

HRANT DINK FOUNDATION
2026-2027 TURKIYE-ARMENIA TRAVEL GRANT REGULATION

Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant, implemented by the Hrant Dink Foundation, will continue to support at least 50 individuals and non-profit civic initiatives from Armenia and Türkiye, thanks to the financial support of the European Union within the framework of the programme “Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalization: Enhancing Cross Border Linkages” between August 2026 and July 2027, to travel to the neighbouring country for their activities and studies in various thematic fields, by covering their international travel and inter-city transportation costs.

Background

1. Hrant Dink Foundation established the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant in February 2014 with a view to increase direct contacts and to promote cooperation between the peoples of the two neighbouring countries within the framework of the programme “Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalisation Process” financed by the European Union. The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant issued 5 open calls from March 2014 to May 2015, received more than 850 applications and supported the travel of 210 individuals.

2. The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant continued to receive applications by announcing a 6th open call, jointly administered by the Hrant Dink Foundation and the Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO (YIC) based in Gyumri, Armenia, with the joint financial assistance of the British Embassy Ankara and British Embassy Yerevan. In this round, the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant received more than 160 applications and supported the travels of 26 individuals from July 2015 to September 2015.

3. In 2016-2017, the Hrant Dink Foundation administered the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant with the financial assistance of the European Union within the framework of the programme “*Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalisation Process Stage II*”, in collaboration with the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) and Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO (YIC) in Armenia. From July 2016 to September 2017, the Travel Grant issued 6 open calls (7th-12th rounds), received approximately 600 applications and supported the travels of 186 individuals.

4. The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant, in 2017-2019, was implemented by the Hrant Dink Foundation in partnership with Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO (YIC) with the support of the UK Government’s Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. In response to five call periods of application (13th to 17th Rounds) between October 2017 and November 2018, the Travel Grant received 450 applications and the travels of 129 individuals to the neighbouring country were supported.

5. In 2020-2021, the Hrant Dink Foundation made preparations to make an open call for the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant with the financial assistance of the European Union within the framework of the programme “*Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalisation Process Stage III.*” Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 44 Day Nagorno-Karabakh war which started at the end of 2020, the call could not be launched and the Travel Grant had to be suspended until 2023.

6. In 2023-2024, the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant, implemented by the Hrant Dink Foundation under the EU-funded “*Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalization Process - Rapid Response*” programme, launched a total of 9 application rounds and received 242 applications from both countries. The programme supported 69 individuals, 26 from Armenia and 43 from Türkiye, in traveling to the neighboring country with a defined purpose and programme. In doing so, the Hrant Dink Foundation exceeded its initial Travel Grant target by 11 participants.

Who Can Benefit From the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant?

7. Any individual holding citizenship of Armenia or Türkiye, any individual legally residing in Armenia or Türkiye, any non-profit group, initiative or organisation based/registered in Armenia or Türkiye will be eligible to benefit from the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant. Groups and initiatives without legal entities can also benefit from the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant.

a) Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant primarily targets to support youth initiatives, university students, university clubs, civil society organisations, professional organisations, high school students and teachers, academics, researchers, journalists, doctors, lawyers, publishers, artists, sports clubs, sportsmen and sportswomen, businesses, local authorities, for their travels within the scope of eligible field and type of activities.

b) Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will support eligible actions in various thematic fields such as - but not limited to - civil society, youth and volunteering policies, human rights and democracy, education and training, environment, history, culture and arts, development, gender, medicine, law, technology, sports, regional cooperation and European integration.

c) Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will support the travel of individuals and groups who are organising or attending various types of eligible activities such as partnership building and networking, feasibility visits, cross-border projects, project preparation meetings, exchange programmes, trainings, language learning, academic cooperation, research and dissertation, voluntary service in civil society organisations, joint artistic productions; as well as organising or attending panels, seminars, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, concerts and similar activities in any of the thematic fields above.

8. There is no age limit for applicants who would like to receive Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant support. Those who are under the age of 18 – the age of legal maturity in Armenia and Türkiye - will be required to submit the approval of their parents, legal custodians along with their application, and during their travels to the neighbouring country they should be accompanied by an adult above 18.

Who Cannot Benefit from the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant?

9. Trips of profit-making organisations, commercial enterprises, and businesses for the purpose of selling their goods and services, trips by political parties, and touristic and personal visits, including visits for medical reasons will not be eligible.

10. Visits by the current and former staff, members and board members of the Hrant Dink Foundation as well as the partner organisation Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO (YIC) and the members of the Consortium implementing the programme *“Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalization: Enhancing Cross-Border Linkages”* and/or travels from/to the activities of the mentioned organisations will not be eligible. For the purposes of this provision, “members” of YIC refers exclusively to individuals with financial remuneration or decision-making authority within the organisation. General membership without financial remuneration or decision-making authority does not constitute grounds for ineligibility.

11. Visits by the individuals who have already received the support of the Hrant Dink Foundation for their visits to Armenia and Türkiye in the past will not be eligible.

12. Individuals who received the support of the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant in the previous rounds are not eligible. Individuals who received the Travel Grant support in the previous rounds, yet could not

realise their travels due to force majeure are eligible to apply by submitting the same or a different application.

13. An individual can benefit from the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant only once. However, in cases not awarded in the specific selection round, the same individual can apply in subsequent rounds by submitting a different application.

14. The application has to be submitted by individuals. In case of group travel, all members of the group should submit individual applications by specifying the details of the group in the relevant part of the application form. In case of group applications, the group size should not exceed 3 (three) people, and the role of each participant should be clearly explained in their respective applications.

What are the Costs Covered by The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant?

15. The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will finance eligible transportation costs that can be documented (plane, train, bus tickets). The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will only cover economy class tickets and means of public transport.

16. The costs arising from the eligible domestic and international means of transport that will be used during the travel will be directly paid to the relevant airline company or travel agency by the Hrant Dink Foundation. Grantees' tickets will be delivered by the Hrant Dink Foundation.

17. In cases where it is not possible for the Hrant Dink Foundation to directly book and pay for tickets, in particular for inter-city transportation such as Yerevan-Gyumri and Yerevan-Tbilisi travels, the Travel Grant beneficiary may need to pay for these expenditures himself/herself. In such cases, the Travel Grant beneficiary may request reimbursement from the Hrant Dink Foundation. The reimbursement requests may be approved by the Hrant Dink Foundation provided that they fulfil the following criteria:

- a) The inter-city travel is made in economy class and by means of public transport.
- b) All legal documents, receipts, invoices certifying the inter-city transportation as well as the Travel Grant Activity Report are submitted by the Travel Grant Beneficiary to the Hrant Dink Foundation latest within 10 (ten) days after return to the home country.

18. The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will not finance the ineligible costs including visa costs, exit fees and duties, travel insurance or any other visit-related cost including accommodation, food, etc. Such costs will be covered by the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant beneficiaries and/or the inviting persons or organisations.

19. Those who will be travelling to Armenia or to Türkiye with the support of the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant are strongly recommended to arrange personal travel health insurance that will cover the entire duration of their stay. Sole responsibility to arrange travel health insurance will lie with the grantee. The Hrant Dink Foundation, the Consortium implementing the programme "*Support to the Armenia-Türkiye Normalization: Enhancing Cross Border Linkages*", or the European Union shall be by no means held responsible in case of any incident that may occur during the visit.

Selection Criteria

20. Contribution to the following overall objective will be the main selection criterion:

“to support civil society efforts towards the normalisation of relations between Türkiye and

Armenia and towards an open border by enhancing people-to-people contacts, expanding economic and business links, promoting cultural and educational activities and facilitating access to balanced information in both societies.”

Selection Priorities

21. In addition to the main selection criterion, applications that comply with the following qualities will be given priority.

- a. **Support for First Time Goers:** Priority will be given to individuals who will be travelling to the neighbouring country for the first time.
- b. **Support for Local and Regional Activities:** The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant aims to mobilize individuals and organisations from major provinces as much as local areas. Local actions and travels from/to cities other than Istanbul and Yerevan will be given priority.
- c. **Diversity:** Diversity of beneficiaries will be ensured in terms of gender, age, geographical area, thematic area and type of activity.
- d. **Support for Youth:** The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will be open to all age groups; however young people including high school and university students as well as youth groups will be given priority.
- e. **Support for New Initiatives:** The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will support both registered civil society organisations that are experienced in certain fields and civic initiatives, which are not legal entities. Civic initiatives and individuals with innovative ideas will be given priority.
- f. **Sustainability and Multiplier Effect:** Travels that can reach out to more people, that can have greater impact in the long run, and that can contribute to the initiation of concrete partnership projects between Armenia and Türkiye will be given priority.

Selection Process

22. All incoming applications for the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant are assessed by a Selection Committee in line with the selection criteria and priorities. The Selection Committee is made up of 6 members, 3 from Türkiye and 3 from Armenia, out of independent, neutral and competent names. The members of the Committee are identified by the Hrant Dink Foundation. The Selection Committee composition pays attention to gender equality. Selection Committee members will perform their functions voluntarily.

23. Members of the Selection Committee will assess all incoming applications from Armenia and Türkiye through scoring. Each member of the Selection Committee will score the application out of 10 points. Applications which score above the average point for the selection period will be eligible for support. The scoring is done for both countries and not separately for Armenia and Türkiye.

24. Members of the Selection Committee will have the right to veto. Members of the Selection Committee will assess the incoming applications received for each period specified in the Selection Timeline within 7 (seven) days.

25. 2026-2027 Selection Committee Members: Burcu Becermen, Dikran Altun, Evren Ergeç, Gayane Mkrtychyan, Gegham Vardanyan, Marine Karoyan.

Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant Selection Timeline

26. Individuals who want to benefit from the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant between August 2026 to July 2027 can submit applications at any time between June 2026 to April 2027. Their applications will be

assessed and results announced as specified in the below Selection Timeline. The Selection Committee shall make its decisions on beneficiaries in 5 (five) rounds on the specific dates mentioned in the below Selection Timeline.

27. Applicants must arrange their travel dates in accordance with the Eligible Travel Timeframes below and apply for the corresponding round. While filling in/submitting their application form, the applicants can only choose travel dates that correspond to the eligible timeframe for the given round. The travel can also last longer than the given timeframe, in case of long-term stays or in justifiable cases.

Selection timeline

Round	Application Period	Announcement of Beneficiaries	Travel Dates
27	15 June - 31 July 2026	15 August 2026	25 August - 30 November 2026
28	1 August - 30 September 2026	15 October 2026	25 October 2026 - 31 January 2027
29	1 October - 30 November 2026	15 December 2026	25 December 2026 - 31 March 2027
30	1 December 2026 - 31 January 2027	15 February 2027	25 February - 31 May 2027
31	1 February - 31 March 2027	15 April 2027	25 April - 31 July 2027

28. The Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will only support travels that take place starting from August 25th, 2026 until July 31st, 2027. Travels taking place later than 31 July, 2027 will not be eligible.

Application Process

29. Any applicant who would like to benefit from the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant should fill in the online application form on the website www.hrantdink.org and submit it. Application forms should be submitted in English language. Competency in English is not a selection criterion. The purpose is to prevent possible disagreements about translation and to facilitate the work of the Selection Committee. In case applicants need support with translation from Armenian/Turkish into English, they are welcome to contact the Hrant Dink Foundation project team members for advice.

30. Applicants are required to indicate at least one contact/reference person and or organisation in the neighbouring country who is connected to the purpose of the proposed travel and familiar with the applicant’s planned activities. Please note that the project team will get in touch with the contact/reference person or organisation identified in the application form by the applicant to make sure the specified persons/organisations are informed and ready to support the applicant in the course of the project, in case the latter is approved to receive the Travel Grant.

31. The Hrant Dink Foundation project team members will compile all incoming applications, do a technical assessment to check if the application forms are complete. Afterwards the project team members will share the compiled list of applications with the Selection Committee.

32. Once the assessment of the Selection Committee is completed, all applicants from Armenia and Türkiye are listed from the highest to the lowest score. Applicants above the average score who fall within the target quota for 2026-2027 Travel Grant period are identified as Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant beneficiaries.

33. Grantees will be informed of the result of their application by e-mail as per the dates in the table above. Travel should only start after the announcement of the beneficiaries in accordance with the Eligible Travel Timeframes specified above. Applicants who were not awarded a grant are informed by the Hrant Dink Foundation by e-mail.

34. The beneficiaries of the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant will be obliged to first confirm their dates of travel and travel route with the project team, sign the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant Agreement with the Hrant Dink Foundation, provide the Hrant Dink Foundation with a copy of the Grant Agreement at least 5 (five) days prior to travel. Only afterwards the Hrant Dink Foundation will make the necessary bookings and deliver the travel documents and tickets to the beneficiaries. If the beneficiaries fail to confirm their travel dates and travel route within the eligible timeframe for the given round, the project team reserves the right to withdraw their travel grant.

35. It is the responsibility of the beneficiary of the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant to obtain the required entry permits, if any, for the neighbouring country and to abide by the period of time and other specifications of the permit. As of 2026, holders of special passports from Türkiye are not required to undergo additional processing or obtain special permits to enter the neighbouring country. However, travellers are advised to verify the exact entry requirements prior to travel.

36. In case the individuals who were selected as the beneficiaries of the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant and who entered into the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant Agreement fail to travel to the neighbouring country and fail to notify the Hrant Dink Foundation at least 3 (three) days prior to their travel dates, the Hrant Dink Foundation will take necessary action to reclaim the funds spent for travel expenditures in accordance with the relevant articles of the Türkiye-Armenia Travel Grant Agreement.

37. In cases when the project team of the Hrant Dink Foundation detects any information provided by the applicants being false and/or incomplete, the Foundation has the right to disqualify the application at all stages of the selection process, including the cases when the applicant has already been officially announced as a grantee.