, Communication and Campaign Officer, OxYGen Foundation
- Table 2:** Advocacy strategies of social contracting for social services for children with disabilities in Armenia
Facilitator
Lilit CHITCHYAN, Advocacy Expert, the Country Office of Save the Children International in Armenia
- Table 3:** Young persons with disabilities: the experiences of students with disabilities and discrimination towards young people with disabilities in academia
Facilitator
Dr. Armineh SOORENIAN, PhD Researcher in Disability Studies, University of Leeds, Disability Advisory Panel Member, British Council
Prof. Lusine KARAMYAN, Department of Sociology, Yerevan State University
- 12:00-13:00 **Conference closing session**
Feedback on the World Café
Main takeaways on challenges and opportunities
Closing remarks