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## AZNP LAUNCHES EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FINANCE CONTROL PROJECT

ESPFC Project aims to enhance effectiveness of monitoring public finance expenditures

Azerbaijan National Platform (AzNP) of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) launches Effective System of Public Finance Control (ESPFC) Project which aims to strengthen legal and institutional capacity of relevant state authorities such as National Assembly and the Chamber of Accounts in monitoring public finance expenditures as well as to increase awareness and role of civil society and public at large on the transparent management of expenditure control.

The action will focus on reviewing relevant documents and supporting dissemination of information aimed at contributing to enhance knowledge on the work undertaken at the level of the Chamber of Accounts and Parliament and on the progress expected and/or recommended as realistically achievable by these institutions in the medium-term period. The project entails to improve the legislation on the external audit of public finance, enable elimination of existing shortcomings and gaps as well as review and analyze relevant documentation and develop recommendations.

In doing so, the Project envisions specific activities such as creating special section about public finance monitoring on the web page of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Azerbaijan National Platform, holding forums dedicated to transparent management and effective scrutiny of public finances and budgetary expenditures on social networks, conducting interviews with journalists, talk shows on TV, articles in the newspapers, organizing round-tables and conferences, meetings and discussions with the leadership of the Chamber of Accounts and members of the National Assembly. Meantime, the project envisages developing a number of publications including a manual titled Budget Guide to address the needs of members of the National Assembly and their aides in evaluating budget analyses as well as budget-related references by the Chamber of Accounts.

The Project will study experience of advanced countries and adapt best practices to the country in the sphere of public finance policy and management during the twenty-month period of project implementation which will be carried out in mutual cooperation with relevant state authorities and will involve members of EaP CSF Azerbaijan National Platform, international organizations, analytical centers and universities, public unions and the media. In general, the project will serve to minimize risks of inefficient use of public finances, increase the culture of good governance, strengthen public-private partnership and raise awareness of budgetary process and its monitoring in Azerbaijan and its regions.

Financed by the European Commission, the ESPFC Project will be administered by Entrepreneurship Development Foundation in partnership with Economic Research Center, Center for Economic and Social Development, Public Association for Assistance to Free Economy and Partnership for Economic and Social Initiatives representing Azerbaijan National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.