

ANNUAL BRIEF REPORT

ON THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS FOR 2018 ENVISAGED

BY 2015-2018 ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Ministry of Justice

	Action	Expected outcome	Course of implementation
5.	Submitting recommendations on expansion of sector-specific anti-corruption programmes	<p>2016-2017-2018</p> <p>Following the adoption of 4 sector-specific programmes, other sectors have been studied and, where necessary, recommendations on the expansion of sector-specific anti-corruption programmes have been introduced</p>	<p>Relevant studies have been conducted in a number of sectors.</p> <p>In particular, studies of corruption risks in business, social security, judicial and legal, as well as defence sectors have been conducted. Moreover, a relevant strategy – with an action plan – has been developed in the judicial and legal sector. Both the Strategy and the Action Plan contain steps aimed at reducing corruption risks.</p>
16.	Improving the system of declaration (financial disclosure) of assets and interests of public servants and officials	<p>2018</p> <p>Sanctions have been imposed for failure to submit a declaration</p>	<p>The system of declaration was completely revised upon adoption of the new Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service" on 23 March 2018.</p> <p>At the same time, administrative and criminal liability was prescribed for violation of the requirements for declaration according to the anti-corruption package adopted back on 9 June 2017. Thus, pursuant to Article 169.28 of the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offences, administrative liability is envisaged for failing to submit declarations to the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials within the prescribed time limits or for submitting them</p>

Action		Expected outcome	Course of implementation
			<p>by violation of the requirements for filling in declarations or for submitting them by violation of the procedure for submission or for making a careless mistake in the declaration or for submitting incomplete information in the declaration.</p> <p>At the same time, under Articles 314.2 and 314.3 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, criminal liability is envisaged for deliberate failure to submit declarations to the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials and for submission of false datum in the declaration or for concealment of a datum subject to declaration, respectively.</p>
18.	Developing and implementing a complex plan for simplification of administration in the public service sector	<p>2018</p> <p>One hundred per cent of actions of the plan for simplification of administration is implemented</p>	Electronic governance systems are continuously being introduced to maximally simplify administration.
25.	Revising the system of electronic registration of legal entities and sole proprietors in the electronic system of the State Register of Legal Entities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	<p>2018</p> <p>Means of electronic registration of change of the head of the executive body and amendment to the statute are established</p>	Change of the head of the executive body and amendment to the statute are registered in the State Register of Legal Entities electronically.
28.	Training entities responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies	<p>2015-2018</p> <p>The entities responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies continuously undergo trainings.</p>	The plan of training lectures and the practical assignments, as well as schedule of attendance for the entities responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies for 2018 were approved upon Order of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia No 11-A of 22 January 2018. As a result, "Legal Education and Rehabilitation Programmes Implementation Centre" SNCO of the Ministry of

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			Justice of the Republic of Armenia conducted 2 courses for employees of the subdivisions responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within public administration bodies in the periods between 24 September and 5 October and between 8 and 19 October 2018
41.	Co-operating with specialised civil society organisations for reduction of corruption risks.	2015-2018 Submitting joint analyses and recommendations conducted with the use of potential and knowledge of the civil society in order to carry out effective monitoring for the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to the public and reducing corruption risks in the sector.	During 2018, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia continued its active co-operation with non-governmental organisations. Civil society representatives continue to submit recommendations that are taken into consideration during development of the anti-corruption policy.
43.	Making amendments and supplements to standard operations procedure of boards/councils of the ministries of the Republic of Armenia, approved upon Protocol Decision No 47 adopted during the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 20 November 2008, that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specify and distinguish the functions of advisory boards and councils, clarify the compositions, rights and obligations of the member parties thereto; - establish open and transparent procedures for formation and activities of councils, set criteria for representativeness and professional qualification of civil society organisations; 	2017-2018 Amendments and supplements have been made to standard operations procedure of boards/councils of the ministries of the Republic of Armenia, approved upon Protocol Decision No 47 adopted during the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 20 November 2008 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the functions of boards and councils have been specified and distinguished, the compositions, rights and obligations of the member parties thereto have been clarified; - open and transparent procedures for the formation and activities of councils have been established, criteria for representativeness and professional qualification of civil society organisations have been set; 	On 26 November 2015, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Protocol Decision "On making a supplement to Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 16 of 18 April 2002 and approving Standard Operations Procedure of the Public Council adjunct to the Minister of the Republic of Armenia", by which the functions of boards and councils have been specified and distinguished, the composition, rights and obligations of the member parties thereof have been clarified, open and transparent procedures for formation and activities of councils have been established, as well as criteria for representativeness and professional qualifications of civil society organisations have been set, introduction of an electronic reporting system on the official websites of the Government

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prescribe the introduction of an electronic reporting system on the official websites of the Government and ministries in order to make public proposals and official feedback thereon, as well as the annual report on the activities of participatory advisory bodies transparent and available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the introduction of an electronic reporting system on the official websites of the Government and ministries in order to make public proposals and official feedback thereon, as well as the annual report on the activities of participatory advisory bodies transparent and available has been prescribed. 	<p>and ministries has been prescribed in order to make public proposals and official feedback thereon, as well as the annual report on the activities of participatory advisory bodies transparent and available.</p> <p>At the same time, taking into consideration the fact that the standard form of the statute of a public administration body had been prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 624-L of 22 May 2018, a need emerged to make an amendment to this Decision as well. In the context of the aforementioned, by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1552-L of 27 December 2018, an amendment was made to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 624-L of 22 May 2018.</p>
44.	Establishing a general on-line platform for publishing draft regulatory legal acts developed by public administration bodies	<p>2018</p> <p>Draft regulatory legal acts developed by government agencies are published on the established platform</p>	<p>By Decision No 1134-N of 2 September 2016, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 296-N of 25 March 2010 "On approving the procedure for organising and holding public discussions" " was approved, serving as a ground for the general unified on-line platform for publication of draft regulatory legal acts developed by government bodies (e-draft). The purpose of the platform is to inform the public about the regulatory legal acts developed by government agencies (including based on the principle of subscription). Civil society has an opportunity to submit</p>

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			<p>recommendations on the drafts, as well as to be informed about their status (whether it has been adopted or not, how it has been edited, substantiations for failure to adopt).</p> <p>At the same time, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 10 October 2018 "On establishing the procedure for organising and holding public discussions and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 296-N of 25 March 2010" was adopted in the context of adoption of the Law "On regulatory legal acts".</p> <p>Currently, e-draft.am is running on a regular basis, and during 2018, an average of 140000 people visited the website.</p> <p>The draft regulatory legal acts developed by government agencies are published on e-draft.am.</p>
48	Developing and implementing an action plan aimed at putting the mechanisms ensuring effectiveness of investigation of corruption-related offences into action	<p>2018</p> <p>The action plan aimed at putting the mechanisms ensuring effectiveness of investigation of corruption-related offences into action is approved.</p>	<p>In 2018, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia actively co-operated with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). As a result of the co-operation, a joint programme was developed and discussed with donors and will be launched in January 2019; within the scope of the joint programme, the OSCE will support the launch of mechanisms ensuring effectiveness of investigation of corruption-related offences, including the process of establishing a specialised anti-corruption law-enforcement authority.</p>

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			<p>At the same time, the support of the OSCE will be targeted at capacity-building for the law-enforcement sector of the authority and creating appropriate pre-conditions for the implementation of functions.</p> <p>At the same time, currently, steps are being taken to create and launch a unified electronic system for authorities involved in the justice sector (courts, prosecution and investigative bodies, police, etc.).</p>
51.	Establishing, by law, guarantees for legal protection of persons submitting reports on corruption crimes	<p>2018</p> <p>The legal acts establishing guarantees for legal protection of persons reporting corruption crimes are adopted</p>	<p>International practice with regard to legal protection of persons submitting reports on corruption crimes, i.e. whistle-blowers, has been studied by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. Based on the results of studies, standard principles of Transparency International non-governmental organisation for the protection of whistle-blowers, as well as the model law, the package of draft laws on making relevant amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the system of whistle-blowing" and related laws was developed and adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 9 June 2017.</p> <p>At the same time, secondary legal acts arising from the Law have been developed and adopted for the purpose of ensuring effective enforcement of the Law.</p> <p>Thus, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 272-N "On establishing the standard form for the record-keeping and formulation of</p>

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			<p>reports in case of internal and external whistle-blowing, as well as the procedure for implementation of the means of protection provided to a whistle-blower" was adopted on 15 March 2018. Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 439-N "On approving the technical specifications and maintenance procedure for the unified electronic platform of whistle-blowing" was adopted on 12 April 2018.</p> <p>Entities responsible for whistle-blowing have been appointed within all state bodies.</p>
52.	Undertaking efficient measures for enhancing and strengthening public confidence in bodies fighting against corruption	<p>2018</p> <p>Improving the systems of maintenance of statistics on corruption-related offences and submission of reports on corruption-related offences.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia developed and put into circulation, and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 9 June 2017 the Law "On making supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Prosecutor's Office" ", pursuant to which the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia shall publish, until 1 April of each year a communication on the investigation of crimes, on the website of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Armenia. According to the investigative jurisdiction, the communication must contain information on the results of the investigation of crimes committed during the previous year, statistical data, comparative analyses and conclusions. Information, statistical data, comparative analyses and conclusions on the results of investigation of corruption-related crimes shall be submitted separately. Moreover, for the purpose of drawing up</p>

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			<p>the communication, preliminary investigation bodies shall, in accordance with investigative jurisdiction, prior to 1 February of each year, submit information and statistical data on the results of investigation of crimes committed during the previous year to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Armenia. The methodical guide for submitting information on the results of the investigation of corruption-related crimes and statistical data shall be approved by the Prosecutor General.</p> <p>It is noteworthy that the specified provisions have also been included in the new Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Prosecutor's Office".</p> <p>At the same time, the volume of data submitted together with statistics is continuously expanded based on the recommendations submitted by the Anti-Corruption Network of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.</p>
54.	Conducting a study on the institutional system for the fight against corruption	<p>2017-2018</p> <p>Studies have been conducted on the existing institutional system for the fight against corruption; the international practice and the package recommended for establishing an independent anti-corruption body have been studied.</p>	<p>An anti-corruption preventive system has been introduced by Law No HO-96-N of 9 June 2017 "On Commission for the Prevention of Corruption". Under point 4 of part 1 of Article 23 of the Law, a function of participating in the development of the policy related to the fight against corruption has been vested in the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. Powers of the Commission for effective fulfilment of the functions thereof, particularly submission of recommendations on</p>

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			<p>instituting and conducting proceedings with regard to issues related to the competence thereof, imposing sanctions for violations concerning declaration, subjecting a competent person or body to liability etc. have been prescribed. A competence of reviewing, based on the application of the public servant, the opinion of the ethics commission of the relevant body has been vested in the Commission.</p>

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Action		Expected outcome	Course of implementation
26.	Appointing entities (person/subdivision) responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies and enshrining the functions thereof in the relevant documents	The activities for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies are co-ordinated by the responsible entities.	Tamara Torosyan, Head of the Department of Youth Policy of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") has been appointed the official responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes, and the Department of Youth Policy has been appointed as the responsible subdivision. Relevant amendments and supplements have been made to the job descriptions for civil service positions of the Department as prescribed by law.
27.	Appointing an official for co-ordination of the implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies (at least at the level of the chief of staff or deputy head of the body)	Implementation of the anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies is co-ordinated by officials.	Kristine Asatryan, Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia has been appointed the official co-ordinating the implementation of anti-corruption programmes.
40.	Introducing separate e-democracy tools	Separate e-democracy tools are introduced; electronic opinion polls and electronic votings are held, collection of new recommendations and other methods are used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Youth Awards-2018" programme has been implemented, pursuant to the regulation of the "Youth Awards" approved by Order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No 229-A/1 of 13 December 2016. <p>The winners were selected in the following stages:</p> <p>(1) 1st stage: pan-national nomination and voting. People nominated their favourite candidates in the specified categories on the relevant website.</p> <p>(2) 2nd stage: The Ministry summed up the results, and the three candidates with the largest</p>

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		<p>number of votes were presented during the evening of the awards ceremony.</p> <p>(3) 3rd stage: during the evening, the names and photos of the three candidates were displayed on a big screen, and the audience (well-known field experts, state officials, guests, nominees) selected the winner through live voting on the spot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Top 10 Athletes of the Year" of the Republic of Armenia competition was held, pursuant to the regulation for organising and holding "Top 10 Athletes of the Year" of the Republic of Armenia competition approved by Order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No 143-A/1 of 17 July 2017. The winners of the competition were determined through combination of the results of the SMS voting and the voting of sports journalists accredited by the Ministry, as well as of chief coaches registered by the Ministry for voting. <p>"Youth Capital of the Republic of Armenia in 2019" competition was held, pursuant to the regulation for "Youth Capital of the Year of the Republic of Armenia" competition approved by Order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No 121-A/1 of 23 May 2013. The winning city of the competition was determined through SMS voting and expert assessment of the applications submitted for the competition.</p>

Department of State Property Management adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia

Action		Expected outcome	Course of implementation
12.	Providing the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials with adequate resources	A separate area has been provided to the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials. The Commission has a staff, separate budgetary funding.	Pursuant to sub-point 2 of point 1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 314-A of 22 March 2018 (attached), the area with a surface area of 1112.1 square metres – from the 3rd building attached to the Committee of State Property Management and located at 15-17-19 Koryun Street of the city of Yerevan serving as state property – has been attached to the "Staff of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials" state governmental institution.

General Department of Civil Aviation adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia

Action		Expected outcome	Course of implementation
26.	Appointing entities (person/subdivision) responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies and enshrining the functions thereof in the relevant documents	The activities for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies are co-ordinated by the responsible entities.	By Order of the Head of the General Department of Civil Aviation adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 24 November 2015 "On appointing an official and subdivision responsible for implementation of the 2015-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia", the General Secretary of the Committee has been appointed the responsible entity within the Committee, and the Legal Department of the Committee has been appointed as the responsible subdivision.
27.	Appointing an official for co-ordination of the implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies (at least at the level of the chief of staff or deputy head of the body)	Implementation of the anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies is co-ordinated by officials.	

Action		Course of implementation
4.	Comprehensive study of corruption risks in the healthcare sector	A comprehensive study on corruption risks has been conducted aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability, as well as identifying and reducing corruption risks in the healthcare sector. An action plan for corruption risks detected in the healthcare sector and for neutralisation/reduction of those risks has been developed based on the study and has been approved by Decision No 133-N of 18 January 2018.
6.	Establishing principles of ethics and rules of conduct by the necessary sector-specific laws on public service in accordance with the fundamental principles of the rules of ethics applied for public servants or officials of the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.	<p>The draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On medical aid and services to the population" " envisages establishing, by law, the rights and duties of medical workers, patients and those carrying out activities in the healthcare sector, as well as the rules of medical ethics. Moreover, they will be established based on the best international practice in the regulation of these relations and internationally accepted provisions. The mandatory requirement for implementing the rules of medical ethics will be defined, and the penalties, fines or sanctions – to be applied in case of failure to implement the rules or ignoring the rules or improper implementation of the rules – will be defined by related laws.</p> <p>The Law will also define the requirement for the creation of an independent commission on medical ethics, prescribing the composition of the commission, the number of members and standards for selection, as well as the powers and responsibility of the commission.</p> <p>The draft Law of the Republic of Armenia " On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On medical aid and services to the population" " is currently in circulation.</p>
22.	Encouraging state bodies to issue licences by electronic means, considering the possibility of issuing licences by electronic means.	<p>Applications to obtain licences issued by the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia may be submitted electronically, the necessary links whereon are available on the official website of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia. The official website of the Ministry features a special register (licensing) for making the process of submission of applications as easy as possible for applicants.</p> <p>Relevant amendments have been made to the legislation within the scope of implementation of this point. In particular, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 94-N of 2 February 2017 "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 867 of 29 June</p>

		2002" entered into force on 16 February 2017; the Decision regulates a number of issues, including extra circulation of documents submitted by legal persons by exclusively reducing them, application forms for licensing have been approved according to licensing processes as a result of which the system of issuance of a licence and organisation of the process of licensing by electronic means have been clarified, as well as a more modern and simpler system for issuance of a licence has been introduced in the licensing process.
24.	Revising the standards for issuance of licences; simplification of additional requirements to the extent possible in all sectors.	<p>In the current year, the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia has developed draft legal acts specifying and regulating the mandatory conditions and requirements for licensing in the healthcare sector. In particular, the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1936-N of 5 October 2002" has been submitted to the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia by Letter of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia No AT/14.1/12153-18 of 14 August 2018, has been adopted and will enter into force on 15 February 2019.</p> <p>The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 867 of 29 June 2002" has been submitted to the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia by Letter of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia No LA/14.1/15822-17 of 20 December 2017, has been adopted and will enter into force on 1 March 2019.</p> <p>The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1936-N of 5 October 2002" has been submitted to the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia by Letter of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia No AT/14.1/6560-18 of 11 May 2018, has been adopted and will enter into force on 10 April 2019.</p> <p>The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1422-N of 26 November 2015" was submitted to the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia by Letter of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia No LA/14.1/16016-17 of 22 December 2017, was adopted and entered into force on 2 November 2018.</p>
26.	Appointing entities (person/subdivision) responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies and enshrining the functions thereof in the relevant documents.	The official co-ordinating implementation of anti-corruption programmes and the subdivision responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes have co-ordinated the activities arising from the Action Plan for 2015-2018 for Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy within the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia and including the aforementioned activities.

27.	Appointing an official for co-ordination of the implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies (at least at the level of the chief of staff or deputy head of the body)	
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Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia

Action	Expected outcome	Course of implementation
<p>22. Encouraging state bodies to issue licences by electronic means, considering the possibility of issuing licences (at least licences issued through a simple procedure) by electronic means</p>	<p>Based on the results of studies, the licences (at least licences issued through a simple procedure) within state bodies are issued by electronic means</p>	<p>The applications for issuance of licences, certificates and qualification certificates – issued within the scope of competence of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia – may also be submitted by electronic means. The only exception is submission of applications for obtaining a permit for export of goods of dual significance, for transit of those goods through the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as for transfer of information and results of intellectual activity of dual significance, based on sector-specific peculiarities.</p> <p>At the same time, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On notification of carrying out activities" entered into force on 5 December 2015, pursuant to which, starting from 5 December 2015, the types of activity "Licensing of assaying and hallmarking of articles of precious metals" and "Import of vodka classified under code 2208 of the Goods Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity (GN FEA)" are deemed to be subject to notification instead of the types of activity subject to licensing in the past.</p> <p>In the context of the aforementioned, we would also like to inform that a unified electronic system for types of activity subject to notification has been developed, as a result of which economic operators have obtained the opportunity to submit notifications through the</p>

			<p>unified electronic system www.e-gov.am.</p> <p>On 27 October 2017, Law HO-169-N "On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On licensing" " and Law HO-170-N "On making supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On notification of carrying out activities" " – developed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia – were adopted, by which the requirement for a licence prescribed for the type of activity "trade, import, export and transportation of natural diamonds, whether processed or not, but not mounted or set, classified under codes 710210000, 710221000, 710231000 of the Goods Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity (GN FEA) has been replaced with the requirement for submitting a notification.</p> <p>On 24 October 2018, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making an amendment to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On licensing" " – developed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia – was adopted, which enshrines that an applicant may pay the state duty within 5 working days following the adoption of a decision on the issuance of a licence or the copy thereof by the licensing authority, extension of the validity of the licence, reformulation of the licence and engagement in the same activity subject to licensing in another place instead of 1 day prescribed previously.</p>
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24.	Revising the standards for issuance of licences in all sectors; simplification of additional requirements to the extent possible	One hundred per cent of the standards for issuance of licences is revised	
26.	Appointing entities (person/subdivision) responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within republican executive bodies and enshrining the functions thereof in the relevant documents	The activities for implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies are co-ordinated by the responsible entities.	<p>Order of the Minister of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia No 1637-A of 24 November 2015 has been adopted for the purpose of implementing the envisaged requirements; pursuant to the Order, a subdivision and relevant co-ordinator responsible for implementation of the anti-corruption programmes of the Staff of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia have been appointed.</p> <p>At the same time, Decision No 1119-A "On making amendments and supplements to Order of the Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia No 151-A of 17 December 2015" has been adopted, as a result of which functions arising from implementation of anti-corruption programmes have been enshrined in the job descriptions for the relevant civil service positions of the Staff of the Ministry of Economic</p>

			Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia.
27.	Appointing an official for co-ordination of implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies (at least at the level of the chief of staff or deputy head of the body)	Implementation of anti-corruption programmes within all republican executive bodies are co-ordinated by officials.	
41.	Co-operating with specialised civil society organisations for reducing corruption risks	Submitting recommendations and joint analyses conducted with the use of potential and knowledge of civil society in order to carry out effective monitoring for the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to the public and reducing corruption risks in the sector.	Representatives of the subdivision of the Staff of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes have participated in several anti-corruption events organised within the scope of the "Multifaceted Promotion of the Fight against Corruption" programme, including the anti-corruption workshop entitled "Corruption Risks in the Business Sector in Armenia: Concluding Workshop" during which they introduced relevant recommendations on corruption risks existing in the tax and customs sectors, the challenges for overcoming those risks and ensuring of opportunities for co-operation with civil society organisations in those sectors. At the same time, the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia has submitted to the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia its official position on the "Corruption Risks in the Business Sector in Armenia" report.

Ministry of Nature Protection

Action		Expected outcome	Course of implementation
22.	Encouraging the issuance of licences by state bodies by electronic means, considering the possibility of issuance of licences (at least licences issued through simple procedure) by electronic means	Based on the results of studies, the licences (at least licences issued through a simple procedure) within state bodies are issued by electronic means	<p>The drafts of the standards for maximum permissible emissions (MPE) of harmful substances polluting the atmosphere – submitted to the government agency by economic operators – are published in an operative manner in the e-atmosphere sub-section of the e-governance section on the official website of the Ministry of Nature Protection, and interested bodies and persons become familiar with and express opinions on those drafts.</p> <p>The package of documents required for drawing up the draft terms of reference for introduction of the system of electronic issuance of licences and permits in the sector of nature protection has been developed. Most of the licences issued by the Ministry of Nature Protection are (single-use) licences issued through a simple procedure. Pursuant to Decision No 1524-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 25 December 2014 and Decision No 90-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 5 February 2015, single-use licences for "Wild animals and certain wild plants, the transfer whereof through the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union is restricted in case of export", "Types of rare and endangered wild animals and plants included in the Red Books of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation and the parts and/or derivatives thereof, the transfer whereof through the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union is restricted in case of</p>

			<p>export", "Import and export of substances depleting ozone layer", "Import and export of toxic substances not deemed to be precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" and "Import and export of hazardous wastes" are issued through a simple procedure.</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1029-N of 27 September 2018 "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 121-N of 30 January 2003" has been adopted; the Decision has simplified the process of licensing the usage (collection, transportation, storage, processing, re-processing, utilisation, disposal, neutralisation, installation and disposal) of hazardous wastes and specified and distinguished the documents submitted for issuance of a licence, as well as enshrined the requirement for application of appendices attached to the licence.</p>
24.	Revising the standards for issuance of licences in all sectors; simplifying additional requirements to the extent possible	One hundred per cent of the standards for issuance of licences is revised	The draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and amendments to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia" was developed and adopted by the first reading during the sitting of the National Assembly of 23 October 2018, enshrining prohibited zones for the construction of new small hydroelectric stations and the grounds for rejecting applications for water use permits issued to small hydroelectric stations under construction. The list of rivers prohibited for construction and exploitation of small hydroelectric stations, as well as the sections of rivers with landslide areas will be established upon adoption of the draft.

			<p>Pursuant to Article 33 of the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia, the period of validity of a water use permit shall be extended based on the application for extension of the water use permit (under the same conditions and for the same time period) submitted by the water consumer to the Ministry of Nature Protection. Prior to expiry of the period of validity of the water use permit, the water consumer shall inform, by the relevant letter, the Ministry of Nature Protection on extension of the period of validity of the water use permit under the same conditions.</p> <p>The draft Decision of the Government "On prescribing the procedure for installing and using technical equipment for on-line tracking of the location of machinery drilling for the purpose of using sweet underground waters" was developed and submitted to the Staff of the Prime Minister. Upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Nature Protection, under the instruction of the Chairperson of the State Revenue Committee adjunct to the Government, it has been assigned with regard to application of the "Procedure for import and export of substances and goods depleting ozone layer into and out of the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union" – approved by Annex No 20 to Decision No 30 of the Council of the European Economic Commission of 21 April 2015 – not to request additional documents (including documents subject to issuance by state bodies) in order to clarify whether or not the substances and goods are included in lists A, B, C of section 1.1 of the unified list of goods subject to non-tariff regulation indicated in the Procedure, where, during import of the</p>
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			<p>goods included in list D of section 1.1 of the unified list of goods subject to non-tariff regulation, the chemical substances contained in those goods can be identified through documents accompanying the goods, or technical specifications of the goods, or the notes on the packaging of the goods, or the notes on the goods.</p> <p>Currently, the process of import by legal and natural persons of substances depleting the ozone layer, as well as goods containing those substances (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.) is regulated on the border by customs officers.</p>
41.	Co-operating with specialised civil society organisations for reducing corruption risks	Submitting recommendations and joint analyses conducted with the use of potential and knowledge of civil society in order to carry out effective monitoring for the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to the public and reducing corruption risks in the sector	<p>Civil society has been provided with the requested information and clarifications with regard to the nature protection sector, except for the cases provided for by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state and official secrets". In order to make the activities transparent and reduce corruption risks, information on the events and meetings held, as well as the important activities carried out at the Ministry of Nature Protection is posted on the official website of the Ministry of Nature Protection at www.mnp.am and, where necessary, on the official Facebook page of the Ministry and is provided to mass media.</p> <p>In order to help improve the quality of services provided to the public and reduce the corruption risks existing in the sector, the public council has convened 1 session during which pressing nature protection issues have been discussed.</p>

			<p>The draft laws of the Republic of Armenia and 6 decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia have been put for public consideration.</p> <p>980 press releases and statements of information have been prepared.</p> <p>The hot-line received 450 alerts. The Ministry has responded to 360 letters and inquiries from state, non-governmental and international organisations, mass media and citizens having addressed the Ministry.</p> <p>In 2018, the Ministry of Nature Protection received 17879 letters and sent 9063 letters. The Ministry has received 7278 letters on nature protection from citizens and legal persons, of which 4252 (65%) were received in hard copies and 1496 (35%) – in soft copies.</p>
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***Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and
Natural Resources***

For the purpose of ensuring publicity of the activities related to subsurface use, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and an amendment to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Subsurface" was developed and adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 21 March 2018, whereby an amendment was particularly made to Article 9 of the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Subsurface, prescribing information subject to publication. It is noteworthy that the package of draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia on making amendments and supplements to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Subsurface, the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offences, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of legal persons, state record-registration of separate subdivisions of legal persons, institutions and individual entrepreneurs", as well as the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service" – revealing the real owners of organisations extracting metallic ores in Armenia – has been developed and submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia

Pursuant to point 26 of the Plan, the Department of Territorial Administration of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia is the subdivision responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes.

Pursuant to point 27 of the Plan, the First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia has been appointed co-ordinator for implementation of anti-corruption programmes

Urban Development Committee

Within the scope of the Plan, the following activities were carried out in 2018:

- Within the scope of the actions included in point 304 of the "Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for 2018-2022" approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1030-N of 6 September 2018, activities are being carried out to simplify and clarify the process of construction, as well as expand the scopes of application of the www.e-permits.am electronic system for on-line issuance of permits in the urban development sector run by the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia. The activities in question are in progress.
- In June 2018, the chairperson of the Licensing Commission was changed, after which new rules of procedure for accepting documents from licensees was developed. In addition, licensees or their representatives no longer participate in the activities of the Commission. Contacts between state officials and citizens have been reduced to a minimum and as a result corruption risks have also been reduced.
- The Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia is currently developing the recommendation for a legislative regulation aimed at toughening the liability for unauthorised construction of premises and the legalisation of those premises (this is also important in terms of anti-corruption), additional information on the process will be provided.

Ministry of Emergency Situations

Pursuant to point 26 of the Plan, the Department for Legal Support and International Treaties of the Ministry of Emergency Situations is the subdivision responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes.

Pursuant to point 27 of the Plan, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations Ara Nazaryan is appointed co-ordinator for implementation of anti-corruption programmes at the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

Ministry of Culture

The activities for anti-corruption awareness-raising programmes in the cultural sector have been carried out in the following directions:

- ✓ *Building up a class of decent and faithful public servants (points 6, 7)*

The commission on ethics of public servants – established upon Order of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia No 549-A of 13 July 2012 – continued, where necessary, its activities for the purpose of establishing the circles implementing control and supervision in order to meet the requirements of the rules of conduct in the selected sectors of public service (ethics commissions or entities responsible for ethics) and setting the norms of their activities, ensuring proper activities and defining the obligation to submit reports to the body co-ordinating their activities and to the public.

- ✓ *Establishment of an effective public administration system (points 26, 27)*

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia has appointed officials co-ordinating the implementation of anti-corruption programmes and submitted the changes made to the job descriptions for positions in accordance with the functions arising from the implementation of anti-corruption programmes in order to co-ordinate those changes with the Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia.

- ✓ *Ensuring transparency of the activities of the Ministry*

Press conferences, briefings and interviews have been organised, informative and awareness-raising materials, photos, videos, orders, government decisions, statements, clarifications, reports etc. have been posted on the official website and the Facebook and Instagram pages of the Ministry for the purpose of ensuring public awareness and transparency of the programmes being implemented by the Ministry. Around 3000 pieces of information with regard to events taking place in Armenia and abroad and the activities of the Ministry have been introduced via the mass media (television, radio, electronic and print media and social networks).

A hot-line service was introduced in the second semester of 2016, and the contacts of those responsible for specific sectors, providing information via the hot-line were published on the website of the Ministry. Between 9 January and 25 December 2018, 262 phone calls were recorded. The replies to the phone calls were immediate and exhaustive. The report on the phone calls received via the hot-line is posted on the official website of the Ministry at the end of the working week.

✓ *Expanding co-operation with sector-specific non-governmental organisations*

The Ministry has ensured maximum level of involvement of non-governmental organisations and creative unions for the provision of services and formation of a competitive field during the implementation of cultural programmes.

In 2018 alone, 40% of funding envisaged by the "Implementation of Cultural Events" programme under the budget of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia was allocated to 175 programmes initiated by 112 non-governmental organisations.

At the same time, upon Order of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia No 765-A of 4 December 2018, the procedure for competition envisaged for cultural programmes under implementation by the order of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia (new system of competitions for grant programmes) was introduced, the procedure is aimed at ensuring a transparent and competitive system for the distribution of state funds. The system is aimed at both ensuring transparency of the sector and raising the level of accountability. The new system of competitions for grant programmes will contribute to the effectiveness of the cultural sector and the deepening of public-private partnership in the process of development of state policy.

✓ *Auditing in units subordinate to the Ministry*

Pursuant to the strategic and annual programmes for internal audit ratified upon the order of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, the units subordinate to the Ministry have undergone 12 audits planned under the approved annual plan, of which 3 were compliance audits, 4 – system evaluation audits and 5 – financial audits.

✓ *Meetings of the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Culture of the Republic of Armenia with citizens*

For the purpose of ensuring transparency of the programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Culture and showing an impartial attitude towards citizens, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, the Deputy Ministers and the heads (employees) of subdivisions have received 9468 citizens (in the period between 9 January and 25 December 2018).

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

According to points 26 and 27 of the Action Plan for 2015-2018 for Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia, the Analysis Division of the Department of Analysis and Monitoring has been appointed the responsible subdivision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the head of the division in question has been appointed the person responsible for anti-corruption.

State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre

Actions aimed at improving the quality of services provided by the State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Armenia:

1.1. An on-line, automatic system for provision of information has been introduced, according to which certain types of information provided by the cadastre system are provided on-line and automatically to citizens starting from 1 January 2018. The types of information continue to be expanded. In particular, starting from 2019, information on transactions registered in the cadastre system is also provided on-line and automatically.

1.2. The service offices of the Committee have set new working hours, according to which all service offices work without breaks. In the past, this working regime was only set at the service offices of the city of Yerevan.

1.3. Saturdays and Sundays have also been set as working days at the service offices of the Committee, located in the city of Yerevan (Saturday: 9:00-18:00, Sunday: 9:00-13:00).

1.4. Announcements with regard to cases of complaints about the quality of service, cases of request of cash – except for the state duties and service fees – by an employee of the service office for any reason, are posted in all service offices of the Committee, and in these cases, citizens have the opportunity to send messages to customer@cadastre.am and azdarar@cadastre.am, respectively.

1.5. A window for submitting only applications with measurement packages has been set aside at "Shengavit" Service Office of the Committee.

1.6. During 2018, the Committee carried out actions to specify the identification data of registered entities along with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia and all communities.

As a result, out of the 914 communities, around 680 presented the complete identification data with regard to 206000 natural persons and partial identification data with regard to around 380000 natural persons. The activities are currently in progress.

1.7. Upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1500-L of 12 November 2018, as a result of the merging of the territorial subdivision of Yerevan, the unified subdivision of the marzes (provinces) and the regional subdivision of Vayots Dzor Marz, which comprise the structural subdivisions of the Committee, the Unified Subdivision for Registration of Real Estate was created, which will contribute to the reduction of corruption risks by essentially restricting contacts between the person exercising the function and the citizen and the possibility of having an impact on the official.

1.8. In order to identify the current problems in the system of the Committee and reveal the quality of services provided to the population, the head of the Committee has paid regular visits to regional structures of the system, as well as received citizens. Relevant measures have been undertaken to ensure the ongoing relations and co-operation of the territorial structures of the system of the Committee and marzpets (governors) and heads of communities.

1.9. The "Geodesy and Mapping" SNCO of the system of the Committee has conducted training courses and courses aimed at raising the level of professional qualification for the specialists and employees of the system. Instructional and training courses have also been conducted for persons not working in the system,

and the participants of the courses have been included in the personnel reserve of the system, providing the Committee with the opportunity to have specialists in the system that are trained and knowledgeable in the provision of high-quality, modern and operational services to the citizens.

2. Actions carried out within the scope of public awareness programmes:

2.1. There is mandatory and operational coverage of the weekly consultations held by the head of the Committee (the tradition of holding consultations is a new one, the new head of the Committee laid the foundation for this tradition in late August 2018).

2.2. Operational coverage on social networks has become standard practice starting from mid-2018. Any information (with didactic materials) with regard to the innovations at offices of the Committee and improvement of services are immediately posted on the website and social media websites of the Committee.

2.3. The press conferences and interviews of the head of the Committee continued to be organised in 2018. There have been 158 publications in the media of the Republic (television, radio, on-line, print media) in the last 4 months alone.

2.4. A number of interviews have been agreed upon and held with other officials of the system.

2.5. The annual reports on the availability and distribution of the land fund of the Republic of Armenia, as well as on the availability and distribution of the land fund of irrigated lands (based on designated use, soil types, functional significance and entities of property) were posted (also on the basis of communities) for the first time in 2018 on the official website of the Committee.

2.6. For the purpose of making the activities of the State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") more open and transparent, the Committee launched its Facebook page in September 2018 (after 4 months, it had nearly 4,000 followers and almost 4,000 Likes).

2.7. Twitter and YouTube accounts of the Committee have been opened and are active.

Citizens, the press and employees of the system use the information regularly posted on the official website and the Facebook page of the Committee. The specialists of the Committee respond to the inquiries received via social networks.

2.8. Within the scope of re-branding of the image of the Committee, a contest for a new logo was announced, a new logo was created and disseminated on public platforms.

2.9. A contest for preparing 2 short video clips about the activities of the Committee was announced for the same purpose.

2.10. In September 2018, the Committee hired a professional photographer as a contract employee, whose photos spark more interest in the news about the daily activities of the Cadastre.

3. Training entities responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes;

3.1. Pursuant to the requirements of point 28 of the Action Plan for 2015-2018 for Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia, from 8 to 19 October 2018, Angela Hakobjanyan, the person responsible for implementation of the anti-corruption programmes of the Committee, participated in the training courses organised by the "Legal Education and Rehabilitation Programmes Implementation Centre" SNCO of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.