

## PRESS-ANNOUNCEMENT

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

***On October 26, 2015– the meeting in Yerevan brought together representatives of the international donors' organizations 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 are awarded to the Georgian lead partners and four partnerships led by the Armenian organizations got the EU funds for cross-border regional development.

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 KvemoKartli, 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 were aimed to increase awareness of the International Donors Community active in Armenia about Armenia – Georgia partnerships for territorial cooperation supported by the EU and assist grantees in finding co-financing from other sources.

The Armenian lead partners of awarded projects made a brief presentation about their projects to the representatives of UNDP, European Council and a number of other authoritative International Donors Organizations and technical assistance programmes operating in Armenia.

***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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