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Board Meeting “Innovation for Development in Armenia” Project

Friday, 20 December 2017, 16:00 – 17:40, Buro Work’n’Roll

Attendees:

Dmitry Mariyasin	:	UNDP, Resident Representative a.i.
Gregory Tsouris	:	EU Delegation to Armenia, Deputy Head of Cooperation Section
Line Urban	:	EU Delegation to Armenia, International Aid/Cooperation Officer
Suren Krmoyan	:	RA Ministry of Justice, Deputy Minister
Davit Sahakyan	:	RA Ministry of Education and Science, Deputy Minister
Lilia Afrikyan	:	OGP Focal Point, RA Government staff
Vahe Jilavyan	:	RA Government Staff, First Deputy Chief of Staff
Bella Markarian	:	USAID, Sustainable Development Office
Vasken L. Yacoubian	:	AGBU Armenia, President
Egle Rimkute	:	Development and Strategic Studies
Isabela Nikoghosyan	:	Yerevan Municipality, Technology Management Center CJSC
Alla Bakunts	:	UNDP, Democratic Governance Portfolio Analyst
Marina Mkhitarian	:	UNDP, Project Coordinator
Hasmik Soghomonyan	:	UNDP, Digital Communications Expert
Lilit Midoyan	:	UNDP, Community Mobilizer
Anzhela Movsisyan	:	UNDP, Research and Communications Expert
Max Perry-Wilson	:	UNDP, Research, Data and Development Policy Expert
Ani Zakaryan	:	UNDP, Project Assistant

Dmitry Mariyasin, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. and the Chair of the meeting (DM) welcomed the participants and presented the brief agenda and purpose of the project’s board meeting. Next, DM passed the floor to **Gregory Tsouris, Deputy Head of Cooperation Section, EUD (GT)** for opening remarks. GT highlighted the importance of the project arguing that it has created an important space for citizens to generate and implement innovative ideas. According to GT, the project has managed to have substantial achievements with relatively small financial contribution. Further, GT expressed the hope that some of the ideas generated in the course of the project will be taken up by the government and/or incorporated in EUD’s governance related projects/initiatives.

Next, **Marina Mkhitarian, UNDP Project Coordinator (MM)** presented the project “Innovation for Development in Armenia”, its three main pillars (citizen engagement, government engagement and conducive ecosystem building to maintain the dialogue between the interlocutors – citizen and government) and key results. The presentation included a chronology of the project, major outcomes, challenges and recommendations of the EU ROM report. Following the presentation, the floor was opened for questions, reflections and comments from the Board.

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Lilit Afrikyan, OGP Focal Point, Government staff (LA) thanked the project team and mentioned that there is a huge potential for future cooperation.

Wrapping up the meeting, **DM** made the following concluding observations:

Conclusion of the main points:

1. The issue of the project's impact measurement and sustainability should be taken cautiously;
2. The visibility of the project should always be ensured;
3. Possible avenues for collaboration with the Diaspora should be explored;
4. Kolba Lab's methodology should migrate to marzes to trigger innovation in the regional development.

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