

REPORT

ON THE STUDY VISIT OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF ARMENIA TO THE WORLD BANK IN WASHINGTON DC AND ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTIA WITHIN “PUBLIC SECTOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT 2 FOR ARMENIA”

The Delegation of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials of Armenia, within the World Bank’s “The Second Public Sector Modernization Project” for Armenia of, made a study visit to the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, USA and to the Anti-Corruption Office of the Republic of Argentina from April 29 to May 8, 2015. The aim of the latter was to learn about current electronic declaration analysis systems based on risk indicators.

The Ethics Commission delegation participated in the World Bank’s seminar on “Conflict of interests, asset and income declaration regulations in Armenian public sector” from April 28 to May 1, 2015. At the World Bank Headquarters, the members of Ethics Commission were hosted by Frank Heemskerk, World Bank Executive director for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Holland, Romania and Ukraine, who presented the World Bank activities and priorities in the region and particularly cooperation with Armenia, while highlighting good governance activities focused on public sector modernization and their need for further continuation during the meeting.

Within the scope of the visit, a a seminar with Ivana Rossi and Laura Pop, specialists at the World Bank Financial Market Integrity Unit was held during which

issues related to the electronic declaration system, conflict of interest, and illicit enrichment as well as the international experience on regulations and sanctions for non-submission or submission of false data by the high-ranking official in asset and income declaration were presented and discussed. At the seminar, the problems related to Armenian declaration system, their solutions, achievements and challenges of the Ethics Commission, as well as the current initiatives and prospective of ethics system development were presented to the international experts specialized in the area.

The World Bank experts presented the list of the countries with most successful electronic declaration systems and underlined the importance of elaboration of electronic declaration analysis system in Armenia.

Within the study visit to the Republic of Argentina, the Armenian delegation was hosted by the Anti-Corruption Office of Argentina under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Republic of Argentina, where meetings took place in accordance with the previously agreed program and agenda. During the meeting with the Anti-Corruption Office, the old and current versions of OAnet program, the electronic declaration system for the high-ranking officials of executive branch of Argentina were demonstrated to the Armenian colleagues.

The Commission's delegation was also hosted by the Federal Administration of Public Revenue (AFIP) of Argentina, where the Armenian delegation got acquainted with the functions and activities of the agency's departments as well as united electronic declaration systems.

The Armenian delegation had meetings with the experts of the Transparency and Investigation Planning Department of the Anticorruption Office, who presented

the peculiarities of investigations of conflict of interest, incompatibilities, as well as illicit enrichment cases.

Issues related to the efficiency of anti-corruption tools' implementation and the current challenges in fighting corruption were discussed with the Argentinian colleagues.