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Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society in Armenia and Georgia

October 27-28, 2016

Heussallee 18-24, FIW, Bonn University

Conference Outline

The development of participatory democracy as well as the strengthening of the civil society are important objectives of the external policy of the European Union in the near neighbourhood. The intensification of the political dialogue with the Union under the European Neighbourhood Policy has created in post-Soviet space, especially in Armenia and Georgia, an atmosphere in which the emergence of pluralistic forces and the consolidation of active civil society became possible. However, there are still various institutional and organizational barriers that do not allow civil society actors in Armenia and Georgia to become key factors in promoting democracy.

The aim of the workshop is to promote an exchange of views and experiences between civil society stakeholders from Armenia and Georgia as well as some experts from Germany. In the light of defective constitutional practice and restricted inclusion of the civil society in political processes in both countries, we intend to create a space for a dialogue between scientists, NGO representatives, the media as well as parts of the religious community.

Preliminary Agenda (4.10.16)

27.10.2016	
15:00 – 15:15	Welcome adress
15:15 – 16:45	<p>Session I Civil society in Armenia and Georgia: current problems and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Giga Zedania (Rector of Ilia State University, Georgia) • Dr. Yevgenya Jenny Paturyan (American University of Armenia, Armenia) • Hans-Jochen Schmidt (Former Ambassador of Germany to Armenia, Germany)
16:45 – 17:15	Coffee break

17:15 – 18:45	<p>Session II</p> <p>The role of the media in the sociopolitical construction in Armenia and Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akaki Gvimradze (Journalist, BBC Mentor in Georgia, Georgia) • Sara Khojoyan (Journalist, Bloomberg Yerevan, Armenia) • Anahit Hayrapetyan (Freelance Journalist, Germany)
28.10.2016	
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Session III</p> <p>Church as a mediator: How can the Church open new channels for dialogue between the civil society actors and political players</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kornely Kakachia (Director of Georgian Institute of Politics, Georgia) • Narek Mkrtchyan (American University of Armenia, Armenia) • Dr. Detlev Preuße (Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Germany)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session IV (Round table)</p> <p>Which mechanisms could be developed for a stronger involvement of the civil society actors in political decision-making processes in Armenia and Georgia?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Kvapilova (UN Women Country Representative in Georgia, Georgia) • Dr. Stepan Grigoryan (Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation, Armenia) • Hans-Jürgen Zahorka (Former MEP, Chief Editor, European Union Foreign Affairs Journal, Germany)
12:30	End of conference

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The participation is free of charge. Registration via mail is necessary until October 20
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