

EURASIA

PARTNERSHIP

FOUNDATION

Culture, Literature & Art

EPF's long-term involvement in the culture and art sector has been directed towards articulation of the compelling issues in the Armenian society via arts and culture and creating links between various stakeholders. The engagement varies from providing capacity building for the culture and art NGOs and institutions to the direct involvement in fieldwork, e.g. architectural assessments of ancient Armenian cultural sites in Turkey, as well as supporting the build-up of connections and cooperation in the field of literature, film production and music. In November 2017, EPF conducted a training for the CSO leaders in the field of culture and art for the improvement of sustainable management, development of cultural experiences, branding and fundraising skills through the use of new business models. During the training, experts shared theoretical and practical approaches to the management of cultural institutions, introduced social entrepreneurship approaches in content creation, fundraising and business, as well as in software management and in creative and cultural spheres.

Starting from 2016, EPF has developed a special type of targeted broadcast, called 'Jam Session'<sup>1</sup>, which contains video-recorded and transcribed lectures, presentations and training sessions that are being disseminated through Internet and delivered in a targeted way to EPF's beneficiary community in English and Armenian (currently around 2,300 individuals). These broadcasts discuss the issues related to peace-building, cross-border cooperation, critical thinking, human rights, as well as the contemporary issues of art and literature. The session 'Art, Culture, Civilization, Value. Formulation of the problems' (in Armenian) is available here<sup>2</sup>. EPF also puts a great emphasis on discussing the issues which touch upon the recent history of Armenia and post-Soviet space, such as the broadcast/video

<sup>1</sup> Jam Sessions in Armenian: <http://am.epfarmeria.am/am/thought-leadership/videos/jam-session-video-series/>

<sup>2</sup> Art, culture, civilization, value. Formulation of the problems (in Armenian): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT1qW0splA8>

lecture<sup>3</sup> on the repressions of the writers, literary actors and intellectuals during the entire existence of the Soviet Union, in the context of some parallels with the post-Soviet Armenian reality.

EPF provides continuous support to the creation and development of art and culture related platforms which encourage information exchange and critical dialogue among culturally and socially active communities. In 2011, EPF, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), supported the creation of an interactive cultural platform [www.arteria.am](http://www.arteria.am) contributing to the development of critical thinking and critical writing in Armenia through encouraging constructive public discussion on issues of cultural and social importance, which features significant cultural events and developments in Armenia. The platform survives independently and is active since 2011. Currently, EPF implements another project with [www.arteria.am](http://www.arteria.am) via its CSO DePo program funded by USAID.

EPF addressed literature, film production, architecture and music also within the scope of its Armenia-Turkey Dialogue and Human Rights Programs.

The text below presents the highlights of EPF's work in the field of arts and culture, focusing on some of the major projects supported and conducted by EPF over the last ten years. The full list of such projects is much larger.

## LITERATURE

### **START! Youth Book Gathering (2018)**

The Armenian Book Center (ABC) with a mission to promote contemporary arts, culture and literature, is a platform for showcasing authors, references, translations of contemporary literature, etc. Within CSO DePo project, ABC will tackle the problem of lack of professional services for young writers, via introducing affordable mechanisms for advertising and disseminating contemporary writers' works. The organization will set-up a package of services: promotion, professional consulting, editorial and editing works, formatting and writing support, review, publication in small quantities. As part of this project, ABC will start also a discussion club called "6:40" as a socializing event for contemporary writers and critiques, who will come together to discuss various works, get to know each other, build linkages with professionals and available services.

### **"HAH" Workshop for Literary Translators (2017)**

As part of its Armenia-Turkey dialogue work, HCA Armenia brought together 10 translators of Turkish language and organized a literature workshop in Armenia to co-translate contemporary writer Birgul Oguz's novel "HAH" from Turkish into Armenian<sup>4</sup>. Recognized instructors and distinguished professionals in literary translation and the author of the book herself took part in the workshop. The workshop primarily focused on developing the skills of literary translators. The book was published in Armenia by Antares publishing house, and is currently available in book stores. EPF also produced a

<sup>3</sup> Negative Selection and Culture. Lessons from 21 Century (in Armenian): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=114\\_1Lxz\\_yE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=114_1Lxz_yE)

<sup>4</sup> Watch the one-week workshop in Armenia and the impressions from the authors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRfy4e5jJo4>

talk show<sup>5</sup> with the main instructor Aron Aji, the Director of Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Literary Translation Program at the University of Iowa (USA) and the president of the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA). The talk is about literary translation, creativity of translation and its peculiarities, as well as Armenia-Turkey joint literary translation initiatives. The project was funded by the European Union.

### **Negotiation of Differences in the Shared Urban Space (2017)**

This project resulted in a book which is a collection of essays that encompass various insights on the Armenians' and Turks' experiences of sharing common urban space, negotiating differences, striving to attain or seize space for representation of belonging, identity, history, power, etc. The essays discuss the negotiation of the differences in the shared urban space from the perspectives of urban planning, literature, musicology and travel experiences. The book was published in Armenia and is currently available in libraries.

### **Manifestations of Tolerance and Intolerance in Armenian Literature (2017)**

This is a collection of essays<sup>6</sup> and studies, conducted with support of the Netherlands, aimed at examining the roots of tolerance and intolerance and their manifestations in the Armenian literature. The book analyzes Armenian medieval epic sagas, the classic prose of the 19th and 20th centuries along with the literature of the Diaspora, the prose of post-Soviet Armenia, as well as today's history and literature school textbooks. The book essentially provides a guided tour through the whole body of the Armenian literature; this, in turn, provides a particular pleasure to the reader and presents a condensed

<sup>5</sup> Translating Turkish prose into Armenian: another way of dialogue (Jam Session): <http://www.epfarmeria.am/translating-turkish-prose-into-armenian-another-way-of-dialogue/>

<sup>6</sup> The electronic version of the book can be accessed here: [http://www.epfarmeria.am/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Tolerance\\_Intolerance\\_in\\_Armenian\\_Literature\\_book\\_2017.pdf](http://www.epfarmeria.am/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Tolerance_Intolerance_in_Armenian_Literature_book_2017.pdf)






image of the tendencies in Armenian literature. Some essays are available also in English, particularly those that present overviews. All articles have English summaries.

### **Armenian Publishers Meet Turkish Publishers (2017)**

The project was conducted by the Turkish Publishers Association with the partnership of Antares Publishing House in 2017. The main objective of this project was to welcome publishers from Armenia in Turkey, bring them together with the publishers from Turkey to allow new business connections and a fruitful discussion on the potential of and obstacles against publishing trade between the two countries. Strengthening the publishing relations and literary bonds will lead to democratic pluralism and social inclusion across and within each society. The project was planned to take the previous Yerevan visit of the TPA executives in 2014 a step further. In this visit, the Armenian Publishers Association and several publishers met, and a discussion on the ways to develop publishing relations between the two countries was initiated. The project was funded by the European Union. The final report of the project results can be accessed here<sup>7</sup>.

### **Study on Freedom of Expression and Democracy in Armenian Literature (2011)**

A series of studies on Freedom of Expression and Democracy in Armenian Literature were conducted under the EPF's Freedom of Expression program with the support of the SIDA. The purpose of the project was to explore and make publicly available articles on how much the Armenian literature has displayed such values as freedom of expression, human rights and democracy. Seven articles were developed, which

---

<sup>7</sup> 'Armenian Publishers Meet Turkish Publishers' final report: <http://am.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Armenian-Publishers-Meet-Turkish-Publishers.pdf>

can be accessed here (in Armenian)<sup>8</sup>. One of them is on the work of Zapel Yesayan, a woman prose writer who fought for women's rights, experienced the genocide and eventually was killed during Stalin's purges. This article is written by a French-Armenian journalist Seda Mavian. This analysis was among the first ones done on the work of Zapel, which was previously almost unknown. Another article is about the modern prose which discusses informal relations and hazing in the army, another topic previously untouched upon in Armenia.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

### **Armenian-Turkish Young Professionals as Advocates of Common Urban Heritage (2017)**

This is an album<sup>9</sup> which contains illustrations of the 19-20th century buildings of Kars and Gyumri and helps visualizing the historical value needed to be protected and maintained. The publication is an output of the Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Armenia), urbanlab Socio-Cultural Foundation (Armenia), and International Inclusion Institute (Turkey). Partners implemented the assessment of urban heritage in the cities of Gyumri and Kars as well as organized interactive workshops and study tours for urban development experts from Armenia and Turkey to learn about the history of common urban heritage of the two cities. The project aimed at promoting dialogue through cooperation between young people, architects and urban planning professionals of the two countries by learning their common history and contributing to the protection of their common urban heritage.

### **Mush Assessment Report of Tangible Cultural Heritage (2017)**

The report is the joint work of a group of architects and experts from Armenia and Turkey, working together on the cultural heritage in the Mush district of the modern Turkey. The report focused on identifying and assessing the state of Armenian heritage in Mush. Participants developed a joint methodology of assessment and conducted it jointly, thus breaking the perception that Armenia- and Turkey-based architects cannot agree on joint approach to the Armenian cultural heritage in Turkey.

The report<sup>10</sup>, conducted within the Armenia- Turkey normalization program funded by EU, is being presented to the international community, UNESCO, governments and other specialized institutions with the aim of raising the issue of the need of preserving and restoring Armenian monuments in Turkey.

Earlier similar work has been done on Ani<sup>11</sup>. The next assessment report will be on Artvin.

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://am.epfarmenia.am/am/program-portfolio/media-programs/freedom-of-expression-and-democracy-in-armenian-literature/>

<sup>9</sup> The electronic version of the book can be accessed here: [http://www.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Common\\_Notepad\\_2017\\_en.pdf](http://www.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Common_Notepad_2017_en.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Mush Assessment Report of Tangible Cultural Heritage: [http://www.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Mush\\_Report\\_-2017\\_eng.pdf](http://www.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Mush_Report_-2017_eng.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Ani\\_in\\_Context\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](http://www.epfarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Ani_in_Context_Report_2018.pdf)



## FILM AND PERFORMANCE ARTS

### Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform (ATCP)

ATCP<sup>12</sup> began in 2008 as cooperation between Anadolu Kültür (Turkey) and the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival (Armenia). It is a unique platform for filmmakers from both countries to explore cooperative projects and co-productions. The Platform promotes the network and films in festival circuits, international networks and distribution agencies. The activity promotes screening opportunities for the films produced with the participation of directors, producers and actors from both countries and the Diaspora. Wherever possible, these screenings are accompanied by a panel discussion, where the participants are able to speak about the films and issues related to the reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia. EPF has been supporting and cooperating with ATCP throughout its lifetime.

EPF has also supported **Rolan International Film Festival**<sup>13</sup> and **KIN International Women Film Festival**<sup>14</sup> in 2016.

### Cross-cultural Bridge between the Youth of Armenia and Turkey (2015)

Forum Theatre aimed to contribute to the increased mutual understanding and tolerance between the youth of Armenia and Turkey through the means of art and culture. Forum Theatre (Armenia), the Turkey-based Dynamic Development Association in Istanbul and Kulp Gençlik Girişimi in Diyarbakir, used the methods of interactive theatre and simulation game as a tool for civic education and engagement with regard to the Armenia-Turkey relations.

The partners engaged Turkey- and Armenia-based young artists in a series of in-country and joint workshops and performances. These performances were attended by hundreds of people in Armenia and Turkey, and became a suitable platform to effectively exchange information and come to common terms on issues of mutual concern related to the Armenia-Turkey relations.

Through theatrical exercises, discussions and storytelling, the participants tried to understand the Armenian-Turkish relations and present their personal opinions on possible ways of improving the existing situation. Ideas, opinions, fears and concerns were summarized and presented to the public through the performances of Bertolt Brecht's "He Who Says Yes, He Who Says No" in Istanbul and Yerevan in March and April 2015 respectively<sup>15</sup>.

### Closed Border Dialogue Documentary

Versus Studio LLC produced a 55-minute documentary titled "Dialogue over the Closed Border"<sup>16 17</sup> telling about the political and diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cinemaplatform.org/en>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.rolanbf.com/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://kinfestival.com/>

<sup>15</sup> The trailer on the rehearsals in Armenia and Turkey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdnDr5QaRgM>

<sup>16</sup> The film in Armenian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F6CQzjEo94>

<sup>17</sup> The film with English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OidJE4TjTYU>

over the last 25 years. The film was presented in Armenia in October 2015. The film tells about Armenian-Turkish relations from the initial engagement between the newly independent Armenia and Turkey in 1991-1992 and closing of Armenia-Turkey border in 1993, to the appearance of the Armenian Genocide issue in Armenia's foreign policy agenda in 1998-2008, to the works of the Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission in 2001-2004, to Hrant Dink's assassination in 2007, ending with discussing the Armenia-Turkey protocols and "football" diplomacy in 2008-2010.

### **Films on National & Religious Minorities**

These films have been produced with the support of the Netherlands.

#### ***Language of Tolerance (2016)***

The film<sup>18</sup> tells about the situation of Religious Tolerance in Armenia and the role the Armenian mass media play when writing about different religious groups. Sometimes mass media reproduce stereotypes about different religious groups as well as allegations without even checking the information available. The film was produced by Media Initiatives Center.

#### ***Molokans: Reality without myths (2014)***

This documentary<sup>19</sup> aimed at depicting the life of Molokans living in Armenia. The author of the film reveals this theme through his own personal story about his first encounters with this community during school years. The production took place in the Fioletovo village where the majority of the population are Molokans. *Script-writer and producer: Naira Martikyan, the idea of the film: Seyran Akopov.*

---

<sup>18</sup> Language of Tolerance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-LApTCQhhGM>

<sup>19</sup> Molokans: Reality without myths: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_cyTXqSmrl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_cyTXqSmrl)





### *Under the same sky (2014)*

The film<sup>20</sup> dwells upon the issue of human intolerance towards the adherents of different religions and its consequences. The author of the film draws comparison of Armenian and Jewish immigrations to US. The participants of the film make an effort to answer the question whether the representatives of national minorities face only social problems or there are also religious grounds for their emigration. In addition, the life and the traditions of the Jewish community in Armenia are presented. *Scriptwriter and producer: Ashot Hambardzumyan.*

### *Women of Archangel Mikael (2014)*

This is a story<sup>21</sup> of a Russian-populated village Privolnoe in Armenia. The opening scene shows the daily routine of the Privolnoe village which was founded by Russian recruits at the second half of the 19th century. Every week, five middle-aged women conduct the Sunday Mass without a priest. Not long ago, the choir of the Saint Michael's Church were much larger... The once prosperous village is now suffering from neglect and the heirs of the soldiers have mostly emigrated. There are only 80 Russians left in the village today, primarily older women. In this forgotten corner of the world, they find meaning only in the church and their faith. The Women of Saint Michael tells the story of these women during the preparations for the Feast of the Holy Trinity. *Scriptwriter and producer: Vahan Ishkhanyan, Director and editing: Vigen Galstyan.*

### *Persian spaghetti (2013)*

A personal story<sup>22</sup> about Armenian-Iranian friendship. The film features monologues of two young persons – one from Iran, who has moved to live in Armenia and another young person

---

<sup>20</sup> Under the same sky: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_U8fscKh2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_U8fscKh2s)

<sup>21</sup> Women of Archangel Mikael: <https://vimeo.com/105556438>

<sup>22</sup> Persian spaghetti: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-pE50tXiQmM>



from Armenia, who is traveling to Iran. They share their experiences of how they feel themselves in “another” culture, which stereotypes they are faced with and how do they educate themselves about people of other religions. *Scriptwriter: Nona Sisakyan, Director: Shahen Nazarenko*

### ***Expectation (2013)***

A story about Jehovah’s Witnesses who served terms in prison due to conscientious objections. Anri Khachatryan is a member of the religious organization, Jehovah’s Witnesses. In 2000 he was imprisoned for 2 years for refusing to serve in the army, and now, on September 29, 2012, the time for freedom has come. At the exit of the prison, Nubarashen Criminal-Executive Institution, his friends and relatives gather to greet him. On the way from the prison to his home Anri talks about his principles, which led to his imprisonment, and the notions of freedom. His father and mother who have been eagerly waiting for this moment for the past two years are waiting at home. In the film, four other followers of the religious organization, who at different periods were imprisoned for the same reason, tell their stories. *Scriptwriter and producer: Vahan Ishkhanyan.*

## **Films on the recent History of Armenia**

Starting from 2010, EPF has also supported the production and dissemination of films on the issues of past and recent history, such as on the events of the aftermath of 1944 (repatriation of Armenians to their homeland and subsequent Stalin’s purges); on dissidents and freedom of speech in the USSR; on the downwards slop in women’s rights after independence (on silent housewives); on the four presidential elections in Armenia; and on March 1, 2008 events.

### ***My Unfamiliar Fatherland (2014)***

The film<sup>23</sup> provides the summary of the history of the Great Repatriation of 1945-49, which brought around 100,000 Diaspora Armenians to Armenia, focusing on the policies implemented by the Soviet Union after the Second WW, the utilized propaganda, the process of organized repatriation, the acceptance of the idea of repatriation within the Diasporan communities and the challenges faced by repatriates in their homeland. It enables the understanding of historical, economic, sociological, and psychological reasons that forced Armenians to migrate to and from their homeland throughout the 20th century. For many of repatriates the return to homeland resulted in frustration, moreover, for a number of them it became a tragedy as they were exiled to Siberia. Starting from 1960’s many of the repatriated people left Armenia, mainly for USA, Canada, Australia and France. The film was shot in Armenia, Lebanon and USA, and features the stories of Armenian migrants of different generations throughout the world. *Scriptwriter: Tigran Paskevichyan, Director: Ara Shirinyan.*

### ***Eyewitness Memories: Elections in Armenia: 1990-2013 (2014)***

This is a documentary<sup>24</sup> aimed at depicting on the history of elections in Armenia starting

<sup>23</sup> Trailer of the documentary: <https://vimeo.com/104587764>. For more information about the project and the other series of the film, please refer to the following website: <http://hayrenadardz.org/en/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://vimeo.com/104587763>

from 1990 up to the presidential elections of February 2013 that analyses the role of the elections in the formation of the new statehood of Armenia. Democratic elections in Independent Armenia are still deficient. There is a lack of public trust towards the integrity of administration and the legitimacy of outcomes of elections, given the widespread violence, falsifications and impunity, typically accompanying these events. Usually violations of electoral processes start taking place in the period preceding the officially launched election campaigns, and reach their peak on the day of elections; dissent continues afterwards through public protests and legal claims challenging the processes and results, which usually do not bring about any solutions. Thus, the legitimacy of all elected bodies is low and stays low. The film provides the holistic comprehensive picture of all the elections of modern Armenia until 2013, diagnosing the situation through critical approach and pointing out possible ways of overcoming the elections' "impasse". *Scriptwriter: Tigran Paskevichyan, Director: Ara Shirinyan.*

*After the Peaceful Revolution of April 2018 the film acquires additional significance as a learning source on how to avoid the repetition of electoral impasse next time.*

### ***The impossible possible (2014)*<sup>25</sup>**

The documentary depicts the story of the dissident activity across Soviet Union and particularly Armenia during the post-Stalin period, when individuals reproduced censored and underground publications by hand and passed the documents from reader to reader, using different ways to gather friends and new people. This practice, called *Samizdat*, was the only opportunity for free expression, and alternative to the state propaganda, as the Internet is nowadays. The documentary describes the creation and development of *Samizdat*, the story of its various incarnations, and the activities of devoted *Samizdat* publishers in the Soviet Union, who worked underground, knowing that they could be imprisoned or exiled for years. The film also features the work of Armenian dissidents and *Samizdat* authors. They mainly addressed issues of preserving the Armenian national identity and the purity of the Armenian language and called for Armenia's separation from the USSR and becoming an independent state. *Scriptwriter: Tigran Paskevichyan, Producer: Satenik Faramazyan.*

### **Films on the Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Information**

In 2008-2009, EPF produced several documentaries on Freedom of Expression. Documentaries are diverse, filmed in different artistic styles, highlighting very wide spectrum of problems. However, all of them are similar in attempt to address boundaries and taboos that exist in Armenian society, the written or unwritten codes that predominate over an individual, affecting his life and choices. The documentaries also focus on the Armenian society's perceptions of freedom of expression and censorship, the stereotypes that exist in the society.

Ara Shirinyan's "Parallel Reality"<sup>26</sup> contrasts tradition and modernization in the Armenian society, telling a story of 'chkhoskan harser' (daughters-in-law who are not allowed to speak to their fathers-in-law throughout their lives) versus the art of a conceptual artist Grigor Khachatryan.

---

<sup>25</sup> <https://vimeo.com/104587766>

<sup>26</sup> Parallel Reality: <https://vimeo.com/8257689>

Tigran Khzmalyan in his “Armenia minus A1 plus”<sup>27</sup> is addressing the issue of free media and censorship. Using the example of the banned A1+ TV channel he reveals how the Armenian government established control over TV and imposed tough censorship on journalists and media outlets.

Tigran Paskevichyan’s and Suren Ter-Grigoryan’s “Interwoven”<sup>28</sup> is rather an allegoric, thought-provoking film about the individual, his freedom and choice.

The ‘SOS: Timeless Hostages of Overriding Interests’ documentary<sup>29</sup>, directed by Armen Yepremyan, is telling a story of property alienation on Yerevan’s Teryan Street, and citizens who are fighting for their property and fair trial rights in a creative way.

## MUSIC

Among many musical projects supported and implemented by EPF, the recent one called ‘**Female Minstrels**’, done with Anadolu Kultur, is special.


The Female Minstrels Dengbêj Gazîn and Ashugh Leyli from Van in Turkey and Yerevan in Armenia rehearsed together under the supervision of the project’s music director Norayr Kartashyan. Their repertoire consisted of songs composed by Dengbêj Gazîn and Ashugh Leyli, as well as of Armenian and Kurdish common songs. Their joint concert “From Van to Yerevan” took place in the Yerevan’s National Center for Chamber Music on May 26, 2014. Three hundred people attended the concert; it was also broadcasted live on CivilNet. Being of Kurdish origin, Dengbêj Gazîn recorded a song at the Yerevan Radio – a radio station that once broadcasted special Kurdish-language programs for the Kurdish communities in Turkey.

<sup>27</sup> Armenia minus A1 plus. Part 1: <https://vimeo.com/7914196>, Armenia minus, A1 plus. Part 2: <https://vimeo.com/7897345>

<sup>28</sup> Interwoven: <https://vimeo.com/7936814>

<sup>29</sup> SOS: Timeless hostages of Interest priority: <https://vimeo.com/8310249>





Their second meeting took place in September, 2014 in Van. They gave their joint concert on the Akhtamar Island in Van, following the mass at the Armenian Cathedral of the Holy Cross of Akhtamar Island. Thanks to the mass that is being held only once a year, a considerable number of local and international tourists, believers and clergymen attended the concert, while the media interest in the concert on the Island was very high. The concert was broadcasted live on Van TV.

The female minstrels performed their final concert in Istanbul, where the number of attendees reached about 700 people. Following this concert, they recorded and published their album by Kalan Music with a booklet including the lyrics of the songs and articles written by musicologist Lusine Nazaryan and anthropologist Marlene Schäfers.

### **NEW MEDIA AND ART**

EPF was the first actor in the region who experimented with the new media and ICT in the context of confidence building, and provided pro-rapprochement stakeholders a number of effective peace-building and cross-border youth interaction tools that help creative youth learn about one another. In 2011, EPF organized two exchange Pecha Kucha Night (PKN) events (one in Yerevan, one in Istanbul) as a confidence-building tool. PechaKucha is a presentation style in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each. Since PKN focuses on creative and innovative industries, these exchanges created an opportunity to further engage Armenian and Turkish entrepreneurs in high-tech and other areas, such as fashion, design, and architecture. The events created professional and personal ties that will grow into long-lasting partnerships and friendships. PKN events were jointly organized by EPF and the Istanbul holder of the Pecha Kucha license 34solo.

**End  
June 2018**