

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-ARMENIA RELATIONS

#easternpartnership



Relations between the European Union and Armenia are based on the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), a modern, comprehensive and ambitious Agreement, which was signed on 24 November 2017 in the margins of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels and entered into provisional application on 1 June 2018. This Agreement provides a framework for Armenia and the EU to work together for the benefit of the citizens of Armenia in the areas of strengthening democracy and human rights, creating more jobs and business opportunities, fairer rules, more safety and security, cleaner environment as well as better education and opportunities for research.

The EU is the biggest provider of financial support and a key reform partner in Armenia. With annual allocations of €40 million in grants, its current substantial portfolio focuses on supporting the reform agenda of the new government, private sector development, education and development of focal regions. In addition, since 2014 more than €1 billion in the form of blended loans and grants has been invested in the energy, agriculture and transport sectors.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

- ✓ The EU supports **democratic governance reforms** in Armenia, the rule of law, anti-discrimination efforts, the promotion and protection of human rights, and fundamental freedoms, among others through a pioneering sector reform performance programme on human rights.
- ✓ The EU has provided €9.5 million in support to elections in Armenia. As the **largest single contributor**, the **EU supported the early parliamentary elections** of 9 December with a package of € 2.4 million, which covered technical equipment as well as civil participation and monitoring actions.
- ✓ The EU supports the Armenian government in its efforts **to fight corruption** with €14.8 million to assist with the implementation of the government's anticorruption strategy and the carrying out of customs and border management reforms, as well as civil society initiatives that promote anti-corruption reforms and support monitoring of the Government's anti-corruption efforts.
- ✓ Through a newly launched EU-Armenia strategic policy dialogue, the EU supports **reforms in the justice sector**, promotes the independence of the judiciary, and contributes to the improvement of infrastructure; 12 court buildings have been built or reconstructed with EU support.

STRONGER ECONOMY

- ✓ The EU accounts for around **28% of Armenia's total trade** and is **Armenia's biggest export market**, with metals and diamonds among the top exports to the EU.
- ✓ The EU provides Armenian companies with funding, training, and export support to new markets, including through the EU4Business initiative. Since 2009, **€500 million have been loaned to companies, 25,000 enterprises have been supported, and 2,500 new jobs have been created.**
- ✓ The EU supports the tourism industry in Dilijan, notably through the newly established **Tourist Information Centre**, renovation of 11 trails in Dilijan National Park, establishment of an **Arts and Crafts Centre and the permanent 'City Market' agro-pavilion**. This created 50 new jobs for local the population and supported 100 local SMEs.

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

- ✓ The EU is funding better **energy exchange and transit between Armenia and Georgia**, in part by linking Armenia to the regional power grid.
- ✓ Thanks to the European Union's Neighbourhood Investment Facility, the **Yerevan Metro** has been provided with modern carriages, safer metro operations were secured, and substantial energy savings made.
- ✓ **Border checkpoints** on the Armenian-Georgian border were rebuilt and provided with modern infrastructure and equipment, simplified procedures and modern border management system.
- ✓ Three **alternative roads** between Armenia and Georgia facilitate international trade and transit, 56,000 residents of adjacent communities and regions can benefit from **high-speed internet**, and 1,200 households can join a new **gas distribution network**. The EU initialled a comprehensive **EU-Armenia Air Transport Agreement**. Once in force, this will pave the way for a larger exchange of travellers, lower prices, and new business opportunities.

STRONGER SOCIETY

- ✓ The EU-Armenia Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force in 2014, making **visa applications for Armenians easier, quicker, and cheaper.**
- ✓ Under Erasmus+ (2014-2020), over **1,800 students and academic staff from Armenia** have studied or taught in Europe, and 885 Europeans went to Armenia. In addition, over **6,800 young people and youth workers** took part in short-term exchanges, mobility, training and volunteering projects.
- ✓ **258 Armenian schools and 1,235 teachers** have participated in the eTwinning Plus platform to increase cooperation through the use of online tools.
- ✓ Over the past 14 years, the European Union has actively supported Armenian colleges' educational reforms, renovation and upgrading. Over **4,500 students have benefited from the reforms** supported by the EU, and **17 colleges have been renovated**. The 'Organic Agriculture' training module has been introduced in 15 colleges.

IN FIGURES

The quality of drinking water for
1.1 million
people in Yerevan has improved with EU help.

17
vocational education colleges.

7,000
households receive support for energy efficiency renovation.

BOOSTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The EU's leading research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, became operational in Armenia in 2016. Armenian research institutes, universities, and individual researchers as well as businesses now have access to opportunities, from fundamental science to demonstration projects, on an equal footing with researchers from EU Member States. 18 innovative and research projects with participants from Armenia have already received Horizon2020 grants. The first project is being implemented in Armenia.

E-CHAMPIONS

The EU is the main promoter of e-governance in Armenia. To date, EU support includes the introduction of an electronic document-management system in Armenian government institutions; an e-system for submitting tax statements; an electronic civil status registry, a one-stop-shop vehicle registration system, an automated driver's licence issuing system, online "e-police", e-visa system, and an online business registry.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains an obstacle to stability and prosperity in the region. The EU, including through its Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, supports and complements the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to facilitate the peaceful settlement of the conflict. The EU also promotes confidence- and peace-building activities across the conflict divide, notably through the implementation of the programme "European Partnership for the peaceful settlement of the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh".