



Armenia *Armenia-Turkey Cross-Border Dialogue and Cooperation*

Program Goal - to improve dialogue and cooperation between representatives of Armenia's and Turkey's non-government and private sectors by strengthening the capacities of local actors to develop and maintain cross-border partnerships, and by supporting initiatives that establish cross-border links.

Relations between Armenia and Turkey are burdened by a long history of conflict. Armenian-Turkish relations deteriorated further in 1988, at the start of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. As a result of the fighting, Turkey imposed a blockade on all overland trade and transportation with Armenia, thereby cutting off the country's main trade routes with Europe.

In other regions of the world, cross-border partnerships established between non-government organizations through Track Two Diplomacy (T2D) have proven to be an effective tool for conflict resolution, contributing to the acceleration of official, Track One Diplomacy initiatives. In Armenia and Turkey, some civil society groups, businesspeople, local government and journalists have established cross-border contacts and in some cases have jointly implemented programs; however, these initiatives have been few and generally ad hoc in nature.

The Armenia-Turkey Cross-Border Dialogue and Cooperation Program, launched in 2006 by Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), will contribute to the normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey by strengthening the capacities of non-government, local government and business sectors to develop and maintain cross-border partnerships. The program will also support initiatives designed to inform key stakeholders of the potential benefits of T2D initiatives, inform the general public of the potential impact of a border opening, and support initiatives for the establishment of cross-border links. By supporting cross-border initiatives between Armenian and Turkish citizens, the process of the normalization of relations between Armenia and its neighbors may be accelerated.

Increased Understanding of Armenia-Turkey Relations

In 2006, Eurasia Partnership Foundation supported several research initiatives with the goal of increasing understanding among government representatives, civil society and the general public on Armenian-Turkish relations. The *International Center for Human Development (ICHHD)* in Yerevan carried out an assessment of best practices in Armenian-Turkish Track Two Diplomacy Projects. EPF also provided support to the *Armenian International Policy Research Group (AIPRG)* to conduct two research projects examining the distributional consequences of a border opening on the Armenian and Turkish economies and the capacities of local government authorities to respond to a border opening.

The results of these studies were presented at an international conference in Yerevan in early 2007 and at round table discussions on Track Two Diplomacy in Armenia's regions, Yerevan, Ankara and Istanbul. Each round table discussion was used to disseminate the results of the research on Armenia-Turkey relations to a broader audience; to identify possible areas of cross-border cooperation between civil society, media organizations and local government; and to shape EPF's program approach in this area.

Support for Cross-Border Initiatives

In September 2007, Eurasia Partnership Foundation provided support to seven civil society organizations and media associations to establish partnerships with Turkish counterparts and to jointly implement cross-border activities. These partnership projects support cultural and youth exchange programs as well as cross-border media projects.

Armenian-Turkish Youth Club

Armenian partner: Youth Academy Non-Governmental Organization
Turkish partner(s): Kutahya Youth Association and Young Guru Academy

In order to promote improved dialogue and cooperation between Armenian and Turkish youth, Eurasia Partnership Foundation is supporting the establishment of a virtual Armenian-Turkish Youth Club. The project will establish a number of jointly managed web resources including on-line forums featuring the latest regional news, as well as a quarterly on-line magazine "Club Zone." The partners will also organize a series of joint seminars and round table discussions for youth and will initiate the establishment of a bi-lateral team of young off-shore software developers and chip designers.

Eurasia Foundation (EF) is a privately managed non-profit organization supported by the United States Agency for International Development and other public and private donors. Since 1992, Eurasia Foundation has invested over \$370 million through more than 8,400 grants and technical assistance projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The Foundation's headquarters office is located in Washington, D.C. Since 1993, the Foundation has invested more than \$30 million in grants and technical assistance in Armenia.

Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) is the locally-registered, legacy institution of Eurasia Foundation in Armenia.

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Equip. Enable. Empower.

Musical Bridge across the Armenia-Turkey Border

Armenian partner: Komitas State Quartet

Turkish partner(s): ORION Production, TDI Management, and the Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council (TABDC)

In order to promote improved dialogue and cooperation between Armenia and Turkey, Eurasia Partnership Foundation is supporting a cycle of exchange concerts by the Komitas State Quartet in Armenia and the Bosphorus Quartet in Turkey, as well as an exchange visit by Armenian and Turkish artists.

Photo Bridge across the Border

Armenian partner: Patker Limited Liability Company

Turkish partner(s): Nar Photo Agency

Eurasia Partnership Foundation is supporting the establishment of a visual art bridge of tolerance and collaboration between photographers along the border communities of Armenia and Turkey. The grantee and its partner in Turkey will arrange for a cycle of cross-border exchange trips by Turkish and Armenian photographers and will publish and distribute the photographic material produced in both print and electronic modes.

Armenia-Turkey Cross-Border Dialogue in Light of the European Integration

Armenian partner: Urban Sustainable Development Foundation

Turkish partner(s): Istanbul Policy Center at the Sabanci University

Eurasia Partnership Foundation is supporting a short-term, intellectually rigorous cross-border platform for youth activists from Armenia and Turkey in order to discuss issues of mutual concern. The project partners will conduct an informal survey of popular opinion in Armenia and Turkey on the European integration process and the prospects for improved Armenia-Turkey dialogue and cooperation. This process will be followed by a round table discussion between Armenian and Turkish youth, and a TV talk show on the subject hosting two political scientists from the countries.

My Beloved Brother

Armenian partner: Azg Oratert

Turkish partner(s): Mr. Osman Koker (Turkish scholar and publisher)

Azg will translate, publish, and distribute in Armenia a recently issued album of century-old postcards depicting different aspects of the life of the Armenian community during the Ottoman Empire. A series of public events will be organized in Armenia to publicize the album and the project.

Armenian-Turkish Team Reporting

Armenian partner: Yerevan Press Club

Turkish partner(s): ARI Movement

Eurasia Partnership Foundation is supporting the production of a series of analytical reports to be used by media professionals in both countries while reporting on bi-lateral Armenia-Turkey relations. The partners will also provide training for a group of eight Armenian and Turkish journalists in Istanbul and the production of a series of impartial bi-lateral investigative reports. The analytical material and the results from the investigative reports will be discussed at a two-day conference in Yerevan.

Building Linkages between Analytical Communities of Armenia and Turkey

Armenian partner: Analytical Center in Globalization and Regional Cooperation

Turkish partner(s): Mr. Suat Kiniklioglu, Director of the Ankara Office of the US German Marshall Fund; and Ms. Diba Nigar Goksel, Editor of the Turkish Policy Quarterly

Eurasia Partnership Foundation is supporting cross-border dialogue on issues of mutual concern including European integration and global challenges and threats. The grantee and its partners in Turkey will conduct a survey among the political and civil society elites of both countries on these issues. The results of the survey will be discussed at two consecutive conferences in Yerevan. A series of articles in Armenian newspapers, as well as two issues of the Turkish Policy Quarterly will feature articles on the research findings and the proceedings of the two conferences.

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