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## **Cross regional workshop for Mediterranean region countries has taken place in Baku**

**11 March** – Transparency International Berlin based Secretariat and Transparency Azerbaijan has organized a training program in Baku from 3 to 7 March 2009 for Mediterranean region countries. During the training our colleagues from Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine learnt of operational practices of Advocacy Legal Advice Centers (ALAC) approach. Moreover, in order to participate at mobile workshops conducted by Transparency Azerbaijan within the framework of the National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption, guests made a trip to ALAC Guba center and took part at a workshop organized by the center for the staff of educational specialists of the secondary school #6 of Guba region. During the public outreach workshop ALAC staff gave information about corruption, its forms, reasons and causes, as well as ALAC project activity and services, and rendered free legal advice to complainants.

The ALAC project successfully implemented by Transparency Azerbaijan since March 2005 in close cooperation with the Government of Azerbaijan is being successfully implemented in the several Central and Eastern European countries - candidates to EU membership, where it plays an active role and accelerates the combat against corruption of the states and ensures citizens' participation in this process. For the information, similar workshops took place in Baku in January 2009 for Europe and Central Asia/Pacific region countries, and in January and February 2008 for Kazakhstan and Guatemala accordingly.

The goal of the ALAC project is "To provide citizens with the means to become actively involved in the fight against corruption in their societies." ALAC Project mandate is to assist and give advice to the citizens - victims and witnesses of corruption. The project activities focus on the administrative and legal complaining procedures, as well as monitoring of the mechanisms of corruption from the point of view of the cases raised by citizens. However, we do not represent clients in courts.

*Since April 1st, 2005 Azerbaijan chapter of the Transparency International, first among the CIS countries, is implementing a new project - ALAC (Advocacy and Legal Advice Center), with head office in Baku and a regional centers in Ganja, Lenkoran, Guba and Sheki cities. The Project is being implemented under the grant extended by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) office in Baku.*

*More information on Transparency Azerbaijan and ALAC project you can get directly from our website [www.transparency.az](http://www.transparency.az)*