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Ծրագիրը ֆինանսավորվում է ԵՄ-ի կողմից

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

The project has been developed by the Armenian Association for the Disabled "Pyunic" and the French Advocacy Center on Council of Europe Standards (ACCESS) to improve capacities of Armenian civil society organisations (CSOs) to monitor and advocate for the social rights of persons with disabilities. Despite some progress made in the recent years, persons with disabilities living in Armenia continue facing discrimination and are unduly restricted in the enjoyment of their social rights, such as the right to employment, equal pay for equal work, access to social security and decent housing. As a member of the Council of Europe Armenia is bound by the European Social Charter, yet only few Armenian CSOs are aware of these standards and the monitoring mechanisms or apply them in their work.

Through a series of capacity building activities, the project has involved 70 CSOs and disability rights organisations equipping them with skills and tools to better advocate for the social rights of persons with disabilities in Armenia using the European and international standards and norms.

Actions in Brief:

Around 70 CSOs and legal practitioners attended a tutored online course on protecting and advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Council of Europe and European Social Charter methodology. The Armenian and English versions of the course are available on the platform of the European Human Rights Education Programme for Legal Professionals (HELP). The course is accessible to learners with disabilities in two adapted versions.

2 alternative reports on the current situation of the rights of persons with disabilities were prepared by the "Armenian UN Association" NGO, "Full Life" DPO and the "Union of Young Economists" NGO. The reports will be submitted to the CoE Human Rights Commissionaire and the European Committee of Social Rights before the end of 2018.

An **analytical report** summarising the gaps in Armenia's legal and policy framework on the rights of persons with disabilities was prepared and recommendations presented to the Armenian authorities.

100 people with disabilities took part in the '**Marathon on the Wheels**' that took the participants from Yerevan to Etchmiadzin. "Disability is not a barrier to active lifestyle" was the key message of the event. Another visibility event, **Ascent to Aragats Mountain**, will bring together 50 people with or without disabilities in September 2018.

A **photography training** for 10 persons with disabilities was organised. Following the training, the participants came up with ideas of their own photos presenting social issues of persons with disabilities.

Duration: 01.02.2017 – 31.01.2019 (24 months)

Total Project Budget: EUR 212,921

EU Contribution: EUR 200,000

Location: Yerevan, Shirak and Lori marzes of Armenia

Implementing Partners: Armenian Association for the Disabled "Pyunic", Advocacy Center for Council of Europe Standards (ACCESS)