





## HRANT DINK FOUNDATION

*Hrant Dink Foundation was established after the assassination of Hrant Dink in front of his newspaper Agos on January 19, 2007, in order to avoid similar pains and to continue Hrant Dink's legacy, his language and heart and his dream of a world that is more free and just. Democracy and human rights for everyone regardless of their ethnic, religious or cultural origin or gender is the Foundation's main principle.*

*The Foundation works for a Turkey and a world where freedom of expression is limitless and all differences are allowed, lived, appreciated, multiplied and conscience outweighs the way we look at today and the past. As the Hrant Dink Foundation 'our cause worth living' is a future where a culture of dialogue, peace and empathy prevails.*

## BEYOND BORDERS TURKEY-ARMENIA TRAVEL GRANT & FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

2016-2017

[www.armtr-beyondborders.org](http://www.armtr-beyondborders.org)

*Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant was administrated with the financial assistance of the European Union within the framework of the programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process: Stage Two in collaboration with the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) and Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO (YIC) in Armenia.*

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Support to the Armenia-Turkey  
Normalisation Process  
European Union Initiative

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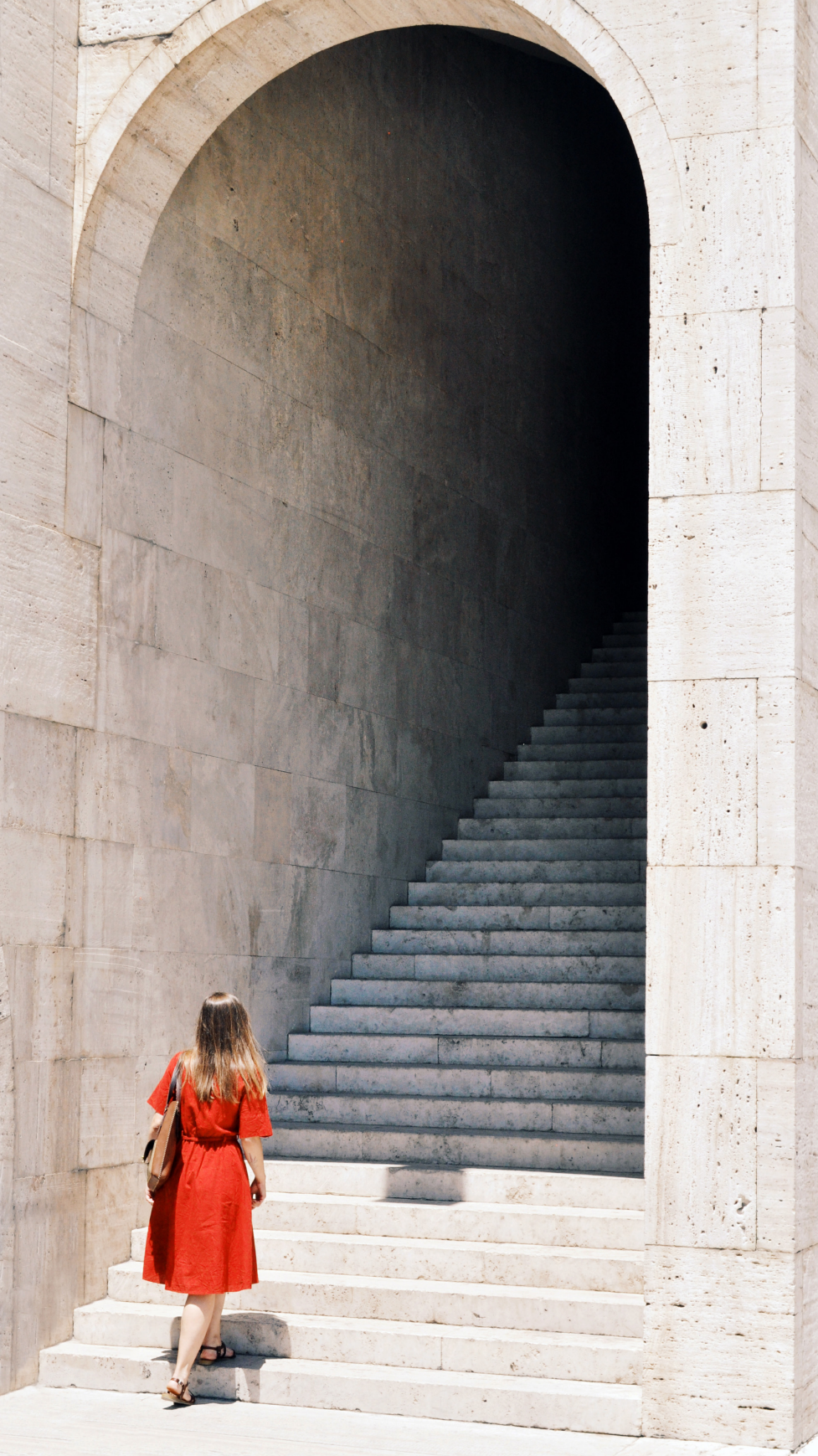
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There are no diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring countries, Armenia and Turkey, and their land border has been closed since 1993. The two countries signed protocols on the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening the border in 2009, but they were suspended before parliamentary ratification, stalling the normalisation process. Most recently, the government of Armenia declared the protocols null and void in March 2018 on the grounds of a lack of progress towards ratification or implementation. The lack of diplomatic relations continues to have an impact in all domains, including civil society efforts. There are no formal mechanisms for cooperation between the public and private institutions of the two countries, nor systematic exchange programmes in academia.

The Hrant Dink Foundation has been trying to encourage and foster relations between Turkey and Armenia in all fields, as one of its priority goals, since its establishment in 2007. Throughout these years, having observed the lack of dialogue due to physical and mental borders, we felt the need for support mechanisms that would help people of all ages, professions and backgrounds from both countries to cross the border, to visit their neighbouring country, meet one another, and build institutional partnerships. To this end, we established the Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant and Fellowship Scheme in 2014 with a view to encourage and facilitate direct contact and cooperation.

These two programmes, first established in the period March 2014 - June 2015 in the framework of the European Union-supported programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process, have been tools of learning for us in seeking a solution to the lack of relations between the two countries. During this period, which we consider the first stage of the two programmes, over a thousand people were reached and 210 people travelled to the neighbouring country with the Travel Grant, which aims to increase people-to-people contacts between the two countries. As part of the Fellowship Scheme, 90 institutions (25 from Armenia and 65 from Turkey) agreed to host a fellow from the neighbouring country in the same period and 18 professionals were selected as fellows in response to the open call made in June 2014.

The collaborations formed in the first stage facilitated new dialogues and these dialogues led to new collaborations. The interest shown in both

programmes and the possible cooperation areas encouraged us to continue implementing them with an extended scope. The European Union supported the programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process for a second stage, taking into account the positive impact of the direct contacts between the two societies. In response, we as the Hrant Dink Foundation designed the second stage of both programmes based on our experiences in the first stage, aiming to focus on new areas of cooperation and to reach different cities and new audiences.

With this publication, we aim to introduce the people and organisations who acted as catalysts between Turkey and Armenia, to convey the transformation they went through in their own words, to present collaborations that took place in various fields, and to share the Foundation's experience throughout this process, while addressing bureaucratic procedures between the two neighbouring countries without diplomatic relations.

In the first chapter of the booklet, there are accounts of 243 individuals from different regions and cities of Turkey and Armenia, together with the stories of some of them, who visited their neighbouring country for a specific purpose with the support of the Travel Grant. The Foundation supported 158 individuals from Turkey and 85 from Armenia, including youngsters, high school and university students, members of civil society organisations and professional associations, academics, professors, researchers, journalists, writers, publishers, artists and filmmakers in their visits to the neighbouring country. We covered their round trip travel costs and assisted them in finding partners and contact persons in their fields. The Travel Grant beneficiaries met their peers and colleagues in the neighbouring country and got engaged in collaboration and joint production.

The second chapter contains accounts of the experiences of experts and host organisations from the two countries which carried out joint activities in their field of expertise with the support of the Fellowship Scheme. With the aim of supporting activities in areas where the sharing of experience and lasting cooperation is most needed, the Fellowship Scheme was able to engage 50 organisations from Turkey and 33 from Armenia. These included public and private universities, research centres, civil society organisations, media outlets, culture-arts centres and museums, who opened their doors to professionals from the neighbouring country and proposed specific programmes for cooperation. From November 2016 to June 2017, 10 professionals from Armenia carried out joint work with their host organisations in İstanbul and four professionals from Turkey



did the same in Yerevan. During their time in the neighbouring country, they took Armenian/Turkish language classes. During and at the end of their fellowship, they also prepared reports, publications, workshops and performances in their respective professional fields with the support of their host organisations.

Based on our experiences during the first stage, we also designed the Short-Term Fellowship Scheme, alongside Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, in the 2016-2017 period. Despite the interest shown in the programme since its establishment, we observed that a considerable number of experts could not take part in the Fellowship Scheme for four to eight months due to their workloads and responsibilities at their workplaces. To this end, seven professionals (four from Armenia and three from Turkey) found the chance to conduct research in the neighbouring country for between two weeks to one month under the Short-Term Fellowship Scheme. This was implemented in consultation with the other members of the Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process programme and the host organisations.

One of the main priorities of the programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process is inclusiveness. Both the Travel Grant and Fellowship Scheme functioned as mechanisms which allowed new actors to become engaged in the dialogue process. Some of the Travel Grantees from the first stage applied for the Fellowship Scheme in the second stage. Some former fellows applied for the Grant Scheme implemented within framework of the programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process with their own project ideas. Some beneficiaries opened the doors of the institutions for which they work to the Fellowship Scheme as host organisations.

The growing network of cooperation and the impact of the programmes had a positive effect on the approaches of state institutions as well. Some state universities and institutions, which raised concerns about taking part in these programmes during the first stage, have been involved in the second stage as a result of the mutual trust developed after observing the outcomes of the programmes. Experts from these institutions joined the programmes; state universities received approval from the ministries of education and foreign affairs to take part in the Fellowship Scheme as a host organisation; residence permits of the fellows from Armenia in Turkey and the approval of visas from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for those who travel with a special passport from Turkey to Armenia were obtained without facing any problems. At the time when this activity was taking place, the

Four-Day War broke out in April 2016 in Nagorno-Karabakh, which had a direct impact on relations between Armenia and Turkey. There was also a coup attempt in Turkey in July 2016, which was followed by the declaration of a state of emergency.

The third chapter of this booklet takes the form of an experience report by the Hrant Dink Foundation, featuring the obstacles we have faced while implementing both programmes in the absence of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia, as well as some solutions which we were able to find with the assistance of the ministries of foreign affairs and EU delegations of both countries. We hope that our experience will help facilitate the activities of civil society organisations working in this field, and will encourage policy-makers towards eliminating obstacles between the two neighbouring countries. All the people and organisations who shared their perspective and experience in this publication have shuttled between Turkey and Armenia throughout 2016 and 2017, striving to bring these two neighbouring countries closer. By crossing both physical and mental borders, they have built many bridges and formed unbreakable bonds.

The growing demand in the civil society of both countries for the normalisation of Turkey-Armenia relations in all spheres has also brought along new and inspiring developments. The Hrant Dink Foundation was awarded the ‘2017 Chirac Prize for Conflict Prevention’ by the Chirac Foundation, established in 2008 by the former President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac, with the mission to ‘support efforts for prevention of conflicts, dialogue between cultures and increasing quality of access to health services’.

All the individuals and organisations that took part in both programmes will be our main pillars as we continue the new cycle of the Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant and Fellowship Scheme. All the results produced thanks to their efforts and cooperation will serve as a source of inspiration for us and will encourage us to work harder to reach out to more people.

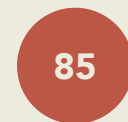
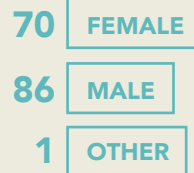
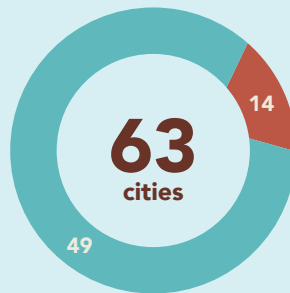
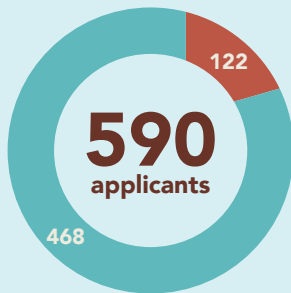
We have so much work still to do in order to bridge this decades-long gap and go beyond borders.

## TRAVEL GRANT

Turkey

APRIL 2016 ..... OCTOBER 2017

Armenia



Adana  
Ankara  
Antalya  
Balıkesir  
Bursa  
Çanakkale  
Denizli  
Diyarbakır  
Eskişehir  
Gaziantep

İstanbul  
İzmir  
Kars  
Kayseri  
Konya  
Manisa  
Mardin  
Tunceli  
Uşak  
Van



Abovyan  
Ararat  
Ashtarak  
Charentsavan  
Gavar  
Gyumri  
Hrazdan  
Kapan  
Martuni  
Nor Hachn  
Vanadzor  
Yerevan



## TRAVEL GRANT

APRIL 2016 ..... OCTOBER 2017



139 to Armenia

40 to Turkey

**179**  
first time  
visitors

**42** outreach meetings  
in Turkey & Armenia  
reaching out to  
**700** individuals

travels from  
**32** cities to  
**8** destinations

**829,738** km  
in total

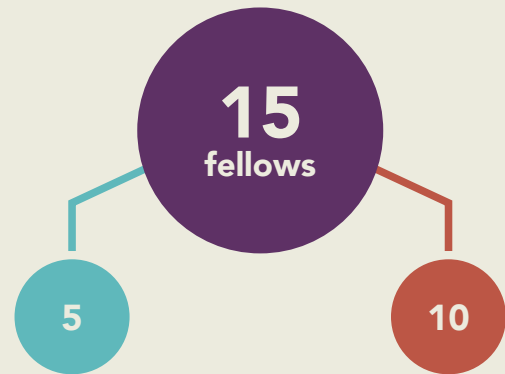
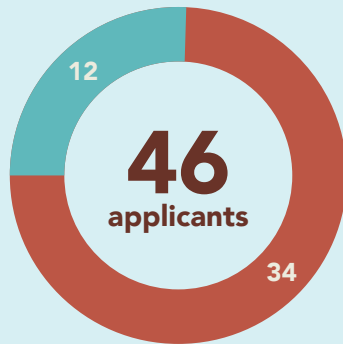


## FELLOWSHIP

APRIL 2016 ..... OCTOBER 2017

Turkey

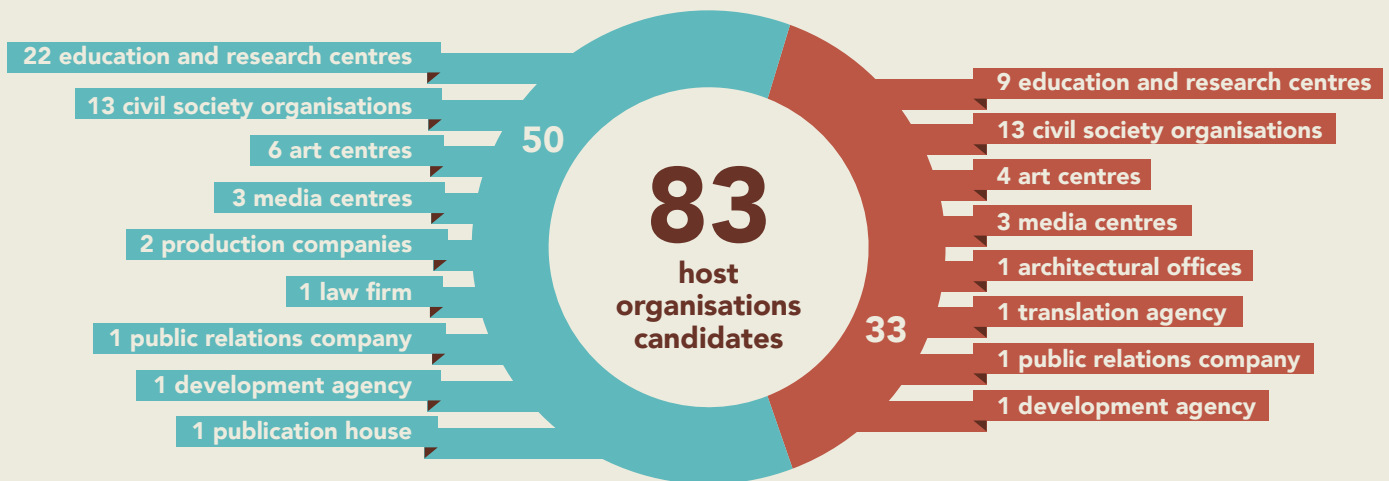
Armenia



5 fellows took  
Armenian classes

10 fellows took  
Turkish classes

10 fellows from  
Armenia received  
residency permit  
in Turkey









TRAVEL GRANT

## TURKEY-ARMENIA TRAVEL GRANT

The Hrant Dink Foundation launched the Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant in March 2014 with a view to increasing direct contacts and promoting co-operation between the peoples of the two neighbouring countries. It was designed as a pool to encourage non-profit civic initiatives and individuals from Turkey and Armenia to travel to the neighbouring country for specific goals. Thanks to the financial assistance of the European Union within the framework of the programme ‘Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process’, the Travel Grant aimed to support the travel of at least 180 individuals from July 2016 to October 2017 in collaboration with the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) and the Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre (YIC) in Armenia.

The Foundation launched the first call for the Travel Grant within the framework of the programme ‘Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process’ in June 2016. Between June 2016 and October 2017, the Foundation announced six rounds of the Travel Grant, receiving 590 applications - 468 from Turkey and 122 from Armenia. All applications were evaluated by the independent and competent Selection Committee members in accordance with selection criterion and priorities stated in the Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant Regulation. During the assessment process, the Selection Committee members considered diversity and balance of gender, age, regional diversity, study field and activity types of grantees, giving priority to first-time applications, youth activities and local activities.

As a result of the selection process, 299 individuals from the two countries were awarded the Travel Grant and 243 of them (159 from Turkey and 84 from Armenia) carried out visits to the neighbouring country. The age of grantees ranged from 13 to 66 years, while keeping a gender balance (163 females, 135 males, 1 other). High-school students, teachers, university students, professors, academics, researchers, journalists, civil society workers, representatives of professional organisations, human rights defenders, artists, writers, publishers and film-makers, as well as, individuals working in the field of language, literature, arts and culture, memory and identity, volunteering and youth, gender and human rights from 17 different cities visited the neighbouring country with a specific purpose

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Gülesin Nemutlu  
Nelli Minasyan

### PARTNERS

Eurasia Partnership Foundation -  
Armenia  
Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre NGO

### WEBSITE

[www.armtr-beyondborders.org](http://www.armtr-beyondborders.org)

and met with their colleagues and peers. 187 out of 243 grantees visited the neighbouring country for the very first time.

The Travel Grant supported a multitude of activities organised by grantees such as visits for partnership building, feasibility studies, academic cooperation initiatives, education, joint productions in culture and arts, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, performances and concerts.

In 2016 and 2017, the Travel Grant has reached over 600 individuals through 42 outreach meetings which were held in Ankara, Ashtarak, Bursa, Dilijan, Diyarbakır, Goris, Gyumri, İstanbul, İzmir, Vanadzor and Yerevan. The outreach meetings aimed at facilitating access to the Travel Grant for civil society organisations, university students, academics, professional organisations, journalists and artists and also to share the experience of former grantees. Many participants who attended these meetings later applied for the Travel Grant.

Throughout this process, the Hrant Dink Foundation project team members in İstanbul, Yerevan and Gyumri assisted over 100 individuals to find contact persons and project partners in the neighbouring country.

During and after their visits, the experiences, accounts of mental transformation and the activities in the neighbouring country of individuals, groups and organisations that visited the neighbouring country with the support of the Travel Grant, have been shared through the 'People Beyond Borders' page of the 'Beyond Borders' website ([www.armtr-beyond-borders.org](http://www.armtr-beyond-borders.org)) along with the photos they took.

Overall, the Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant has been instrumental in connecting people at grassroots level, enabling them to travel to the neighbouring country behind closed borders and to know the culture, thoughts and expectations of their neighbours, developing collaboration and partnerships in their fields and offering them the opportunity to assess the feasibility of their cooperation ideas.

In 2017-2019, the Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant will continue to support individuals, groups and organisations from both countries with the aim of increasing the number of beneficiaries as well as the thematic and geographical diversity.



## TURKEY – ARMENIA TRAVEL GRANT BENEFICIARIES

**Tatevik Abrahamyan** from **Hrazdan**; **Marta Asatryan**, **Lilit Azizkhanyan**, **Naira Nikoghosyan**, **Lusine Pashayan**, **Edgar Sahakyan**, **Lusine Sargsyan** and **Yelena Sargsyan** from **Yerevan** and **Ira Voskanyan** from **Kapan**, teachers from ‘Mkhitar Sebastatsi’ Educational Complex, visited Bezciyan Armenian Elementary School as well as other scientific-educational and cultural centres in İstanbul to meet teachers and students.

**Veli Acu** from **Antep**, a member of the Human Rights Agenda Association, visited civil society organisations and institutes working on the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan.

**Mariam Adamyan**, **Lia Ghazaryan**, **Lilit Ghukasyan**, **Karine Mkhitarian**, **Gayane Movsisyan** and **Armenuhi Sardaryan** from **Hrazdan** organised a four-day workshop for children with special needs in İstanbul to help them learn useful skills for their everyday life and shared experiences with their colleagues working with disadvantaged and disabled children.

**Narod Talar Agoşyan**, **Ari Barsamyan**, **Giragos Başak**, **Baret Borucuyan**, **Şinork Mesrop Erzurumluoğlu**, **Roy Merkezoğlu**, **Saro Ogsar**, **Lidya Satılmış**, **Alen Taşcioğlu** and **Semanur Taşköprü**, students from **İstanbul**, attended a summer camp for secondary and high school students, organised by the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan.



Yerevan, 2017 (📷 Ayla Jean Yackley)

*If you want to break the ice between the two countries and be friends with the people of the neighbouring country, use this great grant and widen your vision.*

**Aylin Cilasin**

*With every visit between Turkey and Armenia, new stereotypes are broken, and with the efforts of the civil society and through the strengthening of cultural diplomacy, many sharp angles can be ‘softened’ and favourable ground prepared for the normalisation of relations.*

**Gohar Hakobyan**

*The similarity of our cultures is hidden in our songs, lullabies and dirges; we express our feelings in the same way. During my visit to Yerevan, I saw the performance of Duygu Bostancı, a fellow of the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, at the Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art. I watched it without even blinking. I was amazed by how she blended the traditional dance figures of two countries with contemporary dance figures. I was also very happy to see the collaboration between dancers from Turkey and Armenia. The performance showed me the importance of art as a tool to bring cultures together.*

**Asya Orhan**





Sarra Demirtshyan with children in Samandağ, 2017 (📷 Diana Amirbekyan)

*Building academic networks through scientific communications is an important tool of backchannel diplomacy. Therefore, these academic ties can be considered as the seeds that we sow, which will be reaped later. It was also important to feel the atmosphere in Turkey, which cannot be conveyed through books.*

**Andranik Israyelyan**

*My purpose was to discover the media climate and hate speech coverage in Armenia, how journalists and institutions are struggling with it and finally their suggestions to overcome this. We had the opportunity to understand each other much better with the people of Armenia and we were able to form a more informed opinion on the issue of Armenia-Turkey relationships.*

**Yasemin İnceoğlu**

*As a young Turkologist scholar, I always seek ways to do research in Turkey and organise trips, which helps me keep updated about the country on which my research is mostly focused, and provide first hand information and remain impartial as an expert who makes interviews and writes columns for the media in Armenia.*

**Gevorg Petrosyan**

**Lamia İnci Akalp, Hayrettin Pişkin and Leyla Yavuz** from **Çanakkale**, board members of the Human Rights Association, visited human rights organisations in Vanadzor to explore possibilities for planning joint projects.

**Arzu Akar, Seyhan Alu, Ümran Baturay, Enver Birim, Roney Erdinç, Sipan Eren, Mehdi Toka, Azize Tulan, Gülan Yaklav and Mehmet Savaş Yanık**, members of the Forum Theatre, from **Diyarbakır**, participated in workshops, collaborated with artists from Armenia, developed a script and put on a forum theatre performance in Yerevan.

**Fatma Serra Akçan and Çiğdem Üçüncü** from **İstanbul**, photographers at Nar Photos, organised photography workshops in Yerevan with their colleagues from 4Plus Documentary Photography Center.

**Elif Akçay and Tayfun Dalkılıç** from **Eskişehir** met with artists and members of art associations in Yerevan in order to make arrangements for their project to make a documentary film on the music of the two countries.

**Vedat Akçayöz** from **Kars**, president of the Kars Culture and Art Association, visited Vanadzor as part of his research on Ani Ruins, Molokans and Doukhorbor.

**Aslı Akdağ and Fırat Uran** from **İstanbul** visited Yerevan and Yeghegnavan to meet with the Armenian co-producer of their movie 'Border Disorder', which tells the story of a cow crossing the border between Turkey and Armenia, and completed the pre-production process.

**Umut Akdağ, Ahmet Şafak Çizmaz, Paşa Güven and Melodi Var Öngel** from **İstanbul**, Turkey-based members of 'United Harmonies', a band formed by musicians from Turkey and Armenia, met with musicians from Yerevan and conducted research on traditional instruments, local performers and folk songs.

**Ege Batuhan Akgül, Bekir Emre Ögüt** and **Haydar Taştan** from **İstanbul**, took part in a photo exhibition organised within the framework of the photojournalism programme 'Bridging Stories'.

**Nebahat Akkoç and Sebahat Beskisiz** from **Diyarbakır**, **Begüm Baki** from **İstanbul**, **Haskar Erdoğan** from **Dersim** and **Ayşenur Gedik** from **İzmir**, members of the KAMER Foundation, met with members of the Women's Resource Center in Yerevan to share their experiences and knowledge and discuss women's issues in the two countries.

**Osman Akyıl and İhsan Ay** from **Diyarbakır**, members of the Mesopotamia Foundation, visited Radio Yerevan to explore the possibilities for further cooperation.

**Diran Robin Alatçıyan, Sesilya Arslanyan, Arlin Boyacı, Arman Çatal, Burag Çiçekçiyan, Larissa Selin Dayan, Rudi Kami Değirmenci, Aris Dikran, Aksel Ebemıgıryan, Lerna Geçer, Ayk Gezer, Melissa Kaldılı, Masis Kara, Ari Karakaş, Roni Kolukısayan, Arda Özçin, Masis Öznigolyan, Jan Samurkaş and Nişan Aren Zurnacı**, students from eight different Armenian schools in **İstanbul**, together with Melisa Arslanyan, the editor of TET Agenda, attended the summer camp organised by the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan.



Çiçek Pasajı, İstanbul, 2016 (📷 Anahit Davidyants)

*Let's not give up on our future relations when there is an opportunity to sing together.*

**Özge Kaya**

*Now we will be able to present a more detailed picture of Turkey to our pupils and this may allow them to start creating normalised relations with our neighbours. We also would like to strengthen our ties with the Armenian schools of İstanbul and start collaborating with them.*

**'Mkhitar Sebastatsi' teachers**

*To go beyond the borders, to break the walls and to deconstruct the already existing myths, we have to see and talk to each other.*

**Ecem Sarıçayır**

*We believe that cultural, educational and scientific collaborations of this sort will contribute a lot to the normalisation process, demonstrating how specialists from both sides can successfully work together and implement mutual projects.*

**Arpine Aleksanyan & Sona Baloyan**



Lake Sevan, 2017 (📷 Asya Orhan)

*In the beginning I was hesitant to visit Armenia because I was not sure about the attitudes that I might encounter. But in the end, I realised I was hesitant since Armenia was an ‘unknown’ for me and I can overcome this only by knowing ‘the unknown’.*

**Rabia Kutlu**

*With the opportunity to travel to the neighbouring country, we organised joint cultural activities and made friends with people from Turkey. With art the borders become sunlight; art helps us traverse this Earth as if we are living on one and the same land and illuminate the darkness.*

**United Harmonies**

*The borders in our minds have more power on us than any physical border but are much easier to smash once you recognize having them.*

**Çiğdem Üçüncü**

*I was very impressed and surprised how the audience in Turkey welcomed contemporary movies from Armenia. I think that filmmakers from both countries are ready to cooperate and produce films that can be screened not only in Armenia and Turkey but all around the world.*

**Rafik Movsisyan**

**Arpine Aleksanyan and Sona Baloyan** from the ‘Matenadaran’ Mesrop Mashtots Inst. of Ancient Manuscripts in **Yerevan**, visited the Armenian Patriarchate, Armenian high schools and foundations in İstanbul and Aras Publishing to discuss possibilities of expanding networks for collaboration on preserving Armenian culture.

**Ekrem Altun, Roj Esir Girasun and Cihan Ülsen** from **Diyarbakır**, members of the Dut Ağacı Social Sciences Research and Solidarity Association, conducted interviews with members of the Muslim minority living in Yerevan.

**Diana Amirbekyan and Sarra Demirtshyan** from **Yerevan**, representatives of the Youth Life NGO, visited İstanbul and Antakya to participate in the exchange programme entitled ‘Cultural Brainstorming for Friendship’ organised by the ‘Defne’ International Association of Youth Education.

**Hripsime Arakelyan** from **Ashtarak**; **Hasmik Dilanyan** from **Ararat**; **Alisa Gevorgyan**, **Hasmik Martirosyan**, **Naira Mayilyan**, **Lusine Petrosyan** and **Syuzanna Sargsyan** from **Yerevan**; **Armine Gevorgyan** from **Abovyan**; **Siranush Ghazanchyan** from **Gavar** and **Narine Poghosyan** from **Martuni**, newsmakers and bloggers from various media outlets in Armenia including the Media Center of Mkhitar Sebastatsi Educomplex and ‘Radiolur’ news agency, visited İstanbul to exchange knowledge and discuss ways to cooperate with the journalists of the CNN Turk news channel.

**Nazik Armenakyan** from **Abovyan**, a member of 4Plus Documentary Photography Centre, took part in the Diyarbakır International Photography Days.



**Birsen Atakan** from **İstanbul**, vice president of the Non-violent Education and Research Association, **Eleni Diker** from **İstanbul** and **Aslı Polatdemir** from **Denizli**, co-founders of BoMoVu (Network of Sport and Body Movement for Vulnerable Groups), met with representatives of the Women's Resource Center of Armenia to discuss their joint conference on women's physical integrity in conflict zones to be held in İstanbul and the possibilities of implementing the Reconciliation Games project on the Armenian side of the border.

**Tehmina Avagyan, Shushan Khachatryan, Vardan Khachatryan, Valeri Muradyan and Ashot Soghomonyan** from **Yerevan**, representatives of the Kilikia Tour, took part in the 21st East Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition in İstanbul, together with their partner Gagik Tour from Van, Turkey.

**Ziya Azazi** from **İstanbul** put on a performance at the Yerevan Puppet Theatre within the framework of the 'ARÉ' Performing Arts Festival and conducted a series of workshops where he shared his experience regarding his artistic activities.

**Ozan Mert Balcı and Hamza Çınar** from **İzmir**, representatives of the Turkish Ex-EVS Association, visited their project partner in Yerevan, the Armenian Progressive Youth NGO, and other organisations to organise a local youth gathering event and to build new partnerships.

**Halil Başoğlu, Hasan Çakmak, Erkan Kalenderli and Emine Ülkerim** from **İstanbul**, members of Group Sentez, filmed Armenian master stonemasons and wood carvers at their workshops



Yusuf Nar in Yerevan, 2017 (📷 Veysel Kavak)



Miqayel Voskanyan, İstanbul, 2016

*Throughout our visits to various restaurants, pop up restaurants, culinary courses, food markets, wineries and some civil initiatives in Gyumri, Dilijan and Yerevan as well as some nearby villages and meeting with various chefs, we were able to learn more on the culinary culture of Armenia and the eating habits of people of Armenia. We also had various conversations with Armenian chefs on the possibility of cooperation opportunities with their counterparts in Turkey. The visit served as a basis for meeting contacts for initiating cooperation between the actors in the culinary sectors of Turkey and Armenia mainly on food culture and heritage as genuine areas of cooperation and reconciliation between the divided communities.*

**Zeynep Gamze İnceceli İpek & İhsan Karayazı**

*This experience helped me grow as a musician, as it gave me the chance to share my skills with other musicians and to learn more from them. We became closer as a band, so it helped our relations too.*

**Taron Grigoryan (Aratta Band)**

*Normalisation is not an easy process and it seems that it can take a long time but I believe that during our visit when we met with young people we were able to change their perception of people from Turkey.*

**Duru Ors**

in Yerevan in an effort to trace the Anatolian legacy of these crafts.

**Serdar Bayram** and **Aylin Kızıl**, members of **Nar Photos**, both from **Diyarbakır**, took photographs of the daily lives and religious rituals of Yazidi people who live in the Elegez region in Armenia.

**Sevda Baysal** from **Antalya** visited civil society organisations working on girls' empowerment and on youth in Yerevan and Gyumri, to exchange know-how and to discuss the development of joint empowerment programmes.

**Melike Bilgin, Furkan Demirbaş, Selen Duruşkan, Hale Kaşka, Batuhan Kava, Özge Kaya, Rabia Kutlu and Fatma Murat** from **İstanbul**, members of the Boğaziçi University Center for European Studies Student Forum (CESSF), conducted interviews with Syrian Armenians in Yerevan about their stories of migration.

**Sabri Umut Bozyıl** from **İstanbul** visited the border village Bagaran to make preliminary fieldwork for his film project.

**Aylin Cilasın** and **Mustafa Emir Cilasın** from **Çanakkale**, members of the Çanakkale Koza Youth Association, visited the ABCD Innovation Center in Yerevan to strengthen their existing cooperation and to plan future projects together.

**Sibel Çağlar, Deniz Kartal** and **Ciran Derya Aygül Öztürk** from **İstanbul**, editors at **dünyalılar.org**, met with nature sports groups and environmental rights activists in Yerevan, and shared their observations and experiences with their social media followers through interviews and photos.



**Ahmet Gökçenur Çelebioğlu**, **Efe Duyan** and **Selahattin Yolgiden**, editors of the Offline İstanbul literature magazine and **Betül Dünder**, a poet and literary critic, all from **İstanbul**, visited Yerevan to attend a poetry translation workshop organised by Inknağir literary journal, which brought together contemporary Turkish and Armenian poets.

**Fatma Çelik** and **Serpil Polat** from **Diyarbakır**, members of Nar Photos, met with the '4Plus Photographers' in Yerevan to discuss potential future collaboration opportunities and conducted a photography project on Armenians forcibly displaced from Anatolia after 1915.

**Önder Çelik** from **Van**, graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, presented a paper on Kurdish treasure hunters in Van, at the conference 'Armenia-Turkey: Paving Ways for Dialogue and Reconciliation' organised by the Caucasus Research Resource Center - Armenia within the framework of the programme 'Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process' and conducted interviews with Armenian archaeologists and anthropologists at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography as a part of his research.

**Fulya Çeşme** from **Diyarbakır** visited a teachers' union in Yerevan to meet with teachers who work on preparing Kurdish textbooks and organised a workshop about mother tongue education.

**Vahram Danielyan**, from **Nor Hachn**, assistant professor at the American University of Armenia, and **Alina Poghosyan** from **Yerevan**, researcher at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, organised a



İstanbul, 2017 (📷 Rafik Movsisyan)

*Communication is the most crucial factor on the way to breaking stereotypes and normalising relationships, as people of both countries have many misunderstandings regarding each other. Therefore we should open the borders of our minds.*

**Nadya Hovhannisyan & Sofya Hakobyan**

*Just as I understood that Ararat is actually closer to Yerevan than I thought, I realized that building bridges between these two seemingly distant countries is also much easier than it looks on political, sociological, and historical readings.*

**Eleni Diker**

*It was a unique experience to see how women with diverse backgrounds could come together and cherish being a woman, to witness they are building peaceful and friendly connections with their counterparts by putting all the prejudices aside. Despite all the efforts made to distance us from one another, we women have the same concerns about certain issues: women's health, violence against women and peace building. Even if we have diverse backgrounds there is a huge possibility to build coalitions about these common issues.*

**Aslı Polatdemir**



Odzun, 2017 (📷 Önder Çelik)

*I think that TUMO offers great hope for the future of Armenia. The atmosphere over there fascinates everyone attending the courses and opens up their horizons.*

**Melisa Arslanyan**

*Since İstanbul is the closest megapolis for the people in Armenia, professionals in the fields of architecture and urbanism can bring two societies closer. I think students and young professionals from these fields have to visit İstanbul to feel the multicultural urban history and vibe of that city.*

**Sarhat Petrosyan**

*The grant definitely helped me to carry out smoothly my project, which was for musicians from both countries between the ages of 20-24. The purpose was to learn each other's culture through musical and social activities, to get a wider perspective of each other and to start friendships. When we were in Yerevan, we had the chance to meet with musicians from Armenia, practice Armenian songs with a local music teacher and have a joint concert together at the end. This project showed that there is a great potential for people from both countries to become friends and start an intimate relationship in a short period of time.*

**Melodi Var Öngel**

meeting in İstanbul to present the book *Negotiation of Differences in the Common Urban Space*, a collection of essays, which they prepared within the framework of the programme 'Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process'.

**Anahit Davidyants, Gohar Hakobyan and Lusine Nazaryan**, journalists from **Yerevan**, attended an event organised in İstanbul for the presentation of the William Saroyan Medal, awarded to Sevan Nişanyan.

**Mayranush Davtyan and Hayk Hakobyan**, human rights activists from **Yerevan**, attended educational workshops and trainings in İstanbul, organised by SPoD NGO, and shared their experiences of working for the well-being of the LGBTQI+ community.

**Şirin Duygulu Elçim** from **İstanbul**, assistant professor at İstanbul Şehir University, conducted interviews with civil society representatives in Armenia as a part of her research on the Turkey-Armenia reconciliation process.

**Stepan Epremyan** from **Diyarbakır** conducted research about Armenian traditional liturgical and folk music in Yerevan.

**Ahsen Eravcı, Hüsnü Merve Keskin, Sena Saylam, İslam Söğüt and Yavuz Selim Yalçın** from **İstanbul**, representatives of the Boğaziçi University Center for European Studies Student Forum, visited Yerevan to conduct interviews with representatives of the KASA Foundation, the UN Refugee Agency and the Women's Resource Center - Armenia on the situation of Syrian migrant women in Armenia.

Çiğdem Furtuna, Başak İncekara, Fulya Kahveci, Gizem Kıyıcı and İbrahim Özvarış from İstanbul, coordinators at the 'City and Children' initiative, organised a 3D model city playing workshop with children in Yerevan as part of their project 'Collected Spaces: Cities of Childhood and Memory' and carried out interviews.

Madlena Galstyan, Katarine Galstyan, Zareh Galstyan, Hayk Karapetyan, Stepan Ter-Ghevondyan and Anzhela Sargsyan from Yerevan, Armenia-based members of the music band United Harmonies, which was formed by artists from Turkey and Armenia, gave a joint concert in İstanbul together with the Turkey-based members of their band.

Gurgen Ghazaryan, Movses Ghazaryan, Davit Melkonyan, Arman Peshtmaljyan and Miqayel Voskanyan from Yerevan, members of the 'Miqayel Voskanyan & Friends' band, performed at 'A Corner In the World Festival' in İstanbul.

Mariam Ghukasyan, Tatevik Hakobyan, Elen Kokchyan, Mariam Melkonyan, Hrach Mirzoyan, Knarik Mirzoyan, Satenik Petrosyan, Aren Petunc and Naira Poghosyan from Yerevan State University, visited various libraries in İstanbul and Boğaziçi University, met Turkey-based scholars and researchers and established contacts for future research programmes.

Liana Grigoryan and Alexan George Kalayji from Yerevan, members of the Department of Diaspora Studies at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography in Armenia, met with representatives of the Armenian newspapers in İstanbul and visited Aras Publishing House to establish collaboration for their project on 'Hate Speech'.



Yerevan, 2017 (📷 Serpil Polat)

*One of the most striking aspects of visiting Armenia from Turkey is the very visible vestiges of a shared culture, whether it is food, some of the architecture or the trappings of daily life. The separation, heightened by the closed border, is what is strange: that these two nations, with so much in common, are still divided. I do not believe that the diplomatic and historical challenges are insurmountable.*

**Ayla Jean Yackley**

*This was the third year that Armenian photographers attended Diyarbakır International Photography Days. In Diyarbakır we had the chance to meet many Kurdish women photographers and we shared our ideas about a project we can carry out together. Besides the exhibition, there were presentations, talks and gatherings with the photographers. These meetings opened new channels for discussion for people from different countries.*

**Nazik Armenakyan**

*As I had a six-day-long visit to Armenia, music and the cultural life influenced me a lot. I am planning to include the musical traditions of Armenians into my future musical works in the coming years.*

**Şevin Tepe**





Kuğulu Park, Ankara, 2017 (📷 Rafik Movsisyan)

**Taron Grigoryan, Gevorg Hakobyan, Armen Hovhannisyan, Mher Martikyan and Armen Tadevosyan**, from Gyumri, gave concerts with their band Aratta and conducted open lessons on Armenian music for children at some Armenian schools in İstanbul.

**Serdar Güneri** from İstanbul, Secretary General of the AFS Volunteers Association, visited the Gyumri Youth Initiative Center to discuss the development of exchange programmes for young people from Armenia and Turkey.

**Sofya Hakobyan** from Yerevan, expert at The Center for Contemporary Experimental Art, and **Nadya Hovhannisyan** from Gyumri, member of the EUPHRATES Research Centre, visited a number of Armenian-populated districts of Turkey for research on the Christian and Islamised Armenians of Sassoun.

**Simon Hartmann** and **Hande Topaloğlu** from İstanbul, members of the Association for the Study of Sociology of Memory and Culture, shared the findings of their research, 'Post-memory of the Armenian Genocide: A Comparative Study on the 4th Generation in Turkey, Armenia, and Diaspora', at a workshop in Yerevan.

**Hasmik Harutyunyan** from Yerevan gave a concert named '102 STEPS|102 ADIM' in İstanbul to commemorate the memory of 24th April 1915 and met with musicians from Turkey to discuss potential areas of collaboration.

**Andranik Israyelyan** from Yerevan conducted interviews with academics, researchers, bureaucrats and journalists for his PhD thesis on the Armenia-Turkey normalisation process with 'football diplomacy'.

**Gamze İnceli İpek** and **İhsan Karayazı** from **İstanbul**, members of the Kars Urban and Culture Research Association, met restaurant owners and chefs from Gyumri, Yerevan and Dilijan, to organise a joint culinary workshop on common gastronomy heritage with chefs from Turkey and Armenia.

**Yasemin İnceoğlu** from **İstanbul**, professor of communication, interviewed journalists in Yerevan as part of comparative research on hate speech coverage in the Armenian and Turkish media.

**Mustafa Kadem** and **Emine Sarsık** from **İzmir**, photographed people from rural and urban areas of Armenia using shadow and silhouette techniques.

**Abdulmutallip Karabal**, student at Nişantaşı University Vocational School, and **Süleyman Kurt**, music instructor at Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Social Services Department, both from **Diyarbakır**, conducted interviews with master qanun players at conservatories in Yerevan and in Gyumri and visited Yazidi villages to record local songs.

**Mustafa Karadağ** and **Buyan Yağmur Memişoğulları** from **İstanbul**, contemporary dance students at the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, took part in 'ARÉ' performing arts festival with their piece 'Duvar/Wall'.

**Diana Kardumyan** and **Naira Muradyan** from **Yerevan** took part in the Ankara International Film Festival to attend the screening of their short movies 'Dialogues' and 'Marc and Marc'.

**Mahir Kartal** from **İstanbul** met with Armenian duduk players in Yerevan as a part of his research on the impact of 'Turkish music' on 'Armenian music'.



Gyumri, 2016 (📷 İhsan Karayazı)

*Small chats we had with the interviewees, taxi drivers, people in the streets, our efforts to teach each other 'merhaba' and 'parev', dancing arms in arms with the shared melodies in our memories, all these moments and feelings showed me that the border drawn between us and Armenia can only be surpassed by the people coming together, touching and listening to each other.*

**Ayşegül Özadak**

*Our visit to Armenia was very positive for the kids. They had the opportunity to know the young Armenian people coming from all over the world, to see Armenia and to compare the image in their minds with the reality. Most of them has already started to make their plans to visit again in the coming year.*

**Alen Taşcıoğlu**

*I have learned a lot in this visit. I did not know the beauty of Yerevan, the strength of civil society in Armenia, and the point that journalism has reached as well as its problems. I was totally unaware of the level of culture, arts and wonderful works that you can feel everywhere in Yerevan.*

**Zeynel Abidin Kızıltoprak**



Hasmik Harutyunyan and Özcan Gül, İstanbul, 2017 (📷 Berge Arabian)

*The Armenia-Turkey normalisation process needs much time. Our visit was a small but a very important step forward. With the help of our project young Armenians living in Vakıflı, Arab Alawites and Turks got acquainted with each other and made new friends and now are linked to each other. It doesn't matter where you are from, what religion you represent, what matters is that people can live together in harmony and love. The most beautiful discovery is to understand each other. So let us laugh a little louder together, smile a little bigger together and live just a little bit better.*

### **Diana Amirbekyan & Sarra Demirtshyan**

*I was able to establish a foundation for myself thanks to the courses I attended in TUMO. I will be working on becoming an expert in this field by increasing my level of knowledge in the future. I think this is a valuable experience that everyone should have.*

### **Aris Dikran Nişan**

*Let us feel hope not sorrow when we see the weary and almighty Ararat.*

### **Çağlar Solak**

**Veysel Kavak** and **Yusuf Nar** from **Konya** visited Armenian civil society organisations for their research on LGBTQI+ rights and their legal status in Armenia.

**Tarkan Kaynar** from **Balıkesir**, food writer at Oğlak Yayınları, met with experts of culinary arts and restaurant chefs in Yerevan for his research on Armenian food culture.

**Hovsep Khurshudyan** from **Yerevan**, president of the Free Citizen Civic Initiatives Support Centre, met with representatives of several civil society organisations in İstanbul, and visited Agos and Aras Publishing House.

**Masis Kıçık** from **İstanbul** travelled to Yerevan to participate in a two-year teaching programme as a fellow of Teach for Armenia, which organises teacher placements to the most underserved schools in different regions of Armenia.

**Sercan Kırmızı**, **Duru Ors**, **Mehmet Nihat Şan** and **Şevin Tepe** from **İzmir**, musicians of the 'Armenian Children' Music Band, organised music workshops with children in Yerevan and a joint concert with Music of Armenia.

**Zeynel Abidin Kızılyaprak**, freelance journalist and writer from **İstanbul**, met representatives of human right organisations and journalists and in Vanadzor, for research work.

**Ayşenur Korkmaz** from **İstanbul** took part in the international conference 'After Genocide: Gendered Trauma, Transmission and Reinvention', organised in Yerevan by Women in War - Paris in partnership with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography.



**Kerim Kürkcü** from **İstanbul**, director of Uniq Gallery, met Armenia-based curators, gallery directors and artists to explore further cooperation possibilities to realise his open studio project including workshops and an exhibition with the participation of artists from Turkey and Armenia.

**Vanuhi Malkhasyan** from **Vanadzor**, **Sona Manukyan** and **Hasmik Tangyan** from **Yerevan**, members of BA-AR-DI-A Dance & Movement Laboratory, performed their piece 'Inch ka-chka / Ne var ne yok' at the Middle East Technical University Contemporary Dance Festival.

**Hasmik Movsisian** from **Yerevan**, executive director of Music of Armenia, met representatives of various organisations from the field of culture and arts in **İstanbul** to establish partnerships for 'Music of Armenia's festival 'Tsovits Tsov' and made connections for further collaboration among musicians from the two countries.

**Rafik Movsisyan** from **Yerevan** took part in the Ankara International Film Festival as presenter of the Armenian short films programme, moderator of discussions and as a jury member in the short films competition.

**Müge Olacak** from **İstanbul**, the founding director of 'Atelier Muse', collaborated with 'Music of Armenia' for the preparation of a concert organised jointly in Yerevan, and visited various culture and arts organisations.

**Selin Süar Oral** from **İstanbul** visited Yerevan for preparations on her short film about the life of the grandchildren of the Armenian people deported from Turkey.



'Government House', Yerevan, 2017 (📷 İbrahim Özvarış)



Diyarbakır International Photography Days, 2016 (📷 Nazik Armenakyan)

*I think it is important to get more knowledge about this city, which is very close to us in spatial terms, but too far away perceptually. The two countries have a shared spatial language and usage, and lots of experiences to share. It was mind-opening to see this. I believe that we can contribute to the studies on the comparative history of cities.*

**Gizem Kıyıcı**

*People from different fields and disciplines coming together and generating something in interaction with each other, knowing and wondering each other... Maybe this will form the foundation for the normalisation of relations between the two countries.*

**Başak İncekara**

*We produced a multimedia story of the poet Miraze Cemal, whose family moved to Armenia long ago and who published a newspaper in Kurdish called "RyaTaza". We made new contacts and got more information about the Yazidis living in Armenia. We hope to develop new projects and find the opportunities to help us to create new stories. It was wonderful to work, produce, see around and have new friends in Yerevan for 10 days.*

**Aylin Kizil (Nar Photos)**

**Asya Orhan** from **Bursa** attended UWC (United World Colleges) - Dilijan during the spring semester in 2017.

**Ayşegül Özadək** and **Tuğçe Özdemir** from **İstanbul**, storytellers at 'Curious Steps: Gender and Memory Tours' organised by the Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies Research and Application Center, conducted research through interviews in Yerevan on the common songs of the peoples of Turkey and Armenia.

**Esra Özban** from **Ankara**, member of the Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association, attended the 13th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, met programmers, filmmakers, and artists in order to create dialogue between film festivals and the cinema industry in Armenia, and also LGBTQI+ activists.

**Ahmet Cem Özen** from **İstanbul**, member of the 3H Movement, met representatives of political parties, civil society organisations, think-tanks and opinion leaders in Armenia to discuss Turkish-Armenian relations and wrote an article based on his observations.

**Aykan Özener** and **Tülay Sabaz** from **Çanakkale**, members of the Pan Visual Culture and Art Association, took photos in Yerevan as part of their photography project 'Leave Borders Behind'.

**Arsen Petrosyan** from **Charentsavan**, professional duduk player, organised duduk music workshops in partnership with Danny S. Lundmark, a music therapist in İstanbul, and gave a concert Gevorg Petrosyan from Yerevan, president of the EUPHRATES Research Centre, conducted interviews with elderly Armenians in İstanbul and visited institutions as a part of his PhD thesis research on the Cold War period (1945-1965).



**Sarhat Petrosyan** from **Yerevan**, director of the Urbanlab Socio-Cultural Foundation, participated in a memory walk project and workshops, organised by Karakutu in cooperation with the Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation.

**Ecem Sarıçayır** from **İstanbul**, teaching and research assistant at Kadir Has University, conducted research in Yerevan about her master's thesis on 'borderscapes and architecture'.

**Pınar Sayan** from **İstanbul**, Turkey Director of the Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation, attended the Turkish-Armenian Dialogue and Memory Workshop organised by Karakutu and the conference 'Armenia-Turkey: Paving Ways for Dialogue and Reconciliation' organised by the Caucasus Research Resource Center.

**Çağlar Solak** from **Manisa**, research assistant at Celal Bayar University, conducted interviews in Yerevan and in Gyumri in cooperation with the CRRC-Armenia for his academic research about Armenian and Turkish peoples' attitudes towards each other.

**Musa Tokmak** from **Ankara**, project coordinator at the Polatlı Duatepe Education, Culture, Art and Youth Association, visited the 'Creative Youth' and 'LAMEK Youth associations in order to develop an Erasmus+ project involving the two countries.

**Ahmet Tunç** from **Ankara**, volunteer at AIESEC Turkey, took part in an AIESEC Armenia event in Yerevan on raising awareness on intercultural learning among high school students.

**Elif Yağmur Turan** from **Uşak** attended UWC (United World Colleges) - Dilijan during the fall semester in 2017.



Stepan Epremyan, Arno Babajanian Concert Hall, Yerevan, 2017

*I believe that the forum theatres, as an example of projects based on utilising the opportunities of reparative justice and shared cultural elements in the collective memory for the purpose of facing the past, are important opportunities for the normalisation of relations between peoples.*

**Seyhan Alu**

*During this five-day long visit everyone from different walks of life that we met expressed the harm caused by limitations the freedoms of communication and travel and this once again showed us the importance of increasing the opportunities for communication.*

**Ciran Derya Aygöl & Deniz Kartal & Sibel Çağlar**

*While the street I walked along, the people I talked with, the dinner I had, the crowd I watched, the children I played with all reminded me that I was actually at home, the unattainable silhouette of Ararat rising to the sky reminded me what a border actually means. When I was back in İstanbul, I felt the bitterness of the fact that people living on the other side of the border also cook the same dishes and have the same living culture but that this is not realised one way or another.*

**Çiğdem Furtuna**



Mirzoyan Library, 2016 (📷 Ege Batuhan Akgül)

*I think any step taken between Armenia and Turkey contributes to the normalisation process. Rights-based organisations coming together for cooperation is a concrete step to this end. I believe that every experience, interaction and daily life practice during our time in Armenia makes a contribution to this process.*

**Begüm Baki**

*Mental and geographical borders are like learned helplessness. Normally, it is possible to get rid of these borders through another way of perception and observation. Borders are actually in the field of politics and in the minds. We are the continuation of generations who lived in the foothills of the same mountain (Ağrı-Ararat), fueled with similar cultural histories, revealed their happiness and sorrow with the same melodies and had similar dishes, routines.*

**Emine Sarsık & Mustafa Kadem**

*I believe that it is up to the younger generation to change the prejudices about Armenians in Turkey and about Turks in Armenia. This is my very personal experience that even a folk song chanted together with the young people in Armenia is sufficient to break down these prejudices.*

**Hale Kaşka**

**Nevruz Ürün** from **Van** visited Radio Yerevan for her research on the ‘dengbêj’ (Kurdish bards or epic singers) storytelling tradition.

**Necib Varan** from **İstanbul**, mental health coordinator and psychotherapist at the Social Politics Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation Research Association (SPoD), established contacts with LGBTQI+ and HIV/AIDS organisations in Armenia for future collaboration and exchange of experience.

**Umut Vedat** from **İstanbul** visited art galleries in Yerevan to find a venue for his photography exhibition.

**Ayla Jean Yackley**, freelance journalist from **İstanbul**, travelled to Yerevan for reporting on various stories including efforts to revive talks towards the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Turkey; the integration of ethnic Armenians who fled Syria during the war; the status of Yazidis in Armenia; and the 2017 Armenian Genocide commemorations.

**Hasan Yalçın** from **Diyarbakır**, member of the Human Rights Association-Diyarbakır Branch, met representatives of various civil society organisations working in the field of human rights, including Kurdish civic initiatives in Armenia.

**Ercan Yılmaz** from **Kayseri** visited the Armenian Writers Association, met with Armenian writers and wrote an essay on the poet and writer Yeghishe Charents.

**Şant Zincir** from **İstanbul**, board member of the Association of Architects and Engineers (HAYCAR), met with engineers and architects in Yerevan to develop new partnerships.



Cascade, Yerevan, 2017 (📷 Tarkan Kaynar)

*The ‘Bridging Stones’ programme was conducted for months to tell stories through young photographers from the two countries and through the photographs they have taken and to make at least a small contribution to putting negative relations between two countries on a positive track. I am very happy to be a part of this programme and to be hand in hand with people who want to build a shared future with hope. I hope that I will keep standing with these people full of hope who want nothing but to improve the relations between the two countries.*

**Haydar Taştan**





William Saroyan Monument, Yerevan, 2017 (📷 Tarkan Kaynar)

## ACTIVITIES OF TRAVEL GRANTEES

### COOPERATION THROUGH LENSES

**Nazik Armenakyan**, member of the **4Plus Documentary Photography Center**, travelled to Diyarbakır with the support of the Travel Grant to take part in the **Diyarbakır International Photography Days**. This visit provided her an opportunity to meet and cooperate with some Turkish and Kurdish women photographers.



Diyarbakır, 2016  
Nazik Armenakyan

### 102 STEPS

**Hasmik Movsisyan**, the executive director of 'Music of Armenia', visited İstanbul with the support of the Travel Grant to establish partnerships with potential local partners for Music of Armenia's upcoming 'Tsovits Tsov' [Sea to Sea] song contest. During this visit, 'Music of Armenia' became one of the co-organisers of the commemorative event '**102 STEPS | 102 ADIM**' held on April 23rd, 2017. **Hasmik Harutyunyan**, who was supported by the Travel Grant to visit İstanbul and share knowledge and collaborate with musicians from Turkey, gave a concert there.



İstanbul, 2017  
Berge Arabian



İstanbul, 2016  
Miqayel Voskanyan  
Photo Archive

### ARMENIAN FOLK MUSIC AT 'A CORNER IN THE WORLD'

On October 8, 2016, **Miqayel Voskanyan**, **Gurgen Ghazaryan**, **Movses Ghazaryan**, **Arman Peshtmaljyan** and **Davit Melkonyan**, members of **Miqayel Voskanyan & Friends**, a Yerevan-based folk fusion music band, performed at 'A Corner in the World' festival in İstanbul.

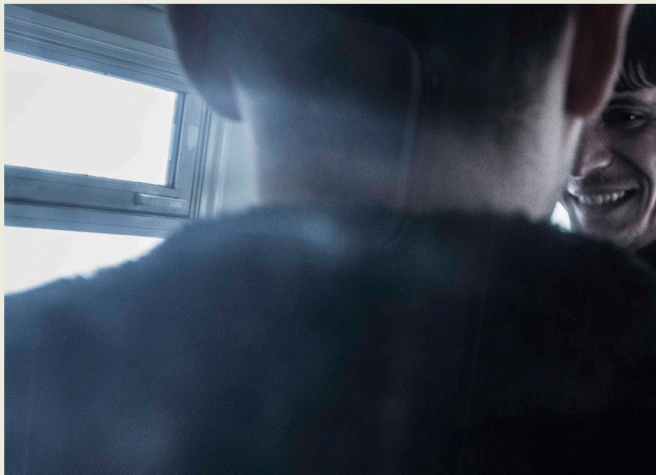




#### TOGETHER IN MUSIC

Gevorg Hakobyan, Armen Hovhannisyan, Mher Martikyan, Armen Tadevosyan and Taron Grigoryan from Gyumri, members of **Aratta Band**, organised concerts and conducted open classes for Armenian school children in İstanbul. They also played Armenian traditional music with musicians from Turkey.

İstanbul, 2017  
Zeynep Sungur



İstanbul, 2017  
Haydar Taştan

#### BRIDGING STORIES

Bekir Emre Ögüt, Haydar Taştan and Ege Batuhan Akgül, participants of the **'Bridging Stories'** photojournalism programme organised by the **Storyteller's Café** NGO, visited Yerevan to take part in the opening of the photo exhibition. 'Bridging Stories' brought together young photographers from Armenia and Turkey, providing them an opportunity to learn photography and storytelling techniques, and share their stories through photos.



İstanbul, 2017  
Haydar Taştan

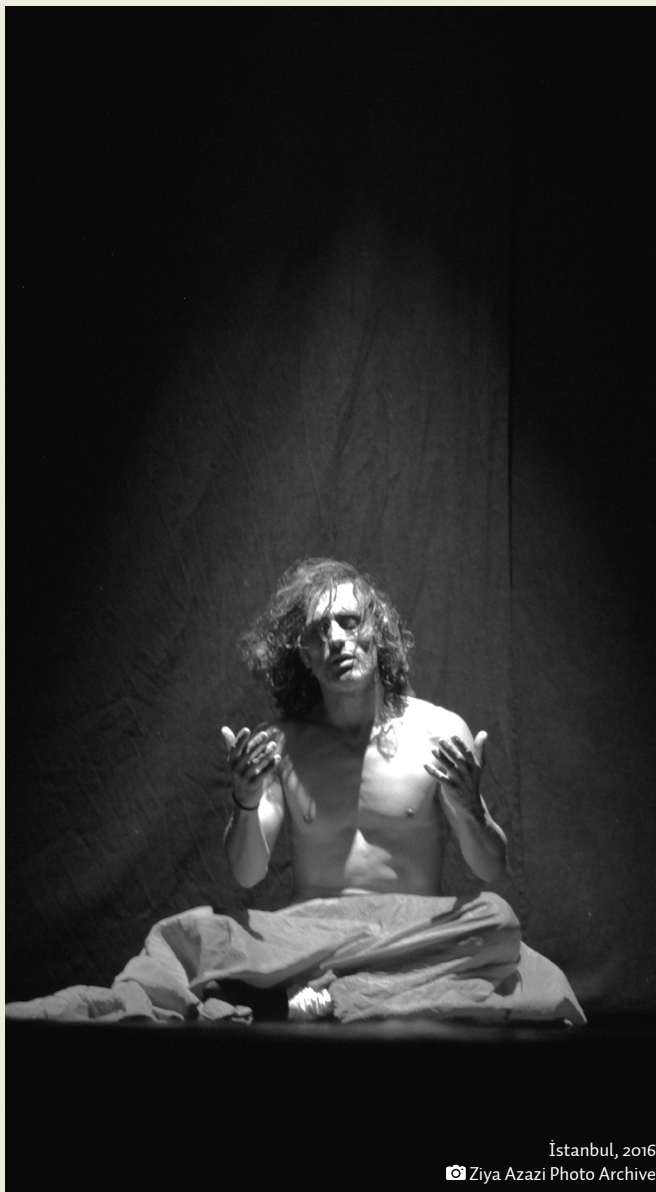
#### FOR CHILDREN

Armenuhi Sardaryan, Gayane Movsisyan, Karine Mkhitarian, Lia Ghazaryan, Lilit Ghukasyan and Mariam Adamyan from Yerevan established cooperation with the **Tarlabası Community Center** in İstanbul, holding a four-day workshop for children with special needs, during which children had an opportunity to engage in singing, painting and handicraft activities.



İstanbul, 2016

Gayane Movsisyan



İstanbul, 2016

Ziya Azazi Photo Archive

#### A 'WHIRLING DERVISH' IN YEREVAN

Ziya Azazi performed his 'Dervish' on May 17th, 2017, at the ARé performing arts festival in Yerevan, and conducted, in the following three days, a series of workshops on the 'sufi whirling' tradition.



### ART FOR EMPATHY

In search of a venue for his solo exhibition and with the aim of building a bridge between the two countries through his art, **Umut Vedat** visited Yerevan with the support of the Travel Grant. His exhibition entitled '**Who am I?**' was launched on November 4th, 2017 in Yerevan and through it he tried to show the changes that had occurred in Western Armenia and to develop empathy between the peoples of the two neighbouring countries, with narratives from the other side. On January 2017, the Armenian Diocese in Georgia held a ceremony as a tribute to Hrant Dink, which was followed by Umut Vedat's exhibition.



Yerevan, 2017  
Umut Vedat



### TECHNOLOGY WITH CHILDREN

With the support of the Travel Grant, 29 elementary and high school students from İstanbul attended the technology camp organised by **TUMO Center for Creative Technologies**.

Yerevan, 2017

### KARAMANUK'S SONGS IN ARMENIA

A group of musicians from Turkey, Mehmet Nihat Şan, Sercan Kırmızı, Şevin Tepe and Duru Ors visited Armenia to perform children's songs by **Sirvart Karamanuk**, an Armenian composer from İstanbul. The Travel Grant enabled them to meet specialists from various music schools, conduct workshops with children and give a joint concert in Yerevan. They also travelled to Gyumri where they organised another concert with the choir of the **Kara-Murza Music College**.



Yerevan, 2017  
Subalap Photo Archive









FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

## TURKEY-ARMENIA FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

The Hrant Dink Foundation established the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme to promote cross-border cooperation between professionals from the two neighbouring countries. During its first cycle in 2014-2015, out of 91 applicants, the Fellowship Scheme supported the activities of 12 fellows from Armenia and six fellows from Turkey in İstanbul, Yerevan and Gyumri. Within the framework of the programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process, financed by the European Union, the Fellowship Scheme aimed in 2016-2017 to offer 18 professionals the opportunity to live and follow a special programme at a specific host organisation in the neighbouring country for four to eight months. In the second cycle of the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, an open call was made in July 2016 and received a total of 32 applications, four from Turkey and 28 from Armenia, out of which nine fellows (eight from Armenia and one from Turkey) moved to the neighbouring country to carry out their fellowship activities between November 2016 and June 2017. The Fellowship Scheme supported activities in areas where exchange of expertise and lasting cooperation were much needed, such as academia, civil society, media, culture and arts, translation and interpreting/language-learning.

In this cycle, 50 organisations from Turkey and 33 from Armenia, including public and private universities, research centres, civil society organisations, media outlets, culture-arts centres and museums from different cities of both countries, opened their doors to professionals from the neighbouring country with proposals for specific cooperation programmes.

In November 2016, the Hrant Dink Foundation decided to make an additional call for applications. With this call, 43 organisations from Turkey and 26 organisations from Armenia were found who were willing to act as host organisations for fellows. In the third cycle, the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme received 14 applications (eight from Turkey and six from Armenia) and six fellows (four from Turkey and two from Armenia) were selected to carry out their fellowship activities in the neighbouring country from January to June 2017.

In accordance with the selection process stated in the Fellowship Scheme regulations, incoming applications were directed to the corresponding host organisations, and in this way dozens of individuals and organisations willing to collaborate with one another were matched. Since it was not possible

### PROJECT TEAM

Armenuhi Nikoghosyan  
Zeynep Sungur

### SELECTION COMMITTEE

Zara Lavchyan  
İbrahim Betil  
Sema Kılıçer

### WEBSITE

[www.armtr-beyondborders.org](http://www.armtr-beyondborders.org)

with the available funding to support all the candidates who were matched with host organisations, an independent selection committee with members from both countries identified the 14 fellows in line with the selection criteria and priorities stated in the regulations.

The fellows first attended the pre-departure orientation meetings organised by the project team in Yerevan and İstanbul, and from October 2016 onwards they moved to the neighbouring country and started their fellowship activities.

As the fellows settled in their new homes, they met the host organisations and their new colleagues, and started the application process for a long-term visa and residence permit. Fellows from Armenia started Turkish language courses, and fellows from Turkey started Armenian language courses. One of the fellows from Turkey had to end her fellowship at the very beginning of her programme due to personal circumstances.

The fellows from Armenia, during their stay in İstanbul, taught Eastern Armenian at a university; deepened their research on some leading figures in the history of Armenian language and culture, making use of various sources in Turkey; and continued with their studies on conflict resolution, as well as peace and human rights issues.

The fellows from Turkey conducted research on the impact of the closed border between the two countries with the support of leading academic institutes and think tanks in Armenia; prepared and presented, in cooperation with the leading arts centres in Yerevan, a dance performance combining contemporary art with traditional dances of the two countries; and organised joint exhibitions.

The fellows from Armenia and Turkey conducted research on the societies of the two countries to analyse their perceptions and discourse regarding each other.

Based on its experience of the Fellowship Scheme over the past four years and observing the continued interest in the programme from senior academics and host organisations, the Hrant Dink Foundation designed a shorter-term fellowship opportunity in consultation with the other member bodies implementing the Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process programme and host organisations. In meetings with various institutions and individuals throughout the implementation of the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, it has been observed that there are a considerable number of scholars and specialists/experts willing to carry out some research or activity in the neighbouring country, but because of their workload and responsibilities at their workplaces, it is hard for them to do a long-term fellowship of four to eight months. To this end, the Hrant Dink Foundation designed the Short Term Fellowship Scheme and supported seven professionals (four from Armenia and three from Turkey) for their fellowship in the neighbouring country, which lasted from two weeks to one month between August 14th and October 10th, 2017.

In addition to the activities at their host organisations, during their stay, the fellows actively took part in meetings and seminars; networked with various people and organisations working in their field; delivered speeches at universities and civil society organisations; organised workshops; wrote essays and reports; created gender maps of neighbourhoods; and shared their know-how with their colleagues working in similar fields in the neighbouring country.

During this period, the fellows shared their fellowship activities, experiences and impressions through the 'Beyond Borders' website.

## TURKEY-ARMENIA FELLOWSHIP SCHEME HOST ORGANISATIONS

### TURKEY

#### EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- Adapazarı Enka Schools
- Ankara University Women's Problems Research and Application Center (KASAUM)
- Bahçeşehir University Center for Economic and Social Research (BETAM)
- Boğaziçi University Peace Education, Application and Research Centre
- Boğaziçi University Department of Political Science and International Relations
- Boğaziçi University Department of History
- Creative Ideas Institute Gastronomika Programme
- Culinary Arts Academy of İstanbul
- Dokuz Eylül University Department of International Relations
- Ege University Department of Psychology
- Hacettepe University Institute of Social Sciences Peace and Conflict Studies Programme
- Ihsan Doğramacı Bilkent University
- İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center
- İstanbul Şehir University Center for Modern Turkish Studies
- Kadir Has University Center for International and European Studies (CIES)
- Kadir Has University Lifelong Learning Centre
- Koç University Centre for Gender Studies (KOÇ-KAM)
- Okan University European Union Research and Application Center
- Sabancı University İstanbul Policy Center (IPC)
- Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence (SU Gender)
- Yıldız Technical University Department of Communication Design

#### CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- Agenda: Child Association
- Ashoka Foundation

- BoMoVu Association
- Center for Spatial Justice (Beyond İstanbul)
- Civil Society Development Center Association (STGM)
- Civil Society in the Penal System – Turkey's Center for Prison Studies
- Earth Association
- Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association
- Good4trust.org
- Habitat Association
- Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Researches and Solidarity Association (Kaos GL)
- Social Policies, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Studies Association (SPOD)
- Yeşilist

#### ART CENTRES

- FedErAtion
- İstanbul Modern Art Museum
- İstanbul Tanpınar Literature Festival (İTEF)
- Kalem Literary Agency
- PACE Children's Art Centre
- SALT

#### MEDIA OUTLETS

- Açık Radio
- CNN Turk
- IMC TV

#### PRODUCTION COMPANIES

- Liman Film
- Ret Film

#### LAW OFFICE

- Gün Law Office

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM

- A&B Communications

#### DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

- IDEMA International Development Management

#### PUBLISHING HOUSE

- Can Publishing



**TURKEY-ARMENIA FELLOWSHIP SCHEME HOST ORGANISATIONS**  
**ARMENIA**

**EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

- American University of Armenia  
[Hayastani Amerikyan Hamalsaran]
- Caucasus Resource Research Centre – Armenia  
[Hetazotakan Resursneri Kovkasyan Kentron – Hayastan]
- Eurasia International University  
[Yevrasia Mijazgayin Hamalsaran]
- Matenadaran – Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts [Matenadaran Mesrop Mashtotsi Anvan Hin Dzeragreri Gitahetazotakan Institut]
- National Library of Armenia  
[Hayastani Azgayin Gradaran]
- Russian-Armenian University  
[Hay-Rusakan Hamalsaran]
- The Armenian Institute of International and Security Affairs [Mijazgayin ev Anvtangutyun Hartseri Haykakan Institut]
- Yerevan State University Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies [Kaghakakrtakan ev Mshakutayin Hetazotutyunneri Kentron]
- Yerevan State University Center for Gender and Leadership Studies [Yerevani Petakan Hamalsarani Genderayin Hetazotutyunneri ev Arajnordutyun Kentron]

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

- Civil Society Institute Armenia  
[Kaghakatsiakan Hasarakutyun Institut]
- DVV International Armenia
- Eurasia Partnership Foundation [Yevrasia Hamagortsakcutyun Himnadram]
- Gyumri Youth Initiative Center NGO [Gyumru Yeritasardakan Nakhadzernutyunneri Kentron HK]
- Helsinki Citizens Assembly Vanadzor [Helsinkiyan Qaghaqaciakan Asambleayi Vanadzori Grasenyak]
- Homeland Development Initiative Foundation [Hayreniqi Zargatsman Nakhadzernutyun Himnadram]
- Noravank Scientific and Educational Foundation [Noravanq Gitakrtakan Himnadram]

- Peace Dialogue NGO Vanadzor  
[Khaghaghutyun Yerkkhosutyun HK Vanadzor]
- Public Journalism Club [Hanrayin Iragrutyan Akumb]
- Society without Violence  
[Hasarakutyun Arants Brnutyan]
- Transparency International Anticorruption Center  
[Transparensi interneshnl Hakakorupsion Kentron]
- Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development  
[Urban Kayun Zargatsman Himnadram]
- UrbanLab Yerevan

**ART CENTRES**

- Berlin Art Hotel Gallery 25  
[Berlin Art Hyuranots Galeri 25]
- Institute for Contemporary Art  
[Zhamanakakits Arvesti Institut]
- Armenian Rolan Bykov Foundation Children’s Film Festival [Hayastani Rolan Bikov Himnadram Yerekhaneri Kinoparadon]
- MIHR Theatre / MIHR Creative Union NGO [MIHR Tatron / MIHR Steghtsagortsakan Miutyun HK]

**MEDIA OUTLETS**

- Media Initiatives Center  
[Media Nakhadzernutyunneri Kentron]
- Multi Media Kentron TV CJSC
- The Civiltas Foundation [Civiltas Himnadram]

**ARCHITECTURE FIRM**

- Storaket Architectural Studio  
[Storaket Chartarapetakan Arvestanots]

**TRANSLATION FIRM**

- Translator.am, ISMA Ltd.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM**

- Deem Communications

**DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- Armavir Development Center  
[Armaviri Zargatsman Kentron]



## REZZAN ALAGÖZ

received degrees in Sociology from İstanbul University (BA, 2007) and from the City University of New York in (MA, 2012). She is a PhD candidate at Mimar Sinan University Sociology Department and works as a research assistant at Adıyaman University Sociology Department. She stayed in Yerevan between April and June 2017 to conduct research, as a part of her thesis, on the impact of the closed Armenia-Turkey border on the daily lives of the people who live on both sides of it and their perceptions of each other.

My main expectation in applying for this fellowship was to conduct in Armenia a part of my research, which was about the effects of the closed border on the people who live nearby. During the time that I was working at the Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies in Yerevan State University as a fellow, I mainly focused on a part of my PhD thesis. I tried to understand how the closed Armenia-Turkey border has shaped the daily lives of people living on both sides of the border and the way they perceive each other. For this reason, as a fellow I worked on my research in border villages and cities in the Ararat and Armavir regions (Pşatavan, Malgara, Arazap, Rençper, Pokirvedi, Aragats, Artaşat). Doing this research with the support of Yerevan State University gave me the chance to meet a number of academic staff from different fields. Their advice improved my understanding of the research field.

I want to add that what this study taught me is not limited to my research on the Armenian-Turkey border. It also allowed me to learn more about Armenia and Armenian culture. During my fellowship, the most striking experience for me was living with an Armenian family in Yerevan, which gave me the chance to experience culture in everyday life, to build an effective relationship with the society and to observe the

## YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CIVILIZATION AND CULTURAL STUDIES

was founded in 2007. Its research activities focus on a wide range of issues including value systems, civilizational streams, mechanisms of intercultural cooperation, regional socio-political processes, as well as public policy making.



The Yerevan State University Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies pays special attention to establishing dialogue between societies through social, cultural and media relationships in all its research projects. Participating in the current project was yet another opportunity to be part of such relationships. While being a host organisation in the framework of this programme was a task which imposed responsibility on us, we enjoyed the opportunity to build a small but emotionally strong bridge between young researchers from our countries.

We did a lot of things, enjoyed conversations and discussions, laughed together at our stereotypes, and we believe that this type of cooperation and communication will continue. Currently, our centre's researchers are involved in another programme in the framework of which we are analysing regional and national security dynamics and our fellow from Turkey, Rezzan, participated in this. She conducted research on Turkey's fundamental foreign security issues.

The Armenia-Turkey Fellowship Scheme offers a great opportunity to be connected with Turkish researchers, share views and analyse regional security obstacles together. Everyday contact with Rezzan shed a light of

differences and similarities between two societies. I found several gestures and words that both societies use.

Such programmes help people understand each other better. Aside from this programme, I think making a programme for ordinary people from these two countries could also help close the gaps between their societies.

hope that tolerance and intercultural communication can solve, smooth over and manage conflicts and misunderstandings. Working with a fellow from Turkey created a border-free atmosphere, not only at our centre, but also in our minds.

Our fellow's research interests included a wide range of issues connected with the Armenian-Turkish border. Rezzan was doing a survey regarding the attitudes of people living near the Turkish-Armenian border. Her contribution to our centre was huge; besides her research, she helped us to get at a deeper understanding of Turkish youth, academic circles and ordinary people. It was really a unique experience to observe Turkish policies and culture through the eyes and attitudes of a young Turkish woman, fellow researcher and active citizen of our neighbour country.

Discussions on international relations, on the problems the youth face both in Armenia and in Turkey, on issues concerning women in our region, on the ways we drink Armenian/Turkish coffee and try to predict our futures... All these had a huge impact on our relations and our perception not only of her, but of Turkish society in general. We do believe that generalisations are not the best way of thinking, but having one real example of cooperation is worth a thousand stereotypical fears, concerns and labelling.



## ARPI ATABEKYAN

received her BA degree in Turkish Studies from Yerevan State University. In 2011 she received a German Academic Exchange Service and Humboldt University academic excellence scholarship and studied Social Sciences in a joint MA programme between Middle East Technical University (Ankara) and Humboldt University (Berlin). She worked at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies in Berlin (ZMO) and the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB). She stayed in İstanbul between January and June 2017, where she focused on the mapping of gendered spaces in Karaköy, İstanbul and organised memory walks in the neighbourhood in cooperation with the Center for Spatial Justice.

I applied for the fellowship firstly because I am actively involved in the Armenia-Turkey normalisation process and I strongly believe in it. It is obvious that at the present time the most feasible way of doing this is to establish connections between the two countries through civil society and through academic circles. Secondly, I had applied because of my own research plans. I work in the area of gender studies in Armenia; I wanted to conduct similar research in İstanbul and at the same time gain experience for my future research.

When I first arrived in İstanbul, I conducted small-scale research on various neighbourhoods in the city. Based on this research, I decided to focus on the Karaköy area and organise an individual gender-walk in the neighbourhood. So for around three and a half months I did walks by myself, during day and after dark, in the rhombus of the Karaköy area, starting from Mumhane to Tersane and from Galata Tower to the port of Karaköy. This part of İstanbul is famous for being an old port and therefore, having a rather masculine culture. At the same time, there are many hardware stores in this area.

This neighbourhood, in time, has been masculinised. The sellers are mostly men, the customers are mostly men; and as a woman working in

## CENTER FOR SPATIAL JUSTICE (BEYOND İSTANBUL)

is a cross-disciplinary, independent, demand-responsive urban institute, focused on issues of spatial justice in İstanbul and beyond, involving academics, artists, activists and urban researchers based in İstanbul. It works on the issues of spatial justice, aiming to bring together transnational knowledge and cross-disciplinary expertise with local communities, to help to (re-)produce spaces and practices of hope.



The Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme was valuable to us in many ways. One of them, was the opportunity to make direct contact with individuals and organisations from Armenia. It was also a good start for us to increase working cooperation with the Hrant Dink Foundation. We believe that contact was important, because for us, spatial justice includes layers of historical injustices, especially in a city like İstanbul, which was built, owned and lived in by various communities. In the last 100 years there was a radical transformation in the composition of the city, so a lot of injustices have been created spatially, which are still visible through the physical spaces of the city.

One of the subjects that we focused on with our fellow, Arpi Atabekyan, was our desire to find a mutual ground and field of interest. She was interested in gender spaces; and in our institution, we have quite a number of members who are interested in this subject. With Arpi, we started rethinking our own environment, Karaköy; a quite male-dominated area, where our centre is also based. Arpi wanted to focus on the area with a gender-sensitive perspective. We started working on different tools that we use; such as mapping, extracting spatial information through walking, making contacts with people both collectively and individually, etc.

this neighbourhood, you feel most of the time like an outsider. In the end, I created a digital map of this area, based on my personal everyday walks. I also had an opportunity to represent the findings of my research at an event organised at the Hrant Dink Foundation.

My host organisation Beyond İstanbul - Spatial Justice Center has been very helpful, with a very friendly atmosphere, always helping and guiding me with advice. The staff at the centre deal with difficult issues every day. They do walks in several parts of the city and deal with the problems of different classes. They are very motivated people. I am indebted to them for a large part of the outcome. From my fellowship experience in this institution, I acquired a lot of working and human skills, including cooperating and working together.

For those considering going to İstanbul as a fellow, I suggest that they catch the spirit of the city. This is very difficult as it is a very dynamic city. I suggest to everyone that they look around at the façades of the buildings, because by doing so, they will see and discover the history, while watching how the city lives at the moment.

In this project, she made her own research and contributed to our own institution by sharing her own findings with our members.

The second major work that we conducted with Arpi was a panel and walks in cooperation with the Hrant Dink Foundation, in which we brought together different walking practices in İstanbul. These walks include memory walks, gender-based walks, as well as purely urbanistic, ecological and artistic walks. This collection of different walking practices created a chance to talk to each other for potential future collaboration among the participants of the panel. Finally, our cooperation with Arpi enabled us to create contacts with individuals and groups from Armenia. We are hoping to build on that initial contact.

For those individuals and institutions who are planning to apply to the programme, first of all, we would encourage them to do so. We think it is always useful, before going to a neighbouring country and coming under the umbrella of those host institutions, to come up with your own ambitions, with your own little projects, something that you want to produce throughout this programme.





## GAYANE AYVAZYAN

received BA, MA and PhD degrees in History from Yerevan State University. She is a senior researcher at Mesrop Mashtots Matenadaran Scientific Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts. She has participated in various local and international research programmes and conferences and authored a number of articles. She stayed in İstanbul between November 2016 and June 2017 to deepen her research on the historiographical heritage of Eremia Kömürçyan at İstanbul Şehir University.

My research interests include the works of the famous 17th-century Armenian thinker Eremia Komurjian and, in particular, the publication of his “Badmoutioun harman Krete gighzvo” [History of the Occupation of Crete Island], which is about the seizure of the island of Crete in 1669. In 2014, I managed to obtain a copy of this manuscript, in order to prepare a critical edition. The work is mostly completed: I’ve deciphered the text and prepared a large number of notes and references, but as this story is not limited just to the Armenian historical events, there is a need to put this text in the historical context in which it was written and to which it mostly relates. The resources of Armenian libraries are not sufficient for a comprehensive solution of this issue, because there is very little relevant Turkish literature there. Without the Turkish resources, the publication would have been incomplete.

The Center for Modern Turkish Studies, which was my host organisation, provided me with a good working atmosphere and helped me find professional support among the specialists of the university.

Living in İstanbul, a city where Komurjian had lived, enabled me to re-evaluate his legacy with regard to Ottoman Studies. One of the most

## İSTANBUL ŞEHİR UNIVERSITY – CENTER FOR MODERN TURKISH STUDIES

founded in 2011, supports the creation of knowledge within the context of social sciences and humanities through research dealing with the issues of Turkey in the last two centuries. Besides an interdisciplinary M.S. programme which it runs, it hosts researchers, scholars and practitioners from Turkey and abroad with a fellowship programme. It also organizes short-term special programmes and summer schools for those who work at international institutions and think tanks and for policymakers.

Both at the Turkish Language and Literature Department and at the Centre for Modern Turkish Literature in İstanbul Şehir University, we are aiming to focus on activities revealing the history of the Ottoman Empire and the pluralism in modern Turkey. Armenian Culture and Ottoman Armenian literature constitutes an essential part of this. With that respect, at Şehir University, we open Armenian language courses, as well as history classes on Ottoman Armenian culture; which at the same time helps us in our own research.

Having that in mind, Gayane Ayvazyan’s research topic was very important for us. Gayane received her PhD degree at Yerevan State University with her research on Eremia Chelebi Komurjian, who was one of the most significant figures and a very valuable intellectual in the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century. Even though he has a number of manuscripts in various languages, mostly in Armenian and also in Turkish, today we have very little knowledge of him and his work. Our cooperation with Gayane was very significant in two ways; first, she, in a way, reintroduced Komurjian to the academic field here through her research findings, and secondly, İstanbul Şehir University became the centre of this study.

important aspects for me was the ability to use Turkish archives and libraries, which enriched my research and opened new perspectives for it. I also had the chance to develop my knowledge of Turkish language through live contacts in a Turkish-speaking environment.

I consider this fellowship as a wonderful opportunity to assess my abilities, both in terms of strengths and weaknesses. I would encourage everyone to apply for this programme, all those who have some ideas and projects and who can imagine their implementation in this country.

Our university has been listed as one of the host organisations in the Fellowship Scheme since it was launched, and thanks to the Hrant Dink Foundation, we have had the chance to host fellows in two different terms. I believe this has already been a very productive cooperation and as the academics of İstanbul Şehir University, we have immensely benefited from it, as well. This programme has proven to be an important step towards initiating dialogue between the two countries, and in creating space for the discussion of cultural issues. These issues need at least to be discussable even at the most basic level between the two societies and one way to do this is to turn these exchanges into a tradition.

We would like to encourage everyone who is considering applying to the Fellowship Scheme, both from Armenia and from Turkey. Especially, here at İstanbul Şehir University, we are more than glad to host them and we will try our best to support them as much as we can, while we can simultaneously learn from their research and benefit from their experience.



## DUYGU BOSTANCI

received a BA degree from the Department of Industrial Design at Middle East Technical University. She practises video-making, photography and contemporary dance. Her short film 'Simulacrum' was screened at SinemaDansAnkara Film Fest in 2014. She stayed in Yerevan between November 2016 and March 2017 to practise and perform her contemporary dance at the Institute for Contemporary Art of Yerevan, she organised public performances and film screenings.

Before coming to Armenia, I felt like I didn't know Armenia and Armenians. I wanted to meet them and know them. My only expectation was to establish relationships with Armenians. I collaborated with contemporary dancers in Yerevan and we made a contemporary dance piece based on traditional dances of Armenia and Turkey. I also made three short films about my experience in Armenia.

With the help of the Institute for Contemporary Art Yerevan, my host organisation, I met many people from the art field in Yerevan and established relationships with them. There were also other residents from time to time and it was nice to share the house with them and learn about other people's experiences in Yerevan. Thanks to my lessons in Armenian, I started communicating with people in the streets and in the bazaars. Beforehand, taking photos of people I don't know was a bit difficult for me. I felt like I was an observer, an outside eye and sometimes I refrained from doing so. However in Yerevan I started to think that the camera can be a tool to communicate with people.

It was an important transformation for me. The dance group BA-AR-DI-A Dance Laboratory which I collaborated gave me courage. I realised that

## INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART - YEREVAN

is an open hub for the development and production of cultural and contemporary art projects. It promotes the operation of the art economy in Armenia; develops and implements art collecting, exhibiting, archiving and disseminating projects; conducts research and organizes teaching programmes in the field of curatorial practices, theory and art education.

It is important for the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) and the Nest Artists Residency to host artists from diverse cultural backgrounds. Thus we cannot overstate the value of our fellows from Turkey as they contribute to the cultural dialogue between Armenia and Turkey and open up a new perspective for the local artistic scene with their presence and involvement in the local art scene.

With the support of our artist in the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, Duygu Bostanci, we have hosted artists and activists from Turkey and helped them integrate in the local art scene, network with local artists sharing the same interests and organise public events such as talks and discussions, film screenings, games, performances, etc. We have been guiding and supervising their stay at ICA, helping them establish a fruitful collaboration with local agencies and communities.

Interaction with fellows from Turkey is very beneficial both for the ICA and our community members, as it helps them create a dialogue with a representative from a country which has a closed border with Armenia. Despite the rhetoric from mass media, the local community can interact directly with people from the art scene in Turkey and draw parallels



it is not that difficult to establish a dance group and create a place for it. Armenia and Turkey have many common figures in their traditional dances. Sometimes even the names are the same or similar. We call it 'Turkish' and they call it 'Armenian'. Living together for many years, we exchanged many things and dance is one of them. Now we live next to each other, eating similar food, using similar words and having similar dances without being aware of it.

There are not many platforms for the two nations to communicate. I think that 'meeting again' is the most important point. We need to meet, share the feelings and understand the other. When we meet, when we establish relationships, we start to see the bonds between the two nations even in our daily life. We become more aware and sensitive.

between the art scenes of the two countries. We consider this dialogue very important in establishing new collaborations and partnerships in the contemporary art field as well as for the development of the fellow's professional profile.





### GEVORG GALTAKYAN

received a BA degree in Physics and Mathematics in 2008, a BA degree in 2013 and a MA degree in 2015 in Turkish Studies from Yerevan State University. His MA thesis is a linguistic analysis of Ottoman parliament member Krikor Zohrab's lecture notes on the philosophy of criminal law, published in 1909. He has been working as a freelance translator since 2014. He stayed in İstanbul between February and June 2017, where he continued his research on Zohrab at İstanbul Şehir University.

I always wanted to experience life in Turkey from the inside, and especially inside academia. Being a guest researcher at Şehir University was an unforgettable experience for me. Every day in İstanbul was full of adventures, meetings with very different people, new ideas and new views on the old world. One of the most striking moments was getting a present: the original book I was doing research on. A book printed in 1909. Sometimes little things can hugely motivate and drive you to work harder, to learn, try to understand things maybe nobody thought about before. Motivation is the key to progress. For me, it comes from good relations, friendship, teamwork, understanding people around you, nature around you and the life that flows and never stops in a megalopolis.

This programme really did help me professionally. Firstly, I further developed my Ottoman Turkish skills and communication skills in modern Turkish, and finished an important part of my research. Another aspect is personal development. Meeting people who have a different view on even simple things, who live according to a different ideology and in a different civilization was always an interesting thing for me to do. This programme gave me an opportunity to make new friends, to learn from wise people who have experiences which show that you can live a total different life.

### İSTANBUL ŞEHİR UNIVERSITY - CENTER FOR MODERN TURKISH STUDIES

founded in 2011, supports the creation of knowledge within the context of social sciences and humanities through research dealing with the issues of Turkey in the last two centuries. Besides an interdisciplinary M.S. programme which it runs, it hosts researchers, scholars and practitioners from Turkey and abroad with a fellowship programme. It also organizes short-term special programmes and summer schools for those who work at international institutions and think tanks and for policymakers.

In the Centre for Modern Turkish Studies at İstanbul Şehir University, we try to cover studies on modern Turkey from almost all aspects. We conduct research and series of public talks on a variety of topics, including music, politics, history, economics and many others. We invite fellow researchers through our residency programme. We also organise annually the Youth Congress of Social Sciences on Modern Turkey. All in all, there is a continuous series of activities.

Until now, we have had in total three fellows through the Fellowship Scheme at our centre. We consider this to be of great benefit to our university and our centre, as internationalisation of our institutions is a priority for us. From this perspective, I believe that with this programme we are breaking the silence between the people of Armenia and Turkey, who are not just today's neighbours but have shared a common history for centuries. I view this as a step towards dialogue, cooperation and compromise as well. From an institutional perspective, we have benefited from our fellows significantly. In addition to their academic contribution at our centre, we also managed to see the world from their perspectives, which also helps us to widen our vision. The programme has also been an effective networking tool for all of us, as fellows get more

There are still a lot of things to be done for Armenia-Turkey cooperation in the field of education. Many more conferences, academic meetings, lectures and shared research need to be organised. There is a lot of work that can be done and it's not even hard to do, but the main problem is the stereotypes and lack of trust in each other. And there is only one natural way to sustain it, which is cooperation in different fields including personal relations. It is possible to live together without killing the idea of a good future...

To keep it short, we must learn to see the world from the eyes of others, we must learn that the reality is different from different perspectives, and there are lots of things we need to learn about each other, from each other. One more thing: I strongly believe that there is only one type of conflict, conflict between life and death, love and hatred, friendship and betrayal, between light and darkness.

acquainted with the academic field in Turkey, while their presence here helps us achieve our goal of internationalisation.

It is important to note that our university is one of the first to open Eastern Armenian language courses. One of the former fellows, whom we have hosted at our centre before, launched this programme and we are still able to provide this opportunity at the Centre for Modern Turkish Studies. Similarly, the presence of our two fellows, Gevorg Galtakyan and Gayane Ayvazyan, and their contribution through their research and the panels they did were absolutely priceless for us.

For future potential fellows, we would like to say very clearly that at our university, and particularly in this centre, we have been trying to sustain an academic area for Armenian Studies and for those who are willing to do their research in this field. With the help of the experience we have from our own 'Visiting Scholar Research Programme', we are providing very broad logistical and academic support to our fellow researchers and we hope many will benefit from that.



## ANAHIT GHAZARYAN

holds BA and MA degrees in World Literature and Literary Studies from Yerevan State University. After her studies, she worked as a radio reporter, where she ran a culture blog and two radio shows. Her interviews and articles were published at Kino+ magazine. Between 2014 and 2016, she studied at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Yerevan and worked as a research curator for the 'Nu-ba-rats' festival organized by the institute. She stayed in İstanbul between November 2016 and June 2017, where she taught Eastern Armenian Language courses at the Kadir Has University Lifelong Education Center.

I am a philologist and an art critic. During my fellowship, I was teaching Eastern Armenian to a group of students at the Kadir Has University Lifelong Learning Centre. My interest in Western Armenian literature and Orhan Pamuk's novel 'İstanbul' was the main reason why I decided to apply for the Hrant Dink Foundation's Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, in the first place.

Teaching Armenian at the Kadir Has University was a valuable experience for me as a philologist, as it was interesting to think of the native language in a non-Armenian speaking environment, to explain the language and its structure to a foreigner, to figure out the similarities and differences between the Armenian and Turkish languages. I loved meeting my students twice a week, because as you teach, you also learn. When you teach Eastern Armenian to a Turkish speaking group of students, you need to teach not only speaking, but also make them listen to sounds, which do not exist in their native language.

Turkish and Armenian have several commonalities, such as some expressions like "inchka chka". You cannot find this expression in Russian or English, but in Turkish, there is the phrase with the exact same structure:

## KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY - LIFELONG EDUCATION CENTER

was founded with the purpose of providing programmes that can support career developments and creating new opportunities for those starting their professional career. The centre also aims to contribute to labour force opportunities for different sectors by developing educational programmes in response to societal needs.

At Lifelong Education Center, in addition to hobby programmes, we organise certificate programmes with the aim of training qualified people for different sectors. Among these certificate programmes, there is training such as 'Social Media Expertise', 'Neighbour Languages Academy' and 'Digital Marketing Communication', which were first organised by our centre.

The Lifelong Education Center started these activities in 2010. Generally speaking, in addition to some training which is commonly organised, there is also some 'novel' training. For instance, instead of offering an English course as is usual, here we have Armenian, Greek, Russian and Kurdish language courses. Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme has been an important step for us in terms of preserving ties with our neighbours and understanding this region better. We launched the 'Neighbour Languages Academy' in 2011. In the first years of the academy, we ran these courses with teachers from Turkey whose mother tongue is Armenian, Greek or Russian. But our cooperation with the Hrant Dink Foundation has taken this activity to a different level; it enabled us to reach teachers who can come here with the support of the Fellowship Scheme to teach their language, and most importantly, express their culture first hand. In this way, we have developed a better communication capacity, as well as a more comprehensive programme structure.



“Ne var ne yok?” The psychology of the language is connected with the psychology of the ‘nation’. Language is an indicator of the national character. So, comparing the two languages, we need to speak about not only differences, but also the similarities between them.

During my fellowship, I spent seven months in İstanbul. One needs to visit İstanbul, first and foremost, for İstanbul itself. It is an incredibly beautiful city. And for me, it is impossible to think about İstanbul without thinking about the Bosphorus, ships and seagulls. The historical buildings in the city, which you can see around, lead you to think about the history of humanity and allow you to see yourself in the continuity of the past. For someone like me, who loves art, İstanbul is a wonderful place. The contemporary art centres in the city allow you to get to know the contemporary artists, to talk about the challenges they have and to understand how art addresses global problems.

I would like to tell the future fellows that İstanbul means new people, new friendships, new opportunities and overall, things that change you and your life completely.

What we achieved with Anahit Ghazaryan was, most importantly, interaction. The interaction of our teachers with students, their fellow teachers and with us is really important. She has been the second teacher that we have cooperated with in the framework of the Fellowship Scheme. If we are to compare all the certificate programmes, based on the feedback we receive from students, the Eastern Armenian language course emerged as the most prominent programme. We are proud of this success, not only because it shows the success of one of our programmes, but also it came into existence as an outcome of our cooperation with the Hrant Dink Foundation.

The most significant part here is the fact that Eastern Armenian was taught by someone who came from Armenia. In this way, we could provide our students with the opportunity to learn the actual daily spoken language in Armenia. Unfortunately, we are not able to sustain this in the language programme all the time. In other words, this cooperation allowed us to reach our real aim, which is to teach the languages of our neighbours, while being able to present their culture, their taste and their sense.

Our advice for those thinking of applying to the Fellowship Scheme is to believe in themselves. It is important for the fellows to be self-confident and show this confidence to the colleagues with whom they carry out their activities, in a country where they possibly don't know the language or anything about the culture. We have observed that it has a very positive impact on the students when our fellows come to our centre for the first time and can speak even three or four sentences in Turkish. As a result of all this interaction, all of us, our students, our teachers and us, have learned a lot about our neighbouring countries.



## MEHMET KARASU

received his BA degree from the Psychology Department at Ege University. In April 2015, he travelled with a group to Armenia with the support of a Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant, in order to conduct socio-psychological field research among the youth and civil society workers on their perceptions regarding peaceful resolutions to the conflicts between two neighbouring countries. He stayed in Yerevan between March and June 2017 to continue his research and conduct a survey at the Caucasus Research Resource Center - Armenia.

As a Turkish social psychologist I feel a responsibility to resolve the disagreements between Turkey and Armenia that have not been solved for more than 100 years. Therefore, I would like to contribute to solve this issue. The problems between Turkey and Armenia are, at the moment, analysed mostly by historians, political scientists and international relations experts. With my research, I am aiming to reveal the social, rather than the political aspects of these problems; because, if you are willing to come up with solutions, it seems very unlikely to reach this goal when you neglect the social aspects. To be able to discuss such issues, I believe, it is crucial to make social analyses in the first place. In addition, I think that a sincere and non-hierarchical contact will help us to solve our problems. In this regard, the Fellowship Scheme offers good opportunities for us.

I conducted two studies on social psychology during the fellowship programme. The first was quantitative research consisting of various social-psychological scales in which I examine whether there is any difference in attitudes towards reconciliation between adults and university students in Armenia. I collected data from 350 participants (229 females, 121 males) in the field research. Some of these (182) were obtained from

## CAUCASUS RESEARCH RESOURCE CENTER - ARMENIA

aims to strengthen social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus through its activities carried out in Yerevan, Baku and Tbilisi. Since 2003, by sharing the data relating to its research on the internet, it has been providing open access to such data for researchers. Furthermore, it provides professional training for social science researchers.

As one of the leading think tanks in Armenia, the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRRC)-Armenia aims at building academic partnerships in social science research. The Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme opens for CRRRC-Armenia extra opportunities for understanding the region and for cross border academic cooperation. The Fellowship Scheme is quite unique per se. We value greatly the opportunity to build academic bridges between Armenia and Turkey. Especially in light of the recent social and political developments in Turkey, we consider the scheme one of the rare projects that fuel unofficial diplomacy between the two countries. The engagement of professionals in academia is a good way to improve the perception of Armenia in Turkey and vice versa. We do believe that supporting the social scientists from Turkey and building a bridge between them and their colleagues in Armenia will contribute to breaking the stereotypes and enabling long-term scientific cooperation, paving the way in the longer term to a new era of understanding in Armenian-Turkish relations.

Networking with other host institutions, as well as with the organisations implementing the programme Support to the Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process, and learning from them, is another thing that CRRRC-Armenia is interested in benefiting from.





university students in Yerevan State University and Russian-Armenian University and the remaining part (168) from adults 35 years and over. The second research is a qualitative research that basically aimed to explore socially shared perspectives on the current disagreements between Armenia and Turkey. I interviewed 43 participants (29 females, 14 males). These participants are university students (15), academic staff (14) and NGO staff (14). I hope that these studies will help resolve the current disagreements between Turkey and Armenia.

My host organization, the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) – Armenia, an independent and non-partisan organisation with a friendly professional team which has conducted innovative and solution-oriented projects, research and training, provided me with logistical facilities. I also presented a paper at the CRRC-Armenia conference entitled ‘Armenia-Turkey: Paving Ways for Dialogue and Reconciliation’, held in Yerevan in May 2017. I had a lot of experience with CRRC-Armenia staff in both academic skills and social relationships. I believe that, even if I were not able to conduct my research, all the contacts and friendships I have made during my collaboration with CRRC-Armenia would still have been helpful and meaningful to me. I am very lucky and happy to be a part of the fellowship scheme and the CRRC-Armenia.

Mehmet Karasu spent four months with our team and fully enjoyed the support of the CRRC-Armenia staff as he reviewed and commented on the research materials, attended CRRC-Armenia events, connected with other institutions/researchers, organised social events, etc. He also conducted ‘discourse analysis’ with the CRRC staff.

While doing his research at CRRC-Armenia, in addition to finalising his master thesis entitled ‘Social-Political Background of Conflict and Peace Processes in Intergroup Relations’, Mehmet managed to prepare two publishable papers entitled “Evaluations of Turkish People Related to ‘The Armenian Issue’: A Q Methodology Study” and “‘1915’ from the Perspective of the Youth: Turkey-Armenian Comparison”. The ‘Q methodology’ used in his research was a new one for us.

Social science is the field where the most work is needed to explore and write about the Armenian-Turkish issues and stereotypes. However, there is a huge lack of cooperation and commitment to work together from both sides. To bridge the gap the relevant stakeholders should encourage joint academic projects in their respective countries. This will allow involving more professionals and bright minds in the field of social sciences who will be the leaders and new opinion makers in their communities.



## GRETA NIKOGHOSYAN

is a translator from French into Armenian. She received her BA degree from Yerevan State University, Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology. She studied also at the Department of European Studies at Malmö University, Sweden. She has an MA degree in Specialized Translation and Project Management Technologies from the Yerevan State University of Languages and Social Sciences. As a PhD candidate at the Matenadaran Scientific Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, she conducts research on Mekhitarists' translations from French into Armenian in the 18th and 19th centuries. She stayed in İstanbul between December 2016 and May 2017 to continue her research at Sabancı University.

My motivation in applying for the fellowship was to deepen the study of my thesis and try to analyse the Armenian school of translation in İstanbul. I hoped to find out and to enunciate how the Mekhitarists' school of translation benefited from the geographical transition from one environment to another, and also to identify the cultural milieu of Constantinople in the 18th century, which became one of the centres of the Armenian translation and the cradle of the Mekhitarist Congregation, established by Abbot Mekhitar in 1700 in Constantinople.

I was an independent researcher at Sabancı University during the fellowship, so I concentrated more on the library resources of the university. The fellowship helped me to make my thesis more comprehensive and profound. I also appreciate the freedom I've been given by the university to manage my time at my discretion. The environment of Sabancı University was useful in terms of becoming acquainted with academic and student circles, which I think may lead to broad prospects for scientific cooperation in future.

There is no doubt that the fellowship helped me a lot, providing me with the resources that I wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to get.

## SABANCI UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

promotes a vibrant interdisciplinary education. While the core curriculum provides students with a solid background, the interdisciplinary degree programmes such as Social and Political Sciences, International Studies, Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design, Cultural Studies, and Economics constitute the basis of flexible and creative thought. It is a vanguard faculty in Turkey because of its department-less structure.

We had the pleasure to host Greta Nikoghosyan at Sabancı University within the framework of the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme for six months. During this period, she conducted her research and project independently and benefited immensely from the resources, not only from the ones provided by Sabancı University as her host organisation, but also in terms of both libraries and archives, and in terms of scholarly resources in the city of İstanbul as a whole.

We would like to recommend this programme to all scholars who are seeking research materials both in İstanbul and in Yerevan or who would like to interact with other scholars and students at the universities and the research centres. There are two possibilities for that: to do research independently, focusing on one's own sources, or to take part in the lectures and seminar series at the universities, to co-teach, possibly, or to meet students. It should be noted that the latter would also be beneficial for the research institute with which the scholar is affiliated.

Sabancı University has a special focus on anthropology and literature related to Armenia and Armenian Studies. In that respect, we would recommend young scholars to get in touch with faculty members at

Living in İstanbul was a striking experience as a whole. The fellowship definitely gave me more confidence. It opened up many new perspectives for me in terms of meeting interesting people who introduced me to the environment of İstanbul.

I believe that one of the most effective ways of establishing normal relations between these two neighbouring countries is through a scientific discourse and sharing knowledge between experts.

Sabancı University. We also organise quite a few workshops, conferences and seminar series in which fellows can participate. We hope that this relationship will be a long-lasting one and not just one that encompasses the period of the fellowship.

We recommend that foundations, research centres and universities both in Turkey and in Armenia join the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme as a host organisation, which is one of the few programmes that provide them with the chance to meet young scholars, students and professionals from the neighbouring country, not only from the field of social sciences, but also from other fields.



## ARMEN OHANYAN

(pen name Armen of Armenia) is a fiction and non-fiction writer and activist. He has a BA degree in Philosophy. He is a Board Member of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Armenian Committee. He is the author of the short story collection *Gigosi Veratartsı* [The Return of Kikos, 2013], and *Mayrenik: Trosh* [Mommyland: Flag, 2015]. His short stories *The Return of Kikos* and *Gerastgh Marion* [Superstar Mario] won local literary awards; one of his short stories was published in the 2015 anthology of Best European Fiction. He stayed in İstanbul between November 2016 and April 2017, to get the book *İçimizdeki Ermeni* [The Armenian within us] translated into Eastern Armenian.

It really doesn't matter on which side of the closed border you are, because we all live in a burning house. In order to avoid pathos, I would say we are all phoenixes by accident, but it would be too much to have two overworked metaphors in one sentence.

I'm a writer. Yeah, it's not hard to guess from such a beginning, is it? I lived in İstanbul, Kurtuluş for six months as a fellow of the Fellowship Scheme. I was hosted by one of the leading publishing houses of Turkey, Can.

At first I was petrified, because I found graffiti in Armenian on the walls of my neighbourhood in İstanbul. "Where is our home?" Then I thought, maybe right here, on this street, is our common hearth. Does it really matter, if we all live in a burning house?

Two things had taken me to İstanbul; death and writing. The death of Hrant Dink, with which one is not able to come to terms with because it is not somebody else's, it's yours, and the book compiled by mutual efforts of 36 contemporary authors of Turkey, called "The Armenian Within Us" and published by Can. As a fellow I was responsible for bringing that very book to Armenia, in Armenian. Did I succeed? I'm still working on that,

## CAN PUBLISHING HOUSE

established in 1981, has become one of the leading publishing houses in Turkey in a short time. Until now it has published more than two thousand titles, classics and contemporary works from Turkish and world literature, works by Nobel laureates, children's books, as well as non-fiction. It has brought several young and important authors from Turkey into prominence in the world of literature.

As Can Publishing House, we decided to take part in the 'Beyond Borders' programme that would bring us an opportunity to cooperate in translating the book *Armenian Within Us*, edited by Yiğit Bener, into the Armenian language. *Armenian Within Us* was published in April 2015. Thirty six authors from different generations have contributed in the preparation of this book, which is composed of poems, essays and most of all stories, and each of the authors have depicted the Armenian 'within us' from a different angle of the 'Armenian issue'.

We got in contact with Armen Ohanyan, who applied for the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme in order to take part in this book project, and collaborated with him between November 2016 and May 2017. Even though it is not possible to erase the traces of the genocide that still today obstruct contact between us and taking part in any joint activity; through this cooperation, we have had a chance to experience 'practically' that this bloody and painful tragedy shall not be an obstacle to those who show the will to stand together and try to create a common ground of reason and conscience. Armen provided us direct and first-hand information about the current situation of the publishing sector in Armenia, what their struggles are and how they form their publication lists. Fellow



though much has been done, and the copyright of the book has been passed to Antares publishing house in Armenia.

Nothing in life can happen that has not been written somewhere. And now I already know the answer to the question “Where is our home?” written on the walls of Kurtuluş. It is hidden in between the lines of the collection “The Armenian Within Us.” Where else, if not in a similar book, would the testimonies of those hurt by Hrant’s death be narrated, the pain of loss and rightful wrath? Where else, if not in the pages of this book, would oblivion and hatred be overcome? Where else, if not here, would we interact with ourselves and our past, the sadness associated with our future, which will no longer be bright without a reunion.

Death and writing took me to İstanbul, memory and longing brought me back to Yerevan. Was it a life-changing experience? Yes or no, it doesn’t really matter, cause it’s all about me. At least now I’m sure, Kurtuluş is not the last stop, but the first. Perhaps salvation has found refuge there, and is waiting for you with the same old question on the wall: “Where is our home?” You should apply to find out.

Armen Ohanyan has shared his willingness and hopefulness with us about making an equivalent of our work, Armenian Within Us, in Armenia. During his fellowship, Armen was in close contact with Yiğit Bener and some of the authors who participated in that book, which allowed him to get professional experience about how to bring together such a book.

We think everyone needs to believe in the path opened by Hrant Dink; the idea that telling stories sincerely and transparently, enthusiastically but also solemnly will not clear away the anguished antagonism of the past, but will lead us to a sense of ‘humanity’ and ‘empathy’. The Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme, in its current structure, provides very substantial gains, both in terms of sustaining realistic opportunities for cooperation and addressing the importance of dialogue.

All these efforts that are made and contacts that are created within the framework and leadership of the ‘Beyond Borders’ programme, even if they do not eliminate the tension and the conflict between the two states, will shorten the distance between the intellectuals of both societies, which is, in our perspective, absolutely significant and encouraging.



## ARTSRUN PIVAZYÁN

holds a BA degree in International Relations from the European Regional Educational Academy in Yerevan. He studied Peace Studies at the Roma Tre Univ. He participated in several volunteering projects, focusing on civil education, democracy, human rights and peacebuilding. He did European Voluntary Service at the Cultural Association for Theatre and Origami in Bucharest and conducted a fellowship at Rondine Cittadella della Pace [Rondine Citadel of Peace] in Italy. He stayed in İstanbul between November 2016 and June 2017, cooperating with the Boğaziçi Univ. Peace Education Application Research Centre for his research, and organised workshops.

I have been interested in peace education in the last five years after my military service. In 2015 I made my first academic steps in this field by starting my MA studies in Peace Studies at the Roma Tre University. First of all, I was interested in the conflicts and peace talks that the country I live in was part of. Since then, Turkey has always been on my mind to be discovered not as a place, but as a society. I had been wondering how the culture of daily life was in this country on the other side of the border.

During my fellowship, I carried out a research based on my daily life, daily conversations, photos and talks with people living around me on memory and identity issues in peace education. I have had very interesting and educational experiences at my work with students from different backgrounds and coming from different places of the world.

From my fellowship, I took away a little bit of peace living inside my soul, which is untouchable and unbreakable, which is mine, but at the same time consists of names and memories of people who have made the experience unique. I took away with me a hope of coming back to İstanbul to do something cool with friends and colleagues that I miss very much. I took away a dream of seeing a better Turkey next time. And maybe, I

## BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY PEACE EDUCATION APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

carries out various projects and research activities and organises workshops, conferences and training in cooperation with instructors, students, volunteers, civil society and media organisations for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and dissemination of a culture of peace in educational settings.

As the Boğaziçi University Peace Education Application and Research Center, we were very pleased to host a fellow for the second time as part of the Hrant Dink Foundation's Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Program. The main focus of our centre is establishing a culture of peace in formal and non-formal educational settings. We had the privilege to host two fellows from Armenia who had a theoretical background in the area of conflict transformation with some experience in workshop facilitation. Artsrun Pivazyán, the visiting fellow we hosted at our centre this year, had a background in conflict transformation at the Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation, which works closely with Armenian and Azerbaijani youth. When Artsrun arrived in İstanbul, he was working on his MA thesis in the Peace Studies Program of Roma Tre University. The theme he was addressing was the role of collective memory in identity formation. During his stay, we had a chance to discuss his work at length and I had a chance to read his thesis and give some feedback. After he finished his thesis, Artsrun Pivazyán, Sona Dilanyan (the visiting fellow from 2014) and I facilitated a workshop at the Hrant Dink Foundation. As we were all interested in the process of the transformation of established narratives, we tried to concentrate on the theme of intergenerational



took away a change of me and other fellows, which hopefully in the future will make people in our countries stand beyond the borders and enjoy the beauty of understanding and peace.

As a main shortcoming, I see that for people who are part of this unique experience, it is hard to speak about the positive sides loudly. People used to hear and see so much negative stuff, that every little positive experience or step makes them doubt if it really exists in reality or not.

transfer of conflicts through play and art. Both the preparation stage and the implementation part of the workshop provided a great sharing and learning space for all of us. The participants of that workshop also gained a new insight about how to transform conflicts through creative tools.

In our discussions with Artsrun, I had a chance to listen to his experience as a soldier at the Azerbaijan-Armenia border and his own transformation from being in a violent conflict to working in the area of conflict transformation.

One of the main obstacles in the field of conflict transformation that we observed between Armenia and Turkey is the lack of projects bringing children and youth together in neutral settings and create a space for contact and exchange amongst the young generation. Funding for such projects is scarce. Yet we still hope we may get a chance to start a summer youth camp with Armenian and Turkish youth. As a research and application centre we will continue to support visiting fellows with their research projects, explore the possibilities for joint research and plan more workshops.

**Aylin Vartanyan**



## NAREG SEFERIAN

was born and raised in New Delhi. He began his higher education at Yerevan State University in Armenia with studies in political science, later receiving a BA degree in classical liberal arts from St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the United States. He then did graduate work in international affairs at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. He served at the American University of Armenia from 2013 to 2016. He stayed in İstanbul between November 2016 and April 2017 to conduct his research on the 'clash of Turkish and Armenian narratives' at the İstanbul Policy Center.

I have been fascinated with Turkey for many years, not least because of the history of relations between Armenians and Turks. Of course, so much of that history is not positive – but that is what makes facing up to that history, studying it, understanding it more deeply, and overcoming it for a better, shared future so important.

My work at the İstanbul Policy Center (part of Sabancı University) involved researching and writing about the narratives that the Turkish and Armenian peoples have about each other, especially the nationalist narratives. Academic historians might write their own books, but what do the people think about each other, what do they know about their shared history? It is these narratives, I believe, that most significantly inform current relations and can have the deepest impact on future policies.

The colleagues at the İstanbul Policy Center were fantastic – always friendly, always helpful. I made some great connections there from both a personal and professional standpoint. As such, my portfolio of writings and publications has been quite enriched as a result of the fellowship. I enjoy research work and had the opportunity to run a discussion at the İstanbul Policy Center on Turkish-Armenian relations and also held a

## SABANCI UNIVERSITY İSTANBUL POLICY CENTER

is a global policy research institution that specializes in key social and political issues ranging from democratisation to climate change, transatlantic relations to conflict resolution and mediation. For over a decade, IPC has provided decision makers, opinion leaders, and other major stakeholders with objective analyses and innovative policy recommendations. It strives to foster academic research, extending intellectual and substantive support to young academics and policy researchers through its various programs.

The İstanbul Policy Center (IPC) is an independent policy research institute with global outreach. Our mission is to foster academic research in social sciences and its application to policy making. IPC offers policy makers, academics, and young researchers a unique platform where sound academic research in social sciences shapes hands-on policy work.

At IPC, we work closely with the Hrant Dink Foundation. We cooperate on many prestigious projects, support ASULIS, and apply for funds together. Being a host organisation for the Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme was a big step in strengthening our relations with the foundation.

Our 2016-2017 fellow, Nareg Seferian, conducted his research at IPC for nearly four months, authoring a report at the end of his fellowship, "The Clash of Turkish and Armenian Narratives: The Imperative for a Comprehensive and Nuanced Public Memory." As an IPC publication, Nareg's report was not only shared on IPC's website and social media channels but also through different channels across Armenia. Moreover, it was beneficial for Nareg's networking, since we sent it to IPC's mailing list and put it in the IPC newsletter and annual report.



public talk with a colleague at the Hrant Dink Foundation after my research was finalised. It was great to get a conversation going on the perspective of narrative when it comes to Turkish-Armenian issues.

In addition, I found myself in Turkey during a time that was simultaneously frightening and fascinating. The fallout of the attempted coup d'état was continuously being felt. I saw signs on roads and public transportation change overnight, and more and more flags of the republic fly higher in public. State of emergency, continuing unrest in the east, at least two acts of terror in İstanbul itself – yes, all of these elements are discouraging in their own way when it comes to day-to-day life, and yet, for someone who studies politics and society, this was an enriching experience.

I return to Armenia with, among other things, a number of personal and professional friendships, from work colleagues, to the staff at the Hrant Dink Foundation, the other fellows, and other locals whom I met somehow – Armenians, Turks, and foreigners. I know the door between our countries is not always wide open, but at least our minds and hearts are willing to accept new friends and old neighbours.

During his fellowship, Nareg came to our office every day and was in close relations with IPC researchers and scholars, which was meaningful in strengthening cooperation between professionals from the two neighbouring countries. As IPC, we offered him office space, facilities and access to IPC's network. As our fellow, he represented IPC in conferences.

Learning about different cultures and building bridges has always been a part of IPC's mission. In addition to Nareg's research, he was able to give a brown bag lunch talk on Turkish-Armenian relations to the IPC team. With Nareg, we had the chance to strengthen our knowledge about Armenia, our common history and social links. It was an opportunity for us to cooperate closely on a day-to-day basis and his knowledge was a big asset to our full-time and part-time researchers.

The Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme of the Hrant Dink Foundation is a prestigious programme. As IPC, we strongly advise interested candidates to apply and institutions to become host organisations. The programme provides an invaluable chance for both the fellows and the host organisations to build bridges, gain new experiences, meet different people and extend their networks.



## KAREN TOVMASYAN

received MA degrees in International Relations and History in 2007 from Yerevan Gladzor University and in Journalism and Media Management from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs in Tbilisi in 2015. He started his career in journalism in 2013 and worked for various media organizations including as iLur.am, 7or.am, Jam-news.net, Newscaffe.ge and Georgia Today. He has participated in various media workshops, training and projects in Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Ukraine, Israel, Georgia, Russia and Turkey. He stayed in İstanbul between March and June 2017, where he collaborated with the communication consultancy firm, 'A&B Communications'.

The lack of communication between Armenians and Turks is a serious obstacle to building trust between two nations with a difficult and complicated history. It also builds stereotypes and misunderstanding and this is why I find the activities to fill this gap very important and needed. Another reason why I applied for this fellowship was because of my profession as a journalist. Previously, I lived and studied in Georgia and living and having an internship in İstanbul was another step to complement my regional experience; an opportunity to understand the region and its people better; to understand the relationship between the Armenians and their neighbour; and besides my activities at my host organisation, I was trying to write as much as possible about Turkey, its ordinary people, their traditions, habits, mentality...etc. Because, I think journalists concentrate too much on politics when they write about the Armenian-Turkish relations and ignore the part played by the people, the ordinary people who live in these countries. All these aspects have become my major motivation to be a part of this programme.

Another reason why I wanted to be a part of this project was very personal; all my ancestors were from different parts of Turkey today. My great-grandfathers lived in İstanbul for many generations, up to 1924

## A&B COMMUNICATIONS

'A&B Public Relations', founded in 1974, is the first communication consultancy firm of Turkey. It works with local and international companies and brands from various sectors such as banking, finance, retail, fashion, cosmetics, furniture, technology, home appliances, arts and culture, real estate. Generating powerful and creative ideas through research and analysis, it designs and implements communications strategies, based on social benefit, coherent with the targets of the institutions served, harmonious with the corporate culture, that will add tangible values to all parties.

Being part of the Fellowship Scheme meant a lot to our organization. Being a communication company, learning and knowing about the world outside us is extremely important to be able to widen our vision. Turkey and Armenia have a long-term relationship with a sensitive and unlikely background, in search of a peaceful platform to reconstruct and put an end to the social prejudice. In this regard, hosting an Armenian fellow, Karen Tovmasyan, was important to build a relationship. We took part in the Fellowship Scheme and being part of this normalization process was an invaluable experience for A&B Communications.

Hosting a different culture, different vision and different values was important to us. This should also be seen as a mutual learning where both parties face new thoughts and new working styles, ways to widen their creative areas and knowledge of new places.

Changes in social values, different visual qualities related to the different social, cultural and linguistic backgrounds can be considered as the main problems for our field of operation, public relations. Communication, as a field which focuses on cultural values and local attributes, is one of the most difficult sectors to host a foreign culture. But it is also a great way for both parties to learn about the methods of operations in two countries.

and this city has played a very important role for our family. Living in the city of my grandparents was a wonderful opportunity for me because of this very special reason.

Even though this was my fifth visit to Turkey during the last three years, this internship opened up a new perception of Turkey for me. Living among the Turks for four months helped me to understand Turkey and its people better. For the first weeks, the main problem was connected with the language difficulties, but at the end of my internship, I could already communicate in Turkish at a basic level.

Language difference was the main obstacle at my host organisation, too. Although many of my colleagues were communicating in English very well, there were others who couldn't and this was a serious obstacle for me and I guess for the host organisation, too.

Overall, this was a great opportunity for me, both for personal and professional reasons. I improved my knowledge and skills in public relations and communications, improved my understanding of the region and of the difficulties and opportunities of Armenian-Turkish relations, and spent wonderful four months in one of my most favourite cities in the world.

The categorisation of the fellows in relation with their field of expertise is maybe the most important aspect in creating a high level cooperation between them and their host organisations, especially for those institutions from specific fields as ours. We believe, our cooperation in this programme will be even stronger through continuous communication.

Based on our experience in the field of public relations, we believe that any problem can be solved through communication.



## MARIYA YEGHIAZARYAN

received a BA degree from Yerevan State Linguistic University, Faculty of Translation and Intercultural Communication. She worked as a journalist in Civilnet Online Television (2011-2015), one of the projects of the Civilitas Foundation. She worked in the Urban Prod Multimedia Association (Marseille, France) where she was a part of the team making social documentaries and implementing various projects (2015-2016). She stayed in İstanbul between November 2016 and February 2017 to collaborate with Liman Film and Ret Film in their international projects and in the preparation process of the Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform.

I work in the field of multimedia. It was important for me to find host organisations where I could conduct activities in line with my interests and luckily there were two film agencies that agreed to host me for six months. During my fellowship, I was in close cooperation with two professional producers, Çiğdem Mater and Nadir Öperli. I was involved in all ongoing projects, met different directors, producers and other people who work in the field. I had a chance to see how independent film agencies work in Turkey as well as what sort of difficulties or interesting things can happen during the work.

During my fellowship I was also involved in the Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform which brings filmmakers from both countries and their diasporas together and creates an opportunity to work together, get to know each other better and speak about many topics through cinema. One of the achievements that my project gave me is that, later, I was still involved in the Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform's next workshop that took place in Yerevan.

The fellowship gave us not only the chance to live in a beautiful city and conduct our activities in the host organisations, but also to learn Turkish. We had a wonderful Turkish teacher, Engin Kılıç, who was teaching us

## LİMAN FILM

apart from developing, producing and co-producing feature films, offers project consultancy, executive and line production services to directors and producers.

Liman Film

## RET FILM

aims to produce independent features, documentaries and shorts. It supports young directors with new ways/styles of narration.

RET  
Film

When we first heard about this programme it was hard to formulate how to accommodate someone at Liman Film, because the work of independent producers in Turkey is more like a one-man show. We always consider having a formal company structure, but since film production involves a lot of travelling, it was hard to fit Mariya into this structure. However, her involvement in the company, considering her background in journalism and multimedia, contributed to our projects which are at the stage of development. As she became part of our communication with producers and directors, we have strongly benefited from our cooperation with her, especially in terms of accelerating the development of the projects.

Through the Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform, we already established a level of collaboration in the past few years between the film industries in Turkey and Armenia. But with this programme, institutions like ours, which have been a part of this process, have the capacity for long term cooperation as host organisations. This helps all of us to create closer contacts and relations between the countries, independent of project outcomes.

All candidates who consider being a part this programme need to be really open-minded, whichever organisation they will be affiliated with. For



twice a week. Besides, my flat mates were also helping me to improve my skills. I really appreciate this experience.

During my fellowship, in addition to my project at the host organisation, I had some time to do journalism and cover the life of Armenians in İstanbul. The six months I spent in İstanbul were a good chance for me to make more in-depth analyses on the Armenian community, to understand it better and cover many interesting topics as a journalist. What is essential for me is that living outside Armenia helps you to see your own country from a different angle and see things that sometimes are not seen from the inside.

This was not my first time in İstanbul, but it seems to me that no matter how many times you come to İstanbul it is never enough. Especially as a journalist, the longer you stay, the more stories you find to speak about.

example, film production is a turbulent job as it is highly affected by social, political and economic conditions. So, it would be beneficial for the future fellows to be flexible with their expectations and ideas.

#### **LİMAN FILM - Nadir Öperli**

Our position might be somewhat different from the other host organisations. In addition to our projects at Ret Film, we have been involved in Armenia-Turkey relations for the last ten years. When the Hrant Dink Foundation contacted us last year to put Ret Film in the list of host organisations within this programme, it was a sign that things are going in a good way. Because at the beginning of this adventure, we never thought that a company could have a place in this structure.

Being a part of this programme is a very positive thing for us. Mariya Yeghiazaryan not only contributed to the projects, but also sustained a direct connection to Armenia at our office, from which we benefited significantly. For example, while working on the preparation of the new stage of the Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform, even the dissemination plays a very important part. Although we have a very long communication list, it is always better to have someone in the office who may circulate the information through her own sources.

It is a unique opportunity to go and spend six to eight months in Yerevan. I am sure it is also a unique opportunity for someone from Armenia, as well, to be in İstanbul.

#### **RET FILM - Çiğdem Mater**



## CANSU YETİŞGİN

completed her BA studies at the İstanbul University Political Science and International Relations Department. She did internships at the Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), in the department of Global Relations and at the Federation of Young European Greens and worked with the Green Group at the European Parliament. She stayed in Yerevan between March and June 2017 to take part in the research activities of the Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development.

Armenia and Turkey share a common history, culture, and problems, yet on different occasions I realised I couldn't say I know much about any of them. I believed living in Armenia would be the perfect way to not only understand the culture and our shared history but to live it and make it become a part of me. In addition, I thought that working towards my interest in environmental issues and sustainable development in a country where there are similar problems would give me the opportunity to learn from the best practices for them. This thought drove me to apply to the fellowship and work at The Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (UFSD) for four months.

As an Hrant Dink Foundation Fellow at UFSD, I had the chance to take initiative. My tasks at the office mainly concentrated on the Turkey-Armenia project "Young Professionals of Armenia and Turkey as Advocates of Common Urban Heritage", which focused on the two countries' neighbouring cities of Gyumri and Kars. But besides this I planned and implemented a non-formal training on environmental awareness and ecology with young people. I have had the chance to get to know and engage in the activist and NGO scene of Yerevan, meet with like-minded people who are concerned about the same issues. I have learned about

## URBAN FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

works to promote the sustainable and harmonious development of Armenian communities through fostering local democracy, improving quality of life and developing regional collaboration. It has created a network of grassroots and local NGOs from different regions of Armenia. One of its important goals is to empower these NGOs to become democratization agents in their respective areas through training, jointly implemented projects and information sharing.

The Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme was another opportunity for cross-border cooperation for the Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (UFSD). Since 2007, UFSD has been working to promote cross-border dialogue among professionals from Armenia and Turkey. Every project implemented by UFSD resulted in the expansion of the network of professionals and civil society organizations of the two countries. The new fellow was expected to assist UFSD in finding new partners and funding opportunities to contribute to the mission and activities of the organization.

Hosting a fellow meant working for several months with a professional from the neighbouring country with closed borders, and allow both sides to know each other better and diminish negative feelings generated towards each other for years.

Cansu Yetişgin, our fellow, a Political Science and International Relations graduate, has a good knowledge of European institutions and an excellent knowledge of English. She helped us with gathering information about civil society organizations in Turkey, working in similar areas as UFSD, who could become a partner in future initiatives. During her stay in Armenia, UFSD was at the implementation stage of a project within

the environmental and gender issues in Armenia, participated in non-formal training and gatherings on these topics.

As a youth worker, I have often had the reaction from young people “You are the first Turk I have ever met!”, which is unfortunate. I believe there is a lack of opportunities for young people from Turkey and Armenia to meet each other and build a dialogue. This creates prejudices and bias between youngsters from both countries, so there should be more space and opportunities to bring young people together to foster the dialogue and give them the chance to get to know each other.

To conclude, my fellowship experience contributed both to my personal and professional development by making me push my boundaries and take initiative in and out of the office, and re-learn our history and shared culture.

the framework of the Support of Armenia-Turkey Normalisation Process programme, funded by the European Union. She participated in several meetings under this project and met with the team from Turkey, and also joined us at the technical workshop in Gyumri on June 2nd regarding policy issues in the two countries on the protection of historical urban heritage in Gyumri and Kars.

## ACTIVITIES OF FELLOWS



Hrant Dink's office, 2017  
 © Aren Arda Kaya



Fellows from Armenia visited the former office of Agos with Nayat Karaköse, the coordinator of the ongoing Site of Memory project, and exchanged ideas on the work. In her notes regarding the visit, one of the fellows **Arpi Atabekyan** wrote: "The Foundation has been conducting an inclusive process for the project, willing to hear the expectations and recommendations of people from various professions and disciplines. As the other rooms for the time being are mostly empty, we were invited to give our suggestions on how to design and use them. Most of us had been to different sites of conscience and memory in Europe, Asia and Africa. Various elements from these memory sites were discussed during the meeting and the brainstorming brought up many interesting ideas."



NPAK Yerevan, 2017  
 © Duygu Bostancı Photo Archive

◀ The dance performance **Ne var ne yok – Inch ka chka** [What's up?], developed by Duygu Bostancı in collaboration with **BA-AR-DI-A Dance Movement Laboratory** and contemporary dancers from Yerevan, was included in **ARé** performing arts festival 2017 and staged at the **Contemporary Experimental Art in Yerevan** and at **Berlin Art Hotel in Gyumri**. ▶



Yerevan, 2017  
 © Duygu Bostancı Photo Archive



Gevorg Galtakyan gave a public lecture at **İstanbul Şehir University** on the role of Krikor Zohrab's impact on the establishment of the Ottoman Law System.



İstanbul Şehir University, 2017



Gyumri Youth Initiative Center, 2017

**Cansu Yetişgin** organised a day long non-formal training on environmental education in Gyumri with the support of the **Gyumri Youth Initiative Center**. The participants had an opportunity to discover the environment they live in, learn about how an ecosystem and fundamental systems work, discuss the ethics and morals and learn about the threats the Earth is facing.

A workshop entitled '**I want to know: Conflict Transformation Through the Lens of Play and Art**' was organised at the Hrant Dink Foundation, initiated by **Artsrun Pivazyan**, with the aim of introducing to students, educators, NGO workers and the wider audience a facilitation toolbox that helps advance contact, reflection and discussion among groups through games and creative art exercises. With an extensive background in Armenian-Azerbaijani civil society dialogue processes, Pivazyan shared his practical experience of working with protracted ongoing conflicts. Aylin Vartanyan from the Boğaziçi University Peace Education, Application and Research Center co-facilitated the workshop and spoke about her experience in using expressive arts for conflict transformation.



Hrant Dink Foundation, 2017



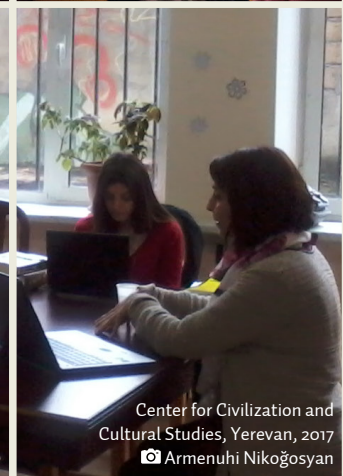
Getronagan High School, 2017  
Aren Arda Kaya

Fellows from Armenia visited **Getronagan Armenian High School**. An excerpt from Greta Nikoghosyan's notes on the school and the visit: "I think Getronagan is an institution that every student in Armenia has heard about, either in the scope of the Armenian literature curriculum at secondary school or later, at university [...] Although the school was smaller than I always imagined, its atmosphere was as I thought it should be. I was very glad to visit this legendary school, which was able to transform and keep up to date."



Getronagan High School, 2017  
Aren Arda Kaya

Rezzan Alagöz made a presentation at the **Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies** in Yerevan on 'The Politics of Turkey: Single Party Period, Multi-Party Period and from Parliamentary System to Presidential System'. The presentation provided a platform for both Rezzan and the staff members at the centre to discuss the past and present political atmosphere in Turkey.



Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies, Yerevan, 2017  
Armenuhi Nikoğosyan



**Dr. Gayane Ayvazyan** held a public talk at the Hrant Dink Foundation Havak Hall on the works of **Eremia Chelebi Komurjian (1637-1695)**, a prominent figure in Armenian historiography. She also provided a general outline of the İstanbul Armenian community in the 17th century in her lecture.



Hrant Dink Foundation, 2017



Muhsin Akgün Studio, 2017  
Muhsin Akgün

**Nareg Seferian** held a public talk at the Havak Hall on popular narratives of Armenians and Turks about each other, shared his findings from the interviews he conducted in İstanbul. Cana Tülüş, Research and Administrative Affairs Coordinator at Seferian's host organisation, the İstanbul Policy Center, talked about the experience of collaborating with a scholar from Armenia.



THE CLASH OF TURKISH  
AND ARMENIAN  
NARRATIVES  
THE IMPERATIVE FOR  
A COMPREHENSIVE  
AND HANCED PUBLIC  
MEMORY  
NAREG SEFERIAN

IPM|IPC



ICA Yerevan, 2017  
Duygu Bostancı

A screening of 'Aygestan', a film shot by **Duygu Bostancı** during her stay in Armenia, was held at the **Institute for Contemporary Art Yerevan**. The film summarises the five months she lived in Armenia.



Yerevan State University, 2017

For her farewell, Duygu Bostancı planted a cherry tree in the garden of the Institute for Contemporary Art Yerevan, hoping that it will bear fruits for friendship between the peoples of Armenia and Turkey.



ICA Yerevan, 2017

On May 18-19, 2017, the Caucasus Research Resource Center – Armenia held an international conference at the **Yerevan State University**, entitled '**Armenia-Turkey: Paving the Way for Dialogue and Reconciliation**', bringing together researchers and civil society representatives from Armenia, Turkey, the USA and EU countries. The papers covered a wide range of topics in economics, tourism, international relations, and social psychology. Mehmet Karasu, one of the fellows, presented a paper entitled "**Evaluations of Turkish people related to 'The Armenian Issue'.**"

Two panels, '**Walking for historical, societal, city justice**' and '**Walking in between cities and the fields**', were organised on May 24 at the Hrant Dink Foundation with the initiative of Arpi Atabekyan and Center for Spatial Justice - Beyond İstanbul, in cooperation with **Cins Adımlar**, **Karakutu** and **Serkan Taycan**. The panels focused on experiencing the city through different walking practices used by the participant organisations and individuals. Presenters from architecture, sociology, art, anthropology and other disciplines talked about their own walking experiences.



Hrant Dink Foundation, 2017





SHORT TERM  
FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Ali Emre Özyıldırım



Turkish and Ottoman language experts, **Ali Emre Özyıldırım** from Yıldız Technical University and **Engin Kılıç** from Sabancı University taught experts working at **Matenadaran Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts** Ottoman Turkish classes for two weeks. They also delivered two lectures at the Yerevan State University, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Turkic Studies Chair. Engin Kılıç gave interviews to several media outlets in Armenia about their activities and their cooperation.



Engin Kılıç

**Astghik Vardanyan** and **Ani Sargsyan** from the National Library of Armenia conducted research on Armenian publications printed in Turkey at the **İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Atatürk Library**. During their one-month fellowship in İstanbul, they studied 1,300 Armenian publications catalogued by the Atatürk Library, and they digitalised 31 of them which were not available at the National Library of Armenia. This work also opened up a channel of communication between two state institutions – the National Library of Armenia and İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Atatürk Library.



Astghik Vardanyan



Ani Sargsyan





**Muzaffer Şenel**, Director of the Research Center for Modern Turkish Studies and faculty member at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of İstanbul Şehir University, during his one-month fellowship at the **American University of Armenia**, worked on his research project on Armenian elites' perceptions of Turkey's foreign policy and prospects for a Turkey-Armenia rapprochement and gave two lectures on Armenia-Turkey relations and regional political developments.

**Nune Hakhverdyan**, an art critic and journalist from the Media Initiatives Center, as a part of her three-week fellowship at the **İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSİV)**, followed the 15th İstanbul Biennial, titled 'a good neighbor'. She visited the Biennial venues as well as other museums and current exhibitions in İstanbul and wrote articles on them.



**Gevorg Melikyan**, policy analyst and security expert at the Armenian Institute of International and Security Affairs, conducted his three-week fellowship at the **Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)** in Ankara. During his fellowship, Melikyan conducted research on Armenia-Turkey relations and presented in Armenia the findings of his research entitled 'State of emergency: Turkey and Armenia-Turkey relations since 2015'.







LESSONS LEARNED

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Hrant Dink Foundation Experience Report

All of the visits and cross-border collaborations featured in this publication took place at a time when there were no diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia, no embassies or diplomatic representation, and when the land border remained closed. For the citizens of Armenia and Turkey, it is possible to travel between the two countries, and obtain visa upon arrival; however due to the absence of diplomatic relations, sometimes some special procedures may need to be followed concerning visa applications, residence permits, banking, insurance, and other affairs. As the Hrant Dink Foundation, throughout the implementation of the *Turkey-Armenia Travel Grant and Fellowship Scheme*, we have encountered various obstacles in bureaucratic procedures, some of which we were able overcome thanks to the assistance of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and EU Delegations in both countries and the support of partner organizations in Armenia.

In this section, we would like to share our experience regarding the obstacles we faced, lessons learned, as well as the solutions we were able to find while running both programmes in 2016 and 2017. We believe that our experience will help facilitate the activities of civil society organisations working in this field, and will encourage policy-makers towards eliminating further obstacles between the two neighbouring countries.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Land transport

Since the Turkey-Armenia border remains closed, there is no direct land transportation between the two countries. The Alican/Magara border gate connecting Iğdır and Yerevan, which is the only land connection with proper infrastructure, has been closed since 1993. Before the border was shut, this was a protocol gate that could only be used by formally designated officials.

There are a few bus companies operating between İstanbul and Yerevan/Gyumri. The trips only take place on pre-arranged dates, last about 36 hours, and the buses transit through Georgia. The buses depart from Aksaray in İstanbul. It is possible to buy bus tickets in Aksaray at the offices of the bus companies. The inadequate number of departure points and lack of online information on the bus services set additional barriers towards land travel between the two countries.

### Railway transport

Since the land border between Turkey and Armenia is sealed, it is not possible to use the existing railway transportation route between the two countries. The border gate on the railroad, the Doğu Kapı/Akhuryan Gate connecting the cities of Kars and Gyumri, remains closed and out of operation since 1993.

### Air transport

Despite the land border between Turkey and Armenia being closed, the air corridor was opened in 1995 for flights operated by private airlines in Armenia and in 2003 for flights operated by private companies in Turkey. From 1995 till the end of 2015, there were direct ‘charter’ flights operating two days a week between İstanbul Ataturk Airport and Yerevan Zvartnots Airport. In October 2015, along with growing demand for and interest in cross-border activities, these charter flights were replaced with regular scheduled flights by Atlas Global for the first time. Since January 2016, there have been direct and scheduled flights between İstanbul and Yerevan almost every day. It is now possible to make online bookings and purchase tickets online as well as through travel agencies, namely the official representation of Atlas Global operating in Yerevan city centre. We see this progress as a considerable asset to the development of the relationship between the two countries at all levels and we hope the development will continue with new routes and operators.

## HDF experience with transportation

While we were implementing the *Travel Grant and Fellowship Scheme* in 2016-2017, the regular scheduled flights between İstanbul and Yerevan were in place, which positively influenced the work of the project teams and a much smaller number of journeys were carried out via Georgia.

As the Hrant Dink Foundation, while making travel arrangements for our beneficiaries, we experienced some difficulties due to the infrequency of flights between İstanbul and Yerevan, late departure-arrival times of these two-hour flights, limited access to charter flights, and the absence of flights from cities other than İstanbul to Yerevan. As a result, in some cases, we had to arrange our grantees' travel through Georgia. Also, some of our grantees from cities such as Diyarbakır and Van, who lived closer to Armenia compared with İstanbul, preferred to travel to Armenia with their own cars through the Sarp or Kars-Posof border gates, instead of transiting two or three times.

## VISA PROCEDURES

### For citizens of Armenia travelling to Turkey

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia can obtain a visa for Turkey upon their arrival/entry, if their passports are valid for at least three months. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia can apply for a visa at the entry points of Turkey or through the e-visa portal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey by filling in the online application form. Once the online application form is submitted and the online payment is made, e-visas are issued and delivered to the submitted e-mail address immediately. In both cases, there is no need for an invitation letter from Turkey, additional documentation or a pre-application procedure.

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia are issued a Turkish visa that is valid for 180 days and allows a maximum 30-day stay. The visas issued online are multiple entry visas, while visas issued at the border entry point are single entry visas. As of March 2018, the visa fee is USD 15. The updated information regarding the visa procedure is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. In case of stays longer than 30 days, citizens of the Republic of Armenia need to apply for a residence permit.

### For citizens of Turkey travelling to Armenia

Citizens of the Republic of Turkey holding ordinary passports can enter Armenia with passports that are valid for at least three months, and can apply for the visa upon their arrival/entry at the checkpoints of Armenia without any letter of invitation, additional document or pre-application process.

For citizens of the Republic of Turkey, the visa issued for Armenia allows a maximum stay of 21 days or 120 days. These are single entry visas. As of



March 2018, the fee for the 21-day visa is AMD 3000, and for the 120-day visa it is AMD 15000. Updated information regarding the visa procedure and fees is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Once the visa expires it can be extended, only once, for 60 days (two months). Therefore, in case of stays longer than 21/120 days, citizens of the Republic of Turkey need to apply for a residence permit in Armenia.

Due to the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries, citizens of the Republic of Turkey who hold special (green) passports and service (grey) passports can only obtain an Armenian visa upon invitation, along with a letter issued at least two weeks before the travel dates by an inviting organisation with a legal entity in Armenia, and with a special permit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Once their application is approved, they can enter Armenia with a special permit letter issued in their name by the Ministry. A sample of the invitation letter and information on the special permit process is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Armenia

Once the special permit is issued, citizens of Turkey can travel to Armenia with a copy of the Ministry's letter. In case of entry into Armenia through Yerevan Zvartnots airport, citizens of the Republic of Turkey must visit the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yerevan in person within three days after their entry in the country and obtain their visa.

In the case of entry into Armenia via Georgia by the land routes, the Bagratashen or Sadakhlo checkpoints, citizens of Turkey must visit the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Tbilisi and obtain their visa from the Embassy, submitting the special permit letter issued for their names by the Ministry. In case the Embassy is given prior notice about the situation, they can also issue a visa on the same day. The Embassy in Tbilisi can only be visited during weekdays and during the working hours. Therefore, it is important to plan the travel dates accordingly.

### **HDF experience with visa procedures**

For our 22 long-term (four to eight months) and seven short term fellows (maximum one month stay) coming from Armenia to Turkey within the framework of the *Fellowship Scheme*, we applied for Turkey visas by filling in the online application form on the e-visa application portal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey with the fellows' passport information. Right after the applications, visas for the 30-day stay in the country for each fellow were sent by e-mail to the Foundation. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia who wish to visit Turkey can get their e-visa by using the online portal.

During 2016-2017, travel grantees holding regular passports who travelled from Turkey to Armenia, were able to enter the country without any problem, having their visas issued directly at the border. For 14 travel grantees from Turkey who travelled with their special (green) passports, special approval documents were received within two weeks following the application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Armenia.

Since 2009, as the Hrant Dink Foundation, we have been assisting the participants of our various programmes including journalists, academics and students from Turkey who hold special or service passports. As the Foundation is not registered in Armenia as a legal entity, we cannot issue invitation letters, or apply for special permits directly. Therefore, in the case of our programme participants/beneficiaries needing letters of invitation, we receive assistance from our partners in Armenia. From 2009 until the end of 2017, including *Travel Grant* beneficiaries and fellows who paid their visits to Armenia in 2014, we have successfully received permit letters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia within two weeks following the submission of applications.

### **BUREAUCRATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICES**

As of March 2018, Turkey and Armenia still do not have diplomatic relations; therefore, Armenia does not have any diplomatic mission/embassy/consulate in the capital Ankara and Turkey does not have a diplomatic mission/embassy/consulate in the capital Yerevan. This being the case, citizens of both countries do not have direct access to diplomatic and consular services during their stay in the neighbouring country.

Due to the absence of reciprocal diplomatic representation, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries assigned their embassies in Tbilisi, Georgia for diplomatic and consular services. Therefore, citizens of Turkey and Armenia can follow their bureaucratic procedures related to the neighbouring country indirectly, through the Embassies of Armenia and Turkey in Tbilisi.

In practice, citizens of Armenia who need to carry out bureaucratic procedures in Turkey have to do so via the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tbilisi, and citizens of Turkey who need to carry out bureaucratic procedures in Armenia have to do so via the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Tbilisi.

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tbilisi has the mandate to provide services both for the citizens of Turkey living in Armenia and the citizens of Armenia travelling to Turkey. For instance, if the passports of Turkish citizens visiting or living in Armenia are lost or stolen during their stay in Armenia, they have to notify the Embassy of Turkey in Tbilisi for passport issuance or renewal. Since they cannot leave Armenia without

their passports, they have to get assistance from another person from Armenia who will need to travel to Tbilisi with the documents, visit the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tbilisi, and then get the passport/travel documents from the Embassy and deliver them back to Armenia.

In İstanbul, there is a Permanent Representation of the Republic of Armenia to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) organisation since 2001. Armenia and Turkey are both members of BSEC, which has its headquarters in İstanbul. The Permanent Representation is headed by an Ambassador appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, who acts in the capacity of a Permanent Representative. The mandate of the Representation is limited to Armenia's representation vis-à-vis this regional organisation. Since there are no diplomatic relations with the Republic of Turkey, the Representation does not have a diplomatic mandate vis-à-vis Turkey.

In the case of diplomatic and consular inquiries by citizens of Armenia who are travelling to or living in Turkey, the Permanent Representation only plays the role of a facilitator and refers Armenian citizens to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. For instance, if citizens of Armenia have their passports lost or stolen during their stay in Turkey, they cannot apply to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC for the renewal of their passports. In such cases, the Representation can only refer their citizens to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and/or its embassy in Tbilisi.

### **HDF experience with diplomatic and consular services**

Within the framework of our *Turkey-Armenia Fellowship Scheme*, prior to the arrival of our 22 fellows in Turkey/Armenia, we notified the ministries of the Foreign Affairs of Republic of Turkey and Armenia, as well as the European Union delegations in both countries. Upon our notification and request, we were assigned with contact persons and support letters from both ministries who have been available for us and assisted us in cases of emergency and whenever we had questions. We also provided our fellows with orientation and info packages about possible support and identified their contact persons in cases of emergency.

## **RESIDENCE PERMITS**

### **Citizens of Armenia travelling to Turkey**

If they are going to stay in Turkey longer than one month, citizens of the Republic of Armenia are required to apply for a residence permit within a month of their arrival date. Otherwise, they will be considered irregular migrants according to Turkish law and may be deported.

As of March 2018, residence permits for Turkey are issued by the Ministry of Interior's Directorate General of Migration Management. After entering Turkey, applications for residence permits can be made by filling in an appointment form on the website of the Directorate General of Migration Management. Citizens of Armenia can find updated and detailed information regarding the application procedure for residence permits on *e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr*. In addition, for questions regarding the application procedure, there is a helpline providing services in Turkish as well as in English, Arabic, Russian, Persian and German. (calls from Turkey: 157; calls from abroad: +90 312 157 1122)

### **HDF experience with residence permits in Turkey**

As of October 2016, 10 fellows from Armenia travelled to Turkey to stay for 4 to 8 months. Upon their arrival in Turkey, with their visas valid for 30 days, we prepared the required documents for each of them and applied via the website of the İstanbul Police Department Foreigners Office for a residence permit, and the online system gave us appointment dates. Due to system overload, the appointments issued were not for imminent dates. However, all of the 10 fellows received their residence permits within a few months of their application. Until the fellows received their official residence permits in writing, they could travel in and outside Turkey with a document issued by the Foreigners Office stating that they had already applied for their residence permits in Turkey and their applications were being processed.

### **Citizens of Turkey travelling to Armenia**

If they are going to stay in Armenia longer than 120 days (4 months), citizens of the Republic of Turkey are required to apply for a residence permit after arrival; otherwise they will be considered irregular migrants by Armenian law, and they may be deported.

As of 2016, residence permits for Armenia are issued by the Armenian Police Department. According to the laws of the Republic of Armenia, residence permits are issued under three categories: short-term, long-term, and special residence permits. Short-term residence permits are issued for foreigners who come to Armenia for the purposes of education, work, marriage, kinship, or trade. For all categories of residence permits, applicants have to add to their applications health reports issued by a hospital or health centre.

### **HDF experience with residence permits in Armenia**

None of our fellows from Turkey needed to obtain a residence permit for their stay in Armenia. According to the laws and regulations of the Republic of Armenia, citizens of Turkey can stay in Armenia up to 120 days (four months) without a residence permit.



## TRAVEL AND HEALTH INSURANCE

### For citizens of Armenia travelling to Turkey

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia can travel to Turkey with a travel/health insurance policy issued by insurance companies in Armenia. In case of emergency, private insurance policies issued in Armenia cover health expenses in Turkey.

However, if citizens of the Republic of Armenia want to stay in Turkey longer than one month, meaning they need to apply for a residence permit, the insurance policies issued in Armenia or in any other country are not accepted by the authorities in Turkey. In this case, they will need to purchase a new/additional insurance policy issued by insurance companies in Turkey according to the laws, regulations, and circulars with respect to residence permits for Turkey.

#### HDF experience with travel and health insurance in Turkey

Prior to the arrival of our fellows from Armenia, we purchased travel and health insurance from an insurance company for each of them, covering their stay in Turkey. In addition, we purchased from companies in Turkey specified by the relevant legislation insurance policies required for a residency application.

### For citizens of Turkey travelling to Armenia

Citizens of the Republic of Turkey can travel to Armenia with a travel/health insurance policy issued by insurance companies in Turkey that will cover the entire duration of their stay in Armenia. In cases of emergency, private insurance policies issued by insurance companies in Turkey cover health expenses in Armenia.

#### HDF experience with travel and health insurance in Armenia

Prior to the departure of our fellows from Turkey, we purchased for each of them travel and health insurance from an insurance company, covering their stay in Armenia.

## HEALTHCARE SERVICES

### For citizens of Armenia travelling to Turkey

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia who have a health insurance policy issued in Armenia can receive healthcare services in Turkey during their documented duration of stay. In these cases, if the citizens notify the hospital or healthcare centres of their health insurance policy numbers,

hospitals and healthcare centres will automatically charge their health insurance companies, and the amount is covered by their insurance policies. Likewise, prescribed medication expenses are covered by the insurance companies in Armenia if those prescriptions fall within the scope of their insurance policies.

#### For citizens of Turkey travelling to Armenia

Citizens of the Republic of Turkey who have a health insurance policy issued in Turkey can receive healthcare services in Armenia during their documented duration of stay. If they use hospital and healthcare services, they need to pay the charged amount first and ask the hospitals or healthcare centres to provide them with a signed and sealed insurance form. Once they are back in their home country Turkey, they can submit their insurance form and get reimbursed by the insurance company in Turkey.

#### HDF experience with healthcare services

During their stay in the neighbouring country, our fellows were able to benefit from health services with the insurance policies mentioned above.

#### BANK TRANSACTIONS

Despite the fact that both Turkey and Armenia are subject to the rules and regulations of the international banking system, from time to time there can be some difficulties in money transactions due to the lack of diplomatic relations between the countries.

Money transactions from Armenia to Turkey can be implemented through international intermediary banks. Technically, there is no difference between transactions from Armenia to Turkey and those from Armenia to other countries.

Due to Turkey's de facto trade embargo towards Armenia, doing money transfers from Turkey to Armenia is difficult because banks in Turkey do not confirm transactions. As of 2016, banks in Turkey no longer accepted money transfers from Armenia. As of March 2018, money transfers between Turkey and Armenia can only be made with special permission from the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade and on the initiative of banks. This situation poses a significant obstacle to relations between civil society organisations and entrepreneurs in the two countries and prevents them from conducting their transactions through formal and transparent channels.

## HDF experience with bank transactions

In the second term of the *Fellowship Scheme*, just as in the first one in 2014-2015, we had difficulties in sending monthly allowances to our fellows in Armenia. The branch that had our programme's bank account informed us that money transfers to Armenia were subject to special permission by the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade and that they could not get approval from the bank's headquarters to proceed with the transaction. Thus, we could not send the monthly allowances through that bank account.

In our search for a solution, we found out that it is not possible to transfer money to Armenia by Western Union either. During the *Fellowship Scheme*, we were able to transfer money from Turkey to Armenia through MoneyGram, paying a high transfer fee. Although the services provided by MoneyGram give the opportunity to transfer money from Turkey to Armenia, provided that it is in Dollars or Euros, this process may cause legal or administrative problems for civil society organisations in particular. For instance, MoneyGram only allows transactions carried out by individuals; it is not possible to transfer money to legal entities. MoneyGram provides services through a few banks in Turkey and is not always active, which caused problems and delays in money transactions. We have to note that this method is neither sustainable nor an alternative to money transactions through banks.

In the first term of the programme (2014-2015) we did not face any difficulties in transferring money to our bank account in Turkey. In 2016, when the second term of the programme was launched, the first instalment of the fund was successfully transferred to our account. However in March 2017, when the second instalment was to be transferred, the relevant branch informed us that the transfer was cancelled because it was made from Armenia. In our search for an alternative method to transfer money, we learned that money transactions can be done via certain private banks in Turkey. Thus, we opened a new account at a private bank which allows us to make money transfers for the project between Armenia and Turkey.

## EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Due to the absence of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia, citizens of both countries travelling to, or living in, the neighbouring country cannot receive any direct support, guidance or diplomatic services in the case of emergencies. The Embassies of the Republic of Armenia and Turkey in Tbilisi have the indirect mandate in case of emergencies. The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Armenia to the BSEC in İstanbul does not have any bilateral mandate; therefore, it can only serve as a facilitator by referring Armenian citizens to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

### **HDF experience with emergency situations**

Due to the absence of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia, we as the Hrant Dink Foundation, have provided our project participants, fellows, and travel grantees with info packages that include emergency contact details in the neighbouring country, as well as the contact details of emergency persons from the Foundation both in Turkey and Armenia.

For our fellows who stayed in Armenia and Turkey for a longer period of time, we also organised pre-departure and on-arrival orientation meetings, and briefed them about emergency situations. We signed agreements with the beneficiaries and fellows, drawing the line between their responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Foundation during this process. We also requested that our beneficiaries provide us with an emergency contact person and his/her contact details. Prior to the launch of our programmes and the actual travel, we requested emergency contact persons from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the European Union Delegations in both countries.



For further information and questions about the Travel Grant application process, you can contact us at [travelgrant@hrantdink.org](mailto:travelgrant@hrantdink.org)  
For further information and questions about the Fellowship Scheme, you can contact us at [fellowship@hrantdink.org](mailto:fellowship@hrantdink.org)

For your donations to the Travel Grant and Fellowship Scheme, you can use the following bank accounts.

EUR - TR66 0001 5001 5804 8011 8747 72  
Osmanbey Branch - 000006  
Account Number - 001 5804 8011 8747 72  
Swift - TVBATR2A

USD - TR87 0001 5001 5804 8013 0429 53  
Osmanbey Branch - 000006  
Account Number - 001 5804 8013 0429 53  
Swift - TVBATR2A

TL - TR73 0001 5001 5800 7290 5009 74  
Osmanbey Branch - 000006  
Account Number - 001 5800 7290 5009 74

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