

ERASMUS+ FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN ARMENIA 2015-2019 FACTSHEET

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. In order to achieve its objectives within the international higher education dimension of the programme, Erasmus+ implements the following Key Actions (KA) and other activities:

- **LEARNING MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS (KA1) – INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY AND ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREES**

Through bilateral cooperation **International Credit Mobility (ICM)** provides scholarships for STUDENTS as well as grants for STAFF of Armenian higher education institutions to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in a European country.

Overall **626 ICM applications** with Armenian HEIs were submitted in 2015 (83), 2016 (99), 2017 (125), 2018 (145) and 2019 (174), out of which **506 were selected for funding**, thus reaching a **success rate of 81%**. The majority of these projects are with **Polish, Spanish and Italian universities**, totaling up to 34, 20 and 19 projects, respectively. Other projects include Bulgaria, Spain, Germany, Greece, France, Portugal, Belgium, Estonia, Hungary, Romania, Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, UK, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The total number of mobilities to and from Armenia has undergone the following transformations escalating from **367** mobilities in 2015, **646** in 2016, **888** in 2017 and slightly dropping down to **849** in 2018. However, in 2019 the number has regained its high position reaching up to **999** mobilities. In total, **Armenia will profit from 3749 incoming and outgoing mobilities of students and staff for the period 2015-2019.**

A definite increase has been registered in the ratio between student and staff mobility. If in 2015 only 162 academic and administrative staff could profit from Erasmus+ exchange (incoming and outgoing) **in 2019 it reached the peak of 597.**

The total number of **incoming mobilities (both learners and staff) from Programme countries to Armenia is 1258.**

With **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs)** Armenian applicants can receive a multiple or joint degree awarding full scholarship for a Master-level international study programme. EMJMD scholarships have been offered to applicants from Armenia since 2004. From 2004 to 2019, **130 Armenians have been awarded full scholarships for Joint Master's programmes** and this number is growing each year. **In July 2019, 15 applicants were awarded full scholarships** to start their academic joint Master's programmes in Italy, UK, Czech Republic, France and Belgium. These students will be studying in the following EMJMDs: Big Data Management and Analytics; Children's Literature, Media and Culture; Dynamics of Cultural Landscape, Heritage, Memory and conflictualities; International Development Studies; European Master in Lexicography; European Master in Health Economics and Management; European Politics and Society: Vaclav Havel Joint Master Programme; Global Markets, Local Creativities; South European Studies; Technology for Translating and Interpreting.

• COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES (KA2) – CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Capacity Building Higher Education (CBHE) projects promote cooperation and partnership between **Programme and Partner Country** universities with an aim to modernize outdated curricula, reform the governance and management of HEIs and strengthen the relations between higher education and the wider economic and social environment. Programme Countries, which can fully take part in all the Actions of the Erasmus+, are 28 Member States of the EU and 6 non EU countries (North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia and Turkey). Partner Countries can take part in certain Actions of the Programme, subject to specific criteria or conditions. Armenia is a Partner Country.

The first CBHE projects that involved HEIs from Armenia have been selected in 2015. **As of 2019, Armenia has partnered 23 CBHE Projects, 7 of which have been coordinated by Armenian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).** In total **22 Armenian HEIs and 14 other organisations** have been involved in Erasmus+ CBHE projects. Cooperation has been established with partners from **23 Programme Countries**.

According to the priorities set by the European Commission and the local authorities, the activities of Erasmus+ CBHE projects have been developed in the following areas:

1. Curriculum Development – 8 projects (Spheres: Environmental Protection, Energy Efficient Buildings; Microelectronic Engineering; Tourism Management and Geo-information Technologies (GIT); Migration Studies; Finance; Agrarian Studies; Public Health and Social Science; Research and Development).

2. Modernisation of Governance and Management of HEIs and Systems – 7 projects (Internationalization; Library Support Services; Social Dimension (SD) Strategies; Quality Assurance; Innovative ICT-based Infrastructure; Teaching and Learning Methodologies; Research and Innovative Capacities).

3. Strengthening of relations between higher education and the wider economic and social environment – 8 projects (Innovation Competences and Entrepreneurial Skills in Engineering Education; Entrepreneurship of Students; Network of Excellence in Bio-Products Science and Technology; Academia Business Collaboration in Research and Development; Employability of Doctoral Graduates; Reform of Doctoral Education; Work Based Learning).

• HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM EXPERTS (HERES) (KA3)

The **network of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs)** was established in 2007, in the beginning of the Tempus IV programme, in order to provide support to the modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries of Western Balkan, Central Asia, Russian Federation, Eastern Partnership and South Mediterranean regions. The initiative proved to be successful and was therefore continued under the Erasmus+ programme.

In order to enhance the expertise of the network, regular training and support activities for the HEREs have been provided on a yearly basis by the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency with the support of a service provider the "SPHERE team" (consortium of the University of Barcelona and the European University Association). The HERE network consists of approximately **250 members** nominated jointly by their national authorities and the National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs), with the endorsement of the local EU Delegations.

HERE-Armenia team comprises 11 experts – six women and five men, who represent different **universities** as well as the **Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport** and the **National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation**. Their professional profiles cover diverse academic fields in humanities, social and information sciences. Regarding the distribution of functional duties within the team, each expert, based on his/her practical experience in the reform processes, leads several specific activities, aimed at addressing the issues of the national reform agenda. The expertise covers both traditional Bologna lines - **mobility, internationalisation, three-cycle system, ECTS and recognition, qualification framework, quality assurance, lifelong learning, knowledge-triangle, student-centred learning, university governance** - and also issues related to supporting the academic community and responsible bodies in finding solutions to the challenges arising during the implementation. The framework of the HERE activities is outlined in their annual **Activity Reports** available at:

<https://erasmusplus.am/here-publications/#1512648738103-d7dbdf1a-26fb>

• JEAN MONNET ACTIVITIES

Jean Monnet Activities aim at promoting excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union or European Integration Studies worldwide.

Within the Calls 2016 and 2019, four **Jean Monnet Modules** were selected for funding in Armenia:

1. “Migration policy challenges in the EU and the South Caucasus” – Center for European Studies, Yerevan State University (YSU) (2016-2019),
2. “European Integration and EU Values: Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law” – Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences (YSULS) (2016-2019),
3. “Laboratory of Approximation of Armenian Legislation to the EU Acquis” – Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences (YSULSS) (2019-2022),
4. “EU Politics, Policies and Polity” – Armenian State University of Economics (ASUE) (2019-2022).

Since September 2015, the Centre for European Studies of YSU has been involved in the **Jean Monnet Network** “Developing European Studies in the Caucasus” (DESCNet project). DESCnet is designed to enhance the level of European Studies in the Caucasus. Its main goal is to create a scholarly association, namely “Association of European Studies for the Caucasus”, AESC.

National Erasmus+ Office in Armenia contributes to the awareness raising, visibility, relevance, effectiveness and impact of the **international higher education dimension of the Erasmus+ programme** and its dissemination in Armenia. For more detailed information on the Programme results in Armenia visit www.erasmusplus.am



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