



National Business Agenda (NBA)

National Business Agenda acts as an important tool for improving business environment and promoting investments. It gives an opportunity to assess the main obstacles of economic development and through public-private dialogue discuss the needed reform opportunities for eliminating those obstacles.

To foster the formation of National Business Agenda, BAN implemented a comprehensive survey in Yerevan and in the regions, trying to discover and assess the main barriers to business development in our country. The survey participants were asked to mention the most serious legislative, administrative, institutional barriers which hinder private sector development in Armenia, to define and highlight important and problematic areas of economic reform from the political and legal perspective, as well as identify interest-driven approaches of private sector. In general, the results of survey once again confirmed the interested attitude of business community towards reforms, and their willingness to assist the reform process – expecting to have a civilized and favorable business environment as a result.

According to survey results, entrepreneurs mention the following problems as main obstacles for business environment development: unfair competitive environment, corruption, tax system, imperfect state inspection system, inefficient SME policy, inaccessible financial resources, and low level of infrastructure development required for business.

The survey results were widely discussed during round-tables, which were organized by BAN in Kotayk, Vayots Dzor, Lori, Tavush and Shirak regions. The participants of round-tables were mainly representatives of small and medium businesses, who expressed their opinion on the survey and assessed the barriers and problems existing in business environment and specifically SME sector. The raised problems and suggestions will be summarized by BAN secretariat and will be reflected on National Business Agenda.

Business Advocacy Network organized a working discussion as well, to which Carmen Stanila – a consultant from Center for International Private Enterprise (partner organization of the network) participated in. Stanila presented the experience of other countries in forming National Business Agenda.

During the discussion members of the network summarized and set up those key priority areas problems in which will serve as basis for forming National Business Agenda. Those areas are tax system, SME development policy, inspection system. At the same time, relevant working groups were formed for working on the issues of each sector and on the recommendations for solving those issues.