

PRESS-ANNOUNCEMENT

Tbilisi, October 20, 2015

EaPTC Promotes Winners of Armenia – Georgia Call for Proposals among International Donors Communities

On October 23, 2015 in Tbilisi and on October 26, 2015 in Yerevan – a series of meetings will bring together representatives of the international donors' organisations and winners of the Armenia – Georgia Territorial Cooperation Programme Call for Proposals to assist the grant projects in generating co-funding sources.

On September 25, 2015 the awarded projects signed their grant contracts in Dilijan, Armenia in witnessing of the key representatives central and regional state authorities and mass media from of Armenia and Georgia. Among the eight winners, four grant contracts have been awarded to the Georgian lead partners and four partnerships led by the Armenian organisations got the EU funds for implementing cross-border projects.

The EU allocates 1.35 million EUR to the Armenia-Georgia territorial cooperation to find joint solutions to common social and economic development challenges in their border regions. In particular, the awarded projects are aimed at: attracting investments to regions of Kvemo Kartli, Georgia and Tavush, Armenia; energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; improvement of solid waste management; development of innovative cross-border touristic routes; natural resources conservation of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Georgia and Shirak, Armenia. Specific focus is made on youth issues: civic education, youth employment and strengthening relations among teenagers from Gyumri, Armenia and Bolnisi, Georgia.

The information sessions will increase awareness of the International Donors Community active in Georgia and Armenia about partnerships for territorial cooperation supported by the EU and assist grantees in finding co-financing from other sources.

The lead partners of awarded projects will make a brief presentation about their projects to the representatives of the International Donors Organisations and technical assistance programmes operating in Georgia and Armenia. The mass media are invited to take part in the information session to be held on **October 23** at 14:00 in the Citadines Hotel (Freedom Square 4, Tbilisi) and on **October 26** at 14:00 in the Hilton Doubletree Hotel (Grigor Lusavorich 4/2, Yerevan).

Background: the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme's (EaPTC Support Programme) goal is to create a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders of Moldova – Ukraine, Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia and Belarus – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area. It is as well aimed at strengthening the capacity of local and regional state and non-state actors to jointly develop and implement cross-border projects. The overall EU contribution to EaPTC is 12.5 million EUR.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiative aims at closer relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, deepening their political co-operation and economic integration.

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The European Union is made up of 28 countries and the people of those countries. It is a unique political and economic partnership founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and human rights. Over more than fifty years we have created a zone of peace, democracy, stability and prosperity on our continent while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The EU looks to share its values and achievements with neighbouring countries and peoples and those farther afield.