

# Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process (ATNP)

## Highlights from 2014-2022

The ATNP was launched in 2014 with the support of the EU, and it has been implemented by a Consortium of four Armenia-based organisation - Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), Civiltas Foundation (CF), Regional Studies Center (RSC), Public Journalism Club (PJC), and four Turkey-based organisations - Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), Anadolu Kültür (AK), Hrant Dink Foundation (HDF) and Citizens' Assembly (CA). Since 2014, the Consortium has witnessed both valuable cooperation in various fields between counterparts from Armenia and Turkey, as well as obstacles shutting down the doors for cooperation. Nevertheless, despite all the existing and emerging hurdles, the Consortium has paved its way through with weighty outcomes.

### *ATNP Stage One (2014-2015)*

- CF's **"Increasing Understanding of Turkey"** activity produced 500 video and text outputs with more than 6 million views from Armenia, Turkey and beyond.
- PJC and TEPAV organized the biggest ever **industry-to-industry exchange** in 2014, with over 30 young and established technology entrepreneurs, industry leaders, ICT experts from Turkey visiting Armenia to get to know Armenia's ICT industry.
- HDF's **Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant** supported 210 persons (154 from Turkey and 56 from Armenia) to establish cooperation avenues in the neighbouring country, while the **Fellowship Scheme** made it possible for 18 long-term fellows to carry out professional exchange in the neighbouring country.
- One of the Sub-Grant Scheme beneficiaries, Versus Studio LLC, produced a 55-minute **documentary titled "Dialogue over the Closed Border"** (2015) on the political and diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey over the last 25 years. The film was presented to public in Armenia in October 2015. It was translated into Turkish, English and French, and was screened among diplomatic communities in Armenia and Turkey, as well as in EU and USA. Up until now it is one of the most comprehensive and accessible sources on the history of negotiations between Armenia and Turkey.

## *ATNP Stage Two (2016-2018)*

- PJC's **Exchange of Entrepreneurs** resulted in the Armenia-based SkyCryptor company ending up in the top 15 startups pitching in front of 4,000 attendees during StartupIstanbul in October 2016. It also organised a visit of a representative group of investors from Germany, US and Turkey to Armenia to participate in the first-ever **Armenia-Turkey Investor Day** in May 2017.
- HDF's **Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant** further supported 243 beneficiaries, whereas the **Fellowship Scheme** had around 90 potential host organisations, and supported 15 long-term and 7 short-term fellows.
- EPF's event "**Regional and National Security Dynamics: Armenia-Turkey Relations**" organised with the Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies at the Yerevan State University brought together local and international researchers and experts, as well as high-level figures and policy experts working with the governments of Armenia, Turkey, Georgia, Iran and Russia, as well as the Embassies of EU and US, and Chinese experts. The conference drew the attention of policy makers to the issue of regional stability and Armenia-Turkey relations.
- AK continued working on tangible and intangible cultural heritage bringing this heritage into today, which included an unprecedented system of **cooperation between Armenia- and Turkey-based, as well as international architects and art historians**, and joint visits by these groups to sites of Armenian cultural heritage in Turkey, such as Ani, Mush, Artvin. AK's **Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform** sustained dialogue and discussion platforms between filmmakers from the two countries, arranging for dozens of pitches for documentary projects on Armenia-Turkey relations, Armenians in Turkey and suppressed memory, and supporting 20+ films, of which some made into renowned international festivals.
- One of the Sub-Grant Scheme beneficiaries, Turkish Publishers Association, organised a meeting in Istanbul with participation of **Armenia- and Turkey-based publishing houses**. The event brought together major publishing houses from both countries and established a sustainable cooperation mechanism between them for translation and publication of works of various genres. This cooperation was capitalised upon by other initiatives later on. For instance, a workshop for literary translators was organised by the Armenian Committee of Helsinki Civil Assembly NGO in 2017. It enabled a group of literary translators from Armenia to come together and jointly work on **the translation of the book "Huh!"** by a Turkish contemporary writer Birgül Oğuz.

### **ATNP Stage Three (2019-2022)**

- An outstanding sub-grant project was implemented by the Fundamental Scientific Library (FSL) of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in partnership with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Taksim Atatürk Library (IMMTAL) as a follow-up to the research which started back in 2018 within HDF's Fellowship Scheme programme. FSL furthered its research work in creating bibliographic databases of Armenian prints preserved in the libraries of Turkey, specifically at IMMTAL. As a result, 1,787 Armenian prints and 198 new book titles were discovered, studied, and included in the **"The Armenian Book in Turkey: Volume A"** bibliographic book. A thorough study was carried out for about 400 Armenian books and books in Turkish with Armenian script.
- The Sub-Grant Scheme also supported Hrag Papazian and Salim Aykut Ozturk, two anthropologists based in Armenia and Turkey, who conducted a **research project** "Making a Move from Turkey to Armenia: Issues of Dual-citizenship, Immigration, and Return" that looked into the overlooked components of human mobility and interconnections between Armenia and Turkey. The findings were disseminated through co-authored academic articles, public talks and interviews via local and international media.
- RSC provided **policy-related analytical support** to such important actors as the Armenian National Security Council, EU Special Representative (EUSR), Swiss Foreign Ministry, Armenian MFA, diplomatic community in Turkey (Australian, Finnish, French, Swedish, Swiss, and U.S. Embassies). This support extended also to journalists and analysts resulting in several dozens of publications of media articles and reports focusing on Armenia-Turkey normalisation. RSC organized 20+ online analytical briefings for the diplomatic community and international organisations in Armenia.
- The Consortium also supported 4 small-scale projects as follow-up initiatives stemming from projects that were implemented within ATNP-1 and ATNP-2. It is worth singling out the **Armenian translation of the "The Armenian within us" book**. The Turkish-language original of the book was published in 2015 by one of the leading Turkish publishing houses, Can Yayınları, with the initiative of the writer and literary translator Yiğit Bener. The book was written by 35 distinguished contemporary Turkish writers. The idea of the book was triggered by the 100th year of the Armenian Genocide, and in memory of Hrant Dink.
- HDF carried out a **dialogue programme on theatre and choral music** with the participation of the Yolcu Theater Group and Lusavorich Choir. During this programme the play «Gomidias» was staged in Yerevan, Armenia, for about 200 invited spectators.
- PJC and TEPAV worked closely with local experts from the SE industry and project partners to carry out the translation into Armenian and adaptation for the Armenian market of the **Social Impact Measurement Toolkit (SIMT)** that was originally produced in Turkey, and conducted training workshops based on SIMT for interested Armenia-based social entrepreneurs.