

“Equal Opportunities for national minorities and disadvantaged groups in realizing cultural rights: Richness through Diversity” Project

Kick-Off Event Summary Report



The official kick-off event of the project “Equal Opportunities for national minorities and disadvantaged groups in realizing cultural rights: Richness through Diversity” was held on 13 April, 2012, at 11:00-13:00, at “Armenia Marriott” hotel, “Trdat the Second” Hall (1 Amiryan str., Yerevan).



This project was launched by Civic Development and Partnership Foundation (CDPF) and “NGO Center” civil society development NGO, in partnership with Ukrainian partner “GURT Resource Center” and with the financial support of European Union. The initiative aims to develop cultural diversity and support the culture of minorities by strengthening the capacities of local authorities, CSOs, managers of cultural institutions in local communities of Ukraine and Armenia.

More than 60 representatives of state bodies, local self-government bodies, National Minorities’ CSOs, local and international organizations, embassies and mass media were present at the event.

During the event welcome speech was made by Arpine Hakobyan, “NGO Center” project coordinator and Maria Poghosyan, CDPF project coordinator. Hranush Kharatyan, president of “Hazarashen” NGO and ethnigrapher, delivered a speech on “Cultural life in Armenia and the involvement of national minorities and disadvantaged groups in it”.



A project implemented
by GURT Resource Centre

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Arpine Hakobyan noted in her speech. “Of course, Armenia is a mono-ethnic country where 97% of the population are Armenians, and only 3 % national minorities, but at the same time we should always remember that Armenia is the homeland of all citizens and every citizen should have a favorable environment for his/her self expression. And the cornerstone of that favorable environment is tolerance. By creating an atmosphere of tolerance in Armenia, we are one step ahead to spread this value all around the world”.



Arpine Hakobyan called for an active rather than a passive demonstrating patience and tolerance towards the national minorities and passed the word to Maria Poghosyan, who also welcomed the guests and presented the agenda of the event.



Mrs. Kharatyan talked about cultural life in general and about the



involvement of national minorities, assuring that the general cultural life of Armenian goes in parallel with the cultural life of national minorities. Mrs. Kharatyan in her speech touched upon the national legislation of minorities, mentioning that it has significantly developed; besides Armenia has joined international conventions, which gives a very fertile ground for national minorities living in Armenia to ensure the development of their cultures.

Maria Poghosyan then presented overall goals, objectives of the project. Mrs. Hakobyan continued her and presented the program activities and listed the selected communities.

The speeches raised great enthusiasm among the participants; many people expressed their satisfaction for initializing such kind of program, once more stating that our society needs such projects.

At the end the floor was given to selected community representatives who thanked the organizers for the good initiative and presented the situation in the communities and expressed hope that due to project the cultural life will activate and will boost the national minorities and disadvantaged groups to achieve the best of their cultural rights.



“Equal Opportunities for national minorities and disadvantaged groups in realizing cultural rights: Richness through Diversity” project raised great interest and was widely covered by various media (on-line, radio, TV). See the links below.

<http://www.yerkir.am/am/news/23513.htm>

<http://www.slaq.am/arm/news/56775/>

<http://www.panarmenian.net/arm/photoset/1936/13396>

<http://www.nt.am/am/events/7223/>

<http://7or.am/am/news/view/33372/>

<http://www.tert.am/am/news/2012/04/13/hranush-xaratyan/>

<http://www.radiovan.am/>

<http://civilnet.am/>

<http://armenpress.am/arm/tomorrow/>

<http://armenpress.am/arm/news/687781/hayastanum-azgayin-pogramasnutyunneri-mshakuyti-pahpanman.html>

http://www.1in.am/arm/armenia_society_74296.html

https://picasaweb.google.com/110190565932688201307/CommunityCulturalDevelopment_KICKOFF