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CEPA

Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

Year 2024



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FOREWORD



This publication presents the progress report on the implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Armenia and the European Union. It highlights the developments in 2024 and summarises the work since the provisional application of the Agreement commenced on June 1, 2018, and entered into full force on March 1, 2021. During this period, Armenia has carried out extensive reforms in the political, economic, and governance sectors. The Agreement has served as a basis for a wide range of initiatives within the Armenia–EU cooperation framework, establishing commitments to align Armenia’s legislation and public policies with EU standards.

The past few years have certainly not been easy. Our efforts to implement the Agreement were hampered by various developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the military aggression unleashed against us, which led to the influx of over 115,000 forcibly displaced compatriots and the resulting challenges. Nevertheless, this first report by the Government reflects notable achievements. The goal is to translate the objectives of the Agreement into tangible reforms and make their outcomes accessible to our citizens. At the same time, there is still much work to be done, and we are committed to carrying it out in close cooperation with our European Union partners.

I am confident that Armenia’s state institutions will further consolidate the progress achieved in the coming years through their dedicated efforts. The dynamic development of Armenia–European Union relations is also noteworthy. Medium-term priorities are being defined within the framework of the new Armenia–EU Partnership Agenda and the Resilience and Growth Plan. These important bilateral initiatives are designed to facilitate the effective, results-oriented implementation of the CEPA.

I would like to thank our Armenian colleagues for their contributions to this report and equally express my gratitude to the EU Delegation to Armenia and the team of the EU-funded project “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication” for their direct involvement in making this publication possible.

Mher Grigoryan
Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union in November 2017, entered fully into force on 1 March 2021. Its provisional application began in June 2018, and since then, CEPA has guided significant reform processes across governance, the rule of law, trade, human rights, and sectoral alignment.

CEPA is an open-ended agreement that strengthens EU-Armenia ties, fostering democratic principles, economic development, and alignment with EU legislation and international standards. The Agreement addresses multiple domains such as justice, migration, transport, energy, environment, climate, consumer protection, health, trade, education, information society, employment, etc. It contains over 250 EU directives, regulations or other EU legal

acts with deadlines between 2018 and 2029—for Armenia to approximate, in some cases gradually.

The Government of Armenia established an Interagency Commission, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, to coordinate CEPA implementation and its Roadmap. The current implementation Roadmap, which includes 405 measures across more than 20 sectors, consists of 2 annexes: the 1st Annex was initially adopted by the Prime Minister's Decision No. 666-L dated June 1, 2019, and later revised by Decision No. 587-L dated May 31, 2021. The 2nd Annex was adopted in 2021 through the latter decision. In 2024, an update process commenced to account for reform progress, new EU-Armenia initiatives, and evolving sectoral requirements. A new Roadmap is scheduled for presentation in 2025.



KEY IMPLEMENTATION ACHIEVEMENTS (2019–2024)

In 2024, Armenia introduced a **joint monitoring mechanism encompassing all parties engaged in CEPA coordination, implementation and oversight**, led by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.

The monitoring mechanism was tested in the pilot sectors of transport, environment, and climate action. This has helped refining the mechanism.

The new reporting approach uses a **four-category system**: not started, ongoing, partially completed, and completed. Progress is assessed across legal approximation and enforcement dimensions.

As a result of a new assessment methodology, based on the subsequent self-assessment results, about 55,5 % of CEPA Roadmap actions with deadlines from 2019–2024 have been completed.

A major output of this mechanism is the development of the first **CEPA Annual Progress Report** (the present report) based on newly created institutional mechanisms including key performance indicators for a more effective monitoring, and templates.

Furthermore, the DPMO is developing a digital platform for the implementation of the CEPA. This platform will be synchronised with the joint monitoring mechanism and the new roadmap.

THIS REPORT

While the European Commission has regularly prepared Partnership Implementation reports, this Report is the first **CEPA Progress Report of the Government of Armenia**, taking stock both of specific developments in 2024 and also summarising the reforms since Armenia started to implement the CEPA.

This report covers the 28 chapters of the CEPA agreement and monitors the implementation of the Roadmap measures. It provides for each sector a clear indication of implementation status at the end of 2024. This first report will serve as a baseline for next reporting periods. The CEPA progress report is based on the assessment of performance and progress in each sphere, also using indicators developed during the monitoring exercise for all measures outlined in the CEPA Roadmap with deadlines up to and including 2024.

The report also encompasses the perspectives, viewpoints, and data contributed by the independent expert communities of the EU and Armenia.

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED DURING MONITORING

Notwithstanding the considerable institutional endeavours undertaken, CEPA implementation faces several systemic challenges:

- The level of full and practical understanding of the Agreement's content within the responsible state institutions is insufficient.
- The harmonisation between developed policies and strategies and the Roadmap measures is inadequate.
- Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Roadmap's implementation need improvement.
- Cooperation between the responsible and implementing departments identified in the Roadmap is weak.
- There is a need to develop an institutional mechanism for assessing the compliance of developed regulations with the Agreement's content and objectives.
- The quality of physical infrastructure (e.g., water, roads, electricity, waste collection) is insufficient.
- There is no mechanism for the timely incorporation of amended EU legal acts into the Roadmap.
- The process for communicating and publicising activities carried out under the Agreement needs improvement.
- Short implementation deadlines—especially in resource-intensive sectors such as transport and energy—combined with post-war and socio-economic constraints (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict) pose significant challenges.

FORWARD OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, Armenia aims to update its CEPA Implementation Roadmap in 2025, reflecting lessons learned and addressing sector-specific challenges. Priorities include enhancing administrative capacities, securing additional EU technical assistance, and refining monitoring mechanisms. A specific Working Group under aegis of the Ministry of Justice was created to renew the CEPA Roadmap.

Efforts started in 2024 to strengthen **institutional capacity and approximation techniques** across 9 sectors (consumer protection, transport, environment, climate action, energy, including nuclear safety, labour, information society, anti-fraud) and within the Ministry of Justice's Agency for Expert Examination of Legal Acts.

Efforts were also put on key sectors such as **trade** (trade diversification, SME's development, food safety, geographical indications), **universal health coverage, extended producer responsibility** (polluter pays for waste management), **civil aviation** (with the aim of strengthening Armenian safety oversight capabilities) and nuclear safety cooperation for which the EU support is tangible, and reforms are on-going.

The European Union and Armenia are currently collaborating on the proposed Multi-Annual Action Plan (MAAP) for 2025-2027 which is embedded in the expanding agenda of EU-Armenia relations and is anchored in the CEPA. This Action plan derives from the Resilience and Growth Plan (RGP) announced in April 2024 by President von der Leyen in the presence of Prime Minister Pashinyan at the EU-US-Armenia high level event in Brussels.

On 9 September 2024, the European Commission and the Republic of Armenia officially announced the beginning of a **visa liberalisation dialogue**. This process aims to support Armenia in achieving a visa-free regime for short-stays within the EU. The DPMIO established a separate Working Group to implement the mutual commitments and reforms regarding the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue.

Governmental **strategic communication reform** has been initiated to enhance transparency and public awareness of CEPA's progress. A dedicated CEPA Communication Hub has been established to coordinate messaging and involve the civil society in reform discussions. The government aims to improve stakeholder engagement through participatory governance and a digital tool for tracking CEPA progress.

To further the reforms deriving from the CEPA and to better country's socio-economic resilience the Government of Armenia and the European Commission, signed a **EUR 3 million Technical Assistance Financing Agreement, which entered into force** in June 2024, along with a topping-up **EUR 20 million** addendum negotiated and entered into force at the end of the same year. These funds will support targeted reforms in health, social protection, employment, energy, aviation, business climate policy, etc., focusing on the inclusion of displaced populations.

CONCLUSION

CEPA remains a cornerstone of Armenia's reform and development strategy. While facing notable implementation challenges, Armenia has made substantial progress in legal alignment, sectoral reforms, and institutional coordination. Ongoing EU technical support, implementation of joint monitoring mechanism, and strategic planning place Armenia in a strong position to meet future commitments under CEPA, ensuring closer relations with the EU and improved standards for its citizens.

Partnership with the EU remains vital to achieving Armenia's reform goals and fostering deeper integration with European and international standards.

The graphics hereafter show overall progress of CEPA implementation.





PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEPA

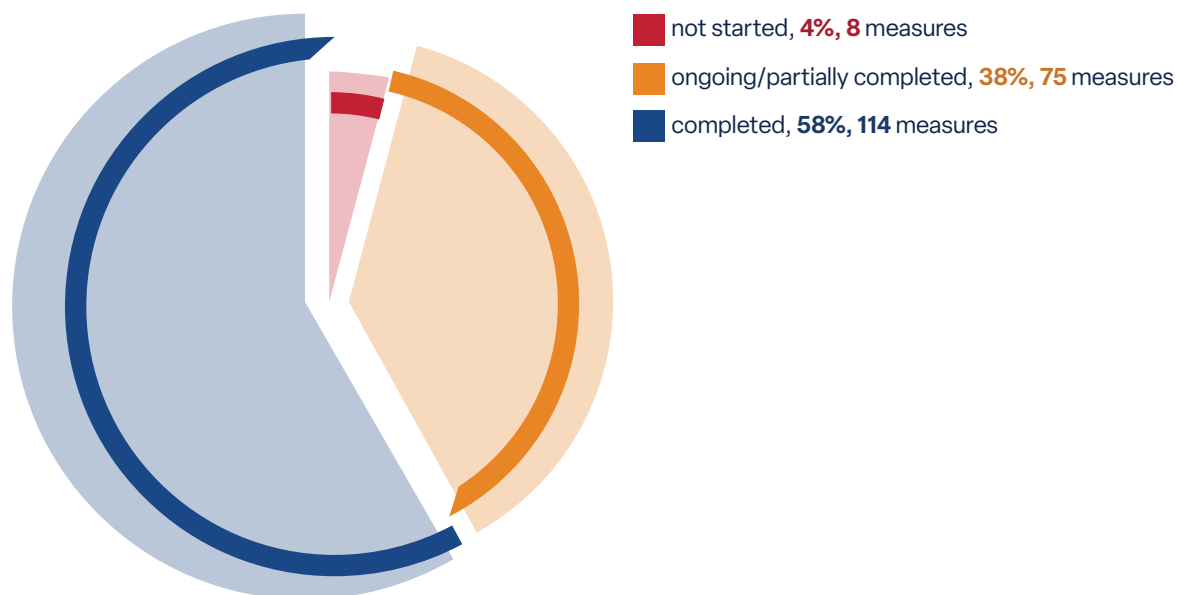
PERFORMANCE OF ROAD MAP MEASURES – ANNEX 1

(Measures with deadlines until 2024 included)

Annex 1 includes 197 Measures with deadlines until 2024, which were included in the progress monitoring exercise.

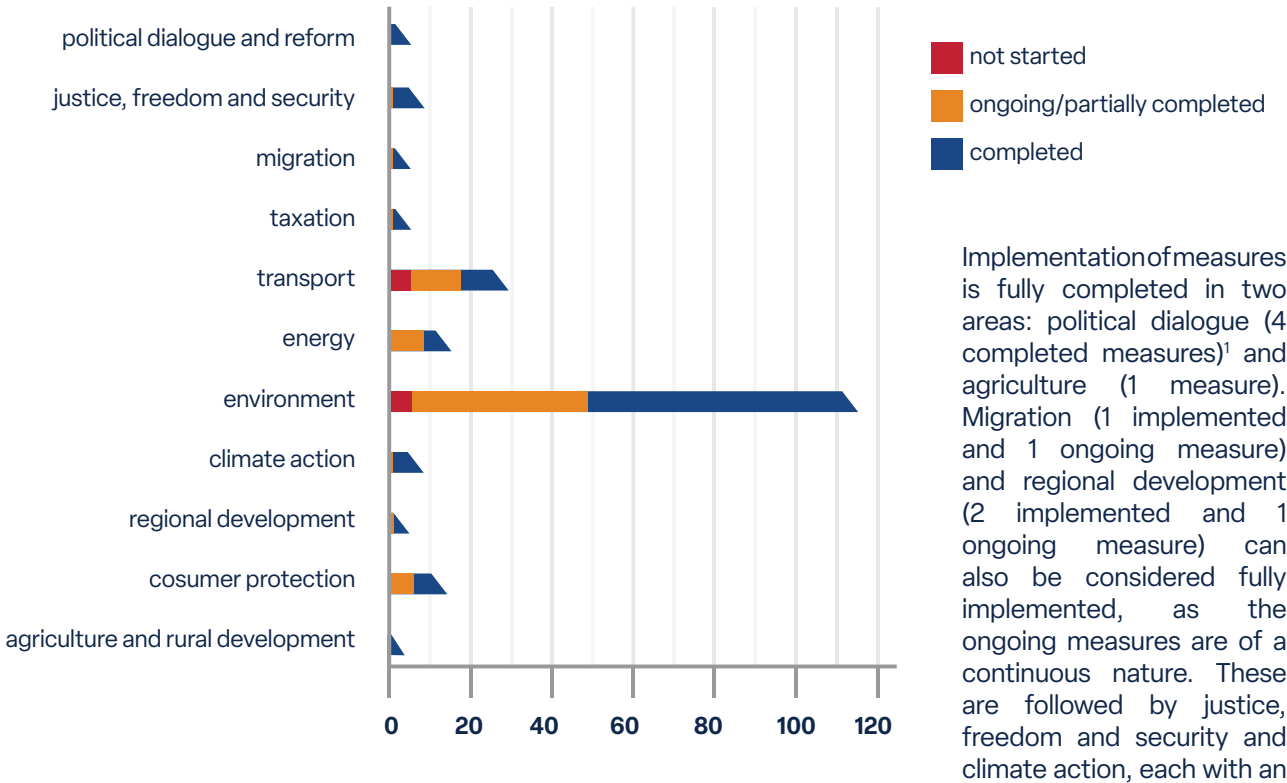
In total, by the end of 2024, **58% of measures are completed/implemented** (114 measures). Implementation of 38% of measures is ongoing or are partially completed (75 measures) and implementation of 4% of measures (8 measures) has not yet started.

OVERALL PROGRESS WITH THE CEPA ROAD MAP MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX 1



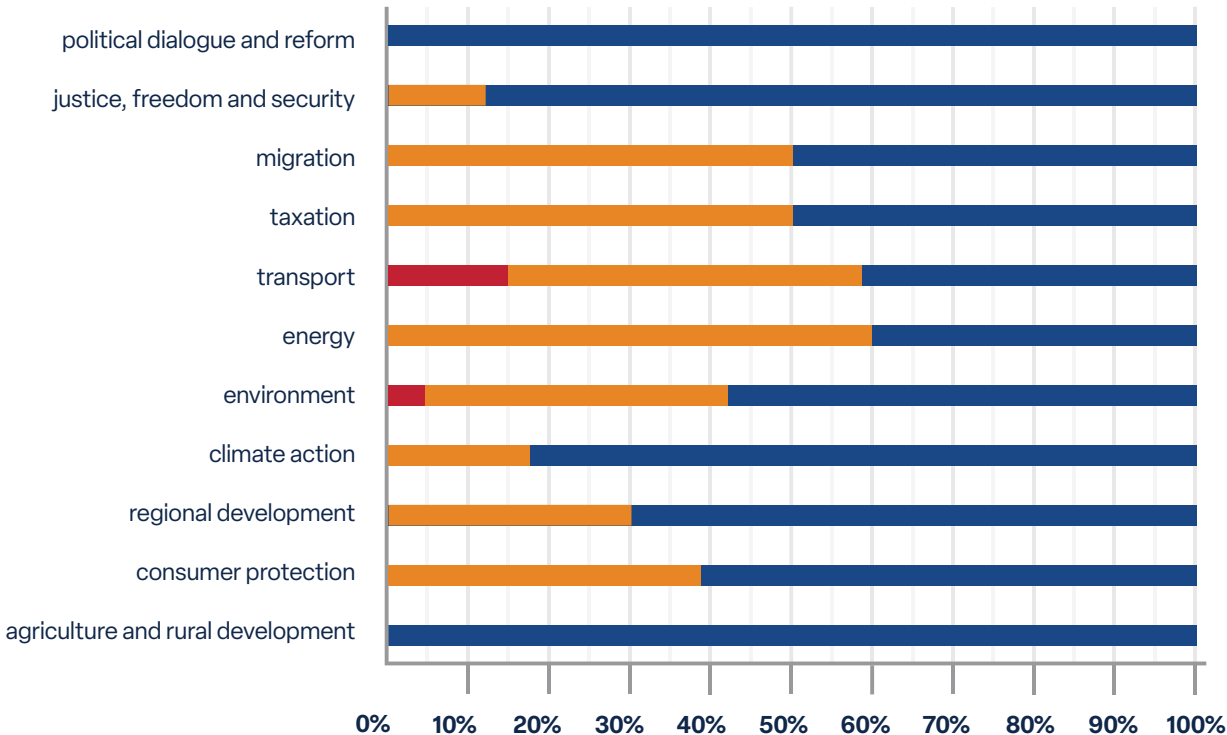
The Environment sector accounts for the highest number of measures to be implemented (113 in total, with 65 already implemented, while 27 remain ongoing, 17 are partially completed, and 4 have not yet started), followed by Transport (12 implemented, 11 ongoing, 2 partially completed, and 4 not yet started out of 29 measures), Energy (6 have been implemented and 8 remain ongoing out of 14 measures), and Consumer protection (with 8 implemented, there are still 5 ongoing out of a total of 13 measures).

PROGRESS PER AREA (NUMBER OF MEASURES WITH DEADLINES UNTIL 2024 INCLUDED)



88% implementation rate. In the area of consumer protection, 62% of the measures have been implemented, followed by environment with 58%. In taxation, 50% of the measures have been completed, while in transport, the implementation rate is 41%. It is worth noting that the environment and transport sectors also include measures that have not yet been started—4% in environment and 14% in transport.

PROGRESS PER AREA IN %



¹ The CEPA Title II “Political Dialogue and Reform: Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy” articles and measures are listed under the “Justice, Freedom and Security” section in Annex 1 of the CEPA Roadmap. In the Report, the progress and statistics of these measures are presented under the respective title.

PERFORMANCE OF ROAD MAP MEASURES – ANNEX 2

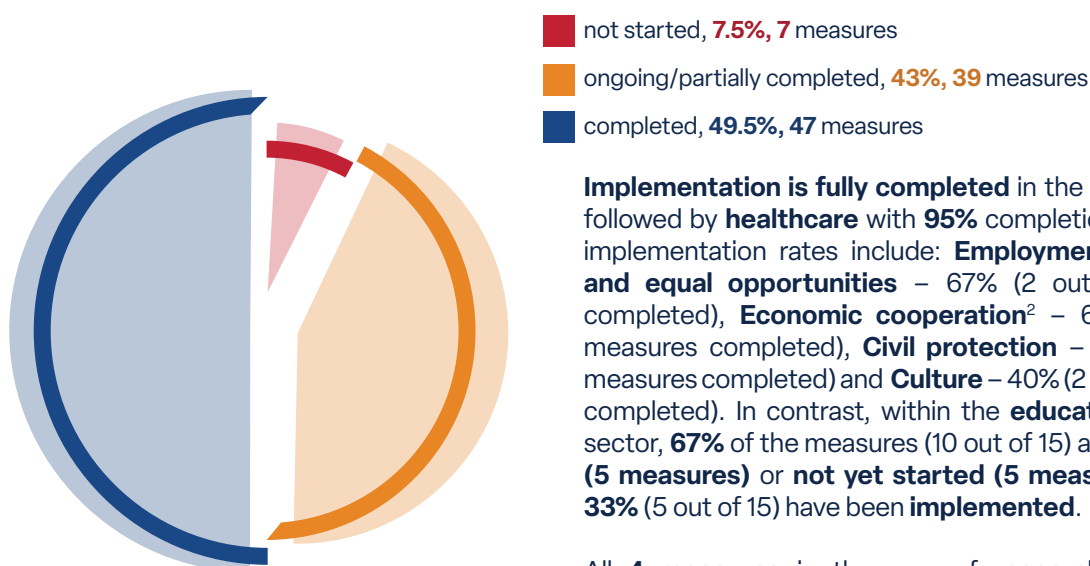
(Measures with deadlines until 2024 included)

Annex 2 includes 93 measures with deadlines set until the end of 2024, which were subject to the progress monitoring exercise.

By the end of 2024: **49.5%** of the measures (47 in total) have been **completed or implemented**, **43%** (39 measures) are **ongoing or partially completed** and **7.5%** (7 measures) have **not yet been started**.

The highest number of implemented measures under Annex 2 relate to the **statistics** sector with **10 measures**, covering **100%** of the Roadmap implementation in that area. This is followed by the **healthcare** sector, with **18 measures**, representing **95%** of all healthcare-related actions (out of overall 19 measures). The **education, training, and youth** sector follows with **5 measures implemented**, accounting for **33%** of its Roadmap field measures.

OVERALL PROGRESS WITH THE CEPA ROAD MAP MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX 2



Implementation is fully completed in the **statistics** sector, followed by **healthcare** with **95%** completion. Other notable implementation rates include: **Employment, social policy, and equal opportunities** – 67% (2 out of 3 measures completed), **Economic cooperation**² – 60% (3 out of 5 measures completed), **Civil protection** – 57% (4 out of 7 measures completed) and **Culture** – 40% (2 out of 5 measures completed). In contrast, within the **education and training** sector, **67%** of the measures (10 out of 15) are either **ongoing (5 measures)** or **not yet started (5 measures)**, while only **33%** (5 out of 15) have been **implemented**.

All **4 measures** in the area of **research, technological development, and innovation** are currently **ongoing**.

As for **youth-related cooperation**, **50% (2 measures)** of the measures **have not yet been started**, while the remaining **50% (2 measures)** are in the **ongoing** phase. In the area of **Regional Development, Cross-Border and Regional-Level Cooperation**, **three measures (75%)** are **ongoing**, while **only one measure** has been **implemented**.

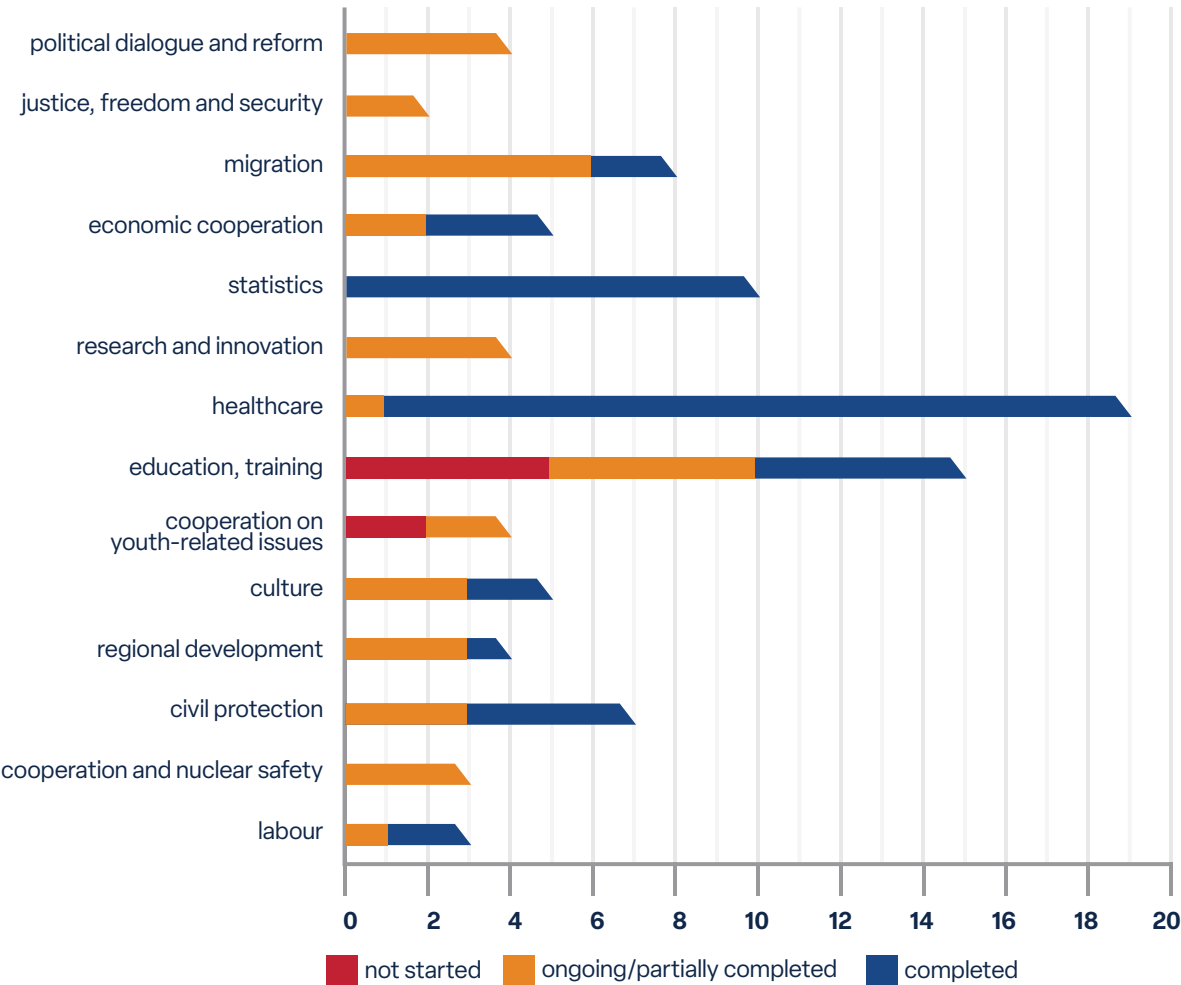
In the area of **Nuclear Safety**, **three measures** are currently **ongoing**, all with deadlines set **up to and including 2024**. Regarding **Political Dialogue and Reform** and **Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy**³, a total of **four measures** is **ongoing**, of which **three** are of a **continuous nature**. In the field of **Justice, Freedom, and Security**, there are **two ongoing measures**, including **one** that is of a **continuous nature**.

² The “Economic Cooperation” section of Annex 2 of the ACP Roadmap, in addition to the measures deriving from Title IV, “Economic Cooperation,” also includes measures stemming from the chapter on industrial and enterprise policy under Title V, entitled “Other Cooperation Policies.” These measures are presented in the corresponding chapter of the Report.

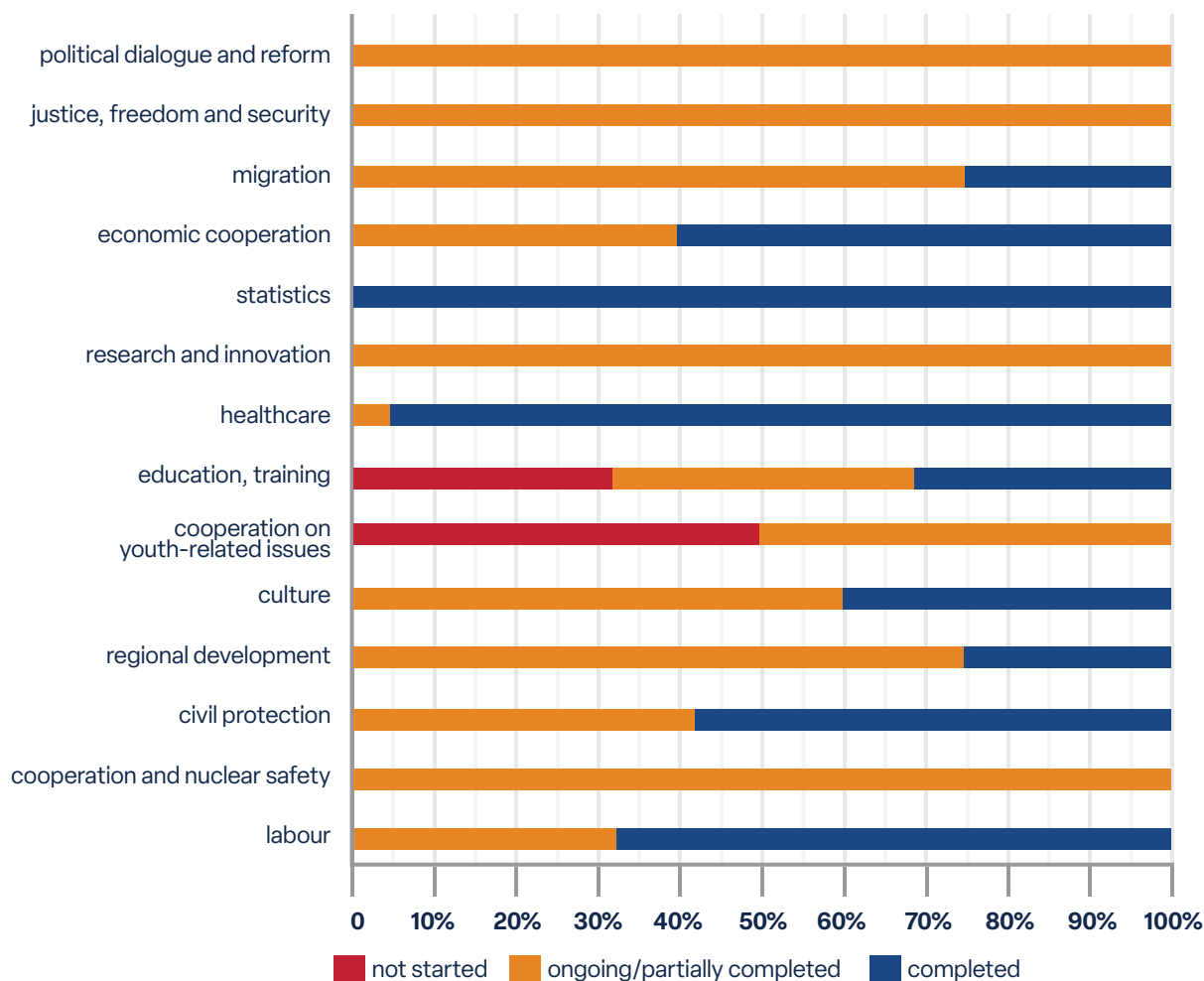
³ The articles and measures of CEPA Title II, “Political Dialogue and Reform: Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy,” and Title III, “Justice, Freedom and Security,” are presented in the section “Cooperation in the Field of Security” in Annex 2 of the CEPA Roadmap. The progress and statistics for each title’s roadmap measures are presented in their respective chapters of the Report.

As for **Migration**, according to Annex 2, **two measures (25%)** have been **implemented**, while **six measures (75%)** are **ongoing**.

PROGRESS PER AREA (NUMBER OF MEASURES WITH DEADLINE UNTIL 2024 INCLUDED)



PROGRESS PER AREA IN %



OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES (ANNEXES 1 & 2) WITH DEADLINES UP TO AND INCLUDING 2024

Based on the calculations presented above, the overall implementation status of all **290 measures** with deadlines **up to and including 2024**, as stipulated in **Annexes 1 and 2** of the **CEPA Roadmap**, is as follows:

- **Completed measures** – 161 (55.5%),
- **Ongoing/partially completed measures** – 114 (39.3%),
- **Not started measures** – 15 (5.2%) – primarily in the sectors of **transport, environment, education, and youth**, due to existing **infrastructure and legislative gaps**.

Since the Roadmap's adoption in 2019, around **140 legal acts** have been adopted, including **30 in 2024 alone**. To enhance the effective implementation of the Agreement, in 2024 Armenia initiated the **update of the CEPA Roadmap**. By the decision of the Deputy Prime Minister a dedicated Working Group, coordinated by the Minister of Justice, is finalising a revised draft in autumn 2025.

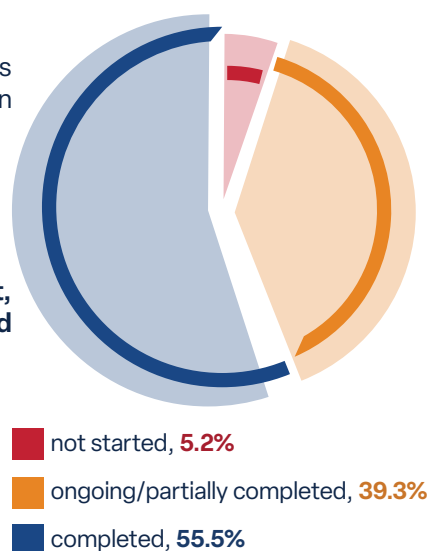


TABLE OF CONTENTS

13	List of abbreviations
15	Introduction
29	Political dialogue and Reform: Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy
41	Justice, Freedom and Security
57	Economic Cooperation
59	Economic Dialogue
63	Taxation
66	Statistics
73	Transport
83	Energy including Nuclear Safety
95	Environment
113	Climate Action
119	Industrial and Enterprise Policy
125	Company Law, Accounting and Auditing, and Corporate Governance
129	Banking, Insurance and other Financial Services
133	Information Society
137	Tourism
141	Agriculture and Rural Development
147	Fisheries and Maritime Governance
151	Mining
155	Research, Technological Development and Innovation
161	Consumer Protection
173	Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities
181	Health
187	Education, Training and Youth
191	Education and Training
199	Youth
201	Culture
207	Audiovisual and Media Fields
211	Sport and Physical Activity
217	Civil Society
221	Regional Development, Cross Border and Regional Level Cooperation
227	Civil Protection
233	Trade and Trade Related Matters
236	Trade in Goods
236	Customs
240	Technical Barriers to Trade
242	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters
245	Intellectual Property
246	Public Procurement
247	Trade and Sustainable Development
250	Competition
254	State Owned Enterprises
255	EU Financial Assistance, Anti-fraud and Control Provisions
257	EU Financial Assistance
262	Anti-fraud and Control Provisions

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ARMSTAT - Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia

CAC - Civil Aviation Committee

CEPA - Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

CoE - Council of Europe

CPC - Competition Protection Commission / Corruption Prevention Commission

CSO - Civil Society Organisation

DCFTA - Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement

DPMO - Deputy Prime Minister's Office

EC - European Commission

EaP - Eastern Partnership

EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment

EIB - European Investment Bank

ENP - European Neighbourhood Policy

EQF - European Qualifications Framework

EPR - Extended Producer Responsibility

EU (D) - European Union (Delegation)

EAEU - Eurasian Economic Union

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FEZ - Free Economic Zone

FRONTEX - European Border and Coast Guard Agency

FSIB - Food Safety Inspection Body

GD - Governmental Decision

GoA/RA - Government of Armenia/ Republic of Armenia

HESC - Higher Education and Science Committee

HLIB - Health and Labour Inspection Body

IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency

ICC - International Criminal Court

ILO - International Labour Organisation

IMF - International Monetary Fund

MESCS - Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

MFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MIA - Ministry of Internal Affairs

MLSA - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

MoH - Ministry of Health

MTAI - Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

NDICI - Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

NSS - National Security Service

OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PDPA - Personal Data Protection Agency

PSRC - Public Services Regulatory Commission

R2E2 - Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SHA - State Health Agency

SRC - State Revenue Committee

TAIEX - Technical Assistance and Information Exchange

TRACES - EU (Food Safety) Trade Control and Expert System

UHIF - Universal Health Insurance Fund

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

VET - Vocational Education and Training

WHO - World Health Organisation

WTO - World Trade Organisation

INTRODUCTION

Three thick, parallel diagonal bars in blue, red, and orange extend from the bottom left towards the top right of the page.

The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA)¹ between Armenia and the European Union was signed in November 2017. Many of its substantive parts have been provisionally applied since June 1, 2018, and the Agreement entered into full force on March 1, 2021, following ratification by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and all EU Member States. The CEPA replaced the previous Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which had been in force since 1999.

The CEPA provides a legal framework for the current bilateral relations between Armenia and the European Union, underpinning cooperation to support reforms and promote development in a wide range of areas. It is an open-ended (no time limit) agreement and aims to strengthen democracy and the rule of law, boost employment and business opportunities, improve legislation, help protect the environment, and provide better education and research opportunities. This bilateral agenda also contributes to the Government's overall objective of deepening and strengthening Armenia's relations with the EU within the framework of the European Union's Eastern Partnership.

The Agreement plays an important role in the modernisation of Armenia, in particular through legislative approximation to EU standards in many sectors. This includes reforms in the area of rule of law and respect for human rights, in particular an independent, efficient and accountable judiciary, as well as reforms aimed at improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of public institutions and fostering conditions for sustainable and inclusive development.

The Agreement, among important political provisions, also includes cooperation in such areas as transport and infrastructure, energy, health, environment, climate change, taxation, education and culture, employment and social affairs, banking and insurance, media freedom, minority rights, industrial policy, agriculture and rural development, tourism, research and innovation, mining, and counterterrorism. It also covers other wide-ranging democratic reforms, judicial cooperation, combating money laundering, fight against organised crime and corruption.



The Agreement also includes a substantive trade title with important commitments in several areas of trade policy. These aim to improve the conditions for bilateral trade between Armenia and the EU, taking full account of Armenia's obligations as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union. Importantly, these provisions aim to ensure a better regulatory environment for economic operators in areas such as trade in services and goods, establishment and operation of companies, capital movements, government procurement and intellectual property rights, sustainable development and competition.

¹ EUR-Lex - 52017JC0037 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu) provides the full text including Annexes.

THE IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS OF CEPA



The implementation requirements of the CEPA vary in type and in regard to the level of action anticipated. Accordingly, much of the Agreement relates to cooperation between the two sides in regard to the development, modernisation and reform of various sectors. In some cases, this cooperation is focused on alignment with international standards and conventions – such as those of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). At a deeper level, the Agreement requires approximation with most of the EU *acquis* in eight key sectors (transport, energy (including cooperation on nuclear safety), environment, climate action, consumer protection, information society, labour and health at workplace, as well as anti-fraud) seen as priority fields for approximation to EU law and policy over set periods, mostly ranging from 1 to 8 years, with the latest deadline being 2026² in five key sectors. In three sectors (Information Society, Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities as well as Climate) the maximum deadlines are 2026, 2028 and 2029 respectively.

The supervision and regular review of the implementation of CEPA are entrusted to a range of structures established by the Agreement.

The CEPA supervisory and monitoring institutional framework

- **The Partnership Council** - At the apex is the Partnership Council, which comprises representatives from the EU and Armenia at ministerial level. The Council is empowered by various provisions of the Agreement to act by binding decisions needed to attain the objectives of the CEPA. The Partnership Council may also make recommendations. The Council governs the CEPA, meets at regular intervals, at least once a year, supervises and regularly reviews the CEPA implementation on the basis of an Annual Implementation Report, and relevant reports from the Partnership Committee. The Council is headed by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

On 13 February 2024 the EU-Armenia Partnership Council met for the 5th time in Brussels. It was chaired by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr Josep Borrell, while the Armenian delegation was led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mr Ararat Mirzoyan.

- **The Partnership Committee** – Partnership Committee is composed of representatives of the Parties, in principle at senior official level. Like Partnership Council, Committee is chaired alternately by a representative of the EU and a representative of Armenia and meets at least once a year. This Committee assists the Partnership Council in the performance of its duties and functions and has oversight of the various sub-committees and other bodies, which are primarily focused on monitoring and reporting on sector related issues.

On 11-12 June 2024, the 5th meeting of the Armenia-EU Partnership Committee took place at Armenia's Foreign Ministry building. The meeting was co-chaired by Paruyr Hovhannisyan, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, and Luke Devine, the Deputy Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the European External Action Service.

Partnership Committee also meets in a specific configuration to address all issues related to **Trade and Trade-Related Matters** at least once a year. Its 6th meeting took place in Brussels on 24-25 October 2024. It was co-chaired by Narek Hovakimyan, the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, and Marco Dürkop, the Deputy Head of Unit for Europe and the Eastern Neighbourhood at DG Trade, European Commission.

² Except in a limited number of cases where a specific deadline for approximation is left open or where immediate implementation is required (as is the case under Annex VII – Anti-fraud measures – for the application of the Convention of 26 July 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests). A further exception concerns one Regulation in the field of climate action (Action (Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009) where a specific deadline of 1 January 2030 is set in order to align with EU rules.

- **Sub-committees and Other Bodies** - Partnership Committee shall be assisted by subcommittees and other bodies established under CEPA. Partnership Council may decide to set up subcommittees and other bodies in specific areas necessary for the implementation of CEPA, also determining their composition, duties and functioning.

On 18 January 2024, Armenia- EU Human Rights Dialogue was held in Yerevan. On 19 January 2024, the 13th meeting of Armenia - EU Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security. On 20 March 2024, the 4th meeting of Armenia-EU Subcommittee on Customs Affairs was held in Brussels. On 23 September 2024, the 10th online meeting of Armenia-EU Subcommittee on Employment and Social Affairs, Public Health, Training, Education and Youth, Culture, Information Society, Audio-visual, and Science and Technology ('People-to-People') was held. On 3 October 2024, the 8th meeting of Armenia - EU Subcommittee on Energy, Transport, Environment, Climate Action and Civil Protection was held in Yerevan. On 18 October 2024, the 5th meeting of the Armenia - EU Subcommittee on Geographical Indications was held. On 8 November 2024, the 4th meeting of the EU-Armenia Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and Related Areas was held in Brussels.

- **The Parliamentary Partnership Committee** - While the above structures are EU to Government, a Parliamentary Partnership Committee has been established as a forum for the European and Armenian Parliamentarians to meet and exchange views on aspects of the Agreement and on Armenia's reforms. Parliamentary Partnership Committee may make recommendations to the Partnership Council and may create parliamentary partnership subcommittees. Parliamentary Partnership Committee is chaired alternately by a representative of the European Parliament and a representative of the Armenia's National Assembly respectively and meets at intervals which it shall itself determine.

On 25 February 2025, the 4th meeting of the Armenia- EU Parliamentary Partnership Committee was held. It was co-chaired by Arman Yeghoyan, the Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on European Integration, and Nils Ušakovs, the Chair of the Delegation for Relations with the South Caucasus and a Member of the European Parliament.

- **The Civil Society Platform** - Given the EU's commitment to the strengthening of civil society in Armenia, a Civil Society Platform is created by the CEPA and empowered to make recommendations to the Partnership Council, the Partnership Committee and Parliamentary Partnership Committee.

The 4th meeting of the EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform (CSP) was held on 14 March 2024 in Yerevan, and the 5th meeting was held on 15 October 2024 in Brussels. The representatives of the Government of Armenia and the EU participate in the work of those meetings.

The CEPA Implementation Roadmap and its National Monitoring Framework

To coordinate the implementation of the CEPA and the Armenia- EU Partnership Priorities document, the Interagency Commission was established under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, as per the Prime Minister's Decree [N 906-A of July 2, 2018](#) and meets at least once per 6 months to steer the national implementation process. As a result of the Interagency Commission's work, the first Annex of the CEPA Implementation Roadmap was developed and approved by the Prime Minister's Decree [N 666-L of June 1, 2019](#). It covered the provisions, which preliminary entered into force after the Agreement was signed.

After the Agreement was ratified by the Parliaments of Armenia, the EU, and EU Member States, it fully entered into force. Subsequently, the second Annex of the CEPA Implementation Roadmap was approved by the Prime Minister's Decree [N 587-L of May 31, 2021](#), amending the previously approved document. CEPA Implementation Roadmap includes over 310 actions relating to the following areas of the Agreement (per CEPA structure):

Foreign policy and security	Information Society
Justice, freedom and security	Agriculture and rural development
Cooperation on migration, asylum, border management, persons' movement and readmission	Research, development and innovation
Economic cooperation	Consumer protection
Statistics	Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities
Taxation	Cooperation in the Area of Health
Transport	Education, Training and Youth
Energy cooperation, including nuclear security	Cooperation in the Cultural Field
Environment	Cooperation in the audiovisual and media fields⁴
Climate Action	Regional Development, Cross-border and Regional Level Cooperation
Industrial and Enterprise Policy³	Civil protection
Cooperation in the Field of the	

CEPA Implementation Roadmap is considered as an important strategic planning document and highlighted the main reforms, setting relevant implementation timelines and identifying the responsible institutions for the main elements of CEPA implementation.

In 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office initiated an update to the CEPA Implementation Roadmap to reflect the progress achieved to date. This update aims to address sector-specific implementation challenges, expand the roadmap's coverage, and align with new initiatives set forth by the European Union. This endeavour is further supported by the Deputy Prime Minister's Decree No 743 - A, issued on 25 October 2024, which formally establishes a working group led by the Ministry of Justice responsible for coordinating the activities related to the roadmap's update and operates under the Interagency Commission⁵.

The DPM has also established a separate Working Group to implement the commitments and activities of the Government of Armenia regarding the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, as outlined in Decree No 739 - A⁶, issued on 25 October 2024. The coordination of the VLD working Group has been overseen by the Minister of Internal Affairs.



Communicating CEPA Reforms

In order to fully inform citizens about on-going reforms in the country, including their important linkages to the CEPA, the Government of Armenia has also designed a major reform in the structure and operations of its strategic communications activities. This envisages the creation of the Office of Strategic Communications under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office and the coordination of Government reform messaging to the Armenian public and the higher visibility of the CEPA in that regard.

³ Measures 17-19 deriving from "Industrial and Enterprise Policy" are included in the Roadmap Annex 2 section on "Economic Cooperation".

⁴ Measure 11 relating to "Cooperation in the audiovisual and media fields" is included in the Roadmap Annex 1 section on "Justice, freedom and security".

⁵ <https://www.e-gov.am/deputy-pm-decrees/item/5860/>

⁶ <https://e-gov.am/deputy-pm-decrees/item/5861/>

Although the restructuring has not been fully implemented yet, initial steps have been taken to coordinate reform messaging and elevate the visibility of CEPA in public discourse. This proactive approach is intended to set the stage for more transparent and effective communication as the reform process progresses.

In tandem with the planning phase, a dedicated CEPA Communication Hub has been established within the government. This hub is tasked with introducing its members to the core elements of CEPA and providing them with recommendations on effective communication strategies. Early actions include developing joint messaging initiatives. These preliminary measures are designed to ensure that the messaging related to CEPA is consistent and clear, thereby building public understanding and trust even as the overall reform strategy is still taking shape.



Additionally, the government has initiated the formation of a Department of Participatory Governance to support the reform development process. This department will play a key role in facilitating early-stage communication with stakeholders, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and involvement in the reforms.

Progress of CEPA Implementation

The Government of Armenia (GoA) regards CEPA as a pivotal catalyst and benchmark for the nation's reform agenda.

Given the dynamic nature of the approximation process, the repeal, replacement or amendment of more than 15% of the legal instruments containing approximation commitments under CEPA since its signing, and the introduction of a new monitoring methodology, it is expected that the percentage of completed measures will be revised and adjusted. To further expedite this process, Armenia is actively exploring additional EU instruments, including TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) and Twinning projects between public administrations of Member States and Armenia. The role of TAIEX is particularly crucial in terms of approximation and in the exchange of EU best practices on sectoral institutional and capacity building. Notably, peer reviews have played a pivotal role in the Armenian public sector, particularly in areas such as transport and police reform.

It is noteworthy that over the past year, 16 TAIEX events have been implemented, 15 TAIEX requests, that were confirmed in the 2022-2024 period, are currently in various stages of implementation. Overall, during the period spanning from 2019 to 2024 (with 2019 designated as the date of adoption of CEPA Roadmap Annex 1), the total number of TAIEX events (comprising expert missions, study visits, and workshops) implemented exceeded 115. In order to ensure the availability of the most advanced European expertise, TAIEX requests have been submitted to facilitate the alignment of Armenian legislation with the EU acquis.



In the case of Twinning, six projects were implemented from 2020 to 2024: supporting the further implementation of the civil service reform, enhancing civil protection in Armenia, strengthening the capacity of the National Assembly of Armenia to further support CEPA oversight and implementation, supporting the National Accreditation Body to become a signatory to a bilateral recognition, supporting biodiversity protection. The sixth initiative, aimed at fostering integrity and preventing corruption in the public sector, was concluded in 2024.

In addition to the aforementioned, to support and accelerate the reforms deriving from CEPA, the activities of the EU-funded "Support to the CEPA implementation, communication and monitoring" technical assistance team commenced in Armenia in April 2023. With the support of this project, short-term and medium-term expert assignments have been implemented in the period 2023-2024 and are currently ongoing. These projects include the elaboration of a Twinning fiche for Universal Health Coverage, subsequent review of human resource capacity, and the Ministry of Health's draft Transition Strategy from the present State Health Agency to the Universal Health Insurance Fund and its related Action Plan. Additional projects include support for the review and approximation of Consumer Rights Protection legislation, drafting of an inspection system strategy, and assessment of the draft Atomic Law and related documents for compliance with EU nuclear and radiation safety directives.

Significant advancements have been made in the domain of civil aviation. The EU funded project “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication” has provided a long-term expert from February 2024 to mid-January 2025. This assignment was focusing on CAW, audit plans and QMS.

A pilot initiative, known as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programme, was initiated in Hrazdan in September 2024 as a public-private partnership. This initiative aligns with the EU’s “polluter pays” principle, promoting environmental sustainability. The AUA Acopian Centre for the Environment, with support from SIDA (Sweden), disseminated the draft EPR legislation to the Ministry of Environment. A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was initiated in 2024.

Since 1st June 2024, the arrival of the EU High-level Advisor (HLA) has been instrumental in supporting the Government (seconded to the Ministry of Economy) in implementing sectoral policies that stem from the CEPA such as trade, economic development, industry and energy. The HLA’s contribution is an important addition to the efforts of the technical assistance team currently stationed in Yerevan.

The HLA’s recommendations and advisory notes during the reporting period focused on key economic and regulatory areas, including the following: Trade & Export Promotion (on supporting Armenia’s economic diversification, facilitating access to EU and third-country markets, and mapping EU-funded economic projects for 2025-2027 EU new programming); Food Safety (on enhancing Armenia’s food safety system to align with EU standards and best practices); Intellectual Property & Geographical Indications (GI) (on advancing the EUIPO-AIPO MoU for deeper cooperation and developing marketing tools for high-value GI products). The agenda includes the following subjects: energy (with a focus on enhancing energy planning and regulatory instruments), transport (with a focus on identifying training needs in project management and road/railway safety), competition and consumer protection (with a focus on supporting regulatory approximation efforts), market surveillance (with a focus on assisting in harmonisation and in digitalisation and SMEs (with a focus on promoting SME digitalisation, venture capital market development, and support for Armenian start-ups and scale-ups).

It is imperative for the Government to maintain transparency and accountability. To this end, the DPMO/ Government has collaborated with the EUD and the EU-funded Project “Support to the CEPA implementation, communication and monitoring” to establish a new joint monitoring mechanism. During the period spanning April to December of 2024, performance indicators for the ongoing roadmap activities were developed. These indicators will undergo revisions as necessary in the updated roadmap prior to its formal approval. A methodology for monitoring activities and performance assessment has also been developed and tested.

This newly implemented monitoring mechanism is designed to facilitate both internal and external monitoring, thereby ensuring that the results of Governmental efforts are communicated to all relevant stakeholders. To this end, the Government, supported by the EU is working on the concept of a digital tool aiming at monitoring CEPA progress and based on the already developed clear indicator frameworks and refined assessment methodology. This mechanism is designed to empower stakeholders to track the implementation of the agreement and associated reforms in a more tangible, flexible, and accessible manner. Furthermore, the Government has always been committed to engaging EU experts to enhance the skills and capabilities of public sector employees involved in the CEPA-related approximation processes. This initiative is intended to guarantee that the approximation efforts are executed in the most effective and efficient manner. It is also important to note that this initiative emphasises enhancing the professional capacity of the Agency for Expert Examination of Legal Acts within the Ministry of Justice. The Deputy Prime Minister Office has requested expertise to assist the Agency for Expert Examination of Legal Acts as well as ministries and other state bodies involved in CEPA-related approximation with a special training programme to enhance skills in provision of legal compliance checks and to analyse hard approximation sectors of the CEPA. The identified sectors include Transport, Energy, Environment, Climate Action, Information Society, Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities, Consumer Protection and Anti-Fraud Measures.

Additionally, as previously mentioned, the DPMO has initiated the update of the CEPA Roadmap. To ensure these processes are complementary and reinforcing, the update will clarify and refine the legal approximation, planned measures, and other essential provisions contained in the CEPA Roadmap endorsed by the Prime Minister’s earlier decisions. The process of establishing joint monitoring is closely linked to the updating of the roadmap and communicating the reform implementation results, in terms of making them synchronized and complementary. This technically complex initiative is a testament to Armenia’s government commitment to a comprehensive and adaptable approach to CEPA implementation.

In accordance with the stipulations outlined in the Annual Action Plan for 2023, a “Reform and CEPA Implementation Facility” Technical Assistance Financing Agreement, with an overall value of EUR 3 million, was signed between the Government of Armenia and the European Commission and entered into force at the end of June 2024. The primary objective of this initiative is to support the implementation of the CEPA while assisting the Government in advancing key reforms. This initiative is predicated on the EU Economic and Investment Plan as a foundational instrument, with a particular emphasis on sectors that promote the socio-economic inclusion of displaced persons. These sectors include health, social protection, and employment strategies. Additionally, it emphasizes the support of the government in accelerating the reform process in strategic sectors, including trade, energy, climate change, and aviation safety.

The initiative is designed to function as a flexible and rapid response mechanism, enabling the EC to provide targeted sectoral, horizontal, and cross-sectoral support while addressing ad hoc, unforeseen, and urgent needs in Armenia.

Subsequently, in the latter part of 2024, an addendum to the financing agreement was negotiated and signed with the EU, as part of the 2024 annual action plan covered by the Resilience and Growth Plan for 2024-2027. This addendum secured an additional EUR 20 million.

Further details concerning EU financial assistance can be found in the “Financial Assistance and Anti-Fraud and Control Provisions” section of the report.

EU Approximation under the CEPA

The CEPA contains a range of approximation commitments on the part of Armenia, designed to bring relevant EU and international standards to Armenia.

1. **Broad areas of cooperation and reform** - Under the CEPA, several key areas of cooperation focus on the development of Armenia in line with EU values and democratic norms. This is notably the case in such fields as legal and judicial reform, human rights and anti-corruption measures. In some cases, the cooperation is focussed on alignment with international standards and conventions. including for example the ratification of the Rome Statute (International Criminal Court) and full adherence to the norms of the European Convention on Human Rights (Council of Europe)⁷. The Agreement aims towards the achievement of common standards through the gradual process of major reforms in Armenia and through advancing alignment with the requirements of various international conventions and organisations of which Armenia is a member. In these cases, the international norms concerned also underpin EU standards.
2. **Detailed requirements on approximation with EU law and policy** - At a deeper level, the Agreement requires approximation (meaning new or revised Armenian legislation and credible implementation and enforcement) with most of the “EU acquis”⁸ in eight key sectors (transport, energy (including cooperation on nuclear safety), environment, consumer protection, as well as anti-fraud) over set periods, ranging from 0 to 8 years, from 2018 to 2026⁹. In three sectors (Information Society, Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities and Climate) the maximum deadlines are 2026, 2028 and 2029 respectively.



⁷ CEPA, Article 4

⁸ The European Union (EU) acquis is the collection of common rights and obligations that constitute the body of EU law and is incorporated into the legal systems of EU Member States.

⁹ Except in cases where a specific deadline for approximation is left open or where immediate implementation is required (as is the case under Annex VII – Anti-fraud measures – for the application of the Convention of 26 July 1995 on the protection of the European Communities’ financial interests).

These provisions include some **259 EU Regulations, Directives or other legal instruments** as set out in the **Table** below.

CEPA - Sectors with specific timetables and specific EU instruments to be implemented

Sector	EU Regulations	EU Directives	Other	Reference	Maximum deadline under the Agreement
Transport	27	46		CEPA Annex I	June 2026
Energy	59	14	2 Decisions	CEPA Annex II	June 2026
Environment	2	22		CEPA Annex III	June 2026
Climate action	5	1		CEPA Annex IV	March 2029
Information Society	5	6	5 Decisions	CEPA Annex V	March 2026
Consumer protection	2	14	1 Recommendation	CEPA Annex VI	June 2026
Labour and equality		42			March 2028
Anti-fraud	1	1	1 Convention and 2 related Protocols	CEPA Annex XII	March 2021

At the same time, within these provisions, **66 EU instruments of the 259 total are not given a specific deadline**, under the following formulation:

Timetable: the timeline for the implementation of [instruments specified] will be decided by the Partnership Council after the entry into force of this Agreement¹⁰.

To date no such further timetabling has taken place.

- Other approximation requirements** - At an intermediate level, additional approximation is envisaged in other sectors, although the details and the timetable are left open to see how conditions and priorities evolve. Included here are financial regulations (Article 22), statistics (Article 35), quality assurance (Article 130), company law and accounting (Article 60), agriculture (Article 70), education and training (Articles 93 and 94), export controls on dual-use goods (Article 117).
- Trade related provisions** - In regard to economic development and trade, the CEPA includes a Trade Title (TITLE VI) that aims to enhance EU-Armenia trade while considering Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union. It covers areas like trade in goods and services, company operations, capital movement, government procurement, intellectual property, sustainable development, and competition. The agreement encourages Armenian companies to export more to the EU and EU companies to establish subsidiaries in Armenia, supporting economic growth and job creation. The provisions focus on WTO compliance and gradual alignment of Armenia's legislation with EU laws, especially in sectors like postal services, electronic commerce, and transport¹¹.

¹⁰ This applies to Transport sector – 2 Regulations; Energy – 36 instruments on energy efficiency, energy labelling and tyres; Information Society – 1 Directive on electronic trust services and Labour and Equality – 27 Directives on Health and Safety at work. In one further case (Climate action – Regulation 1005/2009) the time limit is set exactly as 1 January 2030.

¹¹ See CEPA Articles 169 (postal services), 180 (electronic communications) 192 (transport services).

Improved Compliance checking at the Ministry of Justice

In September 2023, the Law on “Normative Legal Acts” was amended to additionally require analysis and justification for drafts of legal acts that align with EU legislation. In general, the Law requires the explanatory note for draft legislation to explain its scope, the present situation, the aims of the proposed legislation, its expected results and a justification for the proposed form of the legal act. Additionally, for drafts aimed at approximating EU legislation, the explanatory note must now include:

1. Information on the specific EU legislation being approximated, including the title, number, and adoption date,



2. Reasons for full, partial, or non-compliance with EU legislation.

Moreover, since January 2024, the **Agency for Expert Examination of Legal Acts** at the Ministry of Justice has been working on examining the legal acts aimed at the implementation of various approximation provisions from the CEPA. The main areas covered by the legal expertise (based on the acts submitted by stakeholder agencies) in 2024 included:

1. Health sector regulations, especially on medicine preparation.
2. Transport regulations, covering railway transport, road safety, dangerous goods transport and aviation.
3. Environmental issues, particularly waste management.
4. Consumer interests.

Over **30 legal drafts have been assessed**, with discussions held with ministries to support proper implementation.

Support to legal approximation

Specific challenges identified during the legal approximation include:

- Many legislative changes were made before the amended Law was in force.
- Insufficient EU technical assistance programmes and growing need for additional support considering the dynamic nature of the approximation.
- Inadequate infrastructure (i.e. especially in transport and water systems) presents significant barriers to aligning with EU standards. These gaps impede the practical implementation of CEPA provisions.
- The sectoral legal approximation process has faced ongoing challenges due to staff turnover, leading to difficulties in preserving institutional memory.

To address these issues, a training session was held on 5 November 2024, for 40 representatives from various ministries, with expert support provided by the EU-funded project “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication”. Ongoing training efforts are necessary to maintain progress in this process and this is being advanced with the Ministry of Justice and State bodies engaged in priority approximation tasks, with the assistance of the EU project.

EU APPROXIMATION PROCESS IN ARMENIA AND ITS CHALLENGES

In January 2024, the inaugural CEPA Retreat was held. This joint meeting brought together government officials, members of parliament, and EU representatives who collectively identified several challenges to the implementation and enforcement of the CEPA reforms. These challenges encompassed a paucity of administrative capacity and staff turnover, difficulties in communication, and concerns over the clear scope of monitoring, compliance checks, and regular structured reporting. Participants proactively sought common solutions to address these issues and as outlined in the meeting report, the CEPA Retreat is to serve as an annual milestone to reinforce EU-Armenian relations and provide a forum for discussing progress and new priorities.



Challenge of the EU approximation process

Across this entire spectrum of envisaged approximation, **several challenges arise in Armenia** at a practical level. These include:

- **Administrative capacity to approximate:** as the capacity of Armenian civil servants remains insufficient for effective approximation of legislation under the EU-Armenia CEPA. Particularly, there is a notable deficiency in language proficiency, legal expertise, and analytical skills required for accurately interpreting and applying the EU acquis. This limitation hinders the efficiency and speed of the approximation process. It includes the lack of institutional capacity to fully grasp the complexities of approximation, especially the implementation (e.g. need for infrastructure development) and enforcement as well as on the procedural aspects of the approximation process.
- **Administrative capacity to require technical assistance:** lack of experience in navigating EU funding mechanisms or minimal technical support to address approximation challenges. This gap impedes the ability of some of Armenian agencies to develop well-structured proposals and facilitate legal and regulatory alignment with EU standards.
- **The shortness of deadlines and resource constraints** – Given the general constraints on reforms of recent years (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic, 44-day war in and around Nagorno-Karabakh border escalations in 2021-2022 and 2023 Azerbaijani large-scale aggression against the Nagorno-Karabakh and its consequences for the country's social and economic life) together with the range and depth of the EU legislation, at least in some sectors, the deadlines in the CEPA for full approximation in the priority sectors can now be viewed as unduly optimistic. This is exacerbated further in important sectors like transport, energy and environment, where achieving tangible approximation results presupposes sizeable and medium to long term investment which is currently beyond the budgetary position of the Republic of Armenia.
- **Keeping up with the latest EU rules** – This is generally referred to as dynamic approximation¹². The challenge here is that some 15%+ of the legal instruments involving approximation commitments under the CEPA have been repealed, replaced or amended since the Agreement was signed. While there is an implicit idea in the CEPA that Armenia should keep up with these changes in relevant approximation efforts, only the older EU rules constitute formal requirements for Armenia's approximation efforts, unless and until the Partnership Council takes a decision updating the relevant requirements in the CEPA.
- **Lack of professional and expert facilitation** between the Ministry of Justice and the line ministries for actions defined in the Road map, particularly for legislative approximation. Respective ministries need capacity building on EU directives to enhance understanding and effective implementation. As a new process, it requires appropriate professional facilitation and support at the interdepartmental level.

At the same time, in 2024 efforts have increased to address or mitigate some of these challenges, including via the training of officials with EU project support, improved technical compliance assessments of relevant legislation by the Ministry of Justice (since early 2024) and specific EU drafting assistance in several important fields. Looking ahead, it will also be important for the updated CEPA Implementation Roadmap to take the fullest account of the present position in each field and adopt a realistic strategic direction on completing work in these important areas.



¹² See CEPA Article 371.

APPROACH TO MONITORING OF PROGRESS ON CEPA IMPLEMENTATION

In the light of the extensive agenda for Armenia under the CEPA, the importance of monitoring progress across its many fields and differing requirements cannot be under-stated. At its simplest, a good monitoring system and method allows progress and eventual results to be tracked in real time and problems to be similarly known, and if possible addressed.

While the European Commission has regularly prepared Partnership Implementation reports, this Report is the first CEPA Progress Report from the Government of Armenia, taking stock both of specific developments in 2024 and also summarizing the full range of reforms since Armenia started to implement the CEPA.

In parallel, a range of Armenian Civil Society organisations are also currently preparing their assessment of CEPA reform progress to end of 2024, and this will also be taken into account as the process moves forward.

Development of a CEPA progress monitoring and reporting system in 2024

The Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) is leading the process of the annual CEPA progress monitoring report development and the overall joint monitoring and reporting mechanism introduction.

Development of the CEPA progress monitoring and reporting system was conducted through the following steps:

Step	Activities conducted
Development of CEPA monitoring and reporting ecosystem (April – June 2024)	• Identification of CEPA monitoring focal points • Discussions and preparation activities with the CEPA monitoring focal points • Development of institutional structure for CEPA progress monitoring reporting • Identification of Transport, Environment and Climate Action as pilot sectors for monitoring exercise
Defining CEPA progress monitoring scope (May – July 2024)	• Review of the CEPA Roadmap and definition of progress indicators per each measure • Discussions and meetings with the Ministries on the indicators proposed. • Development of the CEPA Road Map Annex 1 and Annex 2 set of indicators
Monitoring operational framework and system test at mid term (July 2024 – September 2024)	• Development of a reporting template and guidance document • Pilot sectors for monitoring (environment and transport) • Preparation of a test report (until end of June 2024) to test the reporting template and guidance.
Capacity building on CEPA monitoring and reporting (September – December 2024)	• Study tour to Georgia for CEPA coordinators organised (September 2024) • Training sessions on monitoring conducted (October and December 2024) • On the job training: meetings with the line ministries
Development of an CEPA progress annual report (December 2024 – March 2025)	• Meetings with the line ministries • Launch of the annual reporting exercise • Review of previously developed indicators and presentation of information on all activities with deadlines up to 2019-2024 using newly developed reporting templates. Drafting annual progress report based on the reporting conducted by the line ministries • Coordination on the progress achieved with the Ministry of Justice.

Approach to CEPA progress monitoring and limitations encountered

- **Scope of monitoring:** the CEPA progress monitoring is based on the indicators developed for all measures of the CEPA Roadmap.
- **Progress indicators:** Quantifiable performance measures for Roadmap activities that are assessed using four progress categories defining the implementation status of each measure: “Not Started”, “Ongoing”, “Partially Completed” and “Completed”.

The reporting template and reporting guidance have been developed for the reporting exercise. For the purpose of this exercise (and to address the challenges encountered – see below) the reporting focuses on two main aspects, as outlined below:

PROGRESS ON LEGAL APPROXIMATION

the status of legal approximation based on the progress indicators (not started, ongoing, partially completed and completed)

PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

narrative reporting on relevant aspects for proper implementation and enforcement of a measure e.g. building administrative capacities, progress with construction of physical infrastructure to implement legal requirements, acquisition of the new equipment or technologies, operations of the enforcement agencies etc.



AREAS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT

POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND REFORM: COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY



A SAFER

ARMENIA

WITH

THE EU



Scope

The Political dialogue (Article 3) on all areas of mutual interest, including foreign policy and security matters as well as domestic reform, shall be further developed and strengthened between the Parties. It aims to: promote international peace, stability and security, to strengthen cooperation and dialogue on international security and crisis management, to strengthen cooperation in the fight against the proliferation of WMDs (weapon of mass destruction) and their delivery systems, to foster result-oriented and practical cooperation for achieving peace, security and stability, to strengthen respect for democratic principles, the rule of law, good governance and human rights and fundamental reforms, including media freedom and the rights of persons belonging to minorities and to contribute to consolidating domestic political reforms, to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, to promote the purposes and principles of the UN and the principles guiding relations between participating states as set out in the OSCE Helsinki Final Act and to promote regional cooperation, develop good neighbourly relations and enhance regional security, including by taking steps towards borders to promote regional trade and cross-border movement.

Work on the domestic reform (Article 4) is focused on cooperation on: developing, consolidations and increasing the stability and effectiveness of democratic institutions and the rule of law, ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

making further progress on judicial and legal reform (to secure the independence, quality and efficiency of the

judiciary, the prosecution and law enforcement), strengthening the administrative capacity and guaranteeing the impartiality and effectiveness of law-enforcement bodies, further pursuing the public administrative reform and developing an accountable, efficient, transparent and professional civil service and ensuring effectiveness in the fight against corruption.



Cooperation and dialogue in foreign and security policy (Article 5) shall address in particular issues of conflict prevention and crisis management, risk reduction, cybersecurity, security-sector reform, regional stability, disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and export control. It includes cooperation on serious crimes of international concern and the International Criminal Court (Article 6), conflict prevention and crisis management (Article 7), regional stability and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Article 8), weapons of mass destruction, non-proliferation and disarmament (Article 9) small arms and light weapon and conventional arms exports control (Article 10) and combating terrorism (Article 11).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Internal Affairs
The Ministry of Justice
The Ministry of Defence
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
National Security Service

Benefits for the society

Political dialogue will increase the effectiveness of political cooperation on foreign policy and security matters, including recognising the importance of the Republic of Armenia to its participation in international organisations and cooperation formats and its related obligations. It includes also more effective and efficient support during emergencies and more safety and security feeling for the society. The key benefits are as follows:

- Armenia's ratification of the Rome Statute and accession to the International Criminal Court (ICC) offer important strategic, legal, and diplomatic benefits. This move enables Armenia to seek justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, enhancing accountability for violations against its citizens. It also acts as a deterrent against external aggression and reinforces Armenia's commitment to human rights and international law. Aligning with EU and UN legal standards improves Armenia's international reputation facilitating political and security cooperation. Overall, this ratification secures legal protection, boosts political leverage, and enhances Armenia's credibility in regional and global affairs.
- The amendments to the Electoral code aim at clarifying and ensuring the effective maintenance of voter lists to prevent inaccuracies and irregularities, introducing new tools for voter identification to strengthen election security and reduce the risk of fraud, and enhancing interaction with information

databases to electoral processes and data accuracy. As a result of the formation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) and the ongoing reforms in the police sector, there has been a notable increase in public trust towards the police. In 2023, at the initiative of the Centre for Survey Research of the International Republican Institute, a public opinion survey was conducted among the Armenian population from January to March. The results revealed that the Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia secured the second place with a satisfaction rate of 58%, as assessed by the population regarding the performance of Armenian structures

- As part of the reforms initiated under the auspices of the Government and implemented with the support of civil society and international partners, the Patrol Service became operational throughout the country in 2023, leading to significant changes in the quality of law and order in the country. Patrol officers work around the clock to solve crimes, maintain public order, and combat drug trafficking, achieving notable results daily. Quick response to citizens' emergencies has also been a key priority since the Patrol Service's launch.
- In parallel, the Community Police focuses on crime prevention, addressing domestic violence, and steering minors away from crime. They handle minor and medium crimes, while the new Criminal Police specialize in serious offenses and the detection of wanted individuals.
- Availability of new and modern systems for detection and correction of administrative violations, prevention and detection of crimes. Specially Developed State-Owned System mobile application and the automated information system of the Operational Management Center of the Police enhance law enforcement efficiency and strengthens public safety with real-time data, This surveillance also implies reduction of violation/crime rates and increases transparency, accountability, and further judicial efficiency.
- Digitisation of the public services will benefit the society by improvement of MoIA management processes (human resources, a new system for operational vehicles, analytical tools, etc.), Convenience in obtaining public services by citizens, efficient use of information databases by the main Police units; the use of the latest technological systems for road traffic safety and crime combating.
- Judicial and Legal Reforms has led to significant improvements in the judicial and legal system, directly benefiting Armenian society in

increased human-rights-based access to justice

(through unified electronic court case management system simplifying case submission, reducing bureaucratic delays and expansion of state-funded legal aid guaranteeing constitutional right of individuals to receive free legal assistance),

enhanced judicial efficiency and transparency

(improved case allocation systems, reduced judges' workload and accelerated case resolution and integrity assessments of judges strengthen fairness and trust in the judiciary),

stronger alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms enhancing public trust and reducing workload of the courts

(establishment of the Arbitration and Mediation Centre and mandatory mediation for family disputes enhance dispute resolution options),

fairer and more independent judiciary

(increased salaries for judges reduce corruption risks and for attraction high-calibre legal professionals and a more transparent selection process for new judges' appointment)

improved legal procedures for citizens and businesses

(improved civil and administrative procedures and resolution of small claims (for banks and service providers) through notaries rather than courts lessen unnecessary legal burdens).

- Armenia actively collaborates with regional international organisations to strengthen counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and defence cooperation. In terms of border security/management and counterterrorism, Armenia has renewed FRONTEX collaboration. Armenia is also engaged in implementation of API/PNR systems, which enhance the detection and prevention of terrorist threats and organized crime, contributing to national and regional security. In addition to the aforementioned The European Peace Facility (EPF) has improved Armenia's defensive and logistic capabilities. Armenia participation in EU crisis management missions aligns its security framework with European standards. Additionally, access to EU security and defence education programs enhances military and cybersecurity expertise, further strengthening national resilience. International partnerships are crucial in combating cybercrime. To this end cybercrime and ransomware prevention initiatives enhance citizen data protection and business cybersecurity also ensuring Armenia's active engagement in global security efforts. For this purpose a separate unit has been established within the Prosecutor General's Office of Armenia, which will specialize in the investigation of cybercrimes. In addition, Armenia has recently joined the International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI).

Progress on implementation

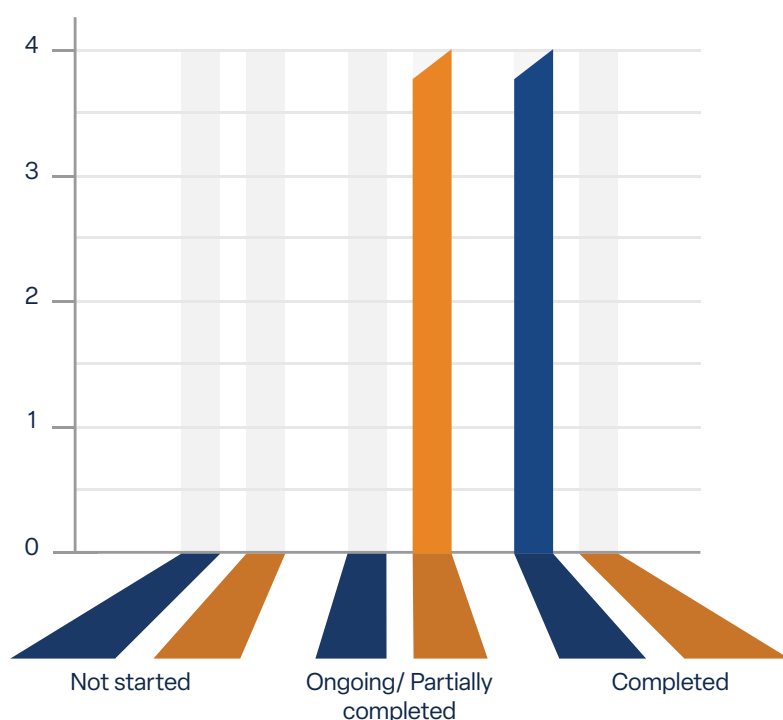
No legal approximation requirement

Area is covered by

- CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1: MEASURES 1-3 AND 5**
- CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 1-4¹**

Political Dialogue and Reform; Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy

■ Annex 1 Roadmap
■ Annex 2 Roadmap



Performance
100%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**
Annex 2 Roadmap

Performance
100%
COMPLETED
Annex 1 Roadmap

CEPA Roadmap Annex 1 measures relate to Amendments to the Electoral Code, establishment of a 24/7 Mobile Police Patrol Unit, introduction of a Crime Detection Toolkit and Information System, and the adoption of the Judicial and Legal Reforms Strategy and its Action Plan (2019-2024).

¹ CEPA Roadmap Annex 2 Measures 1, 2 and 3 require continuous implementation.

The Electoral Code

Adoption of the amendments to **the Electoral Code is envisaged**. The Ministry of Justice and partners conducted an inventory of the problems identified during the application of electoral legislation, including those related to the clarification and effective maintenance of voter lists, the introduction of new tools aimed at identifying voters and interacting with information databases. In this context, the draft amendments to the electoral legislation aimed at solving these problems were developed jointly with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and finalised as a result of joint discussions between the Ministry of Justice and the Central Election Commission. The amended legislation was adopted in December 2024².

In terms of Structural transformation of the Policy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs³ (including creation of twenty-four-hour mobile patrol unit of the Police)

On December 16, 2022, the National Assembly of Armenia adopted a legislative package to **establish the Ministry of Internal Affairs**. In 2023, the charters and structure of the Ministry, along with three subordinate state bodies (Police, Rescue Service, Migration and Citizenship Service), were approved. Within the framework of the structural transformation of the Police, the service will develop as a professional structure with 4 main pillars: **Patrol Service, Criminal Police, Community Police and Police Guard**.

Package of amendments of laws of the Republic of Armenia “On Amendments to the RA Law “On Police”, “On Amendments to the RA Law “On Trade and Services”, “On Amendments to the RA Law “On Pawnshops and Pawnshop Activities”, “On Amendments to the RA Law “On Road Transport”, “On Amendments to the RA Law “On Local Parking Fees and Special Features of Administrative Proceedings”, “On Amending the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Armenia”, “On Amending the Code of Postal Communications of the Republic of Armenia”, On Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Electronic Communication”, “On Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Peculiarities of Administrative Proceedings in Cases of Traffic Violations Detected by Video or Photo Recording Devices” by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia during 2024.

In 2023, the Patrol Service, as a new and modern model of external service, was fully implemented throughout the territory of the country. Alongside with the Patrol Service, Operational Control Centres were also established in each region, supporting the service's activities. The Centres receive calls from citizens, provide the necessary advice, and if necessary, call for a patrol unit ensuring that people in a difficult situation are provided with Police support as soon as possible.

In 2023, the National Assembly has adopted **legislative packages aimed at rethinking the Community Police and transforming the Criminal Police**. The new Criminal Police as well as restructured Community Police of the Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are officially established as November 1st 2024.

During 2023, the concept of forming of **Police Guard was approved**, a package of draft laws “On Police Guard” and related laws are developed, which passed the stage of public discussions and received a positive international expert assessment. The new law eliminates the dual status of the Police Guard, it will be a purely police service, excluded from the status of “other troops”. It will also improve civilian and parliamentary oversight of police protection. Extensive work is currently underway to establish the Police Guard. Legislative processes have been completed, and the Police Guard is expected to be operational from November 2025. The reforms will create a new institutional structure with new weapons and trained personnel in accordance with international standards, which will be tasked with public order and security, protection of state buildings and critical facilities, escorting delegations as required by state protocol, and other functions.



² on the basis of the opinion of the Venice Commission was approved by the Government and adopted by the National Assembly on 5th of December 2024 (see the Law HO-505-N).

³ Article 4, 12 and 16 of CEPA

The **Patrol Service as a new and modern model of 24-hour external service** has been fully implemented throughout the country. In parallel with the formation of all territorial units of the Patrol Service, operational control canters have been established to ensure their management, which receive signals of crimes and other violations, transmit them to patrol units, provide information support and operational management of patrol units during alarms. In December 2023, a water patrol service unit will also be activated, which will patrol Lake Sevan by watercraft and at the same time perform the function of public order protection on the coast. The functions of the service also include the control of compliance with the requirements established by the legislation on the operation of watercraft on Lake Sevan, as well as the prevention, detection and disclosure of illegal hunting and fishing. As a result, there will be a single centre for the detection and investigation of administrative offenses, as well as for the prevention and detection of crimes, which will provide the Police and other law enforcement agencies with the necessary information, and the use of the latest cameras will make it possible to detect vehicles, the trajectory of their movement, to identify by various characteristics persons of operational interest and wanted persons, etc.

In addition to the above-mentioned, the **Strategy for the Implementation of Police Reforms and the Resulting Action Plan for 2024-2026**⁴ was adopted in November 2024⁴.

Improvement of the Toolkits of Detection of the Crimes and Other Offenses, including through the Creation of Information Gathering Modern System,

In 2021, the Specially Developed State-Owned System mobile application and the automated information system of the Operational Management Centre of the RA Ministry of Internal Affairs Police were launched.

Adoption of Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms, and the Action Plan arising from it:

The Strategy of Judicial and Legal Reforms of the Republic of Armenia for 2019-2023 was adopted in 2019, lost its effect in 2022. The Government of Armenia adopted its **2022-2026 Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms** in 2022⁵. The main directions include e-justice management system, development of democratic institutions, ensuring the continuity of judicial reforms, reforms of civil and administrative procedures legislation, ADR mechanisms, legal aid reforms and others.

The digital platform **datairav.am** enables the reporting and awareness-raising of the Strategy. The platform automatically generates monitoring and evaluation reports, available for public access.

Highlights of the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms implementation include:

- 62 actions of the Strategy have been implemented (out of 89 actions)
 - The electronic module for civil cases of the unified electronic court case management system has been developed, implemented and launched;
- The system of electronic inscription and allocation of court cases in the courts has been modernized, as well as the system of official publication of judicial acts was improved;
 - In Yerevan the First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction has been divided into two separate courts - First Instance Civil Court of General Jurisdiction and First Instance Criminal Court of General Jurisdiction;
- The salaries of judges in all three instances and in the Constitutional Court have been increased;
 - The procedure for the appointment of judges has been reviewed, providing a new procedure for the involvement of judges;

⁴ by Decree N 1803-L of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in November 15, 2024.

⁵ By the Government's Decree No. 1133-L of 21 July 2022

- New legal provisions have been envisaged which provide for the legal possibility of appealing decisions of the Supreme Judicial Council adopted in disciplinary cases;
 - Mechanisms for periodic assessment of the integrity of judges have been introduced;
- Several amendments have been made to Civil Procedure Code regulating numerous aspects of the procedure, including the return of claims, process for making decisions on the jurisdiction of the case, obligation for banks, credit organizations, utility services providers to refer their monetary claims not exceeding an amount of two million drams to notaries, instead of courts, etc.;
- Several amendments have been made to Administrative Procedure Code regulating numerous aspects of the procedure, including more detailed rules and timelines for the expedited procedure, more detailed provisions for the judicial notifications, including also the procedure for notifying the representative of the party, clear deadlines for the consideration of Cassation complaints filed against interim judicial acts, etc.;
- A new ADR institution, Arbitration and Mediation Centre of Armenia was established in May 2023, starting its operations since September 2023;
 - Legislation relating to arbitration was amended twice, providing clearer deadlines for hearing cases on recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, as well as an opportunity to directly refer to the Compulsory Enforcement Service regarding national cases and subject to the requirements to be met;
- Law on Mediation was amended, providing new regulations such as mandatory mediation for several family disputes, online mediation, reestablishment of mediators' self-regulating body, etc.;
- New mediators have been trained and accredited and this process in continuous;
- The circle of beneficiaries for receiving state funded free legal aid has been enlarged with 3 new groups, and some incentives have been introduced for lawyers providing pro bono legal aid.

Main achievements of the reforms:

by the 30th of October 2024,

14,888 cases

have been submitted
by the electronic module
for civil cases of the
unified electronic court
case management system

125 mediators

have been trained by
international specialists and
accredited by
the Ministry of Justice.

25 judges

have been
appointed by the
new procedure
established.

The workload of judges of civil specialization in the 1st semester of 2024 has decreased

by more than 80 percent,
in comparison with the
statistics of 1st semester of
2023

The salaries for judges have been increased:

in the first instance
courts by 60%,
appellate courts by 55%,
Court of Cassation by 50%,
Constitutional Court by 80%

The Arbitration and Mediation
Center of Armenia

launched its operations

and in 2024 already
administers 6 arbitration
cases (2 international
and 4 national), as well as
administered 5 mediation cases

CEPA Roadmap Annex 2 measures relate to the cooperation in cybersecurity and arms control, practical collaboration in conflict prevention and crisis management, efficient information exchange to prevent possible actions of international terrorists and analysis of international best practices to create national guidelines for countering terrorism.

Information exchanges with international organisations, such as the UN and EU, focus on counter-terrorism strategies and threats. In July 2021, a National Security Service (NSS) representative presented a report at the OSCE Forum addressing terrorism trends. In 2022, the UN Sanctions Committee's Analytical Support Team visited Armenia to discuss regional terrorism threats, particularly the role of mercenaries in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The NSS also participated in a high-level conference "International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists", co-organized by the UN Office of Counterterrorism, the Republic of Tajikistan, OSCE, EU, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar on border security and counter-terrorism in Dushanbe, October 2022. In 2023, the NSS submitted Armenia's counter-terrorism priorities to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) for UN discussions and provided reports on drug trafficking and counter-terrorism measures. They also shared information related to a UN General Assembly resolution on restricting terrorists' access to weapons of mass destruction and responded to a questionnaire about the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

Armenia actively engaged in cooperative efforts with the European Union in the defence sector, which includes political-military consultations and participation in seminars and training programs focused on shared security and defence policies. Ongoing discussions under the European Peace Facility aim to delineate potential areas of collaboration and explore avenues for supporting the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia.

With the anticipated entry into force of the agreement between the EU and Armenia, which establishes a framework for Armenia's involvement in EU crisis management operations, the Ministry of Defence stands ready to contribute to EU-led stabilization operations and missions by providing the necessary forces and capabilities. The Republic of Armenia has established procedures for joint and coordinated actions among competent authorities for detecting explosive devices and combating subversive terrorist groups.

Between 2019-2024, the Laws on Cybersecurity and Public Information were developed and are at the final stage of internal deliberations. Additionally, the NSS is drafting a Government Resolution (2024-2029 Strategy for Combating Terrorism) to replace Decision No. 1473-A (2012), outlining key counterterrorism measures across relevant bodies.

Apart from the CEPA Roadmap, in terms of general implementation of Armenia-EU CEPA Title II "Political Dialogue and Reform: Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy" Articles 3-11, the state-of-the-art as of January 2025 is as follows:

Armenia's ICC Membership: Armenia signed the **Rome Statute** in **1999** establishing the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** but **did not ratify it**, citing constitutional incompatibilities. In **2004**, Armenia's **Constitutional Court ruled that the Rome Statute was inconsistent** with the Armenian Constitution. However, a new review in **2022** found that the **updated Constitution (2015) now allows ratification**.

In October 2023, Armenia ratified the Rome Statute, officially joining the ICC. This move aligns with Armenia's efforts to seek international legal protections, particularly amid regional security concerns.

The ratification is seen as a response to **Azerbaijan's actions in Nagorno-Karabakh**, potentially providing legal avenues for addressing alleged war crimes.

Armenia retroactively recognises the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes provided for in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

In January 2025, following consultations with relevant authorities, it was decided to incorporate provisions for ICC cooperation into this law, considering the recent enactment of the Law on Legal Assistance in Criminal Proceedings on 15 November 2024. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General's Office and the Office of the Representative for International Legal Matters are working on these integrations, the draft is finalised and will be put on public discussions.

Development of defensive capabilities: The EU Council adopted a Decision to extent assistance measures to Armenia under the European Peace Facility (EPF). It includes a transfer of the field camp to the Armenian side (in 2025). Currently, there is an ongoing discussion on the assistance needs for the upcoming years.

Education, science, training and qualification improvement courses: ongoing work of the Ministry of Defence and the EU counterparts on opening for Armenia educational and training courses of the EU Institute for Security Studies and the European Security and Defence Collage. Cooperation between these EU institutions and the relevant Armenian Professional Military Educational institutions (e.g. the Military Academy, the National Defence Research University).

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission's framework: Armenia has expressed its interest and readiness to contribute to EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. This engagement represents a significant step towards deepening cooperation and aligning Armenia's position with the EU policy. In this regard, the parties are finalising the negotiations on the agreement aimed at establishing a framework for the country's participation in EU crisis management operations. Currently, the text of the agreement is agreed upon and ready for signature.

EU Security Sector Governance (SSG): cooperation with the EU Security Sector Governance (SSG) Facility was initiated and a scoping mission by the SSG was conducted in November 2024 to identify the gaps and areas for the future cooperation.

FRONTEX: Armenia has reactivated its cooperation with FRONTEX, bolstering its cooperation with the EU in the security and border management domain. In this context, the parties are engaged in negotiations on a Working Arrangement, which will define the key areas of their partnership.

Cybercrime: Armenia is a party to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and has made considerable progress in this domain in terms of administrative, legal reforms as well as in its efforts to fight against cybercrimes. In November 2023, Armenia signed the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence. Over the previous years, Armenia has been engaged in fruitful, result-oriented cooperation with the Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC), particularly in the context of CyberEast project (the new phase of the project, "CyberEast+" was launched in March 2024) co-funded by the CoE and the EU. In the context of international efforts to effectively combat cybercrime and lay basis for institutional, legal cooperation, Armenia, also actively participated in the sessions of the UN Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. It's noteworthy that one of the priorities of the Armenian delegation, along with EU member states, was to emphasise the importance of incorporating human rights provisions, and relevant safeguards for international cooperation in the convention in line with Budapest Convention. Armenia has been actively following international trends in cybercrime cooperation,

particularly regarding ransomware, which is a growing global concern. On 12 December 2024 Armenia was officially welcomed as a new member of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI). In February 2024, the UK and France launched the Pall Mall Process – a new international, multistakeholder initiative which brings together States, companies and civil society organisations to tackle the proliferation and irresponsible use of commercially available cyber intrusion capabilities. Armenia is currently exploring the possibilities of cooperation within this format too.

Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems:

Terrorism and transnational organised crime remain one of the most significant threats to security, social and economic development, and the enjoyment of human rights. API/PNR systems play a crucial role in enhancing national security, aviation safety, and the protection of state borders. The timely and accurate reception and processing of these data is fundamental to identifying and preventing individuals with malicious intentions from crossing borders. Given the international obligations, based on the relevant UN security council resolutions⁶, the implementation of the of API/PNR systems is included in the current Five-Year Action Plan of the Government of Armenia and we have engaged in dynamic interagency discussions to proceed with the relevant legal and administrative reforms. Armenia has been participating at the Eastern European Informal Working Group (EE IWG) on Passenger Data of the OSCE which provides a valuable platform for particularly sharing best practices among states on API and PNR data collection and analysis to improve their respective domestic, border security systems. For the smooth and swift introduction of the API/PNR systems, Armenia closely cooperates with regional, international organisations, such as OSCE, UNOCT and IOM. In this regard, Armenia has officially joined the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, submitted the Technical Questionnaire for needs assessment and initiated practical discussions towards the implementation of API and PNR systems in Armenia.



6 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2309 (2016), 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019)



JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

PROMOTING

JUSTICE

AND

FIGHTING

CORRUPTION

FOR A SAFER

SOCIETY

Scope

Under Title III of CEPA, Armenia and EU commit to deepening cooperation in the areas of justice, rule of law, human rights, migration, security, and crime prevention. The agreement establishes a framework to enhance institutional capacity, strengthen law enforcement, and ensure fundamental freedoms.

The cooperation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security covers the cooperation on the consolidation of the Rule of Law, Human Rights, and Judicial Cooperation (Article 12), including the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, the right to a fair trial as provided for by the European Convention on Human Rights, and procedural safeguards in criminal matters and victims' rights. It includes effective cooperation with regard to the effective functioning of institutions in the areas of law enforcement, the fight against corruption and the administration of justice. The parties shall cooperate to ensure high standards of data protection, aligning with EU and Council of Europe regulations (Article 13). The parties shall also cooperate in the area of Migration, Asylum, and Border Management developing comprehensive approach to managing migration (Addressing root causes of migration and implementing international protection standards (Geneva Convention 1951), combating illegal migration, human trafficking, and smuggling. strengthening border management, visa policies, and migration information systems. Parties shall be committed to implementing visa facilitation and readmission agreements, with potential discussions on visa liberalisation (Articles 14 and 15).

The parties shall also cooperate in combating and preventing organised crime, corruption, and money laundering criminal and illegal activities, including transnational activities, organised or otherwise, such as active and passive corruption, in both the private and public sector. The Parties shall enhance

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Internal Affairs
The Ministry of Justice
The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
The General Prosecutor's Office
The Corruption Prevention Commission
The Central Bank



cooperation among law enforcement agencies, including potential collaboration between Europol and Armenia's authorities. They will implement international standards from the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and combat corruption according to the UN Convention Against Corruption, GRECO, and OECD guidelines. This involves ensuring transparency in asset declarations, protecting whistleblowers, and disclosing final beneficiary information (Article 16). Parties shall also cooperate in combating illicit drugs, money laundering and terrorism financing as well as shall enhance cooperation to in the fight against terrorism

In the area of legal cooperation in criminal matters (Article 20), the cooperation shall be enhanced on mutual legal assistance on the basis of relevant multilateral agreements. Such cooperation shall include, where appropriate, accession to, and implementation of, the relevant international instruments of the UN and the Council of Europe and closer cooperation between Eurojust and the competent authorities of Armenia

As for the consular protection Armenia agrees that the diplomatic and consular authorities of any represented Member State will protect nationals of MSs without permanent representation in Armenia. This protection will be provided under the same conditions as for the nationals of the assisting MS (Article 21).

Benefits for the society

CEPA helps build a safer and fairer Armenia. Strengthening cooperation with the EU helps Armenia ensure fair trials and independent courts, protect the rights of every citizen, keep public money safe from corruption, fight crime and improve security.

CEPA strengthens both the people and the country—promoting justice, safety, a better future for all, and closer ties with the EU.

- Provision of “citizen centric” public services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs units is expected as a result of the institutional reforms of the Ministry.

- The Anti-Corruption and Internal Security Department (of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) has already been formed and functions under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. One of the functions of the Department is to identify, prevent and disclose alleged corruption crimes committed, remaining in force or being prepared for commission by employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, subordinate state bodies and organisations, receiving and registering reports on corruption committed or being prepared by them crimes, organisation and implementation of necessary operational investigative measures.
- Ongoing renovation works in the context of penitentiary reforms have improved detention conditions in penitentiary institutions, with new facilities meeting European standards and better rehabilitation opportunities for inmates.
- Increase in judicial positions enhance the efficiency of Armenia's legal system, ensuring better access to justice.
- The criminal justice reforms will boost the transition from a punitive justice system to a restorative one. Anti-corruption reforms will reinforce the intolerance towards manifestations of corruption.
- The establishment of the Corruption Prevention Commission (CPC) of Armenia benefits society by promoting transparency, reducing corruption, and fostering accountability among public officials. This helps build public trust by enforcing various anti-corruption mechanisms such as regulations that require public officials to disclose incomes, assets, and interests. The CPC also monitors officials' expenditures.
- Within its functions, the CPC plays a vital role in educating and informing the public about corruption and its consequences. Through awareness campaigns, the CPC educates citizens on corruption's impact on society. It also conducts training programmes for public officials and civil servants to enhance their understanding of anti-corruption laws and ethical standards. Additionally, the CPC develops guidelines and best practices to promote integrity within public institutions. By collaborating with civil society and producing educational materials, the Commission fosters a culture of accountability and empowers citizens to actively participate in the fight against corruption.
- Reforms in the data protection area will result in the more efficient protection of the constitutional right of personal data protection through better legislation and practice.
- Improved legal cooperation with European law enforcement bodies in fight against crimes.

Progress on implementation

Area is covered by

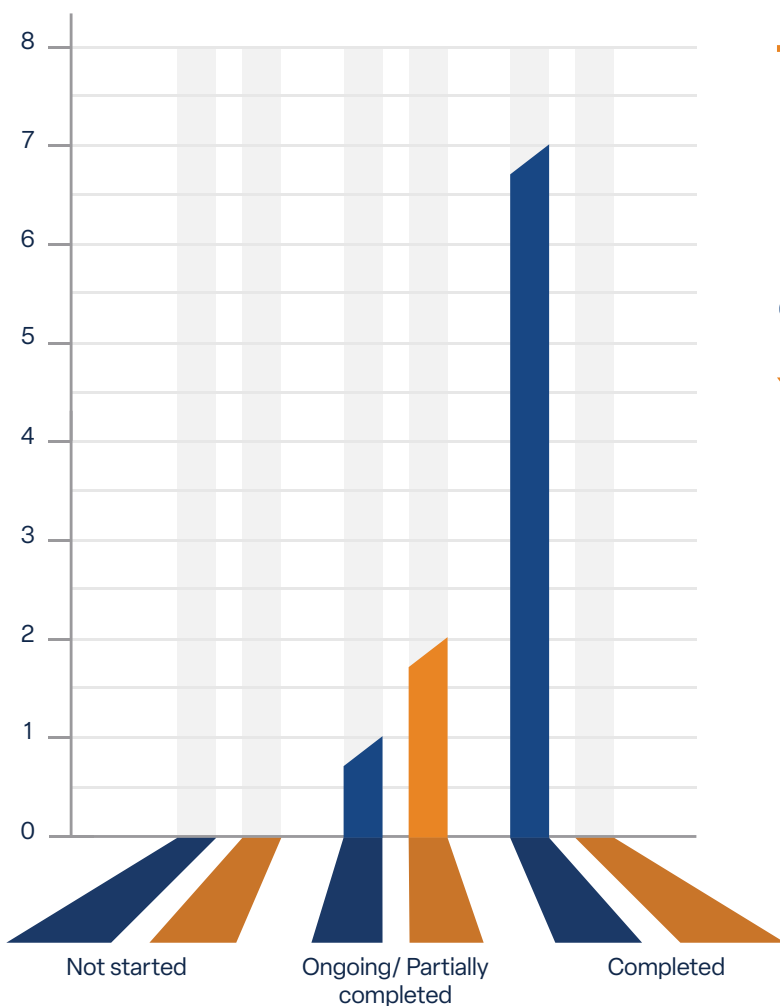
- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1: MEASURES 4, 6– 12¹**
- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 5 AND 6²**

¹ Measure 11 of the CEPA Roadmap Annex 1 is based on Article 99 of CEPA (Chapter 19: Cooperation in the Audiovisual and Media Fields). Since the Ministry of Justice is leading efforts for comprehensive media regulation, this measure is included in the Justice, Security, and Freedom section of the Roadmap.

² CEPA Roadmap Annex 2 Measure 6 requires continuous implementation

Justice, Freedom, and Security
(Cooperation in the field of security)

■ Annex 1 Roadmap (8 measures)
■ Annex 2 Roadmap (2 measures)



Performance

12.5%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

87.5%
COMPLETED

Annex 1 Roadmap

Performance

100%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

Annex 2 Roadmap

Protection of Human Rights and Ensuring Equality

The strategic document expressing the government's policy in the field of human rights protection is the **Government's Decision⁴ "On approving the national strategy for the protection of human rights and the resulting action plans for 2020-2022 and 2023-2025"**. The 2020-2022 Action Plan arising from the National strategy for the protection of human rights was adopted in 2019⁵ and its implemented in 80%. A new Action Plan 2023-2025 was adopted⁶ in 2023.

The national strategy for the protection of human rights and the resulting Action Plan envisage multi-sectoral measures aimed at the protection and guarantee of both political and civil, as well as socio-economic rights, improvement of relevant legislation and legal practice, and public awareness. Extensive reforms are currently being implemented within the framework of the mentioned strategy, especially in the areas of ensuring legal equality and protecting the rights and liberties of national minorities.

Thus, under the Action Plan, the **draft law "On Ensuring Equality and Protection from Discrimination" was developed** by defining the concept of discrimination, its types, the means and structures of protection against it, as well as providing grounds for the establishment of a body dealing with equality issues (Human Rights Defender of Armenia), in accordance with international standards. Following the expert opinions and consultations, the draft was submitted to the Prime Minister's office in July 2024.

³ CEPA Roadmap Annex 2 Measure 6 requires continuous implementation.

⁴ No. 1978-L of December 26, 2019

⁵ By the Government's Decision No. 1978-L of December 26, 2019

⁶ Adopted by amending the Government Decisions No. 1978-L of December 26, 2019 through Decision No. 1674-L of September 28, 2023

In addition, the Action Plan envisages **continuous awareness-raising activities** among the public about equality and the prohibition of discrimination on all grounds as well as training for relevant stakeholders. In 2024, 130 judges, 16 candidate judges, 34 prosecutors, 133 investigators, as well as 635 police officers were trained on the topics of preventing discrimination and ensuring equality (the trainees demonstrated 80-100% knowledge). Moreover, guidelines for the police, investigative bodies, and the prosecutor's office on the investigation of cases motivated by discrimination, hate speech, and hate crimes, have been developed.

To ensure legislative guarantees for the protection of the rights and freedoms of national minorities, in 2024, the **draft Law “On National Minorities”** was revised based on the joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate for Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII) of the Council of Europe, which was approved during the plenary session held in June 2024. The draft law also envisages regulations for the formation and activities of the Council of National Minorities. The draft law “On National Minorities” is currently in the final stages of revision.

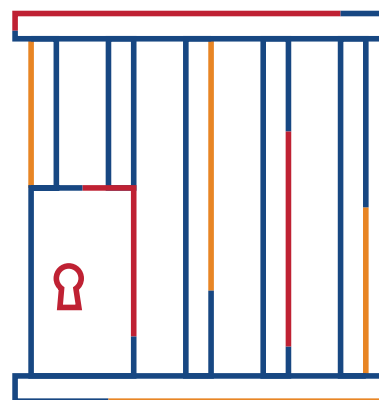
In January 2024, the European Union and Armenia held their **13th Human Rights Dialogue** reaffirming their commitment to enhancing their partnership and advancing the human rights agenda. The EU acknowledged the progress made in the field of human rights since the previous dialogue in November 2022 and mentioned that significant achievement was the adoption of Armenia's National Human Rights Action Plan for 2023-2025.

Penitentiary Reforms

As part of the human rights obligations, improvement of **building conditions of penitentiary institutions** is required. The main directions for building conditions improvement were set in the Penitentiary and Probation Sector 2024-2026 and its implementation plan which was approved in 2023⁷.

Renovation works have been carried out at Nubarashen, Vardashen, Convict Hospital, Yerevan-Centre, Armavir, Sevan, Vanadzor, Goris, Artik and Abovyan Penitentiaries. **Renovation works are done in a continuous manner.**

In addition, a **new penitentiary institution is planned to be built**, in accordance with European standards. The German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ) has agreed to show support for the selection of the best model for the new penitentiary. The area selected for the construction is the premises of the former Erebuni penitentiary. The plans of the structure have been submitted to the Urban Development Committee of Armenia.



The opening ceremony of two new buildings at the Abovyan Penitentiary in September 2024, namely, the education centre and the women's ward that includes separate cells for pregnant women and women with children under the age of three was conducted. Currently the construction works of two more buildings, the isolation ward and the administrative section, are underway, which was put into operation in 2024.

Criminal and Criminal Procedure Legislation

The Ministry of Justice has drafted the new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of Armenia. They were adopted in 2021 and both entered into force in July 2022.

Extensive training for law enforcement bodies and judges were conducted to ensure the smooth implementation of the new legislation

Increase the number of judges in the Republic of Armenia.

The number of judges in various judicial instances and various specialized courts has increased by more than 60. In particular, with the introduction of the institute of judges exercising supervision over pre-trial criminal proceedings, 20 judge positions have been provided. In turn, the number of judges in the civil and administrative courts of appeal and the bankruptcy court has increased by 10. With the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Court, at least 15 judge positions have been provided in the first instance, 6 in the court of appeal and 10 in the court of cassation. At the same time, in June 2022, the number of judge positions in the court of general jurisdiction of the city of Yerevan increased by 2.

⁷ The order No. 627-L of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia

In 2024, by the Government decision the number of criminal judges in the courts of first instance has been increased by 8.

National Strategy concerning equality between men and women

As for improvement and/or development and implementation of national legislation on equality between women and men, on September 19, 2019, the Government of Armenia adopted Resolution No. 1334-L, which approves the Strategy and Action Plan for implementing Gender Policy in the Republic of Armenia for the years 2019 to 2023.

The upcoming Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the Implementation of Gender Policy in the Republic of Armenia⁸ is in the finalisation stage. The upcoming strategy defines 6 priorities (a) eliminate gender discrimination in governance and decision-making. b) promote gender-sensitive approaches in the economy and labour market to close the gender gap and enhance labour rights protection. c) address gender discrimination in education and science, ensuring equal participation and opportunities for both genders. d) guarantee equal opportunities in healthcare for all. e) prevent and address gender-based violence and support victims of domestic violence. f) develop gender-sensitive strategies for climate change, promoting inclusivity and awareness.), including items related to climate change and the fight against and prevention of domestic violence.

Fight against Corruption

The Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and its Action Plan for 2019-2022 was approved⁸ in 2019. The assessment of the strategy showed completion at 80.2%. The implementation included: Development of the anti-corruption institutional system, corruption prevention, detection of corruption crimes, anti-corruption education and public awareness and monitoring and evaluation.

It was followed by The Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and its Action Plan for 2023-2026 approved⁹ in 2023. The main directions of the Strategy include corruption prevention and strengthening the integrity system; improvement of the legal and institutional framework of combating corruption; improvement of anti-corruption education and public awareness tools; business integrity and facilitation of the State-business sector administrative activity (including public procurement procedures); improvement of anti-corruption monitoring and evaluation system. The implementation assessment showed that in 2024, 51% of the actions planned for 2024 of the strategy were assessed as completed.

Highlights of the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms implementation include:

- Establishment of a whistleblowing system. The Law “On the Whistleblowing System” provides for anonymous publication of information through an electronic system and extends reporting requirements to the private sector and public organisations, as well as clarifies the mechanisms for protecting whistleblowers.
- The Guide to the Interpretation of the Model Rules of Conduct for Civil Servants was developed in 2023 by the Corruption Prevention Commission of.
- A new system for submitting electronic declarations has been launched in 2023, which allows sending automatic notifications to persons who have not submitted a declaration and exporting reports on late or unsubmitted declarations. The Commission has also ensured the full loading of public data within the framework of the Open Government Partnership Open Data.
- The Law “On Public Service” was amended in April 2024, according to which if the value of gifts given during or within the framework of state or official visits or events, as well as working visits, business trips, or ceremonial gifts given by foreign states, international organisations or other persons exceeds sixty thousand drams of the Republic of Armenia, then it is considered state or community property.

⁸ By Decision No.1332-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on October 3, 2019

⁹ By Government Decision No. 1871-L of 26 October 2023

The procedure and prohibitions on accepting gifts by public servants have been clarified by legislative amendments¹⁰.

In November 2019, the **new independent anti-corruption institution – the Corruption Prevention Commission (CPC) was established**. In October 2022, the EU Twinning programme “**Fostering integrity and preventing corruption in the public sector in Armenia**” was launched, and the CPC is the main stakeholder of the project. The competencies of the Corruption Prevention Commission are enshrined in the Law “On the Corruption Prevention Commission” which entered into force in November 2019. After the legislative changes of April 2024, the Corruption Prevention Commission has extended its mandate to conduct ongoing integrity checks of sitting judges, prosecutors, and investigators of the Anti-Corruption Committee and Investigative Committee. The CPC conducts several activities in the framework of its mandate as prescribed by the national legislation. The annual reports on the activities of the CPC are available on the official website (cpcarmenia.am).

Highlights of the EU Twinning programmes (2022 – 2024)

- Focused on developing anti-corruption educational and awareness -raising programmes and enhancing institutional capacities of the Corruption Prevention Commission and supporting its implementation.
- Training of Trainers was implemented, workshops for public education teachers were conducted
- Enhancement of the university system regarding integrity: modules were tested and finalised. 3 Universities have integrated the developed modules into their curricula.
- The methodology for managing corruption risks in state-owned enterprises has been developed and pilot assessments of corruption risks have been conducted in three organisations.

Another significant anti-corruption reform was the establishment of a specialised department within the Prosecutor General's Office responsible for overseeing the investigation of corruption-related crimes. This department was initially created in 2019 and reorganised in 2021 into the Department of Supervision over the Legality of Pre-trial Proceedings in the RA Anti-Corruption Committee.

Additionally, a mechanism for the civil confiscation of illegal assets was introduced, and the corresponding Department for Confiscation of Property of Illicit Origin was established within the Prosecutor General's Office in September 2020.



Data Protection

The European Commission DG JUST cooperation programme “Enhanced Data Protection and Data Flows” for **improving national personal data protection legislation** with the has been launched. The current national legal framework was evaluated with the Personal Data Protection Agency as well as its compatibility with the EU legislation. It is planned that a five-year strategic development plan for Armenia's personal data protection authority will be developed as well as recommendations for further improvements.

Between 2019 and 2023, representatives from the Personal Data Protection Agency took part in various training initiatives, including:

- Personal data protection was incorporated into the training programmes for penitentiary officers. In this regard, within the framework of the training of penitentiary staff, implemented by the “Centre for Legal

¹⁰ In addition, since 2024, sub-legislative regulations related to the registration, submission, and evaluation of gifts have also come into force, and the Corruption Prevention Commission organizes the process of gift registration. Public officials and individuals holding public service positions can register the gifts they receive through electronic forms and submit them to the Commission. In turn, the Commission publishes this information, ensuring transparency in the process. Gifts that exceed 40,000 AMD are considered permissible and are subject to registration.

Education and Rehabilitation Programmes Implementation” SNCO of the Ministry of Justice, sessions on personal data protection were held with the involvement of the representatives of the Agency.

- After the launch of the patrol service, personal data protection was added as an additional course for patrol officers. In 2022, training sessions on this topic were held for new patrol officers.

By 1st November 2023, the Agency’s specialists had conducted 27 trainings for about 1,000 participants, about 435 people participated in events organised by the Agency until 30 May 2024.

In 2024, the official website of the Personal Data Protection Agency, pdpa.am, was launched, through which the Agency has the opportunity to directly provide awareness on various issues in the field of personal data protection. The Agency with the assistance of an international partner developed the manual “Legal Regulations for Personal Data Processing in Educational Institutions”, based on which a series of trainings will soon be launched for 200 teachers in Tavush region.

In 2024, the Agency conducted various awareness-raising activities. In total, about 600 people participated in the events organised by the Agency until 30 November 2024.

Dialogue and cooperation on audiovisual and media policies¹¹

The Ministry of Justice has taken the initiative to develop **conceptual directions of reforms aimed at comprehensive regulation of the media sphere, the establishment of rules of journalistic ethics** and the introduction of tools to pursue them, and then a legislative package based on these conceptual directions. Following consultations with media, an agreement was reached on a unified and consensual **model for the formation of a media self-regulation system in Armenia** to be followed by a package of legislative amendments. The package of legislative amendments was prepared and after consultations and the opinion of the Venice Commission¹² is being currently revised.

The role of Armenia-EU Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security and EU-Armenia Strategic Justice Police Dialogue

The Subcommittee facilitates discussions on legal cooperation, institutional reform, and security issues between Armenia and the European Union. The subcommittee has held multiple meetings, including virtual meetings in recent years to address ongoing developments and action plans in these areas. The Subcommittee meets at least once a year to discuss topics related to inter alia anti-corruption reforms, criminal justice, judicial and legal reforms, data protection, security, law enforcement etc. The 13th session of the Subcommittee was held in Yerevan on 19 January 2024.

On 16 July, 2024, the European Union-Armenia Strategic Justice Police Dialogue took place in Yerevan. During the discussions, significant progress was acknowledged in the reform of the justice system, including the digital processing of civil cases, the establishment of appeal mechanisms in disciplinary proceedings against judges, and the implementation of integrity checks for all serving judges, prosecutors, and investigators.

Judicial cooperation in criminal matters¹³

As for the judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the Agreement between Armenia and the European Union on the **Cooperation between the Authorities** of the Republic of Armenia Competent for Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)¹⁴ was signed in April 2024. The National Assembly ratified the Agreement on September 10. The Agreement entered into force on 1st December 2024.

The Working Arrangement between the Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and Eurojust implementing the above Agreement were developed. The parties finalised internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement, and the Working Arrangements entered into force in December 2024 as well.

11 Although [Dialogue and cooperation on audiovisual and media policies](#) relates to the Chapter 19 on “Cooperation in the Audiovisual and Media Fields” the Ministry of Justice is leading efforts for comprehensive media regulation, therefore this measure is included in the “Justice, Security, and Freedom” section of the Roadmap.

12 In October 2024.

13 Article 20 (2) of CEPA

14 Under Article 20 (2), on 5 April 2024

The law **“On Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters”** was adopted in November 2024 and entered into force in December 2024. This law defines the principles and general conditions for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, describes the procedure for submitting such requests, specifies the rights of wanted persons and details the procedures carried out for their extradition. Additionally, it outlines the main directions for transferring criminal proceedings and further examining these cases by the competent authorities of the Republic of Armenia.

In relation to the cooperation with the **International Criminal Court**, consultations with relevant authorities, it was decided to incorporate provisions for ICC cooperation into the newly enacted Law. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General's Office and the Office of the Representative for International Legal Matters are working on these integrations.

As for legal cooperation with Law enforcement institutions, including Europol (Article 16 and 20), the agreements signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and Europol, provide the legal basis for the secure exchange of information and for the placement of a liaison officer¹⁵ of the Ministry in the Europol office, which will further deepen the cooperation with both Europol and the Member States of the European Union in the fight against crime, entered into force in May 2024. The process of contract implementation is ongoing as well as a dialogue with Europol's partners on the installation of relevant technical equipment in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Reform of the institutional system of migration management (Article 14)

On 16 December 2022, the National Assembly of Armenia adopted a legislative package to establish the Ministry

Cooperation on migration, asylum and border management, movement of persons and readmission

of Internal Affairs. In 2022-2023, significant efforts were made to fully establish the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in Armenia. In 2023, the charters and structure of the Ministry were approved, along with three subordinate state bodies: the Police, the Rescue Service, and the Migration and Citizenship Service. Most of the Ministry's structural departments were established through an open competition. With the formation of the MIA, non-police functions, particularly public services previously provided by the State, were transferred to this Ministry. The creation of the MIA marked a major institutional reform in Armenia, leading to the establishment of the Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS) under its umbrella. As a result, most migration-related structures and functions have been consolidated within the MIA, and this centralization is expected to enhance the efficiency of migration management and the quality of public services.

According to Article 2 of Law HO-457-N, which amends the Law on the Structure and Activities of the Government, the powers for managing migration processes were transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Armenia. Additionally, based on Article 3, Part 2 of Law HO-458-N¹⁶, which amends the Law on the Bodies of the State Administration, the Migration Service was renamed the Migration and Citizenship Service.

Simultaneously, according to Government Decision No. 17-A of January 5, 2023, which amends the Government Decision No. 580-A of May 22, 2018, the Migration and Citizenship Service was established as a body subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Benefits for the society

The consolidation of migration functions under a single body has enhanced the effectiveness of implementing migration activities and delivering public services. The inclusion of the migration body within the Ministry of Internal Affairs addresses several issues, including the critical separation of policy development and implementation, as well as ongoing monitoring of that implementation. Legally, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been assigned the function of developing and monitoring the implementation of migration policy (a function that previously had no designated body), while the Migration and Citizenship Service is established as the entity responsible for executing sectoral policy.

¹⁵ <https://armenpress.am/en/article/1207459>

¹⁶ <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=171957>

Before the reform, the main functions of the migration sector were divided between two bodies: the Migration Service, which was part of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of Armenia, and the Passport and Visa Department, operating under the Police of Armenia. This division led to inefficiencies in the implementation of migration functions, as services for citizens, foreigners, and stateless persons were scattered across different agencies. Stakeholders often had to deal with multiple departments to resolve a single issue. As a result, the effectiveness and integration of migration management decreased, coordination of actions became more complicated, the processes for delivering public services slowed down, the duplication of efforts increased, and issues arose regarding data transfer and synchronization of databases, along with challenges related to the identification of individuals and cases.

One of the achievements, can be considered the public primarily interacts with the functions of the Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS) in relation to passport services. Consequently, the impact may manifest in the service becoming more “citizenship-focused” and “citizen-centred.”

However, no studies have been conducted to assess this impact.

Digitalisation of services provided to citizens (Article 14, 15)

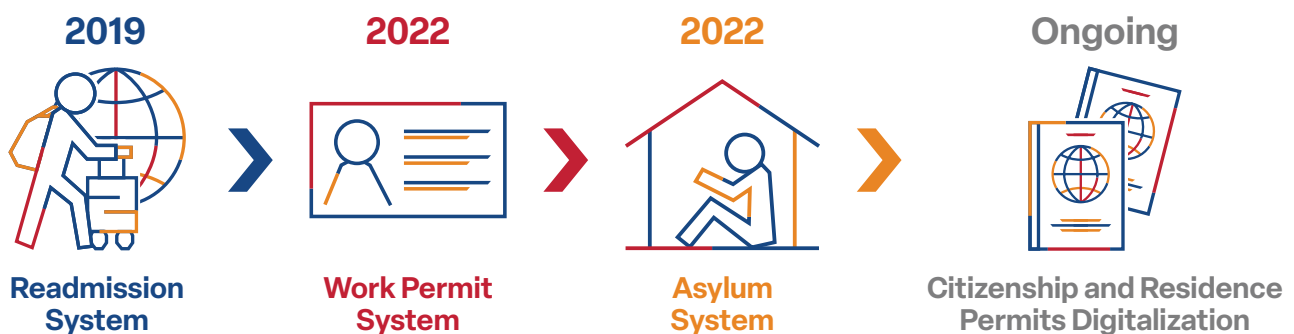
Digitalisation of migration management in Armenia is considered of a significant importance.

Benefits for the society

Digitalisation of migration management in Armenia plays a pivotal role in enhancing public services. By implementing electronic systems across various migration processes, including readmission, work permits, and asylum, Armenia has achieved greater transparency, efficiency, and accessibility. These advancements streamline procedures, reduce processing times, and lessen administrative burdens. The ongoing digitalisation of citizenship and residence status services further modernises governance, building citizen trust and contributing to Armenia’s development.

Launched the EU-Armenian Readmission Case Management Electronic System for efficient

Launched the Asylum Case Management Electronic System, making the process more



information sharing with EU member states.

efficient and transparent for asylum seekers.

Implemented the Work Permit System, streamlining the process for foreign workers to obtain permits.

Digitizing the process for issuing and terminating citizenship and residence permits, making it more accessible and efficient.

EU-Armenia Readmission Case Management Electronic System(2019), [Work Permit System](#) (2022) and Asylum Case Management Electronic System (2022) are already digitalised and currently work is ongoing with the digitalisation of all services in the field of migration. Digitalisation of business processes of granting and termination of citizenship and issuing residence statuses have been already started.

Readmission Case Management Electronic System (RCMES) (Article 15)

Since February 2019, the Readmission Case Management Electronic System has been introduced and is being used, through which readmission requests are received by the relevant migration authorities of 15 European countries.

Benefits for the society

The Readmission Case Management Electronic System (RCMES) has significantly benefited society by fostering cooperation between Armenia and 15 European countries. Launched in 2019, RCMES has steadily advanced with continuous improvements based on collaborative feedback from Armenian and EU authorities. Enhanced data accessibility now allows the EU, including agencies like the Commission and Frontex, to extract detailed readmission statistics, facilitating more effective planning and resource management. This system strengthens international partnerships and contributes to secure, organised returned processes, directly benefiting the public through enhanced governance and trust.

Since its launch in 2019, **15** European Countries have joined the RCMES (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, France, Italy, Romania, Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden, Greece, Malta, Switzerland). Over the past years, the operation of the RCMES has greatly improved based on recommendations and feedback received from both Armenian and EU Member States' authorities. Upon EU inquiry and after technical modifications the detailed statistics (on annual, monthly, quarterly bases) on the readmission cases, persons, countries, etc. is now available for the EU side (including EU Commission and Frontex) and can be extracted from the RCMES.

Work Permit System (Article 14)

On 30 April 2020, the Armenian government adopted Decision No. 670-L on the approval of the programme for the implementation of an electronic management system for issuing work permits to foreigners and registering employment contracts with them.

The legislative package ensuring the launch of this system was adopted on 18 June 2021, which included amendments and additions to four legal acts, the primary one being the Law on Foreigners.

On 16 December 2021, Decision No. 2087-N was adopted, establishing the rules for the operation of a unified electronic platform for engaging foreign workers, including details on authorised state bodies, technical specifications of the platform, procedures for completing and submitting applications, rules for extending the duration of temporary residency status based on employment or voluntary work, and the form for certifying the legality of residence for foreigners exempted from work permit requirements under relevant international agreements of the Republic of Armenia, along with the necessary documents, procedures, and timelines for obtaining this certification.

Benefits for the society

As a result of launching the unified electronic platform for the registration of foreign workers, both employers and foreign citizens can submit their applications without prior appointment and without visiting the Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS), needing to be present in person only once to receive their cards.

The time required for the process has also been reduced, allowing for faster and more efficient verification due to the interoperability of the platform with the relevant digital databases of other state bodies involved in the process.

Applications were received through the Work Permit Electronic System



The platform was launched on January 3, 2022, and is accessible at **workpermit.am**. Through this platform, the processes for granting work permits and residency status to foreigners based on employment in Armenia have been digitised, consolidating these processes into a single administrative procedure.

The platform also facilitates the collection of comprehensive statistical data on foreign citizens working in Armenia, including those working without work permits, based on statistical summary reports established by the State Statistical Committee of Armenia on July 7, 2023.

Following the example of the unified electronic platform for the registration of foreign workers, it is planned to digitise processes related to obtaining residency status for other reasons, as well as those related to acquiring Armenian citizenship.

Adoption of a strategy to regulate migration flows (Article 14)

The programme of activities for the Government of Armenia for 2021-2026 included plans to initiate the development of a draft decision on **“Establishing a Migration Flow Management Programme”** after the formation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Armenia.

In May 2024, the Ministers of the Internal Affairs and the Labour and Social Affairs were tasked to jointly discuss and present a common position on the need for a unified strategic migration policy programme (including integration and reintegration components).

The Ministry of the Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs confirmed the need for such a programme. Currently, preliminary agreements have been reached with the EU Delegation to Armenia, the International Organisation for Migration and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to start the development of the programme, to reallocate and consolidate previously allocated financial resources, and to provide additional funding from the EU Delegation.

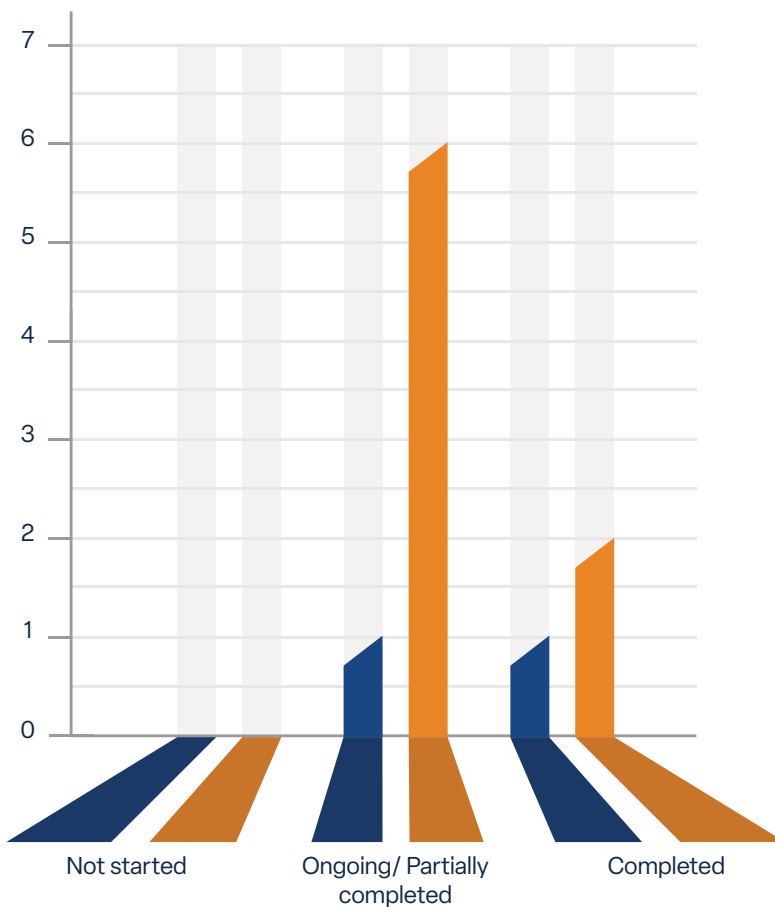
Progress on implementation

Area is covered by

- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1: MEASURES 13 AND 14**
- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 7-14**

Cooperation on migration, asylum and border management, movement of persons and readmission

■ Annex 1 Roadmap (2 measures)
■ Annex 2 Roadmap (8 measures)



Performance

50%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

50%
COMPLETED

Annex 1 Roadmap

Performance

75%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

25%
COMPLETED

Annex 2 Roadmap

As for the rest of the CEPA Title III implementation, regarding Money laundering and terrorism financing (Article 18) Armenia has been actively cooperating in the framework of MONEYVAL (The Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism) of the Council of Europe based on its firm commitment to combat money laundering, the funding of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in compliance with the principal international standards.

MONEYVAL has recently launched its 6th round mutual evaluation process of the anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing system in the Republic of Armenia. The delegation of the experts, headed by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Nicola Muccioli visited Armenia on 19-20 November 2024. The aim of the visit was to conduct a two-day training for the national authorities familiarizing the relevant stakeholders involved in the evaluation process with the underlying standards and methodology of the FATF (Financial Action Task Force), as well as the evaluation approach of the Committee.

Within the framework of the EU and EC **“Partnership for Good Governance”** programme, specialised training on **“Investigation of Terrorism Financing Cases”** was organised in 2023 for relevant stakeholder authorities. More broadly, capacity-building initiatives on combating terrorism financing are conducted regularly.

As a member of the **Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units¹⁷**, the **Financial Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the Central Bank of Armenia**, which is mandated to cooperate and coordinate with bodies engaged in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) efforts, exchanges information with foreign financial intelligence units, as necessary, to strengthen efforts in combating terrorism financing.

Building on international best practices, in 2024, the FMC finalized the development of **guidance documents outlining high-risk indicators and red flags** associated with the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of

¹⁷ <https://www.cba.am/en/sitepages/fmcintcoopbrief.aspx>

weapons of mass destruction. These guidelines were disseminated to reporting entities to enhance their ability to **fulfill** their compliance obligations effectively. The finalized version of the guidance was published in **January 2025**.



Concerning the Cooperation in the fight against terrorism (Article 19), Armenia has been actively participating at different working groups established within the Council of Europe Committee on Counterterrorism (CDCT) tasked with inter alia developing appropriate and practical soft law instruments such as recommendations and guidelines for member States to consider and apply in the fight against terrorist activity. In this regard, Armenia was engaged in the development of the “Guidelines on strategies for the prosecution of violent extremism conducive to terrorism”¹⁸ within the relevant Working Group which had been established specifically for this purpose by the CDCT. In the context of implementing the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2023-2027, one of the main priorities of CDCT has been to conduct intergovernmental negotiations towards adopting a Pan-European legal definition of “terrorism” for the purposes of the 2005 Warsaw Convention. The successful outcome of this multilateral cooperation was that the wording of the text of the definition of terrorism, **proposed by the European Commission**, has been approved. On 13-14 May 2024, CDCT agreed to work on an Amending Protocol to adapt and update the Warsaw Convention accordingly. Most recently (November 2024), the Committee approved also the Explanatory report to the Protocol amending the Convention which provides an interpretation of the document to facilitate the application of the provisions contained therein.

¹⁸ The Guidelines were approved in November 2024.



ECONOMIC COOPERATION



A STRONGER

ECONOMY,

TRANSPARENT

GOVERNANCE



**CEPA helps grow Armenia's economy and brings it closer to the EU.
With EU support, Armenia is creating more jobs and better business
opportunities, improving people's lives and securing
a better future for everyone.
CEPA is helping build a stable and prosperous Armenia.**

ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Scope

The Economic Dialogue¹ facilitates the process of economic reforms by improving shared understanding of the fundamentals of each economy and the formulation and implementation of economic policies. Armenia is taking steps to develop a well-functioning market economy and to gradually approximate its economic and financial regulations and policies to the EU. The EU supports Armenia in ensuring sound macroeconomic policies, including central-bank independence and price stability, sound public finances and a sustainable exchange-rate regime and balance of payments (Article 22).

To this end to strengthen economic dialogue, Armenia and the EU exchange information on macroeconomic trends and reforms, share best practices in financial and monetary policy, discuss regional integration—including the EU economic and monetary union—and review bilateral cooperation (Article 23).

In the area of Public Sector Internal Control and Audit, Armenia and

the EU cooperate to strengthen internal control based on decentralised managerial accountability and independent audit, aligned with international standards and EU best practices. This includes developing a complementary financial inspection system and supporting the central harmonisation unit to guide reforms, the cooperation is further strengthening the Audit Chamber as the supreme audit institution of the Republic of Armenia, in particular in terms of its financial, organisational and operational independence in accordance with internationally accepted external audit ("INTOSAI") standards. The Agreement also provides grounds to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices (Article 23)².

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Economy
The Audit Chamber**

AMD

Benefits for the society

- Fostering transparency, accountability, and good governance in Armenia brings significant and lasting benefits to society.

When government institutions operate with transparency, citizens gain access to accurate information, enabling them to make informed decisions and engage more actively in public life. Accountability ensures that public officials are answerable for their actions, which helps prevent corruption, misuse of resources, and inefficiency.

Good governance builds trust between the government and the people. It promotes fair and equitable service delivery, safeguards public interests, and ensures that policies and decisions reflect the needs and rights of all citizens.

- Through implementing green economic activities highlighted in the draft concept paper it can be possible among others to promote sustainable lifestyle, improve human well-being, ensure low-

¹ CEPA CHAPTER 1

² CEPA Article 24(d)

carbon economic growth, and reduce environmental pollution reduction.

- Ensures better oversight of public finances and government operations. By enhancing its independence and financial transparency, Armenia can reduce corruption, improve governance and ensure that public funds are used effectively.
- By employing econometric models Armenia can better assess its macroeconomic condition and anticipate future trends.
- ARIMA and SARIMA models provide forecasts for important economic sectors allowing Armenia to plan more effectively for future growth.
- The overall strengthening of transparency and accountability through these reforms helps ensure that the government is more responsive to citizens' needs.

Transition to green economy

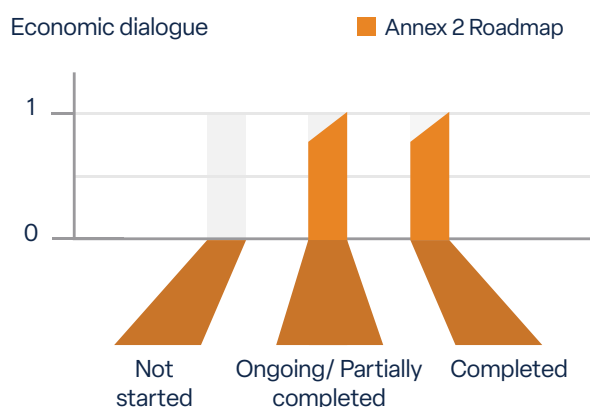
Aiming to fulfil the CEPA Roadmap measure on developing and implementing a Green and Sustainable Economic Development Strategy, the Ministry of Economy has developed a draft concept for Armenia's transition to a green economy in 2022.

System of the assessment of macroeconomic condition and diagnostics

The measure aims at introducing a system of the assessment of macroeconomic condition and diagnostics, development of macroeconomic models and adaptation for Armenian economy, sectoral and market analysis. A series of models has been developed and designed to estimate relationships among macroeconomic variables, including Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), Autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL), vector autoregression (VAR) and error correction model (ECM). Additionally, treatment effect, synthetic control and Difference in Differences (DiD) analyses have been employed to assess the impact and significance of policies implemented in Armenia. Simultaneously, Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA), Seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (SARIMA) and Holt-Winters filters have been utilized for forecasting Armenia's macroeconomic indicators. Since 2023 the models are applied by the Ministry of Economy's research activities. Specifically, the ARIMA, SARIMA, and Holt-Winters filters were used in 2023 and 2024 to estimate predictive indicators for sectors such as manufacturing, construction, public food supply, trade, and other services. Indicators are shared with the Ministry of Finance. In 2024, the level of Armenia's shadow economy was assessed using the OLS regression model. These models and toolkits continue to be used for future forecasts and evaluations

Progress on implementation

- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 15, 16**



Performance

50%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

Performance

50%
COMPLETED

Public sector internal control and auditing arrangements

Under CEPA's framework for public sector internal control and auditing, a new edition of the Law on the Audit Chamber (HO-240-N)³ has been adopted on May 22, 2024, due to significant scale of arrangements to be revised in the originally adopted law (HO-58-N, 2018). The legal amendment is definitely a tangible step toward increasing the degree of compliance of the legislation with INTOSAI fundamental and key principles. Essential amendments are listed below.



Audit Chamber's Financial, Organisational, and Operational Independence

The annual programme of the Audit Chamber is adopted by the Board of the Audit Chamber providing high level of operational independence.

Regarding financial independence, the majority of the Audit Chamber's budget is allocated for salaries, which are determined as average compensation for comparable positions in auditing firms operating in the Republic of Armenia that are members of international groups and internationally recognized, as specified in the Law on the Audit Chamber. According to the Law on the Audit Chamber, the Audit Chamber, in keeping with the procedure established by the Law on the Budgetary System, submits its budget request (expenditure estimate) for the upcoming year to the Government. If the Audit Chamber's budget request for the upcoming year is accepted by the Government, it will be included in the draft state budget. Otherwise, it will be submitted unchanged to the National Assembly along with the draft state budget. The Government provides its justification for the proposed changes to the budget request to both the National Assembly and the Audit Chamber.

This mechanism limits discretion in influencing the Audit Chamber's financing.

Mandate

The mandate of the Audit Chamber has become comprehensive. Although the Chamber's constitutional mandate includes the realm of public finances and property, under the previous legislative regulations, several significant sectors of public administration laid out of the scope of the mandate⁴ of Audit Chamber. The expanded mandate of the Chamber provides greater opportunities to serve the public interest through the audit function. According to the new law HO-240-N adopted on 22 May 2024, entities subject to audit now include subsoil users, concessionaires, the Central Bank, and various economic operators that benefit from state funds through government support instruments.

Full Access to Information

Under previous regulation⁵ access to information was restricted by various norms concerning different types of classified and personal data. This obstacle has been removed in 2025. All the information held by state bodies will be accessible to the Audit Chamber.

New Governance Model in the Audit Chamber

The governance model of the Audit Chamber has been revised. As a collegial body, the Chamber consisted of seven members, all of whom were executive directors.

The governance model was reformed based on internationally recognised contemporary standards of corporate governance. The majority of the Chamber's members will now be represented by non-executive

³ <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=125868>

⁴ Under the new legal regulations adopted in 2024, the following areas are now within the mandate of the Chamber of Audit:

- The activities of subsoil users, despite the fact that, according to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (Article 10, Part 2), subsoil is the exclusive property of the state;
- The activities of the Central Bank, even though it is a legal entity established by the Republic of Armenia and endowed with state functions;
- The activities of concessionaires/trust managers of public property;
- The activities of organisations that have received public funds, even if the legal or contractual framework for the provision of such funds does not specifically foresee an audit possibility.

⁵ The previous regulations were established by the Law HO-58-N of the Audit Chamber, adopted on January 16, 2018., <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=125868>

independent directors, who will balance the executive function. They will operate within quality control, ethics, and audit committees, thereby contributing, from an independent professional perspective to the improvement of the quality and efficiency of the Audit Chamber's activities.

Human Resource Management

The quality and quantity of audit results depend on the qualifications and number of qualified auditors. Throughout the Chamber's entire operational period, there has not been a single instance of a qualified auditor or even a specialist in the process of obtaining qualification from the labour market participating in any of the dozens of announced competitions. The reform provides an opportunity to correct the flawed existing human resource management system in the Audit Chamber. As a result of the amendments introduced by the new edition of the Law on the Audit Chamber (HO-240-N), adopted on May 22, 2024, a new type of public service was created called **Service in the Audit Chamber**. It is independent from the Civil service system. The qualification requirements, job classifications and salary levels are harmonised with those existing in Armenia's external audit labour market. That is the salary for the position of Audit Chamber service is adequate to the equivalent position in global networks member and internationally recognised external audit firms which are operating in Armenia.

Follow-Up

Prior to the revision of the law, one of the four phases of auditing the "follow-up," was missing. The audit was planned, conducted, and the report was presented, after which the process was considered complete. The audit follow-up phase specifically pertains to monitoring the implementation of these recommendations, the results of which will now be regularly reported to the public and the National Assembly.



TAXATION

Scope

Cooperation in the area of Taxation⁶ includes commitment to implementation of the principles of good governance of tax: the principles of transparency, exchange of information and fair tax competition. It includes cooperation in the area of tax, facilitation of the collection of tax revenues and developing measures for effective implementation of the principles of good governance (Articles 25 and 26). It focuses on improvement and development of the tax system and administration including the enhancement of collection and control capacity and ensuring effective tax collection and reinforcement of the fight against tax fraud and tax avoidance. It includes no discrimination between imported products and like domestic products

After the membership of the OECD BEPS programme each institution, i.e. the Ministry of Finance and the SRC, should elaborate legislative changes according to the BEPS standards based on their competency.

Cooperation shall be also strengthened in relation to

the improvement and development of the Republic of

Armenia's **tax system and administration**, including the enhancement of collection and control capacity, ensure effective tax collection and reinforce the fight against tax fraud and tax avoidance (Article 27). It includes avoidance of discrimination between imported products and like domestic products⁷. In addition to enhance cooperation and the sharing of experiences in combating tax fraud and tax avoidance, in particular carousel fraud, as well as with regard to transfer pricing and anti-offshore regulation issues.

Cooperation in the area of reaching shared policies for counteracting and **fighting fraud and the smuggling of excisable products** to be enhances involving the exchange of information and strengthening cooperation within the regional context and in line with the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of 2003 (Article 28).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Finance
The State Revenue Committee**



Benefits for the society

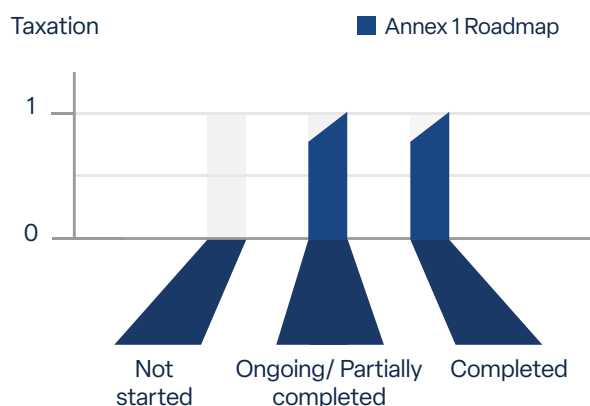
Alignment of the conditions of international taxation of legal entities engaged in cross-border trade with the international standards accepted by the OECD

Progress on implementation

- **CEPA ROAMAP ANNEX 1: 2 MEASURES (MEASURE 15 AND 16)**

⁶ CEPA Article 25 to 28

⁷ in accordance with Articles I and III of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ('GATT 1994')



Performance

50%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

Performance

50%
COMPLETED

Ensuring international standards of transparency and exchange of information for the purpose of taxation and Ensuring of membership to the Tax base distortion and profit shifting (BEPS Inclusive Framework)

Armenia is a member of the **OECD BEPS** since February 2019 and started to work on implementation of the **BEPS Minimum Standards**. Currently, Armenia implemented almost all Minimum Standards, which provide benefits to the tax authority and to the taxpayers.

Progress with the Minimum Standards implementation (BEPS)

- Action 5 (the first Minimum Standard) the elaboration of necessary legislation relating to the provision and exchange of tax rulings is ongoing.
- Action 6: Armenia ratified the MLI Convention in January 2024. Armenia opted for “Principal Purpose Test” (PPT Rule), which ensures implementation of the Action 6.
- Action 13 and 14: regulations adopted and in force since January 2024.

One of the benefits for the taxpayers is the Action 14 (“Mutual Agreement Procedure”), which gives opportunity to the taxpayers to apply for resolution of taxation related disputes with the tax authority of the other Contracting state. In addition, Armenia implemented regulations on Advanced Pricing Arrangements (APA), which give benefits to the taxpayers to cooperate with the tax authority on their transfer pricing policy. The challenges regarding implementation of BEPS actions relates to the lack of capacity on practical implementation of the corresponding regulations.

Armenia has become a member of the **Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information** in October 2015.

The following progress was made in the areas of fulfilling the obligations arising from the membership on these platforms.

Tax base distortion and profit sharing

BEPS framework includes 15 actions. Among these, Actions 5, 6, 13, and 14 are considered minimum standards, requiring mandatory implementation by all member states. Armenia is actively working on incorporating these minimum standards into its national legislation. Specifically (1) Tax regimes classified as harmful by the Inclusive Framework on BEPS have been eliminated (2) Mutual Agreement Procedures for resolving tax disputes, particularly in the context of double taxation treaties, have been introduced.

In September 2022, Armenia adopted the Law “On Ratifying the Multilateral Convention on the Implementation

of Measures Related to Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.” It entered into force in January 2024. The amendments were made to the Law⁸ “On Free Economic Zones” and the “Tax Code.” These changes came in force in July 2024 aligning the regulations on tax benefits in free economic zones with the current international standards. In 2022, the Armenian Government adopted the decision “On Establishing the Procedure for and Terms of Settling the Disputes on Tax Issues Through the Mutual Agreement Procedure.” This decision was revised in 2024 to fully implement the MAP standard for resolving tax disputes.

Exchange of Information

The Convention “On Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters” is considered a key precondition for the introduction of international standards of transparency and information exchange for taxation purposes. The convention was signed In January 2018. The Law “On Ratifying the Convention”⁹ “On Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters”¹⁰ was adopted in December 2019.

Armenia made a commitment in 2023 to implement the automatic exchange of information I 2025, by introducing the relevant regulations and technical measures.

At the same time, in a letter submitted by the RA Ministry of Finance to the Secretariat of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes in January 2023, a commitment has been made to implement the automatic exchange of information for the first time in September 2025, by introducing the relevant regulations and technical measures. It is additional legal basis, which expanded the scope of countries Armenia can exchange information. Before it, Armenia has been exchanging information based on double taxation treaties and on the multilateral agreements

Within the framework of Article 27 of CEPA, Armenia is implementing transfer pricing regulations¹¹ since 2020. The regulations cover analysis and administration of controlled transactions exceeding in total 200 M AMD annually. In particular, controlled transactions are the ones conducted with related resident taxpayers (in special circumstances), foreign related persons and with persons registered in offshore jurisdictions.

Armenia is in a final stage of **OECD Global Forum Peer Review** process and the preliminary rating is largely compliant. Th official report for Round 1 was published in February 2024. The second round of peer review was conducted in June 2024. Based on the results of Round 1 and Round 2, Armenia is largely compliant in implementing international standards on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes.



⁸ To ensure compliance with Action 5 of the Inclusive Framework

⁹ amended by the Protocol, dated 2010

¹⁰ ՌՕ-275-Ն

¹¹ CEPA Article 27

STATISTICS

Scope

The CEPA prioritises strengthening cooperation on statistics, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of providing **timely, internationally comparable and reliable statistical data**. It aims at further strengthening the capacity of the national statistical system, including legal basis, the production of good-quality data and metadata, dissemination policy and user-friendliness, and taking into account users in the public and private sectors, the academic community and society at large. In addition, at exchanging experience with regard to the development of statistical know-how, at promoting quality assurance and management in all statistical production processes and dissemination. A sustainable, efficient and professionally independent **national statistical system** shall adhere the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), in order to align national statistical

production with European norms and standards.

It also supports **the upgrade of official statistics of Armenia** by introducing new methodologies on statistics closely aligned to European standards and enhancing dissemination of official statistics to the society. It focused on 10 statistical domains and horizontal activities: Migration statistics, Job Vacancies statistics, Structural business statistics, Statistics on R & D, National Accounts/institutional sectoral accounts, Finance statistics/economy's non-financial organisations, Statistics on International Trade in Services, Environment statistics/Air Accounts, SIMS V2.0 Introduction and Training on the use of ISCED-F 2013, ISCO-08, ICSE-2020 classifications.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Statistical Committee



Benefits for the society

Armenia needs statistics to describe its social, demographic, economic and environmental conditions to improve the lives and opportunities of its citizens. Statistics thus play an important role in planning, governing and developing societies.

Statistics provide information needed for policy makers to make evidence-based decisions; for citizens to form opinions and hold government accountable; for businesses to make sound decisions and for researchers to analyse society. Statistics are also important in international settings since it gives countries an opportunity to compare their conditions with other countries. For this, there is a need for international harmonised statistics produced according to common methodologies.

Armstat oversees data production in Armenia. Its mission is to provide all citizens with independent, high-quality information on the economy and society at national, regional and international levels, and to make this information freely available. The statistics produced within Armstat is internationally comparable as the statistical methodologies are defined according to common international and European standards.

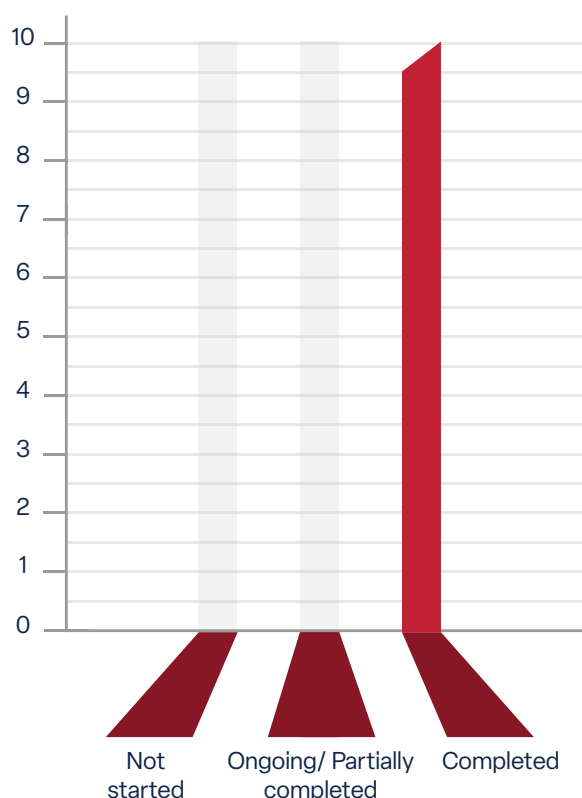
Progress on implementation

Area is covered by

- **CEPA ROAMAP ANNEX 2: 10 MEASURES (20 – 29)**

Cooperation in the field of statistics

■ Annex 2 Roadmap
10 Measures (20 – 29)



Performance

0%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**

Performance

100%
COMPLETED

Overall progress

The European Statistics Code of Practice is adapted by Armstat as a guiding framework for the production of official statistics in Armenia¹². The quality system of Armstat is based on the 16 principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice¹³.

The Peer Review of Armstat and Armenian Official Statistics was conducted in November 2018 by the experts of Eurostat, EFTA and UNECE¹⁴. The purpose was to assess the compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and coordination role, to review the strengths and weaknesses of the national statistical system and propose improvement actions where relevant. In 2023, Armenia confirmed its interest to have a peer review in 2024, and it will be conducted in June 2025.

Demographic statistics, including censuses and social statistics¹⁵

Since 2020, the Project Time Use Survey (TUS) has been launched. The EU STEP Programme and UN Women supported the strengthening of Armstat's capacity to improve SDG data and gender statistics, harmonize methodologies with the EU, applying the recommendations of HETUS-2018, as well as support evidence-based policy making.

In 2021, the Armenian Pilot TUS (APTUS-2021) was carried out, and the general report and two technical reports were developed. From September 2023 to May 2024, Armstat conducted a nationwide large-scale Armenia Time Use Survey (ATUS)¹⁶. Armstat conducted a series of extensive workshops aimed at enhancing the skills and capabilities of its staff. These workshops focused on standard statistical business processes related to time-use surveys and extended beyond, ensuring that Armstat staff are well equipped to manage survey data effectively. The ATUS results will be launched in the second quarter of 2025 and will allow for the first time to calculate the SDG indicator 5.4.1 "Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex, age and location".

Agricultural statistics, including agricultural censuses

The Pilot Agricultural Census was conducted in October 2023¹⁷ and the Agricultural Census was conducted in October 2024. The census results will be published in the fourth quarter of 2026.

¹² <https://armstat.am/file/doc/99508338.pdf>

¹³ <https://armstat.am/file/doc/99537578.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99513323.pdf>

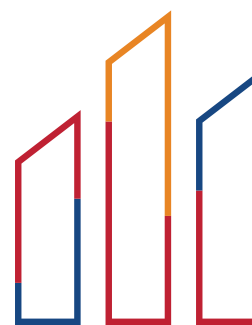
¹⁵ ARTICLE 32, (a) demographic statistics, including censuses and social statistics

¹⁶ within the framework of the UN Women's "Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus" (WEESC) programme

¹⁷ by the Government Decision No1514-N dated 29 September 2022

Business statistics, including business registers and the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes

Armstat conducted a pilot and large-scale surveys¹⁸ on “Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) usage and e-commerce in enterprises” in 2023. The Survey was conducted using the Eurostat methodology and a model questionnaire with the CAPI method. The survey results are published on Armstat’s website.¹⁹



The Use of Administrative data for statistical purposes

The use of administrative data sources for the production of statistics is increasingly on the international agenda for statistics. The main advantages of using administrative data in a statistical production are low costs, high flexibility of the data as well as a far wider coverage than traditional surveys.

Armstat **increased the use of administrative data for statistical purposes**. In 2021-2023 Armstat increased the use of administrative data maintained by the Ministry of High-Tech industry, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Central bank, Cadastre Committee, Public Services Regulatory Commission, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Chamber of Advocates, Notary office, Prosecutor’s Office, Investigative Committee, Supreme Judicial Council, Judicial Department, Human Rights Defender Office, Rescue service, National Security Service.

The response burden reduction rate in 2024 compared to 2010 (base year) was 57.4% and compared to 2023 - 0.68%.

Horizontal activities, including quality assurance and management, statistical classification, training, dissemination and the use of modern information technologies

Since September 2019, Armenia is using Open-Source Data Platform for SDGs. In 2022 Armstat has introduced the upgraded version of Open SDG Platform²⁰, which is a tool for disseminating and reporting national statistics for the global SDG indicators that provides the framework for monitoring progress towards SDGs. Armstat is continually increasing data availability, improving data disaggregation and calculation methodologies of indicators.

In March 2024²¹ Armstat launched the **Trend Assessment Dashboard for SDGs** indicators to support analytical work carried out by state institutions with a certain political orientation. The dashboard is a visualisation tool to assess SDGs progress. It provides necessary evidence for stakeholder engagement and sustainable development prioritisation. It also supports the preparation of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).

The User Satisfaction Survey was conducted in 2024 and the results are publicly available²².

The “Infographics” subsection has been added to the “News” section of Armstat website (<https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=157>), where the main demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators are published monthly, quarterly and annually.

Armstat performed a Pilot test to map the organisation of Armstat according to the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO). The Sector Review on GAMSO has been conducted in October 2022. The GAMSO was introduced taking into account the recommendations of the review team, and an Excel sheet “Armstat-mapping” describing implementation of activities was developed, which is combining GAMSO and GSBPM models.

¹⁸ Economic Governance, Business Environment, & Justice Reform” project, supported by the World Bank and funded by the EU

¹⁹ Press release (<https://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99541963.pdf>),

Output table(<https://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99541958.xlsx>),

Quality declaration (<https://www.armstat.am/file/Qualitydec/eng/18.6.pdf>).

²⁰ <http://sdg.armstat.am/>

²¹ with the support of the UN-ESCAP Statistics Division

²² <https://armstat.am/file/doc/99551528.pdf>

Since February 2024, the E-reporting system for data collection has been launched within the ECASTAT project supported by the World Bank.

Improvement of migration statistics production

The methodology of migration statistics based on administrative sources of information has been improved. The main questions related to obtaining the migration data recommended by the experts have been included in the migration block of the 2022 Population Census questionnaire.

The Population Census was carried out in October 2022 by the combined method. The Population Census was conducted based on the State Population Register with the collection of additional data by Tablets from 25% sampled addresses. The main results of 2022 Population Census have been released in December 2023 and are available on the website²³.

The use of administrative data sources for producing migration statistics has been improved. The migration statistics was supplemented with new statistical data generated by administrative sources:

1) based on the administrative registers maintained by the Migration and citizenship service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Two new reporting forms have been introduced: Persons who received RA citizenship by country of previous citizenship, gender and age group, and Persons whose RA citizenship has been terminated by gender, age group and country of new citizenship²⁴;

2) on the basis of the information generated on the unified electronic work permit platform of a foreign worker (workpermit.am) regarding the adoption of decisions certifying the legality of residence of citizens of the Eurasian Economic Union states and their family members and granting temporary residence status to foreigners based on work activity²⁵.



Within the framework of Eurostat-UNSD Demographic and Migration International data collections (UNIDEMO), special data formatting efforts were taken to transform the demographic and migration datasets from Excel to specified SDMX reporting format. The new SDMX reporting formats underwent initial validation procedures and were then uploaded to the designated Eurostat web portal, as well as the relevant metadata format.

Improvement of Job vacancies statistics

Job vacancies statistics has been improved through the online TAIEX Workshop on Improvement of statistics on job vacancies. The representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, Central Bank, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Integrated Social Service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Economy, State Revenue Committee, Ministry of Finance, Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia also participated in the workshop.

As a result, participants' knowledge of the job vacancy statistics methodology, indicator system, data sources were expanded according to the requirements of the relevant EU regulation, capacity to document metadata and data presentation formats for job vacancy statistics were improved to strengthen the dialogue with data users.

Improvement of structural business statistics methodology

The methodology of structural business statistics has been improved with the support of the World Bank expert mission and the online TAIEX Expert Mission on Introduction of Structural Business Statistics. As a result, Armstat introduced the methodology of structural business statistics according to EU regulations, in particular, the structure of indicators, specified data collection sources and tools, and defined the publication format and periodicity.

23 <https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=2623>

24 Decision of the State Council on Statistics, No. 24-A, dated 22.11.2021

25 (Decision of the State Council on Statistics, No. 14-A, dated 07.07.2023).

Improvement of Research and Development (R&D) statistics, including the private sector

The methodology of R&D statistics has been improved with the support of the expert mission by Statistics Iceland (financed by EFTA) and online TAIEX Expert Mission on improvement of statistics on Research and Development. The representative of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports participated in the online TAIEX expert mission.

The reporting form on R&D statistics of the public sector has been updated and a new form has been introduced, and a draft of reporting form on R&D statistics of the private sector has been developed.

Since 2023, the collection of R&D statistics in the public sector has been carried out in accordance with the modernised statistical reporting form, and the updated and improved R&D statistics of the public sector has been published in August 2023 in the Statistical Handbook of the Social Situation of the Republic of Armenia²⁶.

Improvement of institutional sectoral accounts according to SNA -2008 and ESA-2010 methodologies.

The work was implemented by Armstat, and in November 2022 the complete set of national accounts of Armenia was published both for the general economy and by institutional sectors of the economy (by 2020 reporting data).

In 2024, calculations were carried out to compile the accounts of institutional sectors of the economy (by 2022 reporting data). The Gross value-added data by institutional sectors of the economy, non-financial organisations and financial organisations by sub-sectors have been published in July 2024. The complete set of national accounts for the general economy as well as by institutional sectors of the economy was published in November 2024.

Improvement of Finance statistics of the economy's non-financial organisations (including state non-financial organisations)

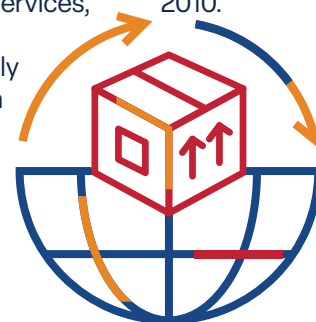
The finance statistics has been improved with the support of the online TAIEX Expert Mission on Finance statistics of the economy's non-financial organisations and IMF online expert mission on Financial Accounts. The representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank participated in the online TAIEX expert mission. As a result, finance statistics of the economy's non-financial organisations have been improved.

Based on the data from the received reports, the tables of the "Financial indicators of non-financial sector organisations", "Financial account" and "Balances sheets of financial assets and liabilities" sections were compiled and published in the "Finance Statistics of Armenia" Handbook²⁷.

Improvement of statistics of international trade in services

Based on the knowledge gained from the EU programme "Statistics through Eastern Partnership (STEP)", Armstat has developed and introduced a new reporting form on statistics of international trade in services in accordance with the provisions of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 6th edition, and Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, 2010.

From the first quarter of 2023, the reporting form has been introduced. Only large and medium-sized organisations were included in the 2023 sample. From 2024, small and micro-organisations are also included. For data collection, the "Expanded grouping of international trade in services" developed by Armstat is applied that is based on the "Expanded Classification of Balance of Payments Services 2010 (EBOPS 2010)".



²⁶ https://armstat.am/file/article/soc_sit_2022_en_8.pdf.

²⁷ (<https://armstat.am/am/?nid=82&id=2517>), Press Release, (<https://armstat.am/file/doc/99540898.pdf>) and "Other Databases" (<https://armstat.am/en/?nid=14>).



Environmental statistics: Compilation of air accounts

Air accounts for 2017 have been compiled²⁸ with the support of UNDP programme implemented online. Experts of the Ministry of Environment also participated in the project. A road map for implementation of Air Emissions Accounts and data evaluation is developed. In June 2022, Eurostat experts conducted the Sector Review of Environment Statistics to support Armstat to align the Environment statistics with the European Statistics CoP and European standards, assess the current situation to produce high-quality statistics, propose recommendations and improvement actions.

Introduction of the reference metadata reporting standards: the EU SIMS (Single Integrated Metadata Structure) and reporting formats ESMS (Euro SDMX Metadata Structure) and ESQRS (ESS Standard Quality Report Structure).

Armstat established the system of reference metadata that is an integral component of metadata. The reference metadata reporting standards: the EU SIMS (Single Integrated Metadata Structure) and reporting formats ESMS (Euro SDMX Metadata Structure) and ESQRS (ESS Standard Quality Report Structure) have been introduced with the support of Statistics Bulgaria experts within the framework of the World Bank ECASTAT Project. Reference metadata describe statistical concepts and methodologies used for the collection and production of data, and data quality.

Quality reports for statistical products are published in the “Reference Metadata” subsection under the “Metadata” section²⁹.

Currently the user-oriented quality reports (ESMS) and producer-oriented quality reports (ESQRS) are developed and published for 65 products.

Armstat introduced the SDMX standard in the context of establishment of the system of reference metadata. Modules in Metadata (ESMS) and Quality Reports (ESQRS) formats for statistical products, and two files of SDMX 2.1 standard in xml format have been developed for each product: Metadata Structure Definition (MSD) and metadata (Data). The system supports quality reporting and is also used for dissemination purposes to release reference metadata in a centralised and standardised manner to meet the requirements of international organisations and standards, such as SDMX, to provide quality, timely and internationally comparable statistics.



Training on the use of the following classifications:

- 1 International Standard Classification of Education and Training (ISCED-F 2013)
- 2 International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08)
- 3 International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-2018).

The staff was trained in the use of ISCED-F 2013, ISCO-08, ICSE-2018, ICSE-2020 classifications and improved knowledge and skills in their use.

The following trainings have been organised:

- Online training and onsite training abroad on the use of ISCED-2011 and ISCED-F 2013 within the framework of the World Bank ECASTAT Project.
- Online training on the use of ISCO-08 and ICSE-2018 with the support of ILO experts. The representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Integrated Social Service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia, National Institute of Labour and Social Research participated in the training.
- Online TAIEX Workshop on the use of International Statistical Classifications - ISCO-08 and ICSE-2020.

28 based on “National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report of Armenia for 1990-2017”, 12.12.2020

29 (<https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=828>) of Armstat website (www.armstat.am).



TRANSPORT



ENHANCING

SAFETY

AND MODERNISING

TRANSPORT



Armenia is improving its transport system with CEPA. EU support is helping to upgrade roads, railways, and transport links across the country—making travel faster, safer and more reliable for everyone. Better transport makes trade easier and helps businesses grow—contributing to a stronger economy and bringing more income to citizens. At the same time, CEPA reforms support environmentally friendly transport development, helping to protect citizens' health and create a cleaner future. CEPA is also making travel between Armenia and EU countries easier

Scope

Enhanced and strengthened cooperation in the area of Transport contributes to the development of sustainable transport systems, promotion of efficient and secure transport operations as well as intramodality and interoperability of transport systems and endeavour to enhance the main transport links (Article 36).

It includes cooperation on the development of a sustainable national transport policy, sector-specific strategies, improvement of infrastructure policy, development of funding strategies focusing on maintenance, capacity constraints and missing-link infrastructure, accession to relevant international transport organisations and agreements, cooperation on improvement of technologies in transport such as intelligent transport systems and the promotion of the use of intelligent transport systems (Article 37). In the area of transport connectivity and regional cooperation, Armenia and the EU will work to improve the movement of passengers and goods by enhancing transport flows, reducing cross-border barriers, and



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
The MTAI Civil Aviation Committee
The Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police)**

upgrading key infrastructure links. Cooperation will take into account Armenia's landlocked status and will include border crossing facilitation, information exchange, and joint actions within regional frameworks (Article 38). Regarding air transport liberalisation, the Parties will pursue the gradual opening of air transport markets under the EU-Armenia Common Aviation Area Agreement. Until the agreement enters into force, no new restrictive or discriminatory measures will be introduced (Article 39). A regular dialogue shall be held to address the issues covered in the transport cooperation chapter (Article 40). As for legal approximation, Armenia shall align its transport legislation with the relevant EU acts listed in CEPA Annex I. Further alignment may also occur through sector-specific agreements (Article 41).

Benefits for the society

- Armenia is enhancing road safety by implementing legislation requiring safety audits on all highways planned for use by 2027, as part of its commitment to identifying and addressing potential hazards before accidents occur. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) is prioritising black spot management to reduce road fatalities, having eliminated 47 high-risk areas—covering 38.4 km of road sections—in 2023 with support from the European Investment Bank (EIB). To further improve safety, MTAI's "Road Department" Fund has developed a mobile application that provides real-time information on road conditions, nearby hospitals, and police locations, helping users make safer travel decisions. Armenia has also launched a data analytics platform for road accident black spots, analysing over 23,000 incidents to identify high-risk areas for targeted interventions.
- Armenia views road safety as a global issue that requires international collaboration. MTAI is committed to fostering partnerships with international organisations, donor agencies, and partner countries to advance national road safety objectives. MTAI has actively engaged with the EU and EIB to enhance road

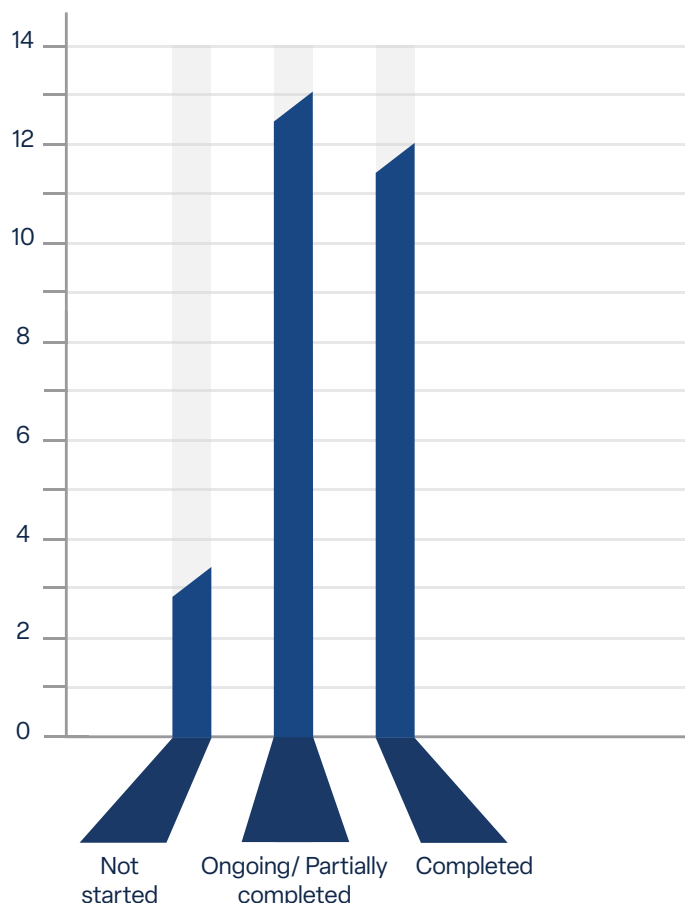
safety in Armenia through financial support, technical assistance, and the exchange of best practices. Armenia also participates in the EU-funded and World Bank-supported Eastern Partnership Road Safety Observatory (EaP RSO), established in Georgia in 2024, which aims to reduce road traffic injuries by promoting data sharing and best practices. MTAI is also planning to implement a route-wide speed monitoring system and is focused on infrastructure projects that improve both safety and connectivity.

- Armenia's National Road Safety Strategy, currently in its final stage of development, sets forth ambitious goals across five key pillars: road safety management, safer roads and driving, safer vehicles, safer road users, and enhanced post-crash response. Aligned with global best practices and the UN Sustainable Development Goals—particularly the target of halving global road fatalities by 2030—the strategy reflects a comprehensive, forward-looking approach. From 2018 to 2023, Armenia carried out major repairs, reconstruction and construction of road sections totalling 1,302.4 km, with an investment of 271.95 billion AMD. In 2024 alone, the MTAI completed major works on an additional 503 km. To further improve efficiency, an innovative online system was launched to monitor road conditions in real time, enabling data-driven prioritisation of repairs and optimised resource allocation.
- The reforms in road safety and driver qualification bring significant benefits to society. These include improved road safety through health screenings and stricter qualification standards aimed at reducing accidents and fatalities. The professionalisation of drivers is ensured through mandatory training and retraining for both drivers and examiners, resulting in higher quality public and freight transport services. The reforms also enhance transparency and fairness in assessments and procedures. Additionally, the changes contribute to greater public trust and institutional credibility by establishing clear, consistent, and lawful processes, along with improved service delivery in licensing and testing.
- A key component of the CEPA focuses on the aviation sector, aiming to develop a sustainable national transport policy that is environmentally friendly, efficient, safe, and secure. Following the signing of the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the EU and Armenia on 15 November 2021, both sides are working toward Armenia's full integration into the EU aviation market. Armenia has committed to implementing the EU's aviation acquis, which is expected to enhance aviation safety, expand air transport opportunities, increase direct flight connections, and generate mutual economic benefits.
- The alignment of national railway legislation with the EU acquis aims to strengthen the framework for railway transport focusing on personnel (re)training, the organisation of passenger and freight transportation, conditions for obtaining the licence and the certificate of train drivers and the establishment of liability for damage or loss of life during international transportation.
- As part of maritime transportation regulation, the adoption of the currently drafted Code of Merchant Shipping will support the development of Armenia's merchant shipping sector. This legislation is expected to diversify transport routes, stimulate exports of Armenian goods to new markets, improve the import of foreign goods, and enable vessels to operate under the Armenian flag.
- Measures in automobile transport aim to improve road traffic safety, enhance the competitiveness of Armenian carriers, and raise transport services quality. Aligning Armenia's legislation with EU directives has created a legal framework for international transportation operators and established professional training standards. These reforms strengthen Armenian carrier competitiveness as well as promotes road traffic safety and the overall efficiency of economic activities.
- The transportation of dangerous goods is now regulated, allowing organisations operating in the road transport sector to obtain internationally recognised certificates for seamless interstate transportation to Europe. Additionally, the use of digital tachographs to monitor drivers' work and rest periods has been fully implemented.

Progress on implementation:

AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1 MEASURES 17-46

Cooperation in the field of transport ■ Annex 1 Roadmap (29¹ measures)



Performance
14%
NOT STARTED

Performance
41%
COMPLETED

Performance
45%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**

Automobile transport

Automobile transport focuses on increasing road safety and interstate transportation development. CEPA envisages approximation with 10 EU Directives regulating the road transport sector relating to increasing road safety, transportation of dangerous good and the use of intelligent transport systems. As a result of approximation, the implementation of intermodal transportation by different types of transport will be improved, the competitive role of Armenian transport organisations will increase, and they will be able to provide transportation according to the international standards as well as the road safety level will improve as a result of increased effectiveness of control on transport requirements.

Progress has been made in the direction of creating a legal framework for the implementation of the electronic system of road toll collection for using certain infrastructures, regulating the field of international cargo transportation of dangerous goods (Armenia joined the ADR agreement for road transportation of dangerous goods in 2022, the legal acts regulating the sector have been developed and are in the process of being adopted by the GoA), improving the legal framework regulating the fields of road traffic safety and roadworthiness testing of vehicles.

¹ Measure 39 of Annex 1 to the CEPA Roadmap has been ineffective since May 31, 2021, following the issuance of Prime Minister's Decision No. 587-L on that date. As a result, the total number of Transport measures is 29 instead of 30.

Key highlights of progress include:

- Amendments were made to the Law “On Motor Roads” in accordance with the requirements of the EU legislation defining the **maximum permissible curb dimensions and the maximum permissible weight** during international cargo transportation. In order to ensure the Law’s implementation, the GoA Decision N 1858-N dated 19.12.2019 “On Amendments to the GoA decision No. 1106-N dated 20 July 2006” was adopted.
- Regulations 561/2006 and 3821/85: in accordance with the requirements of Directives 2006/22/EC and 2002/15/EC, changes were made to the existing legislative acts, which were adopted by the National Assembly on July 30, 2021.
- In order to ensure the implementation of the Law “On Amendments and Additions to the Law “On Road Transport” the GoA Decision N 830-N on laying down the requirements for the **construction, testing, installation, operation and repair of tachographs** was adopted on June 9, 2022. The legislative framework ensuring the operation of the digital tachograph system has been completely harmonised with the requirements of the EU legislation. The process of legislative harmonisation of the field provided by the road map has been totally completed.
- In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 1071/2009 and Directive 2003/59/EC, in October 2024 the National Assembly adopted **the package of laws defining the general rules regarding the conditions to be met by the operator carrying out road transportation provided by the Quality Charter**. In order to ensure the Law’s implementation, a number of RA government decisions were adopted in October 2024 (19.09.2024 N 1482-N, 10.10.2024 N 1604-N, 03.10.2024 N 1584-N, 10.10.2024 N 1600-N). As a result, the requirements submitted to the transport operator, the requirements for the initial professional qualification and periodic training of the transport manager and certain categories of drivers have been completely regulated.
- Progress has been made in the direction of creating a legal framework for the **implementation of the electronic system of road toll collection for using certain infrastructures**, regulating the field of **international cargo transportation of dangerous goods** (Armenia joined the ADR agreement for road transportation of dangerous goods in 2022, the legal acts regulating the sector have been developed and are in the process of being adopted by GoA), improving the legal framework regulating the fields of road traffic safety and roadworthiness testing of vehicles.

Air transport

Cooperation includes the Common Aviation Area Agreement (signed in 2021) which aims to bring Armenia closer to the EU’s aviation standards. It also supports Armenia’s air safety enhancements by aligning aviation regulations with the EU standards and increasing operational safety. The Common Aviation Area Agreement envisages a detailed roadmap for enhancing Armenia’s air transport approximation and provides a list of EU directives/regulations for approximation.

Armenia has started implementation of the Common Aviation Area Agreement. Currently, 13 EU MSs have already ratified the Agreement. The following legal acts provide transposition and guide implementation:

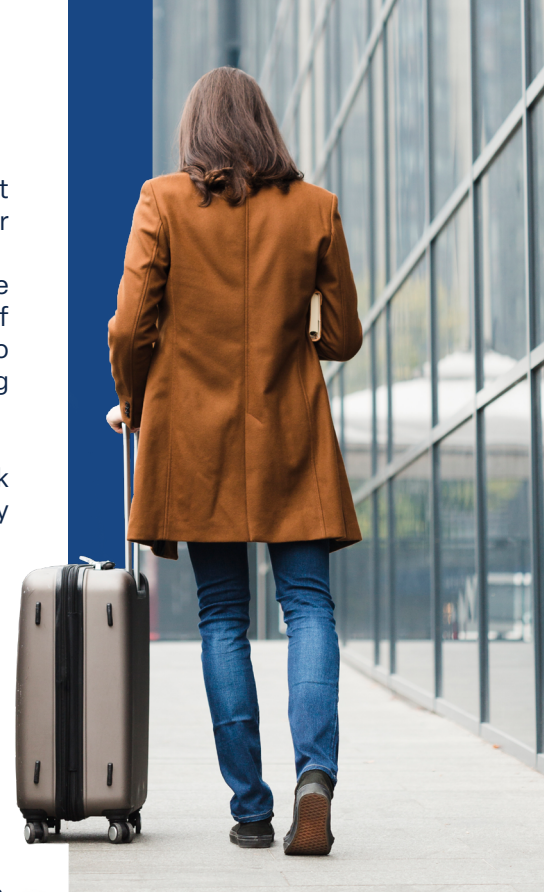
- Order 10-N of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, dated 01.06.2022, (Continuing Airworthiness Regulation) has been fully transposed in accordance with EU Regulation No. 1321/2014,
- Order 20-N of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, dated 18.11.2022 (Initial Airworthiness Regulations), has been partially transposed in accordance with EU Regulation 748/2012,
- Order 7-N of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, dated 28.06.2023 (Additional Airworthiness Specifications), has been partially transposed based on EU Regulation No. 2015/640,
- Order 451-L of the Civil Aviation Committee, dated 22.09.2022, has been partially transposed based on EU Regulation No. 376/2014 and fully transposed in accordance with EU Regulation No. 2015/1018,
- Order 2-N of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, dated 11.02.2022, has been fully transposed and has been recently under revision in line with EU Regulation No. 965/2012,
- Order 3-N of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, dated 11.02.2022, has been fully transposed and is currently being revised in accordance with EU Regulation No. 1178/2011,

- A draft law on insurance requirements for air carriers and aircraft operators has been developed and circulated among stakeholders for consultation,
- Regulation (EU) No. 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010, on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation, has been incorporated into national legislation (1777-N) and is currently under revision following consultations.

In early 2024, the audit of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) took place, during which a team from ICAO assessed Armenia's civil aviation safety oversight system across all domains. The Civil Aviation Committee (CAC) was informed of a preliminary Significant Safety Concern (SSC) related to aircraft operations (OPS) and was required to implement corrective actions or safety risk mitigation measures by June 2024. In response, the CAC developed a comprehensive corrective action plan divided into immediate, short-term, and long-term phases. The short-term actions aimed to address the safety deficiencies and resolve the SSC by the deadline. A key component of this plan involved re-evaluating all five Armenian air operators conducting international flights, which was carried out with the support from the EU Delegation to Armenia with experts from the Romanian Civil Aviation Authority. In June 2024, the results of the re-evaluation were submitted to ICAO. This was followed by an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) in Armenia in August 2024 to assess the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken. The ICAO SSC Validation Committee concluded that the measures implemented by Armenia successfully resolved the SSC in the OPS domain.

Additionally, in the context of international cooperation initiatives, the CAC has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Civil Aviation Authority of Romania and has begun the process of establishing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Civil Aviation Authority of France. A draft of this MoC has been circulated for the review through appropriate diplomatic channels. Furthermore, CAC is poised to initiate MoCs with the CAAs of Croatia, Spain, Slovakia, and Lithuania, with preliminary agreements already secured. In addition, CAC is diligently working to transpose and implement the EU regulations outlined in Annex II of the Common Aviation Area Agreement. This effort is being enhanced through close collaboration with the EU, leading to increased efficiency in the process.

Apart from the abovementioned, the ongoing Eastern Partnership Project (launched in 2023²), a regional technical cooperation initiative by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), is focused on enhancing collaboration in the aviation sector as well. Its goal is to strengthen interconnectivity through the implementation of Common Aviation Area Agreements and to improve civil aviation safety. The project's overall objective is to enhance the capabilities of EaP countries in implementing EU aviation regulations, specifically those outlined in the Common Aviation Area agreements. This includes increasing the level of regulatory harmonisation with relevant EU aviation standards in areas such as safety, environmental protection, economic regulation, security, air traffic management (ATM), and passenger rights. Additionally, the project aims to support EaP countries in establishing effective safety regulatory frameworks and oversight systems.



² EaP (Eastern Partnership) PROJECT, Strengthening interconnectivity through implementation of Common Aviation Area Agreements and improved civil aviation safety, <https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/domains/international-cooperation/technical-cooperation-projects/eap-eastern-partnership-project#:~:text=The%20project's%20overall%20objective%20is,harmonisation%20with%20the%20relevant%20EU>



Road Infrastructure Safety

Approximation with two EU Directives on road infrastructure safety; on minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network³ and on road infrastructure management⁴ is foreseen. Armenia has to ensure that the Trans-European Road Network long tunnels of over 500 m in Armenia meet safety requirements⁵

In order to approximate Armenian legislation, legal amendments were made in the **Law On Road mobile Roads**⁶ which was adopted in June 2024. In addition, Armenia should ensure that Road Infrastructure safety management is carried out including implementation of road safety impact assessment, road safety audits and inspections, network-wide road safety assessment are carried out, taking into account the needs of vulnerable road users, as well as Armenia should calculate the average social cost of a fatal accident and the average social cost of a severe accident occurring in territory of Armenia. Implementation of road infrastructure safety system has a high impact on road users, especially on vulnerable road users.

The decisions related to changes in the **requirements for road signs and traffic and pedestrian traffic lights markings** were adopted in 2023⁷. They are in line with the requirements of the Vienna Convention and the EAEU Road Safety Regulations.

In 2024, the Ministry was carrying out daily control on its implementation and developed requirements on the use of anti-skid chains on tires in the winter-autumn season.

Based on the adoption of the Law on Motor Roads, the measures ensuring implementation of the requirements of the Road Infrastructure Safety Directives were approved in October 2024⁸ and are planned to be implemented within 24 months.

Driving License Regulations in the Context of Road Safety Reforms

Armenia has continued its efforts to align with EU standards in the field of road safety and driver qualification, particularly regarding the implementation of the EU Directive on driving licenses⁹.

In 2019, Armenia adopted amendments and additions to the Law on Ensuring Road Safety in December 2019. To ensure the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Law, since October 2023, the Patrol Service of the Police (Ministry of Internal Affairs) has had access to an electronic database, which allows them to request information about individuals' health conditions, specifically regarding illnesses that could impair their ability to drive. The Police conducts periodic assessments to ensure the proper implementation of the law's provisions. As part of structural reforms, the responsibilities previously held by the Road Police were transferred to the newly established Patrol Service.

By the Government Decision No. 385-N of March 26, 2020, were adopted in implementation of the requirements provided for in Directive No. 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and the Council¹⁰ regulating the procedure for driving licence examinations and issuance, the list of required documents, the formats and descriptions of national and international driving licences, and the annulment of Government Decision No. 1158-N of September 18, 2008.

The main elements of the progress with implementation of the Decision include (1) establishing designated

3 Directive 2004/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network

4 Directive 2008/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on road infrastructure safety management

5 Falling in scope of Directive 2004/54/EC

6 Law AL 299-N

7 Government Decisions N 955-H of June 28, 2007, N 1699 of October 26, 2006

8 Decision N 887-A 2 October 2024

9 Directive 2006/126/EC of the European parliament and of the council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences

10 Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 385-N of March 26, 2020

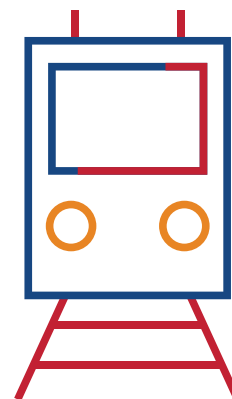
autodromes for conducting practical driving license examination (2) equipping all examination vehicles with interior recording cameras (3) ensuring that all officers administering practical examinations receive mandatory training every two years, and additional specialised training every five years, in compliance with legal requirements as well as (4) conducting regular assessments to monitor the effectiveness on the law implementation.

With the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) funds, examination vehicles have begun to be equipped with video and audio recording systems, and employees are undergoing training at the MoIA educational complex in accordance with the schedule of requirements established by the GoA decision 385-N.

In relation to the availability of trained and qualified drivers of vehicles for transportation of goods and passengers, improvement of the quality of the provided services, the legislative package aligning **with the EU Directive¹¹ on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers was adopted** in October 2023. It was followed by the by-law's adoption in 2024¹².

There is an on-going work on the creation of an appropriate training centre and organising the process of retraining and passing the international qualification exam.

A Decree is under development to establish requirements for periodic professional retraining of drivers of categories "C", "D", "CE", "DE", "C1E", "D1E", performing transportation by public road transport, as well as requirements for drivers' qualification.



Rail

In the process of approximation¹³, a package of amendments to the Law "On Railway Transport" has been developed and is currently under discussion. The proposed amendments aim to establish:

- quality standards for international rail transport services,
- conditions for the carriage of passengers' hand luggage, baggage, and animals,
- bases of liability in cases of damage or death occurring during international carriage,
- procedures for approving training and retraining programmes for train drivers and assistant train drivers,
- procedures and conditions for granting, suspending, terminating, and restoring the right to operate railway rolling stock in cases of loss,
- conditions for issuing a train driver's certificate,
- state control over the right to operate railway rolling stock.

The implementation of the Regulation on the European Rail Network for Competitive Freight was deemed inappropriate, as Armenia does not share a common border with at least two EU Member States and therefore cannot fulfil the conditions required to establish a transport corridor. The Regulation itself provides for the possibility of non-implementation under such circumstances. A similar conclusion was reached regarding the approximation of this Regulation in Georgia, where its implementation was also considered inappropriate¹⁴.

11 EU Directive 2003/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers, amending Council Regulation (EEC) 3820/85 and Council Directive 91/439/EEC and repealing Council Directive 76/914/EEC.

12 GoA decision No. 1482-N dated to September 19, 2024, Decision No. 1584-N dated October 3, 2024, to come into force from January 1, 2025.

13 EU Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 establishing a single European railway area, EU Directive 2007/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community, EU Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 1191/69 and 1107/70, EU Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations.

14 EU Regulation No 913/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight, with amendments

The implementation of the Directive on the Interoperability of the Rail System within the Community¹⁵ was found to be inappropriate, as there are no common borders with the EU and the infrastructures are different, in particular the track gauge.

Maritime transport

In the field of maritime transport, the draft “Code of Merchant Shipping “ was developed and is under consultation processes. To ensure the legal regulation of water transport activities, comprehensive studies in the field were conducted¹⁵.

¹⁵ Annex 1, Point 272 of RA Government Decision No. 650-L, dated May 16, 2019



ENERGY INCLUDING NUCLEAR SAFETY



**RELIABLE,
INDEPENDENT**

**INFRASTRUCTURE,
AFFORDABLE
RENEWABLE
— ENERGY**



With CEPA, Armenia is building a more secure, affordable and reliable energy—benefiting citizens, businesses, and the country as a whole.

Scope

Cooperation in the field of energy aims at regulatory approximation in the areas of the energy sector, taking into account the need to ensure access to secure, environmentally friendly and affordable energy. It covers cooperation on energy strategies and policies, enhancement of energy security, development of competitive energy markets, promotion of the use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy savings, promotion of regional cooperation on energy and on integration into regional markets, promotion of common regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in oil products, electricity and other energy commodities. It includes cooperation on pricing policies, transit and transport, promotion of regulatory aspects as well as scientific and technical cooperation.

In the area of the civil nuclear sector, the cooperation includes the exchange of technologies, best practices and training in the fields of safety, security and waste management



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
The Ministry of Economy
The Public Services Regulatory Commission
The Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority
The Urban Development Committee

and the closure and safe decommissioning of Metsamor nuclear power plant, taking into account the need for its replacement with new capacity to ensure the energy security (Article 42). A regular dialogue shall take place on the issues relating to energy cooperation, including nuclear safety (Article 43). Armenia shall carry out approximation of aligning its national legislation with the relevant instruments outlined in Annex II of the Agreement, in line with the provisions and timelines specified therein (Article 44).

Benefits for the society

- With EU support, Armenia is advancing towards a cleaner, safer, and more affordable energy future. This initiative promotes energy diversification, reduces reliance on single suppliers, and enhances energy security while improving efficiency for households and businesses. Armenia is accelerating its transition to renewable energy, contributing to a healthier environment. CEPA also modernises energy infrastructure, including smart grids and regional connections, meeting growing energy demands and attracting investment.
- Establishing a cost-optimal energy performance methodology helps reduce energy consumption and related expenses. Aligning Armenia's laws with EU standards supports sustainability and modernises the energy sector. New regulations improve the efficiency of buildings and products. These measures lower emissions and protect the environment. Overall, they lead to economic savings and improved living conditions for society.
- Following the adoption of the Government's decision on the "Approval of the Procedure for Maintaining Minimum Stocks of Petroleum Products," mechanisms have been put in place to ensure the uninterrupted supply of fuel and energy products in the event of temporary disruptions or imbalances between domestic supply and demand
- The regulation and improvement of tire safety and quality—particularly through labelling requirements on fuel efficiency and other key performance indicators—play a significant role in enhancing vehicle safety, upholding road traffic standards, and protecting human life and health.
- Trading in the electricity market is fully digitised, it is implemented through a Unified Electronic Platform, which is managed and operated by the Market operator, which is a state-owned company.

Besides, a liberalised market tends toward more optimal planning in both the consumption and production sectors and, consequently, the application of targeted responsibility. Within the framework of the new market model, monthly trading has been replaced by hourly trading, as a result of which each market participant is responsible for deviating from the volume of electricity s/he bought or sold for a given hour. And finally, all consumers have a right to choose a competitive supplier to buy electricity from.

- Armenia is taking significant steps to protect the population, personnel of nuclear facilities, and the environment from potential radiation risks by maintaining high safety standards and implementing best practices in the nuclear sector. With support from the EU, Armenia is working toward a safer, more secure, affordable, and reliable energy future—benefiting citizens, businesses, and the country as a whole.

Regulatory alignment with EU acquis will further enhance the safety of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP) and other nuclear facilities. This alignment will help mitigate potential risks associated with the eventual decommissioning of the NPP and minimise radiation exposure to the surrounding environment. It will also ensure that drinking water quality and radioactive waste management meet international standards.

Progress on implementation

Area is covered by

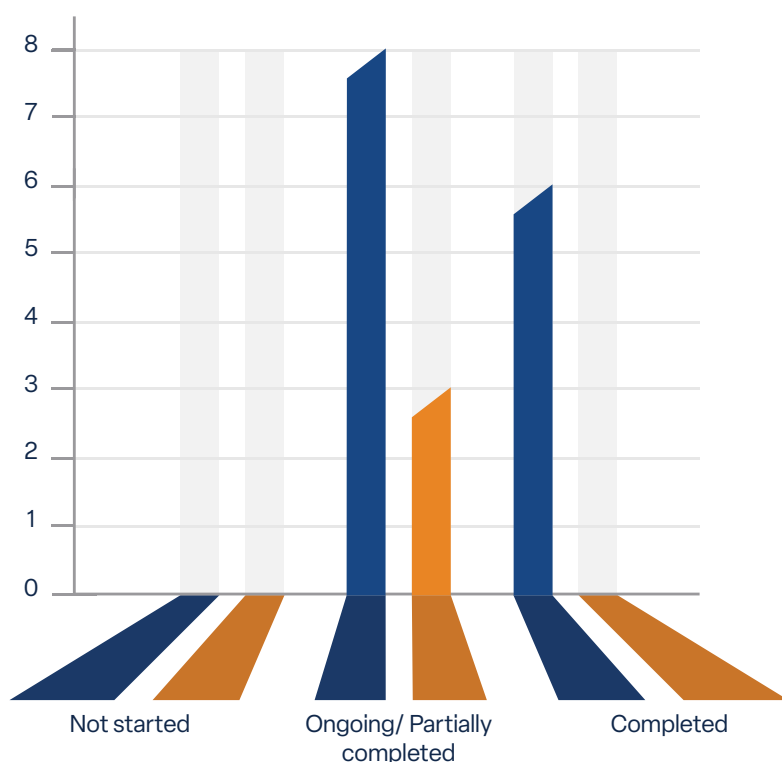
- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1: MEASURES 47, 50-60, 62 AND 63¹**
- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 91, 92 AND 95²**



¹ The 1st Annex of the current CEPA Roadmap outlines 42 measures under the energy cooperation chapter, numbered The first annex of the current Roadmap outlines 42 actions under the energy cooperation chapter, numbered 47 to 88. Of these, 14 are measures have deadlines up to and including 2024.

² Cooperation on nuclear security is outlined in measures 90–95 of Annex 2 of the Roadmap. Of the six measures, 91 and 92 have a 2024 deadline, while 95 is continuous.

Cooperation in the field of energy ■ Annex 1 Roadmap (14 measures)
 Cooperation in the field of nuclear safety ■ Annex 2 Roadmap (3 measures)



Performance
57%
 ONGOING/
 PARTIALLY
 COMPLETED
43%
 COMPLETED
 Annex 1 Roadmap

Performance
100%
 ONGOING/
 PARTIALLY
 COMPLETED
 Annex 2 Roadmap

Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and energy efficiency

Work is ongoing on the new Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Law, which is planned for adoption in December 2025. The draft underwent stakeholder consultation processes in 2024³. The timeline for approximating Armenian legislation is outlined in the Energy Sector Development Strategic Programme, which extends until 2040⁴. It aims to align with the EU Directive on promoting the use of energy from renewable sources and improving energy efficiency as outlined by the CEPA⁵.

Key elements of the new Renewable Energy and Efficiency Law

The new law will approximate the energy sector legislation with the obligations set in the first renewable energy and energy efficiency directives specified in the CEPA. In addition, during the development of this law, legal regulations defined by the second renewable energy directive were also considered.

The following reforms are proposed in the new Law:

- Increased implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in buildings and structures;
- Increased implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the heating, cooling, and transport sectors;
- Implementation of market-based support schemes in the renewable energy sector;

³ The process of the Law development was supported by the USAID project.

⁴ Approved by the Government Decree No. 48-L of January 14, 2021, and the Action Plan ensuring its implementation and by the Road Map 2019, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docID=149279>.

⁵ Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC

- Introduction of energy efficiency obligations and an energy services provision framework;
- Promotion of energy audits;
- Creation of new opportunities for renewables self-consumers and renewables self-consumers group;
- Facilitation of the process of obtaining approvals, permits, and documents related to renewable energy; and
- Implementation of data collection, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms.

The following results of the law implementation are expected: greater realisation of the potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency, use of domestic energy sources encouraged, increased volume of energy savings, increased energy security, reduced environmental impact, creation of new job opportunities and introduction of modern technologies.

The MTAI with support of the World Bank, together with the Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency (R2E2) Fund has developed the concept of business models for the construction of energy storage battery systems. Based on this the Public Services Regulatory Commission is implementing a study of the tariff policy applied in the case of energy storage battery systems.

To encourage the deployment of small-scale storage solutions in combination with RES⁶ review of the EU support schemes for storage deployment was conducted in 2024 and it identified two key target customer groups. It proposes state support for energy storage, particularly when combined with RES installations and EE renovations, while also expanding the scope of beneficiaries under the GoA existing financing programmes.

Common rules for the internal market in electricity

There is an ongoing work on the **new Law on Electricity**⁷, to ensure approximation with CEPA requirements. The draft law is under the stakeholders' consultations processes. According to the Armenia Energy Sector Development Strategic Programme to 2040, the deadline for the law's adoption is set for December 2025.

Key elements of the new Electricity Law

The proposed reforms will focus on:

- unbundling of the transmission system operator;
- unbundling of the distribution system operator;
- improvement of regulations on cross-border trade;
- regulation on defining a public service obligation;
- implementation of market-based mechanisms for balancing services provision;
- creation of a legislative base for the operation of electricity suppliers;
- regulations on energy storage;
- implementation of mechanisms for prevention, preparation for, management and elimination of consequences of electricity crisis; and
- further liberalization of the electricity market.

The following outcomes are envisaged to be achieved as a result of the implementation of measures proposed by the draft law: promotion of competition in the electricity market, improvement of electricity networks management, promotion of cross-border trade; and effective protection of consumers' rights.

⁶ USAID Energy Secure Armenia project

⁷ Supported by USAID Energy Secure Armenia

It includes legislative amendments to approximate with the EU Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity⁸. It focuses on creation of a competitive market, encouragement of competition, non-discriminatory entry to the market, distinction of system operators, strengthening the independence of the regulator and improvement of regulatory instruments concurrently with the development of the market in the field of electricity.

Directive 2009/72/EC refers to the general rules of the internal electricity market, the deadline for which is set to 2026 (8 years is defined according to the CEPA), however, for a number of articles (Articles 3, 6, 13, 15, 33, 38) CEPA stipulates that the Partnership Council will set a specific implementation date (for example Article 6, which sets out a number of conditions for well-functioning markets), which has not yet been defined.

Importance of the Electricity market liberalisation

Electricity market liberalisation is the biggest reform in Armenia's electricity sector since 2004, demonopolizing the sector and opening it to private-sector competition and investment to diversify consumer choice and strengthen the power supply.

The reform is already attracting new investments, opening new opportunities for electricity trade, and capitalising on Armenia's energy potential.

The new market has been implemented in five phases: reforming the primary legislation (2018), creating secondary legislation (2019–2020), educating and preparing stakeholders (2019–2021), transitioning to the new live market (2022), and developing the market (2023 and onward).

The new wholesale electricity market (WEM) was launched on February 1, 2022. In its first year, although participation was voluntary, 14.8 percent of Armenia's electricity was traded on the market, a significant proportion for a newly established market and nearly tripled the planned 5 percent.

In that first year, there were 70 new entrants into the electricity market, including suppliers, traders, qualified customers, and generators.

As of 31 December 2024, around 27.8 percent of electricity consumption is procured in competitive component of wholesale market.

The development of amendments to the Law on the “**Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC Law)**” was ongoing in 2024. The amendments aim at introducing additional guarantees for enhancing PSRC's independence and autonomy. It aims to ensure harmonisation with EU standards and to foster transparency, non-discrimination, and competition in the energy market.

MTAI and PSRC **continued legislative reforms** aimed at liberalising the electricity market. This includes development, adoption and continuous improvement of the wholesale and retail electricity markets' rules, as well as the distribution and transmission network codes.

Conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity

The provisions of the EC Regulation on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity⁹ are reflected in the **new draft Electricity Law** (see above).

This Regulation aims at setting fair rules for cross-border exchanges in electricity, thus enhancing competition within the internal market in electricity, taking into account the particular characteristics of national and regional markets and emergence of a well-functioning and transparent wholesale market with a high level of security of supply in electricity. It provides for mechanisms to harmonise the rules for cross-border exchanges in electricity.

⁸ Directive 2009/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 2003/54/EC

⁹ Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003

The main progress was achieved in the following:

- An amendment to the Energy Law (2014): to ensure the parallel operation of the energy systems of Armenia and Georgia, to regulate the transit transmissions of electricity and emergency mutual supplies of electricity.
- Adoption of a Decision No. 28-N on “Approving the order of import and export of electric energy in situations caused by an emergency or force majeure in the electric power system” and Decision No. 29-N “On approval of model forms of purchase and sale contracts of electric energy for import and export purposes in situations caused by emergency or force majeure in the electric power system (2015)
- Implementation of the Programme Caucasian Power Transmission Network - I (Armenia-Georgia Transmission Line – Substations). It envisages the construction of the Ddmashen substation, power transmission lines, and the transformer station of HVDC, as a result of which will be ensured cross-border energy communication with Georgia.
- An agreement “On the supply of electricity in emergency situations between Georgia and Armenia” (2022) was signed to ensure the regulation of the conditions of cross-border exchange of electricity with Georgia by the Armenian and Georgian relevant companies in the field of energy, which is a major achievement.
- An agreement “On the regulation of deviations in the framework of commercial electricity supplies between Armenia and Georgia is under development due to the transition process of the new model of liberalisation of the electricity market in Georgia.
- Currently, Armenia-Georgia electricity flows are carried out by commercial contracts, which are organised by the relevant Armenian Georgian companies (Armenian “Electric power system operator”, Georgian State Electrosystem), on the basis of the agreement on parallel operation of electric power systems. In the future, in the event of putting the 400 kV overhead line into operation in Armenia-Georgia, a new agreement on parallel work will be developed.
- An agreement on the principles of Armenia-Georgia electricity trade is under development (to be signed by 2027).
- The trading rules of electricity wholesale market of the Republic of Armenia have been developed, which cover a number of provisions (transparency, provision of information, confidentiality, etc.) provided by the regulation and subject to approximation. However, there are still a number of provisions that are subject to implementation within the framework of the approximation of the mentioned regulation, in particular, provisions related to congestion management in Armenia.



In addition, Armenia-Georgia electricity dialogue was strengthened by the Joint Working Group (JWG), through which the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) facilitated negotiations on agreements that are already significantly increasing trade between the two countries. The MTAI¹⁰ organised the first JWG meeting in 2018. It provided an opportunity for the decision makers and technical staff from both countries to renew technical discussions on key issues related to cross-border trade and market development. Following that first fruitful exchange, four more JWG meetings were organised. Four subsequent meetings were organised including discussions on possible JWG concept designs such as reserve sharing between Armenia and Georgia, the planned high-voltage direct-current back-to-back interconnection project between Georgia and Armenia, and the 110 kV cross-border transmission line.

Energy performance in buildings

It covers establishment of a comparative methodology framework for calculating cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements¹¹.

¹⁰ with the support from USAID Market Liberalisation and Electricity Trade (MLET) Programme

¹¹ Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings, Commission delegated Regulation (EU) No 244/2012 on the energy performance of buildings by establishing a comparative methodology framework for calculating cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements

Progress was achieved with:

- Gap analysis of energy sector directives and regulations outlined in the EU-Armenia CEPA were conducted in 2023 which identified potential incompatibilities and gaps within the legal and regulatory framework and provided a detailed action plan for implementation.
- Government Decision on Establishing technical regulations on energy saving and energy efficiency in new residential apartment buildings, as well as in facilities under construction (reconstructed) at the expense of state funds was adopted in 2018¹².
- Ensuring energy efficiency of buildings. Energy efficiency assessment indicators Order was adopted in 2022¹³.
- Decision on defining the list of mandatory requirements groups for energy characteristics of energy-consuming products purchased for the purpose of ensuring the needs of the state was adopted in 2021¹⁴.

Framework for setting of eco-design requirements for energy-related products

It covers the eco-design requirements set in the EU Directive 2009/125/EC¹⁵.

Progress was achieved with:

- Gap analysis of energy sector directors conducted in 2023 identified incompatibilities and gaps within the legal and regulatory framework and provided an action plan.

Energy Sector Reform Aligned with EU Third Energy Package

The PSRC, as the co-implementer of the commitments related to energy cooperation, is responsible for the approximation of its legislation to the respective EU acquis. The reforms envisaged are directed to the effective regulation of the sector, which will contribute to the development of the sector.

Armenia has undertaken commitments such as creating a competitive market, encouraging competition, ensuring non-discriminatory access to the market, improving regulatory tools along with the development of the competitive market. Implementation of the Directive 2009/72/EC Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 are part of the “Third Energy Package” that established significant steps toward completing the liberalizing and integrating of EU energy markets, including unbundling of generation and retail supply from network operators, strengthening the independence of regulators, harmonizing cross-border trade, and establishing procedures for open retail access.

The gap analysis in the electricity sector were conducted to identify the gaps that exist between the EU and Armenian legislation.

Nuclear Safety

Cooperation in the area of nuclear safety include provisions to ensure safety of the population and personnel of atomic energy facilities from the dangers of ionizing radiation. It includes implementation of a set of EU Directives on nuclear and radiation safety¹⁶.

¹² The RA Government's decision No. 426 of 12 April 2018

¹³ Order N 31-N of the RA Urban Development Committee of 22 December 2022 - RA Construction Norms 24-02-2022 “Ensuring energy efficiency of buildings. Energy efficiency assessment indicators” on approving the construction norms of the Republic of Armenia

¹⁴ Decision N 77-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 21 January 2021

¹⁵ Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy-related products

¹⁶ Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom of 20 November 2006 on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel.

Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009, establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations, with the amendments.

Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

It is envisaged to develop a new atomic law and to make amendments and supplements to relevant GoA decisions and adopting new decisions.

Significant steps were taken to advance nuclear and radiation safety in Armenia in line with EU standards. Notable developments include:

Notable developments include:



- Drafting of a New Atomic Law, with adoption planned for 2025, aiming to modernise and align national legislation with the EU acquis and international best practices.
- Preparation of amendments to the regulation on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel, scheduled for adoption in 2026.
- Implementation of a management system to ensure the application and oversight of safety standards for nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

These actions mark critical progress toward strengthening Armenia's nuclear safety framework and preparing for long-term technical assistance under the INTPA programme

An expert's assignment on nuclear and radiation safety legislation was launched in June 2024, aiming to review the draft of the Atomic law and zero drafts of regulations on radioactive waste management and radiation safety, ensuring alignment with relevant EU legislation under CEPA. The secondary goal was to establish or update a roadmap for approximation with the EU acquis, to be finalised before the subsequent INTPA project. With the involvement Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Centre, the EU expert clarified key approximation needs, particularly regarding Basic Safety Standards and Nuclear Safety Directives. Initial steps for the roadmap were agreed, and a draft Table of Concordance for five relevant EU directives was prepared. The assignment ran until November 2024, bridging with future actions in nuclear safety culture, radioactive waste management, nuclear safeguards, and related support measures.

The results of the above assignment were shared with the INTPA project **INSC/2024/436-156 "Nuclear Safety Regulatory Cooperation with the Armenian Regulator (ANRA) A3.01/20"**, implemented by **IDOM**. Launched in October 2024, this project focuses on developing a **gap analysis and action plan** to guide the approximation of Armenia's nuclear legislative and regulatory framework (draft Atomic Law, National Basic Safety Standards (BSS)) with relevant EU directives, including **EURATOM** provisions.

In 2024, the Government of Armenia and the European Commission signed a financing agreement worth EUR 12.9 million for the project **"Strengthening Nuclear Safety, Radiation Protection, and Radioactive Waste Management Infrastructure in Armenia"**. Under the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021–2027 of the EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), this action supports Armenia in enhancing nuclear safety, radiation protection, and radioactive waste management. Key priorities include fostering a strong nuclear safety culture, enforcing high safety standards, and ensuring responsible management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

The overall objective of the action is **to strengthen Armenia's infrastructure** for nuclear safety, radiation protection, and radioactive waste management.

Specific Objectives of the Action in Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection:

- Address outstanding actions in Armenia's national nuclear safety plan to improve the nuclear safety of

Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom of 22 October 2013 laying down requirements for the protection of health with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption.

Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down the basic safety standards for the protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation and Directives repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom.

the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant, building on lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident. This includes improving containment integrity and reducing the risk of hydrogen accumulation.

- Support the establishment of a national radiation laboratory, contingent upon timely identification or construction of a suitable facility.
- Further assist the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority, particularly in aligning with Euratom legislation and conducting the ANPP Periodic Safety Review.

Specific Objective of the Action in Radioactive Waste Management:

- Support the development of national capacity to independently produce storage containers for radioactive waste

Implementing Energy Security and Product Standards under CEPA

The Ministry of Economy has been in charge of implementing the activities deriving from the EU Directive 2009/119/EC on maintaining minimum stocks of crude oil and petroleum products. The respective requirements of the EU acquis are stipulated in the national legislation, namely, in the Law “On Material Reserve”, adopted on 4 March 2020 and effective from 30 March 2020¹⁷.

The Ministry also coordinates Roadmap measures related to tyre labelling and performance under Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009 and its amendments. These measures are also deemed completed, as the technical requirements are fully covered by UNECE Regulation No. 117 in TR CU 018/2011¹⁸.

Energy licensing

On January 19, 2023, the GoA adopted Decision No. 79-N, which establishes the procedure for granting permits for foreign legal entities to carry out activities subject to licensing in the field of urban development. It also includes the procedure for granting permits for carrying out activities subject to licensing in the urban development sector within the energy field¹⁹.



¹⁷ <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=140391>

¹⁸ Technical Regulation CU TR 018/2011 on the safety of wheeled vehicles

¹⁹ As prescribed by the Law on Licensing, there are no specific requirements regarding the place of activity for legal entities from the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, the European Union, as well as the United States of America, Canada, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, Georgia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.)



ENVIRONMENT



CLEAN AIR,

CLEAN WATER

AND PROTECTED

NATURE



Scope

Cooperation in the field of environment (Chapter 3 of CEPA Agreement) covers cooperation on environmental issues and contributes to the long-term objective of sustainable development and greening of the economy. Cooperation aims at preserving, protecting, improving and rehabilitating the quality of the environment, protecting human health, utilising natural resources in a sustainable manner and promotes measures at international level to address regional or global environmental problems in several areas i.e. environmental governance and horizontal issues, air quality, water quality and resource management, waste management,



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Environment
The Ministry of Territorial
Administration and Infrastructure
The Water Committee (MTAI)
The Ministry of Internal Affairs
The Ministry of Economy
The Ministry of Health**

nature protection, industrial pollution and chemicals management. The cooperation also includes development of a general national environmental strategy as well as sector-specific strategies as well as maintaining a regular dialogue.

Benefits for the society

Enhanced environmental protection will bring benefits to citizens and businesses including through improved public health, preserved natural resources and increased economic and environmental efficiency as well as through the use of modern, cleaner technologies contributing to more sustainable production patterns.

The EU is helping Armenia protect its nature and improve people's health. Through CEPA, Armenia is taking important steps to create a cleaner and healthier environment by reducing waste and harmful materials, ensuring fresh air and safe drinking water for all communities. At the same time, Armenia is working to protect its forests, landscapes and wildlife, to preserve the country's natural beauty for future generations. The EU also supports green growth by promoting clean energy, eco-friendly farming and businesses to protect the environment. These efforts help create jobs and strengthen the economy, making life better for citizens of Armenia.

By using these modern solutions, Armenia is building a stronger economy and a healthier environment, ensuring a better quality of life for people today and for future generations.

The main benefits include:

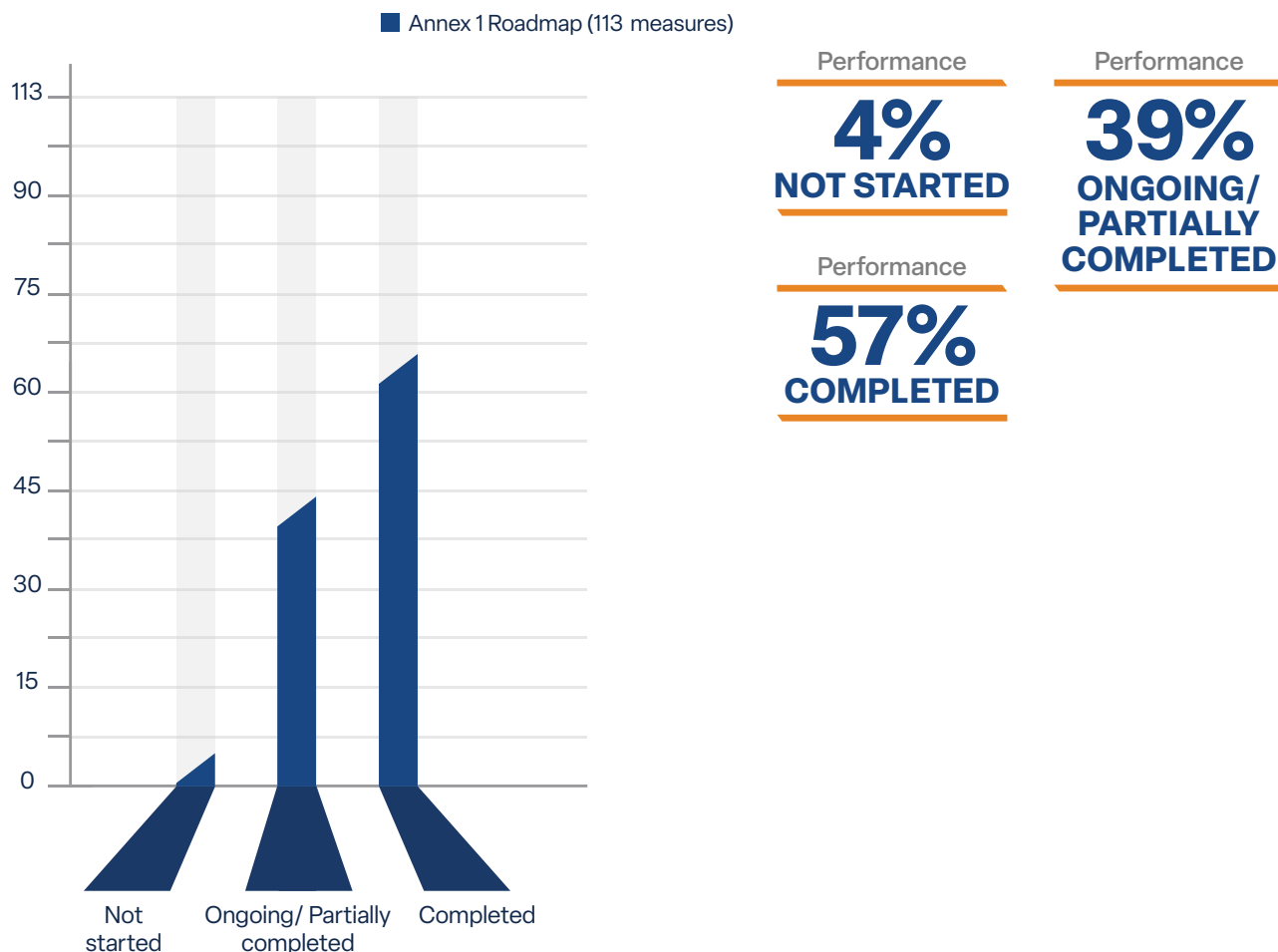
- The environmental reforms, implemented during 2024 with the support of the European Union, are part of Armenia's continued efforts to fulfill its commitments under the CEPA. They aim to improve public health, protect natural resources, and align Armenia's environmental standards with those of the EU. By enhancing accountability, transparency, and sustainability, the reforms contribute to long-term environmental protection and the well-being of society.
- In 2024, Armenia approved updated procedures and guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA). These reforms ensure that all major projects are properly evaluated for their environmental risks before implementation, improving transparency and environmental protection. The processes now follow the requirements of the new EIA law and its supporting regulations.
- Armenia updated its air protection law to align with international standards by promoting the use of the best available technologies to reduce emissions. New government decisions have been adopted to improve how emissions are recorded, analysed, and regulated, ensuring stricter control over pollution from businesses and industries.
- As part of efforts to reduce harmful fluorinated greenhouse gases (HFCs), Armenia approved a labelling system and related measures to support the phased reduction of these substances, reinforcing climate protection commitments.

- New rules were adopted to assess groundwater quality, map flood risks, and identify areas vulnerable to agricultural pollution from nitrates.
- Updates were made to hunting laws and a list of invasive animal species was approved to better protect native wildlife and ecosystems.
- The “Register of monitoring results of leakages in the field of use of regulated substances” section of the Digital Services Platform of the Nature Protection Sector (<https://nature.e-gov.am/>) has been developed and is currently under testing.
- The government set official quality standards to assess the condition of groundwater sources. Additionally, new decisions were made to create flood hazard and risk maps to improve disaster preparedness and water resource management.
- New indicators were approved to identify areas vulnerable to nitrate pollution from agricultural activities. These indicators are based on careful analysis of water monitoring data, helping to target and reduce nitrate contamination in water resources.
- The hunting laws were updated to clarify permitted weapons, improving regulation and safety. Additionally, a list of invasive alien animal species was approved to help protect native wildlife, with further legal improvements planned for better protection of endangered species.
- Assessing the status of surface and groundwater bodies will benefit citizens and businesses in terms of making decisions based on reliable data, effective governance, improving public health, conserving natural resources, and increasing economic and environmental efficiency, as well as ensuring access to safe drinking water for the public and a clean environment.
- Identifying areas vulnerable to nitrates in water resources and implementing appropriate measures will contribute to improving public health, conserving natural resources and increasing economic and environmental efficiency, as well as ensuring access to safe drinking water and a clean environment for the public.
- During the development or revision of river basin management plans, flood hazard and flood risk maps will be developed, which will serve as the basis for the development of water hazard and risk management plans. This will allow assessing the degree of risk exposure, vulnerability and capacities of the population and economy to hazards and will become an important tool for building capacities to withstand disasters and climate change.
- The adoption of the Technical Regulation on Synthetic-Based Varnishes and Paints introduced mandatory requirements for products used in the interior and exterior decoration of buildings and structures, vehicle coatings (excluding sprays) and furniture. This decision enabled the assessment of the harmfulness of varnishes and paints, recognising that these substances pose fire and explosion hazards. Based on their effects on human health, varnishes and paints are categorised into four hazard classes - 1st through 4th - in accordance with the relevant standards. This classification system helps to prevent or minimise air pollution and contributes to the protection of both the environment and public health.

Progress on implementation:

AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1 MEASURES 89–119 (INCLUDING SUB-MEASURES)

- IN TOTAL, IT COMPRISES 126 MEASURES, OF WHICH 113 HAVE DEADLINES UP TO 2024.

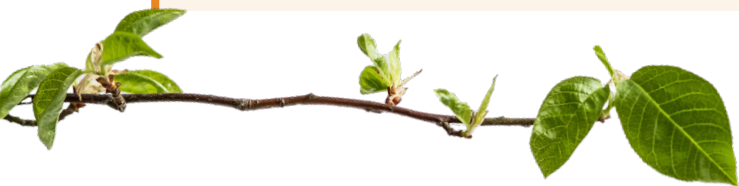


Environmental governance and horizontal issues

Relevant EU Directives

- **Directive 2011/92/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the **assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment**, as amended,
- **Directive 2001/42/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the **assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment**,
- **Directive 2003/4/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 **on public access to environmental information** and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC,
- **Directive 2003/35/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing **for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment** and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC,

- **Directive 2004/35/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 **on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage**, as amended



EIA Directive implementation

In 2020-2022, the Ministry of Environment initiated the development of a new EIA law based on the requirements of the relevant EU directives, as well as the obligations set out in the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions. **The new EIA Law**¹ was adopted in May 2023 and entered into force in June 2023. It should be noted that the process of drafting and circulation of the new law was carried out with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, state administration bodies, businesses, and the private sector, and coupled with many public discussions.

Based on the new EIA law the following sub-legal acts were adopted in 2024:

- Decision “On approving the procedure for environmental impact assessment” N 1143², by which the actions related to the study processes of the possible impact of the planned activity on the environment as a result of the activity planned by the initiator have been fixed (July 2024, adopted by the Government)
- N 438-N Order of the Minister of Environment of 24 October 2024 “On approval of guidelines for strategic ecological assessment and environmental impact assessment”³

EIA and examination processes are currently being carried out based on the requirements of the new EIA law and its implementing by-laws.

In addition, regulations are included in the new EIA Law and in the Government Decision “On Amendments to the Decision N1325-N⁴ of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 19 November 2014” /28.12.2023 N2343-N⁵ / regarding the content of public awareness and notification of public hearings, the procedure of public hearings, submission of opinions, comments and suggestions of the interested public in the process of environmental impact assessment and expertise.

Based on the requirements of the new EIA law, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the impact of certain projects and programmes on the environment, and the requirements of the SEA protocol, the Ministry of Environment has developed, and the Government adopted the decision “On approval of the requirements submitted to the strategic ecological assessment procedure and SEA report” (N 2294-Ն, 21.12.2023)⁶.

SEA and examination processes are currently being carried out based on the requirements of the new EIA law and its implementing by-laws.

Public access to environmental information

The processes of access to information (including environmental information) are regulated by the Law on Freedom of Information. The law regulates the safe access and publicity of information, the limitations of the freedom of information, and the conditions for providing information.

The official website of the Ministry of Environment of Armenia provides the posting and update of information related to the quality of the Environment, including water, air, and soil monitoring data, EIA and SEA reports, national reports, international cooperation, licenses, and permits, forest management, SPA, and others. The management of the website



1 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=178443>

2 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=195601>

3 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=195601>

4 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=178443>

5 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=188064>

6 <https://www.e-draft.am/projects/6339https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=187701>



regulates in accordance with Order of the Minister “On approving the procedure for updating and posting information on the official website of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia” N338-A.

The e-draft.am website is operating, which is intended for the publication of drafts of legal acts. It enables everyone to get acquainted with the drafts of legal acts submitted by state bodies, download the drafts, and register users (as individuals or legal entities) to vote for or against and submit recommendations. The website www.arlis.am is operating, which is accessible and widely used by lawyers, courts, and the public. The site has a large database of legal acts/international treaties, codes, laws, decisions, orders, etc. The unified electronic request platform www.e-request.am has been available since 2018, enabling organisations and citizens to send an electronic request to all state bodies. Regulations related to public participation are also laid down in a number of environmental legal acts, including the Water Code, the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise and others.

Public participation and access to justice

Necessary revisions on public participation and access to justice are covered by the new EIA Law and by sub-legal acts: Decision “On Amendments to the Decision N1325-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of November 19, 2014” /28.12.2023 N2343-N/ related to the content of public awareness and notification of public hearings, the procedure of public hearings, submission of opinions, comments and suggestions of the interested public in the process of environmental impact assessment and expertise.

Environmental liability

The approximation is planned for 2019–2026 and the Ministry of Environment is in the process of developing a comprehensive legislative package. In 2023, the analysis of the legal framework of the environmental liability system were conducted and are used as the basis for developing a relevant legal act and amending existing legislation.

Air quality

Relevant EU Directives

- Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe,
- Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air,
- Council Directive 1999/32/EC of 26 April 1999 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels and amending Directive 93/12/EEC, as amended,
- Directive 2004/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC.

The corresponding provisions of EU *acquis*⁷ have been incorporated into the national technical regulations for synthetic-based varnishes and paints. As a result of the extensive changes introduced, it became necessary to circulate the draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia titled “On Approving the Technical Regulations for Synthetic-Based Varnishes and Paints and Repealing Decision No. 1647-N of 18 November 2004” (01/1352-2023). This draft was subsequently adopted by Government Decision No. 916-N on 6 June 2023⁸.



⁷ EU Directive 2004/42

⁸ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=178841>

The Law “On Amending the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Atmospheric Air Protection”⁹ was adopted by the National Assembly in December 2022. The legislative regulation harmonises the standards of air quality assessment in order to limit emissions and the demand for the implementation of the “best available technologies” widely used in developed countries. It will make the management of atmospheric air protection more effective and will contribute to the proper fulfilment of the obligations stipulated by international agreements. The Ministry is in the process of developing sub-legal acts.

The following Government Decisions have been already adopted:

- “On approving the procedure for summarizing, analysing and archiving information on the state accounting and recording of emissions of atmospheric air polluting (harmful) substances” (04.01.2024 N23-H),
- “On the approval of the order on the development of the drafts of the norms of limit permissible emissions of atmospheric air polluting (harmful) substances and the issuance or rejection or revocation of emission permits of legal entities and natural persons engaged in entrepreneurial activity who have submitted the draft norms of limit allowable emissions” (04.01.2024 N32-H),

The guidelines for the development **of Air Quality Plans** (for zones and agglomerations where pollutant levels exceed the limit/target value) will be developed. The adoption of the above-mentioned legal acts will ensure the full implementation of the points.

Reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels

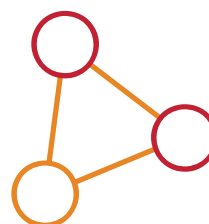
It is regulated by the decision of the Customs Union Commission N 826 of 18 October 2011 “On the adoption of the technical regulation of the Customs Union on the requirements for automotive and aviation gasoline, diesel and fuel for ships, fuel for jet engines and fuel oil”, in particular the Eurasian Economic Union by technical regulation TP TC 013/2011.

Requirements ensuring labelling of products

The relevant provisions of Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 of Directive 2004/42/EC have been included in the **national technical regulation for synthetic-based varnishes and paints**. The draft resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the technical regulation for synthetic-based varnishes and paints and repealing the resolution of the Republic of Armenia N 1647-N of 18 November 2004” was circulated and was adopted by the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 916-N of 6 June 2023.

Ozone

A programme application for the 3rd stage of measures to replace substances that destroy the ozone layer - hydrochlorofluorocarbons - was approved. In August 2023, the Ministry of Environment, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Programme (UNIDO), developed the draft programme application for the phased reduction of HFCs (fluorinated greenhouse gases) and submitted it to the Multilateral for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The application was approved in May 2024. The start of the planned activities was given in November 2024. (Actions 124, 126, 127).



As part of the EU4Climate programme implemented by UNDP, a package of legislative and regulatory acts was developed.

Changes to the **Law on the Protection of the Ozone Layer N HO-218-N** were made in December 2023 by the Law on Introducing Changes N HO-398-N to include the obligations for undertakings to implement leakage checks which will allow to obtain emission data from the relevant sectors. To ensure the implementation of the mandatory obligations of leakage checks, a Government Decree on Establishing the Procedure of Leakage Checks and the Form of the Log-books is planned to be adopted.

The creation of the labelling system and the programme of measures aimed at it were part of the programme for the phased reduction of HFCs (fluorinated greenhouse gases), which was approved at the 94th session of the Executive Committee held in May 2024.

⁹ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=172401>

The “**Register of monitoring results of leakages in the field of use of regulated substances**” section of the Digital Services Platform of the Nature Protection Sector (<https://nature.e-gov.am/>) has been developed and is currently under testing. (Action 128, 129)

Water quality and resource management

Relevant EU Directives

- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy
- Directive 91/676/EEC on the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources
- Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks
- Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption

Water framework Directive

For the purpose of approximating the water framework directive, the amendments were made to the national water legislation, in particular by Amendments to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia in 2022¹⁰.

Order No. 26 of the Minister of Environment dated 27 January 2023 “On approval of the content of **the basin management plan**” was adopted, by which the characteristics of the basin management area were also approved.

The analysis of the characteristics of river basin areas is carried out within the framework of basin management plans. The **basin management plans of Sevan and Hrazdan** were approved by the Government’s decisions N 1912-H and N1909-H of 8 December 2022¹¹.

As the first stage of basin planning process, three basin management plans for Araratyan, Akhuryan and Southern Basin Management Areas were adopted in 2016 and 2017 with validity period till 2021 and 2022. Both are undergoing the second stage of development with validity period 2025-2030. The draft plan for the Northern Basin Management Area for 2025-2030 is under development.

In accordance with the principles of the Water Framework Directive, the content of the water basin management plan was revised and approved by the order of the Minister of Environment in 2023¹².

The development of **surface water and groundwater resource monitoring new programmes** in accordance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive takes place within the framework of the development of water basin management plans, which are approved by decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

However, taking into account that the development of the surface water and groundwater monitoring system **requires a phased approach** to implementing the provisions of EU Directives, the current surface water and groundwater monitoring system and existing challenges of Armenia are currently being analysed within the framework of a project “Improved Water Management Programme”¹³.

In June 2023, the Government adopted Resolution No. 1056-Ն “On Amendments and Supplements to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 27 January 2011 No. 75-Ն”, according to which starting in 2025, groundwater quality assessment will be carried out according to hydromorphological, hydrochemical

10 07.07.2022, ՀՕ-316-Ն, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=166206>

11 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=171479> ; <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=171449>

12 No. 26-H of January 27, 2023

13 Implemented by Deloitte Consulting with USAID funding

and biological elements and water bodies.

Government approved the decision “**On determining the quality standards of groundwater bodies**” in 2024¹⁴ on the basis of which the condition of groundwater bodies will be assessed.

The Order of the Minister of Environment approved the “Indicators for detection of areas vulnerable to nitrates of water resources and measures aimed at reducing and preventing pollution of water resources with nitrates as a result of agricultural activities”¹⁵.



Flood risk

The Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the decision N1717-L on 5 October 2023 “**Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2023-2030 and Disaster Risk Management Strategy Action Plan for 2023-2026**” (hereinafter **Strategy**). Among other aspects, the Strategy also establishes guidelines for the development and implementation of flood and mudslide management plans. The Strategy defines local level risk management and disaster risk management plans, which include flood and mudslide risk management component.

Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy’s provisions, along with continuous review of international best practices is in place in order to develop a separate comprehensive flood risk management plan. The Order of the Minister of Emergency situation of the Republic of Armenia, N 957-L of 26 August 2022 provides instructions for developing local disaster risk management plans (including flood risk management).

Preliminary flood risk assessments have been carried out within the basin management plans and flood risk areas have been identified. Flood hazard maps and risk maps have been prepared. Flood risk management plans are being implemented. Flood hazard and flood risk maps have been developed with watershed management plans (Governmental Decision “**On flood hazards and flood risks maps**”¹⁶).

Urban Wastewater Treatment

Legislative changes are planned regarding the **municipal wastewater treatment process**. In order to implement the measures defined by points 101.1 and 101.4 (Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive) a legislative amendment is under preparation.

According to the Lease contract the six wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs): Aeratsia, Gavar, Martuni, Vardenis, Jermuk and Dilijan are operated by Veolia Jur CJSC company and are treated mechanically.

Determining agglomerations is carried out within the framework of water basin management plans.

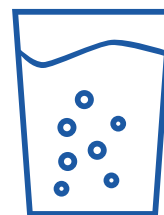
There are preliminary discussions and studies under preparation in the framework of an investment programme in relation to modernisation of the wastewater treatment plants.

Quality of Drinking Water

To implement measures related to drinking water quality, amendments are required in the Lease Contract with Veolia Djur CJSC, the License provisions issued by the PSRC, the water supply and wastewater treatment rules, the RA Law on Local Self-Government, and other related legislation.

The Water Committee and the Ministry of Environment are co-performers for the implementation of drinking water quality measures.

Currently, the implementation of the roadmap measures implying approximation to the EU Drinking Water Quality Directive has started in Veolia Djur-served areas and is under discussion. For off-grid settlements, further inter-agency/community consultations and legal revisions are required.



¹⁴ 2024, November 15, N 1782-N, <https://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=127503>

¹⁵ 18.06.2024 N219-N)

¹⁶ <https://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=126453>, 2024, July 25, N 1158-N

The following steps are necessary to implement the further processes presented in the Roadmap for Drinking Water Quality: monitoring of water sources by the authorised body, risk assessment and management, as well as internal distribution system risk assessment by the water supply operators. Full implementation of the monitoring system requires legal updates by co-executive bodies and technical upgrades of laboratories

Protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources

The Order of the Minister of Environment approved the “**Indicators for detection of areas vulnerable to nitrates of water resources**” and measures aimed at reducing and preventing pollution of water resources with nitrates as a result of agricultural activities in 2024¹⁷. According to the Order which nitrate-vulnerable areas are determined on the basis of statistical analysis of available observational data of water resources monitoring observation points.

The reliability of the results is ensured by the analysis of observational data collected during at least 10 years. Based on the results, nitrate-vulnerable areas are defined for each river basin, which are included in basin management plans. The review of nitrate-vulnerable areas is carried out every six years during the review of watershed management plans, based on the data of monitoring observations accumulated in the last 5 years and statistical analysis.



Sources of pollution caused by nitrates emitted from agricultural sources are assessed in the basin plans of Sevan (Government Decision No. 1912-N of December 8, 2022) and Hrazdan (Government Decision No. 1909-N of December 8, 2022). The mentioned evaluation will be carried out also within the framework of the development of new Ararat, Northern and Southern basin management plans. The detection of nitrates in surface and groundwater and the identification and quantification of nitrate-contaminated water resources or parts thereof are part of the state monitoring programme, and these activities are ongoing.

Waste management

Relevant EU Directives

- Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives,
- Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, as amended,
- Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC, developed by Decisions 2009/335/EC, 2009/337/EC, 2009/359/EC and 2009/360/EC.

Based on the 5R classification of waste, **the strategy of the Waste collection system and the programme of measures for 2021-2023** ensuring the implementation of the strategy were approved in 2021¹⁸.

In April 2023, the Law No. HO-137-N “**On Making Amendments and Additions to the RA Law “On Waste Collection and Sanitary Cleaning”**” was adopted. The Law established the following main principles for waste management:

- reducing the amount of waste generation,
- the application of waste sorting, reuse, recycling and recovery operations and the reduction of the volume of waste disposed in the landfills
- promotion of circular economy,
- development of waste sorting system,
- maximum recycle/recovery of generated waste,
- application of low-waste and zero-waste measures and technologies, as well as related functions.

¹⁷ 18.06.2024 N219-N

¹⁸ RA Government Decision No. 464-L of April 1, 2021

The Law defines mandatory requirement for development local waste collection and waste management plans.

According to the Law, the development and approval of local waste plans came into force from 2024, and it became a mandatory part of the 5-year municipal development strategies and annual work plans.

The Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure on Methodological guide for preparing local plans on waste management and sanitary cleaning was adopted in 25.01.2025, N07-L, https://api.mtad.am//storage/pages/files/2025/02/pdf/19_11-22-sc1074-67b586a313284.pdf

In order to introduce an integrated waste collection system in accordance with EU standards for 157 settlements of Kotayk and Gegharkunik regions waste collection schemes have been developed, taking into account the amount of waste generated in settlements, distances between transfer stations and communities, time, vehicle loading volumes, etc.

In 2024 the **draft law of the Republic of Armenia “On Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Waste** was developed, distributed in accordance with the established procedure and is currently in its final stages (prepared for presentation to the Prime Minister’s staff) “, by which it is planned to make reforms in the field of waste management (CEPA roadmap action N104 and action N105).

Within the framework of the 4-year programme “Waste Management Policy in Armenia”, financed by SIDA, the Document **“Approaches to the Implementation of the EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) System in Armenia”** was developed. The document presents international experience in implementing EPR, legal framework, financial, economic approaches, criteria for selecting waste groups, EPR implementation models, key actors and processes. Currently, work is underway to develop a **package of draft legislative acts necessary for implementation EPR** in Armenia. Also recently launched the pilot project in Hrazdan city for application of EPR for packaging waste.

The Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure on Minimum Conditions for the Activities of Organisations Engaged in Waste Collection and Transportation N 518-A was adopted on 21 March 2024, and amended legal provisions on establishment of a permitting system¹⁹.

The orders of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure on “Procedure for Collection, Transportation, storage and disposal of Large-sized waste” N 363-A, “Procedure for Collection, Transportation, storage and disposal of biodegradable waste”, N37-L as well as “Procedure for Collection, Transportation, storage and disposal of construction waste” , N 24-L, were adopted on 29.02.2024, 23.05.2024 and 22.03.2022 respectively.



¹⁹ https://api.mtad.am//storage/pages/files/2025/02/pdf/19_11-08-sc1074-67b58358c8f4a.pdf

Landfill Directive

The construction of the first sanitary landfill in Armenia has been completed in the Hrazdan community. There is an ongoing work on introducing of an integrated waste management system in 8 regions of Armenia including the construction of 4 regional sanitary landfills.

Based on the 5R classification of waste, the strategy of the Waste collection system and the programme of measures for 2021-2023, define the mechanisms for reducing the amount of biodegradable waste. In line with that, in the Law “On Making Amendments and Additions to the RA Law “On Waste Collection and Sanitary Cleaning”” includes the provision regarding the requirement to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste disposed in the landfills was established.

In addition, “The rules on collection, transportation, storage and disposal of biodegradable waste” was developed and approved by the order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure No. 37-L, on 23 May 2024.

Provisions regarding the acceptance and registration of waste have been defined in “The minimum norms for the operation, improvement and closure of existing and operating landfills in the territory of the Republic of Armenia” approved by the RA Government Decision No. 27-N, on 4 January 2024 and “The procedure of the design, construction and operation of landfills” was approved by the order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure No. 07-N, on 8 May 2024.

“The methodology of waste collection fee calculation” was developed by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure. It is expected to develop the cost mechanism of landfill operation during the operation of the first sanitary landfill in the country in line with EU standards built in Hrazdan community of Kotayk region.

Waste from extractive industries

Waste from extractive industries are regulated by Chapter 5.1 of the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia and a number of by-laws arising from it and by the following acts regulating the area²⁰:

A comprehensive comparison of the mentioned legal acts with the relevant articles of Directive 2006/21/EC showed that the subsector is fully regulated by the mentioned legal acts, while ensuring the approximation and conformity of the standards laid down in the directive with the national legislation.

Nature protection

Relevant EU Directives

- Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds,
- Council Directive 92/43/EC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as amended,

Armenian legislation does not have a separate law dedicated to bird conservation. Most of the provisions of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds are regulated **by the Law on Fauna**, as well as the **Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas and the Law on Hunting and Hunting Grounds**.

²⁰ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=178678#>

Government Decision N984-N, 10 August, 2017, Government Decision N985-N, 10 August, 2017, Government Decision N661-N, 15 June, 2017, Government Decision N429-N, 27 April, 2017, Government Decision N675-N, 15 June, 2017, Government Decision N674-N, 15 June, 2017, Government Decision N689-N, 15 June, 2017, Government Decision N906-N, 27 July, 2017, Government Decision N676-N, 15 June, 2017, Government Decision N661-N, 15 August, 2017, Government Decision N319-N, 4 April, 2013, Government Decree of the RA N22-N, 10 January, 2013, Government Decree of the RA N319-N, 4 April, 2013.



Amendments introduced by **HO-42-N** on 16 January 2024, to the Law on Hunting and Hunting Grounds have clarified the types of weapons permitted for hunting. However, the legislation needs further development to ensure compliance, especially in highly specialised areas, such as those related to certain protected species of animals, which is planned for 2025.

“10-year biodiversity monitoring plan” has been developed and is currently under review with relevant stakeholders.

To address gaps and enhance the efficiency of specially protected nature areas management drafts of amendments to the following laws have been developed and are currently under circulation: the Law “On Specially Protected Nature Areas,” the Law “On Local Self-Government,” the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, and the Law “On Environmental Oversight.”

The proposed legislative reforms aim to introduce a flexible mechanism for the management of specially protected nature areas, establish the fifth category of specially protected nature areas (protected landscape) as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and align the legislation with international standards. The reforms also envisage the involvement of local self-government bodies in the management process of specially protected nature areas, the introduction of fees for their use, clarification of several existing terms, and the adoption of new definitions.

In April 2024, the Order of the Minister of Environment No. 110-N “On Approving the List of Invasive Alien Animal Species was adopted.

Monitoring of migratory species and conservation measures

Monitoring of migratory species is regularly carried out twice a year, in autumn and spring. The assessment of the environmental status of those species is in progress. In particular, the status of the following species was evaluated: White-tailed heron *Vanellusleucurus*, common kiwi *Vanellusvanellus*, red-headed plover *Aythyaferina* (about which three scientific articles were published). During 2022, the environmental status of three more species was assessed. These include *Marmaronettaangustirostris* - article accepted for publication, White-eyed plover (*Aythyanyroca*) - article in preparation, and white-headed duck (*Oxyuraleucocephala*) - article in preparation.

Data analysis is underway for the next group of species, and the environmental statuses of a further 3 species have been assessed (also to be published as scientific papers). They are the viper (*Neophronpercnopterus*), the grebe (*Accipiter gentilis*), and the sea harrier (*Charadriusalexandrinus*).

The environmental status assessment for the Mediterranean plover (*Poecilelugubris*) has been completed, a scientific paper has been prepared and submitted to an international journal.

With the support of the Caucasus Nature Foundation (CNF), since 2019, within the framework of the pilot project, in the Ararat valley, a pilot programme of raising the water level in the area of 1.5 ha has been implemented by creating ponds. Currently, there are 3 ponds next to the canal bordering the reserve.

Based on the recorded results, a new programme was launched in the spring of 2024 in the “Khor Virap” reserve with the support of CNF, within the framework of which the restoration of new 1.61 ha of wetlands has already been carried out (according to the plan, the restoration of the ecosystem is planned for almost the entire territory of the reserve, about 51 ha).

Research on the restoration of wetland birds has been carried out in those areas (a scientific article is being published in the journal *Wet land management*). The bird species monitoring that has already been carried out has shown that nesting bird species have increased from 38 to 55, and migratory species have increased from 31 to 61. It is planned to create another pond with an area of 0.9 ha in 2025.



Emerald candidate areas are currently under review. The Promotion of the creation of the Emerald network and management of the Emerald territories” component is under implementation in the frame of EU4 Environment programme. The national action plan aimed at the establishment of the Emerald network in Armenia (2023-2030) was developed. The Ministry of Environment presented a number of proposals for the amendment of the programme, including the definition of provisions on financial evaluation and financing mechanisms.

Industrial pollution

Relevant EU Directives

- Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 concerning industrial emissions.
- Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of majors-accident hazards involving dangerous substances



Industrial emissions

Industrial emissions are regulated by the by the Law “On Amending the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Atmospheric Air Protection” which was adopted by the National Assembly on 12 December 2022²¹.

It is necessary to develop the **legal act on Industrial Emissions**, which will be the basis for the creation of a combined system of permits as well as to provide the basis for the creation of an appropriate monitoring system, provide basis for setting emission limit values for combustion plants and development and implementation of an action plan to reduce total annual emissions from existing plants.

Legal provisions on the Best Available Techniques will be regulated by Government’s decision “On approving the economic objects currently under development, the schedule of their implementation of the “best available technologies”, as well as the technical standards for emissions of polluting (harmful) substances calculated on the basis of these technologies”. They are currently in the process of development.

Control of majors-accident hazards involving dangerous substance

Draft law “On Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection” has been developed and is under consultation processes. The adopted of the Law will be followed by adoption of approximately 45 sub-legislative amendments of legal acts.

Pursuant to Article 25(1)(a) of the Law «**On Environmental Supervision**» (**hereinafter, in this chapter, referred to as the Law**), emergency and accidental situations that pose a threat to the environment are also considered special cases for inspection of compliance with the requirements of environmental legislation. In special cases, in accordance with Article 25(4) of the Law, inspections may last no longer than fifteen calendar days, and in emergency and urgent situations, inspections may continue until the accident or danger has been eliminated.

²¹ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=172401>

Environmental Supervision in Armenia

According to Part 1 of Article 23 of the Law, environmental supervision is carried out by inspecting, observing and studying.

According to the Law, environmental supervision is a function performed by an inspection body (inspector) which, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Armenia and in the manner prescribed by this Law, exercises supervision in the field of nature protection aimed at the protection of the environment: atmosphere, waters, land, fauna and flora, including forests and specially protected natural territories, as well as subsoil of common use (trees, shrubs, parks and other green areas), their restoration, environmental impact in rational (efficient) use of natural resources, as well as their restoration, as well as for ensuring the safety of life, safe handling of hazardous materials and wastes, radioactive contamination, accounting of the payers of environmental taxes and/or nature use fees (except for subsoil users), calculation of databases for the objects of environmental taxes and/or nature use fees, submission of administrative statistical reports and fulfilment of other norms established by the legislation. According to the RA legislation, the authority to exercise control in the field of nature protection is assigned to the Inspectorate for Nature and Subsoil Protection.

Effective coordination mechanism between competent authorities has been established by the decision of the Prime Minister N934-A of 16 July 2019. An operational working group has been established in order to coordinate mechanisms between the relevant authorities.

In the system of protection of the population in emergency situations, effective mechanisms of coordination between state, territorial and local self-government bodies and organisations in the event of major accidents caused by the presence of hazardous substances have been introduced, the basis of which is the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 8 July 2010 No. 861, 2010 “On Approval of the Plan for Protection of the Population in Case of Accidents or Chemical Hazards at Chemical Facilities of the Republic of Armenia and Emergency Restoration Works in Case of Accidents at Chemically Hazardous Facilities” and Decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 1064-N dated 29 July 2004 “On Establishing the Procedure for Establishing and Ensuring the Functioning of the System of Continuous Monitoring of the Radiological, Chemical and Microbiological Situation”. The Government Decree No. 861-N, dated 8 July 2010, establishes the procedure for the protection of the population, rescue and emergency operations from the harmful effects of accidental release of hazardous chemical substances in the event of an accident at chemical facilities.

Potentially Hazardous Substance

Potentially Hazardous Substance - a substance which, due to its physical, chemical, biological or toxicological properties, poses a threat to the life and health of humans, animals, plants, the environment and buildings.

In the event of an accident at a chemical facility, decisions on measures to protect the population are made by the Emergency Commission, which includes the heads of the state administration system, territorial authorities, local self-government bodies and organisations or their deputies.

In case of major accidents caused by the presence of hazardous substances, the coordination of measures for the protection of the population is entrusted to the authorised body in the field of protection of the population in emergency situations (MIA).

The functions of the organs of state administration system, territorial administration organs, local self-government organs and organisations are defined by the Decree of the Government dated 8 July 2010, No. 861-N. Operational groups of ministries (agencies) involved in reducing and eliminating the consequences of major accidents caused by hazardous substances operate within the framework of the Commission for Emergency Situations, ensuring a quick and effective response.

Chemicals management

Relevant EU Directives

- Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals,
- Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

In 2018, the concept of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Chemical Substances” was approved by the Government’s decision N 1265-L. It is planned to implement the approximation of the EU Regulation 649/2012 on **the export and import of hazardous chemical substances** within the framework of the development of the **Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Chemical Substances”**.





CLIMATE ACTION



COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

FOR HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES



Scope

Cooperation in the area of climate action focuses on combating climate change promoting measures at domestic, regional and international level including : the mitigation of climate change, adaptation to climate change, market and non-market mechanisms for addressing climate change, research into and the development, demonstration, deployment, transfer and diffusion of new, innovative, safe and sustainable low-carbon and adaptation technologies, the mainstreaming of climate considerations into general and sector specific polities as well as awareness raising, education and training (Article 52).

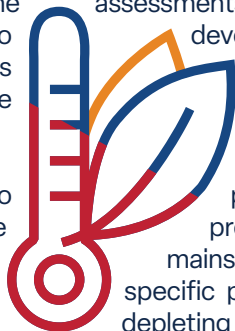
The cooperation aims to cover measures to implement the Paris Agreement in accordance with principles set out in this Agreement,

measures to enhance the capacity to take effective climate action, the development of an

overall climate strategy and action plan for the long-term mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, the development of vulnerability and adaptation assessments and the development of a low-carbon development plan. In addition, it include the development and implementation of long-term measures to mitigate climate change by addressing emissions of greenhouse gases, measures to prepare for carbon trading and to promote technology transfer, measures to mainstream climate considerations into sector-specific policies and measures related to ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated gases.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Environment



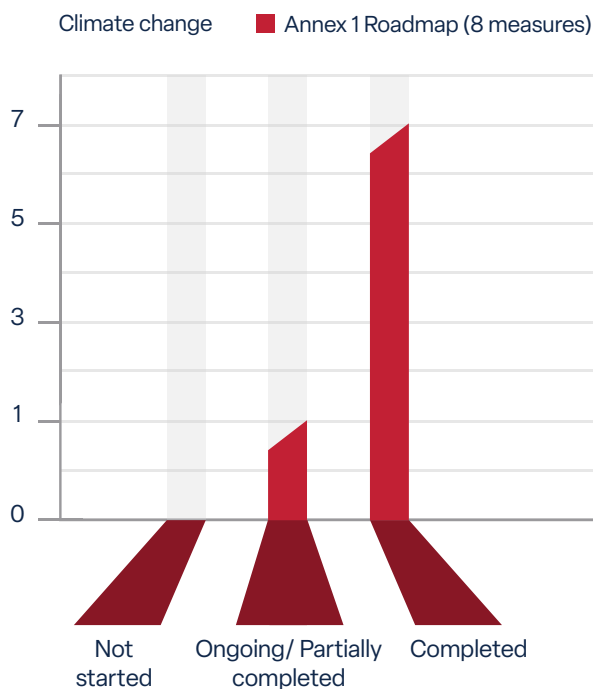
Benefits for the society

- The implementation of the CEPA in Climate Action is intended to regulate the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, establishing institutional coordination of these processes, and the legal relations between the state, communities, legal entities and individuals in these processes. At the same time, it sets up appropriate approaches and models for designing the accountability/ reporting and transparency frameworks regarding the processes in place at the national level aimed at achieving climate change resilience, which will provide the availability of information and data to support the climate agenda at the national level as well as serve the basis for accountability within the framework of international commitments.
- The long-term strategy adopted by the Government aims to ensure a long-term agenda for the realisation of climate commitments, provide early and predictable signals for investors and economy sectors in planning long-term activities, harmonisation of development goals with climate actions and systematic consideration of possibilities through the entire economy, development of economy policy in line with technological progression, transforming the challenges into possibilities.
- Besides reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, the implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact on the living conditions of local communities in terms of economic growth, social well-being, environmental protection and improved safety.
- The long-term strategy is tended to curtail the burden on the healthcare system, reducing the number of chronic diseases, as well as deaths from pollution of air, water sources and other causes.
- Timely access to financial resources and appropriate use of respective resources are key challenges to ensure the resilient functioning of established institutional framework and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Progress on implementation:

Area is covered by

- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1 MEASURES 120 – 131.**
- **8 MEASURES ARE WITH THE DEADLINES UNTIL 2024.**



Performance
0%
NOT STARTED

Performance
88%
COMPLETED

Performance
13%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**

The draft Law on Climate

The planned Law on Climate will regulate the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, institutional coordination of these processes, and the legal relations between the state, communities, legal entities and individuals in these processes.

At the same time, the draft law presents the approaches and model for designing the accountability/ reporting and transparency frameworks regarding the processes in place at the national level aimed at achieving climate change resilience, which will provide the availability of information and data to support the climate agenda at the national level as well as serve the basis for accountability within the framework of international commitments.

The draft law also addresses financing instruments and mechanisms for climate policy implementation, including the description of innovative instruments where implementation requires coordination of interagency efforts and/or balancing of interests. In addition to the financial market instruments, it sets out the methods for the expansion of the country's bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the market and non-market mechanisms provided by the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. From the perspective of effective state policy development and implementation in this sector, the budget tagging of climate finance and their embedding in the country's public finance management system have significant importance, therefore its fundamental provisions are also outlined in the draft law.

Currently, a revised draft based on stakeholders' feedback is being prepared for submission to the government.

Progress in the area of climate change implementation included:

- The processes for development of the biennial transparency report were initiated
- The draft of the Order of the Minister of the Environment "On procedure for measuring, monitoring, evaluating and reporting greenhouse gas emission mitigation policies and measures" was prepared. The aim of this order is to (1) observe the progress of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in various branches of the economy of the Republic of Armenia, under the actions defined at the national level (2) to collect sufficient primary data, analyses and assessments for the development and implementation of state policies on climate change and economic development in general and (3) to ensure the fulfilment of accountability obligations assumed by international agreements.

- The climate change adaptation plan for the forest sector is being developed and the integration of climate change factors into the Sevan National Park management plan is underway.
- The one common document on **Action plan, the Financing Strategy, and the Investment Plan for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** of the Republic of Armenia for 2023-2030 under the Paris Agreement was developed and will be included in The Government's decision "On approving the Nationally determined contributions 2021-2030 of the Republic of Armenia to the Paris Agreement" (22 April 2021 N-610-L), as the second annex¹.

As a result of the political decision, it was determined that the financing strategy and NDC implementation and investment plans will be included as annexes for the upcoming NDC 3, that will be adopted in 2025.

The Government's decision **"On approving Long-term (until 2050) low greenhouse gas emissions development strategy of the Republic of Armenia"** ²was adopted (28.12.2023, N 2318-L), which defines the priority areas of the greenhouse gas emissions mitigation.

The document reflects the government's intention to ensure a long-term agenda for the realisation of climate commitments, provides early and predictable signals for investors and economy sectors in planning long-term activities by harmonisation of development goals with climate actions in a systematic consideration of possibilities through the entire economy. It also highlights development of economy policy in line with technological progression, based on the principle of transforming the challenges into possibilities.

Besides reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, the implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact on the living conditions of local communities in terms of economic growth, social well-being, environmental protection and improved safety. In addition, these actions will curtail the burden on the healthcare system, reducing the number of chronic diseases, as well as deaths from pollution of air, water sources and other causes.

The Government's decision **"On the Approval of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Procedure"** ³was adopted (11.02.24, N 54-N). The document reflects the relations concerning the GHG emissions inventory.

The aim of the GHG emissions inventory is to ensure: 1) Inventory of GHG emissions applying the principles of transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency; 2) Implementation of the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter: UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement; 3) Submission of the national inventory report of GHG emissions in line with the procedures established by the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC; 4) Providing information on GHG emissions to assess progress in developing and implementing climate change-related strategic programmes.

Per this procedure are defined:

Institutional frameworks for providing and collecting information required for the inventory of GHG emissions.

Procedures of compiling GHG emissions inventory and the national GHG inventory report.

Legal basis for quality assurance of GHG emissions inventory and management of GHG inventory database.

¹ <https://www.e-draft.am/projects/5672>

² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=188021>

³ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=188713>

Guided by Decision 54-N, **the General Programme for Quality Assurance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**⁴ and the resulting annual plan were approved by Order N 310-L of the Minister of Environment of 1 August 2024.

The GHG Emissions Inventory electronic database webpage has been created and is currently in the localisation phase.

The order of the Minister of the Environment **“On the methodology for continued collection of climate finance information, including relevant climate finance reporting format and guidelines”**⁵ (7.06.2024, N 202-L) was adopted.



4 http://env.am/storage/files/hraman310-l_1.pdf

5 <http://env.am/storage/files/202-l.pdf>



INDUSTRIAL AND ENTERPRISE POLICY



BETTER

BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT,

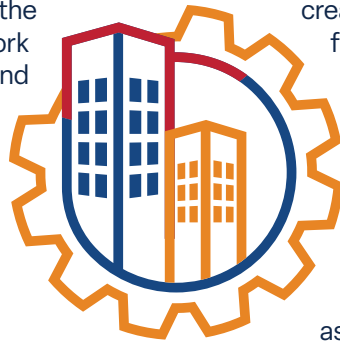
MORE



JOBS

Scope

Cooperation in the area of industrial and enterprise policy focuses on improving the business environment for all economic operators, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The cooperation aims to improve the administrative and regulatory framework for both businesses of the EU and businesses of the Republic of Armenia operating in the EU and in Armenia and should be based on the SME and industrial policies of the EU taking into account internationally recognised principles and practices in that field (Article 57).



The cooperation aims to implement strategies for SME development, create better framework

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Economy

conditions, simplify and rationalise regulations and regulatory practice, encourage development of innovation policy, encourage greater contacts between businesses, support the establishment of export promotion activities and promoting a more business-friendly environment as well as facilitating the modernisation and restructuring of industry in the EU and in Armenia in certain sectors (Article 58).

Benefits for the society

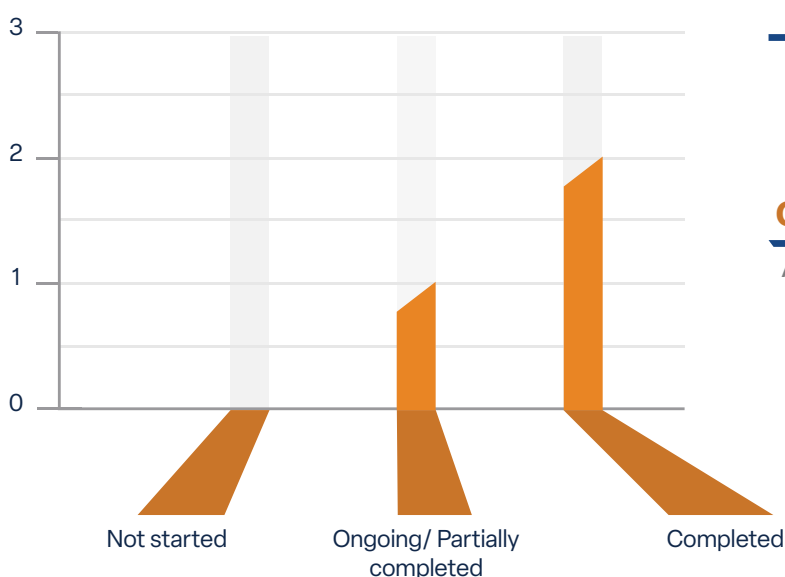
- Improved business environment for citizens to start and conduct business activities
- Industrial activities in line with the international and European standards

Progress on implementation

- **CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 17, 18 AND 19**

Economic dialogue

■ Annex 2 Roadmap
(3 measures)



Performance
33%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**
Annex 2 Roadmap

Performance
67%
COMPLETED
Annex 2 Roadmap

Strategic Industrial Development

In 2023, the concept of **five top sectors of the industrial development** was developed and approved, the goal of which is to define the priority areas of industrial development in the next five years and outline the strategic directions of development.

Sector-Specific Development Programmes:

In 2023, the five-year programme for the development of **the pharmaceutical industry** and the programme of measures ensuring its implementation were approved, the goal of which is to ensure the continuous development of the pharmaceutical industry and a high level of drug self-sufficiency in the Republic of Armenia.

The other programmes for other priority areas (jewellery and diamond industry, equipment construction, metallurgy and chemical industry) of industrial development are still in the development process.

5 top sectors of the industrial development:

- **Pharmaceutical**
- **Jewellery and diamond industry**
- **Equipment construction,**
- **Metallurgy**
- **Chemical industry**

In order to contribute to the export volume growth and creation of new workplaces, as well as ensure sustainable economic development through integrating foreign direct investments and introducing advanced technologies, Free Economic Zones (FEZ) in Armenia have been established.

Free Economic Zones (FEZ) in operation in Armenia:

- “ALLIANCE” FEZ, Yerevan is oriented towards the production and exports of high and innovative technologies in the field of electronics, precision engineering, pharmaceuticals and biotechnologies, information technologies, alternative energy, industrial design and telecommunications,
- “MERIDIAN” FEZ in Yerevan is specialised in jewellery, stones cutting and watch making,
- “MEGHRI” FEZ near the border with Iran, is focusing on industrial operations and logistics in the sphere of agriculture, manufacturing, electricity supply, trade, transportation and economy storage, professional and technical activity, culture, tourism, entertainment and recreation.
- “ECOS” is defined as platform for the production and services in the fields of manufacturing and high-information technologies, operating in Hrazdan, Kotayk region.

It is planned to launch another free economic zone in Aparan, Aragatsotn region. At the same time, it is planned to create a dry port, which will include a free economic zone in Shirak region.

The “Textile Industry Development Programme and its Action plan for 2023-2026”¹ which was adopted by the Government of Armenia (GoA) on February 2, 2023.

The GoA Decree on the establishment of the “Textile Sector Operator” foundation, responsible for implementing the textile industry development programmes, is currently in the approval phase.

By the GoA Decree N 2070-L dated November 30, 2023, the “Programme for the Involvement of Workers in the Manufacturing Industry” was approved². It is currently in the implementation phase.

The Ministry of Economy is implementing **the agenda of transition to a green economy** in accordance with 2021-2026 GoA Action Plan.

¹ https://www.arlis.am/Annexes/6/2023_N138hav.1.pdf

² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=186288>

In addition, in June 2022 the GoA in cooperation with the EU, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, launched the “**Green Armenia**” platform in support of Armenia’s promising sustainable development, green recovery and growth, and so far, 3 “Green Armenia” high-level policy dialogues have been conducted.

On August 27, 2020, the GoA, through Decree No. 1443-L, approved the **Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurship (SME) Development Strategy for 2020-2024**³ along with its corresponding action plan for 2020-2022. The 2022 performance report of the 2020-2022 action plan under the 2020-2024 SME Development Strategy has been published. This report offers an overview of completed tasks and ongoing initiatives.



3 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docID=145707>



COMPANY LAW, ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



TRANSPARENT

BUSINESS,

PROTECTED

INVESTMENTS



Scope

Cooperation in this area recognises the importance of an effective set of rules and practices in the areas of company law and corporate governance, as well as in accounting and auditing, in a functioning market economy with a predictable and transparent business environment. This underlines the importance of promoting regulatory convergence in those fields.

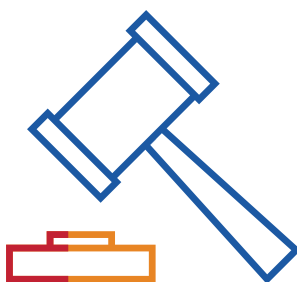
The cooperation is aiming at the exchange of best practices for ensuring the availability of an access to information regarding the organisation and representation of registered companies, the further development of corporate governance policy, the

implementation and consistent application of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the consolidated accounts of listed

companies, the regulation and oversight of the audit and accountancy professions and international auditing standards (Article 60).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Justice
The Ministry of Economy
The Ministry of Finance



Benefits for the society

- Introduction of unified standards and practices to support the business environment and business operations of citizens.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION:

- **THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES**

- **Advancing Corporate governance in Armenia**

On 22 May 2024, the National Assembly adopted the draft law “On Amending the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia,” which established the concept of the Corporate Governance Code (CGC) and its legal basis for adoption.

On 30 July 2024, by order of the Minister of Economy, a new Corporate Governance Code (CGC) was adopted, developed based on the revised 2023 G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance. A number of events have been organized to raise awareness on corporate governance and identify challenges related to its implementation, involving businesses, international organisations, public authorities, and civil society.

- **New Companies Law concept in development**

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and with the support of the World Bank, work was carried out in 2024 on the development of the concept for a new “Companies Law.” The draft Concept is already being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice and after its finalisation with the World Bank, the concept will become available for the public on the E-draft.am. The concept is anticipated to touch upon the need of consolidation on several pieces of corporate legislation into one unified law, providing flexible legal solutions for the governance of different types of entities, incorporate best international practices into Armenian legislation and bring up other reforms necessary for the proper development of corporate relationship.

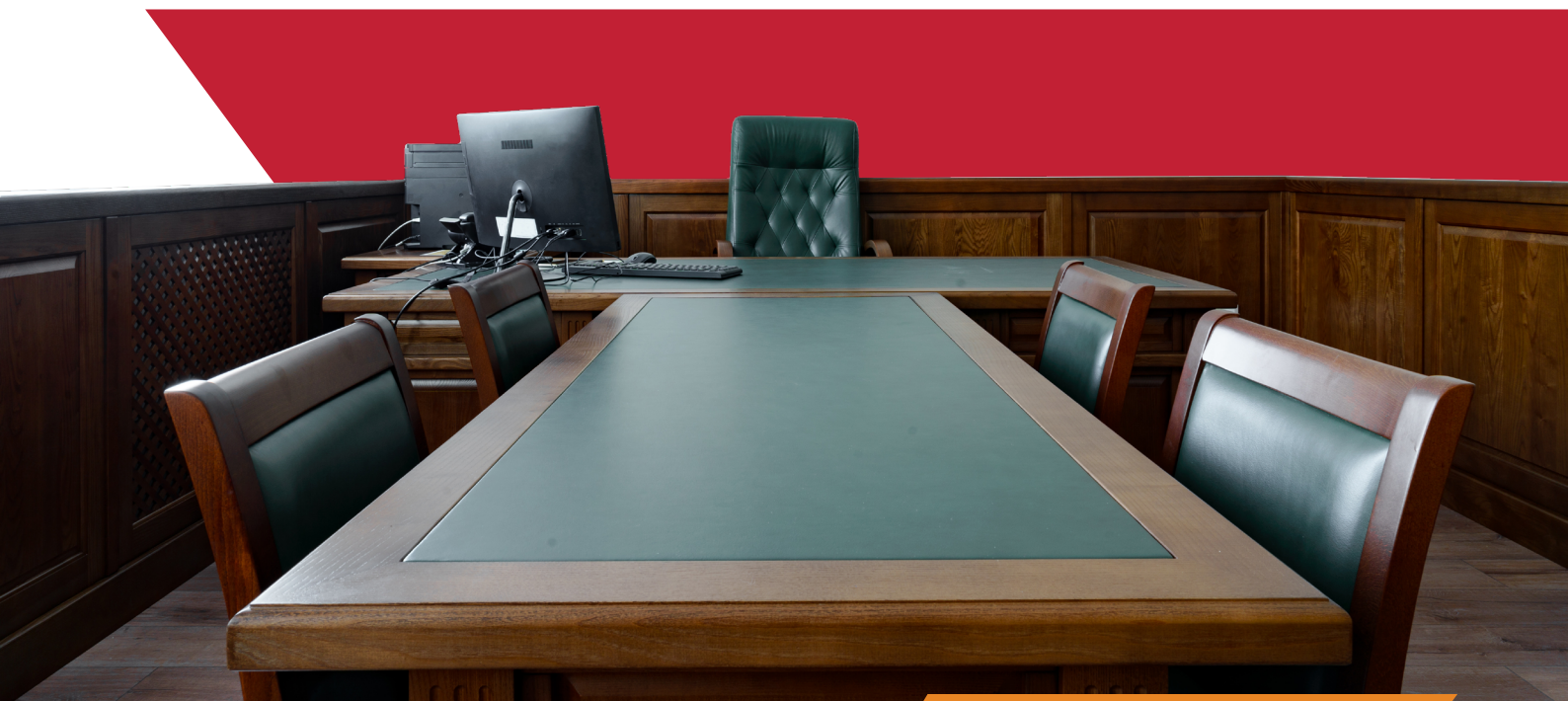
- **Reform of Accounting and Auditing Oversight System**

The legislative foundation for introducing a new public oversight system in the fields of accounting and auditing in the Republic of Armenia - aligned with EU accounting and auditing directives - was established through a legislative package adopted by the National Assembly of RA on 4 December 2019. Pursuant to the RA laws “On Accounting,” “On Auditing Activities,” and “On Regulation and Public Oversight of Accounting and Auditing Activities,” which entered into force on 1 January 2020, a new regulatory model was implemented based on the concept of “specialised structures and a public oversight board.”

This model provides for the delegation of certain regulatory functions to specialised professional structures, while oversight of their proper implementation is entrusted to the Public Oversight Board for Accounting and Auditing Activities, operating under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia.

On 16 April 2020, the professional organisation Chamber of Auditors and Expert Accountants of Armenia was accredited as the first specialised professional body as defined by law. Subsequently, on 30 June 2020, the Public Oversight Board was officially established, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, the Central Bank, and the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia.

The new legislation maintains the requirement for the application of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) in Armenia—a practice that has been in place since 2011.





BANKING, INSURANCE AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES

SECURE
BANKING,
RELIABLE

FINANCIAL

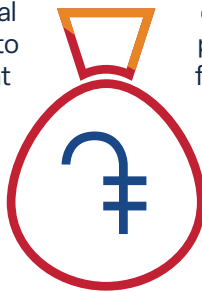
SERVICES

Scope

The cooperation in the area of financial services aims at improving the regulation of financial services, ensuring effective and adequate protection of investors and consumers, contributing to the stability and integrity of the global financial system, promoting cooperation between different actors of the financial system including regulators and supervisors and promoting independent and effective supervision (Article 61).

The cooperation acknowledges the importance of implementing effective legislation and practices and agree to collaborate in the area of financial services. It also includes cooperation in order to prevent the use of their financial and relevant non-financial systems for the laundering of the proceeds of criminal activities in general and drug offences in particular, as well as for the purpose of terrorism financing (Article 18).

The cooperation comprises imposing no restrictions and shall allow, in freely convertible currency and in accordance with the



Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, any payments and transfers on the current account

of the balance of payments between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia (Article 204).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Central Bank

It recognises the importance of the adequate regulation of financial services to ensure financial stability, fair and efficient markets and the protection of investors, depositors, policyholders and persons to whom fiduciary duty is owed by financial services suppliers. For such regulation of financial services, the international best-practice standards provide the overall benchmark, in particular in the way they are implemented in the European Union. In that context, the Republic of Armenia shall approximate its regulation of financial services, as appropriate, to the legislation of the European Union (Article 189).

Benefits for the society

- Creation of a solid basis for continuing economic and financial services sector reforms and provides a new and higher level of relations between the EU and Armenia.

Financial services sector regulatory framework is mostly based on and in line with the European Union regulatory framework. Moreover, the Central Bank of Armenia, responsible for regulating and supervising financial services sector, ensures, on an ongoing basis, identification and elimination of possible barriers inconsistent to the commitments under CEPA principles.

The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia has made significant progress in the field of consumer protection and the regulations in this area are aligned to the requirements of relevant EU directives.

The commitments under Current Payments and the Movement of Capital have been effectively upheld. According to the legislative framework, no restrictions are applied to current currency operations, current and capital account transactions, or the free movement of capital.

Also, in AML/CFT sectors the following achievements are made:

- Trainings on combating terrorism financing are organised regularly.
- In October 2023, within the framework of the EU and EC “Partnership for Good Governance” programme, a training on “Investigation of Terrorism Financing Cases” was organized for stakeholder authorities,
- Training on “Implementation of Targeted Financial Sanctions relating to Terrorism Financing and Proliferation Financing” (July 2024).

As a member of Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the FMC carries out exchange of information, as necessary, with foreign financial intelligence units for the purpose of combating terrorism financing. Based on the study of international experience, the FMC has developed guidance documents on the alerts and criteria of high risk and suspiciousness related to the financing of terrorism and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and presented them to the reporting entities in order to support proper performance of their duties.



INFORMATION SOCIETY



SECURE

DIGITAL

SERVICES



Scope

The cooperation in the area of information society is aimed to benefit citizens and businesses through the widespread availability of information and communication technology (ICT) and through better quality of services at affordable prices. It aims at facilitating access to electronic communications markets and encourage competition and investment in the sector. The cooperation covers the exchange of information and best practices on the implementation of national information society strategies including initiatives promoting broadband access, improving network security and developing public online service, promotion of the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework for electronic communications and strengthening the administrative capacity of the national independent regulators, to foster a better use of spectrum resources and to promote interoperability of networks in the Republic of Armenia and with the EU (Article 63).



It emphasises the enhancement of electronic communications infrastructure, including service availability, competition on electronic communications markets, end-user's rights, emergency response services and telecommunications regulations, etc.

The above-mentioned activities should be done by the means of aligning, in case of necessity, the Law on Electronic communications adopted in 2005 and relevant PSRC decrees to the acting EU legislation.

Armenia has undertaken commitments, such as:

- | Strengthening independence and administrative capacity of the national regulator in the field of electronic communication
- | Establishment of public consultation procedures for new regulatory measures,
- | Establishment of effective mechanisms for appeal against decisions of the national regulator in the field of electronic communication

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry The Public Services Regulatory Commission

- | Definition of the relevant product and service markets in the electronic communications sector that are subject to initial (ex-ante) regulation, and analysis of those markets with a view to determining whether significant market power (SMP) exists on them.
 - | Implementation of a regulation providing for general authorisations and restricting the need for individual licenses to specific, duly justified cases.
 - | Access to, and use of, specific network facilities.
 - | Price controls on access and interconnection charges, including obligations for cost-orientation.
 - | Transparency, non-discrimination and accounting separation,
 - | Implementation of the regulation on Universal Service Obligations, including establishment of mechanisms for costing and financing.
 - | Ensuring the respect of users' interests and rights, in particular, by introducing number portability and the single European Emergency Call number 112.
 - | Implementation of the regulation to ensuring protection of fundamental principles and freedoms, and in particular the right to privacy, with respect to the processing of personal data in the electronic communication sector and ensuring the free movement of such data and of electronic communication equipment.
 - | Adoption of policy and regulation ensuring the harmonised availability and effective use of the spectrum.
 - | Guaranteeing open and non-discriminatory access to the Internet for users; establishing rules for the providers of internet services to ensure transparency of the Internet traffic management.
- Under those commitments it is envisaged to implement analysis of the necessity for making amendments and supplements, as well as the implementation of the necessary amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Public Services Regulatory Body", Law of the Republic of Armenia "On electronic communication" and related laws.

Benefits for the society

- In case of emergency universal access to 911 and 112 numbers by the subscribers and disclosure of information on the location, which will enhance the security of the population,
- Strengthening the independence and transparency of the work of the regulatory authority.
- Application of electronic communications sector regulations, which will enhance the development of the sector,
- Implementation of regulation of electronic communications markets, including SMP in line with EU regulations, which will promote the competition in the market,
- Regulation on access and interconnection, including termination rates, which will enhance the competition and end-users' right protection,

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS COVERED BY ANNEX 2 CEPA ROADMAP.

The deadlines are beyond 2024, or the implementation deadlines will be determined within the timeframe set by the Armenia-EU Partnership Council.

There is an ongoing evaluation and adaptation of emergency response regulations to align Armenia's practices with European standards, fostering better service delivery.

The PSRC has implemented regulations ensuring compliance with emergency service standards, enhancing public trust and service reliability.

Enhanced coordination between emergency services and telecommunication operators has resulted in faster response times, showcasing a significant improvement in public safety measures.

The Law on Electronic Communications №HO-176-N, adopted on 03 September 2005 and a **number of Decrees** adopted by PSRC foresees respective CEPA provisions and regulations and commitments.



TOURISM



ECONOMIC

GROWTH,

PRESERVING

CULTURAL

HERITAGE



Scope

Cooperation in the field of tourism aims to strengthen the development of a competitive and sustainable tourism industry as a generator of economic growth, empowerment, employment and foreign exchange. It focuses on the exchange of information, best practices, experience and know how including with regard to innovative technologies, the establishment of a strategic partnership between public, private and community interests to ensure the sustainable development of tourism, the promotion and development of tourism products and markets, infrastructure, human resources and institutional structures as well as the



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Economy
The Tourism Committee**

identification and elimination of barriers to travel services, the development and implementation of efficient policies and strategies, including appropriate legal, administrative and financial aspects, tourism training and capacity building in order to improve service standards and the development and promotion of community-based tourism (Article 66-68).

Benefits for the society

- CEPA supports the growth of Armenia's tourism sector, creating more opportunities for citizens and local businesses.
- With EU support, Armenia aims to increase financing in tourism to create jobs and new business opportunities, ensuring that tourism benefits rural areas and maintains local traditions.
- Respecting communities, protecting cultural heritage and caring for nature remain key priorities.
- Efforts also focus on enhancing the knowledge of the local population to offer better services, as well as supporting local initiatives to attract more visitors and increase incomes for Armenian citizens.
- With these efforts, the EU supports Armenia in making tourism a stronger driver of economic development, benefiting families and businesses across the country.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES

The Law on Tourism entered into force on 1 September 2024. It includes provisions and other regulations to address the adjustment of the gaps described in Directive 2008/122/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 January 2009. As a result of discussions with the private sector and the stakeholders in the field of tourism, the Tourism Committee of the Republic of Armenia developed the Law on Tourism, in regards to the protection of consumer interests.

The Law on Tourism defines provisions regarding the provision of the rights of consumers on receiving quality services by tourism service providers, as well as specific mechanisms for ensuring their implementation. The Law took into account the European experience, complying with the requirements of the EU directives (Directive (EU) 2015/2302). It was discussed with the International Forum of Travel and Tourism Advocates (IFTTA) and it took into consideration the UN Tourism definitions.



AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MODERN

FARMING

AND PROSPEROUS

RURAL

COMMUNITIES

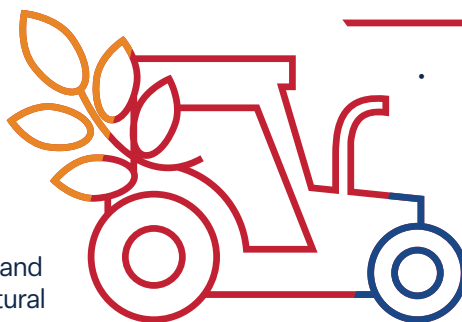
With CEPA, Armenia is strengthening its agricultural sector, improving rural livelihoods, and empowering local communities to thrive.

Scope

The cooperation in this area is focused on promoting agriculture and rural development, in particular progressive convergence of policies and legislation.

It includes:

- facilitating the mutual understanding of the policies
- enhancing administrative capacities
- promoting the modernisation and the sustainability of agricultural production
- sharing knowledge and best practices
- improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and the efficiency and transparency of the markets,



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Economy
The Ministry of Territorial Administration
and Infrastructure**

- promoting quality policies and their control mechanisms, in particular geographic indications and organic farming
- disseminating knowledge and promoting extension services to agricultural produces
- enhancing the harmonisation of issues addressed within the framework of international organisations (Articles 70 and 71 of CEPA).

Benefits for the society

- With EU support under CEPA, Armenia is adopting best European practices to help farmers increase productivity, access new markets, earn higher incomes, and generate more jobs. These efforts also promote modern, eco-friendly agriculture—including organic farming—that protects the environment and provides healthier food for consumers.
- Under the framework of CEPA, cooperation through EU-funded projects advances key objectives by promoting sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agriculture; enhancing rural employment and market access; and strengthening administrative capacities for effective agricultural and rural policy implementation.
- These initiatives further support CEPA's goals by encouraging participatory rural development, reinforcing local institutional capacity, and improving quality of life in rural areas through inclusive, community-driven efforts and public-private partnerships.
- Moreover, the projects contribute to CEPA's labour mobility and reintegration priorities by supporting the economic reintegration of migrants and fostering local entrepreneurship and job creation. Finally, they promote sustainable land use, climate adaptation, and rural security—while enhancing biodiversity, community resilience, and balanced regional development, particularly in Armenia's border regions.
- In line with CEPA requirements, administrative and territorial reforms have resulted in the following benefits:
- Improved Local Governance: the reforms have streamlined governance by reducing the number of communities and enhancing management efficiency through centralized structures and community

information systems.

- **Enhanced Public Services:** modern equipment, garbage containers, and digital tools have strengthened waste management and improved the overall quality and efficiency of local service delivery.
- **Increased Community Participation:** the introduction of participatory budgeting in communities has empowered citizens to engage in local decision-making, promoting transparency and accountability.

Progress on implementation:

In the context of mutual understanding of agricultural and rural policies, and with the aim of promoting agricultural modernisation, sustainability, competitiveness, and market efficiency, it is important to highlight the EU-Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA) project operational since October 1, 2019, to May 27, 2025. It is being implemented across all regions of Armenia, with a total budget of EUR 13,2 mln. The implementing agency is the Austrian Development Agency.

The key results of the project include:

- A policy, legal, and institutional environment conducive to the development of green, inclusive, and rights-based agriculture.
- Improved access for selected agribusinesses to infrastructure, green technologies, advanced agricultural practices, and markets, while also creating conditions for increased employment.
- Enhanced competitiveness of selected agribusinesses (including organic) through increased efficiency, access to equipment, infrastructure, and services.

The actions planned for 2024 included:

- Support to agribusinesses, demonstration platforms, post-harvest facilities, and certified seed producers.
- Assistance to 12 beneficiaries with the delivery of tractors.
- Support to approximately 70 displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) through the provision of equipment.
- Establishment of 2 demonstration sites for the production of entomophagous insects.
- Awareness campaigns on green agriculture.
- Construction of a 2,000 square meter greenhouse in Vagharshapat.
- Support to rabbit breeding, beekeeping, poultry farming, drip irrigation, and greenhouse farms.
- Support to seed producers.



In line with CEPA objectives to enhance administrative capacities at both central and local levels and promote best practices for rural economic well-being, the “Local Empowerment of Actors for Development (LEAD)” programme was launched in Armenia, in April 2020. This programme commenced under EU 2019 annual action plan, with a total budget of EUR 15mln, consists of three projects.

Two of them—LEAD4Shirak and LEAD4Lori and Tavush—focus on localising the LEADER methodology for rural development. Widely applied across the EU, this approach fosters socio-economic growth by empowering local initiatives and promoting cooperation among local authorities, the private sector, and civil society organisations. The LEAD4Lori and Tavush programme is funded by the EU and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). The LEAD4Shirak programme is also EU-funded and implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The overall aim of the LEAD project is to improve the quality of life in Armenia’s three northern regions—Shirak, Lori, and Tavush—through inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development initiatives.

The third project, EU4IMPACT, has been operational since September 2020. It supports labour migrants, returnees, and their families in launching or expanding businesses, while also enhancing their skills in business management and entrepreneurship. The project is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

“Armenia – Irrigated Agriculture Development in Ararat and Armavir Marzes” grant project, is funded by the EU and implemented by the French Development Agency (AFD). The Project is scheduled for completion by June 19, 2026. Implemented under a grant agreement of EUR 10 mln signed on April 23, 2020, the Project aims to modernise irrigation practices in Armenia in line with current international standards and consists of two key financial components: technical assistance of EUR 4.4 million and investment grant of EUR 5.6 million.

These funds support strategic improvements in the sector by addressing critical challenges related to:

- Water storage
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Land consolidation
- Access to extension services and agricultural credit

Project’s key achievements to date are as follows:

- Establishment of three Advisory and Extension Support Teams (AESTs) across two target marzes (Ararat and Armavir).
- Provision of advisory services and training sessions by the AESTs, supporting local stakeholders in adopting modern agricultural practices.

In support of agricultural modernisation, sustainability, and enhanced administrative capacities at central and local levels—particularly in managing sustainable land use and green infrastructure—the “Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan – EU4Sevan” project was implemented from April 2022 to June 2024, playing a significant role in promoting eco-friendly practices.

As part of the project, a 3.5-hectare agroforest was established in the Tsovinar settlement of the Martuni community, enclosed with a 540-meter metal fence, a 180-meter plastic fence, and 20 meters of iron piping. Additionally, 3,300 green trees were donated to the community. These efforts contributed to an ecologically sustainable land-use system that integrates trees and crops, aligning with modern rural development principles.

In the context of mutual understanding of agricultural and rural policies, it is also noteworthy that the “EU4Dialogue” programme was implemented in 2024. As a result, electric shepherding devices were provided to border communities in Syunik, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor regions, enhancing security and livestock protection.

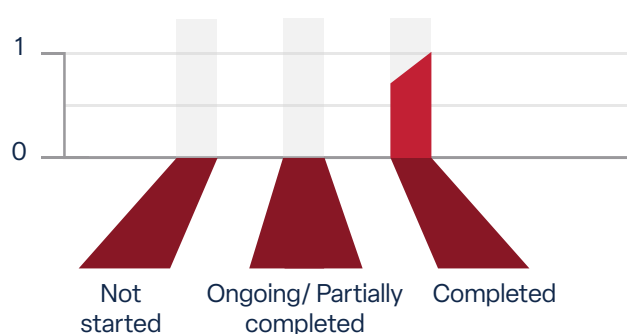
Both initiatives offer replicable models: EU4Sevan’s agroforestry approach and EU4Dialogue’s security-focused livestock protection strengthen community resilience and capacity. These projects also reflect Armenia’s cooperation with the EU, aligned with global climate and development frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the EU Green Deal.



Progress on implementation

AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 1: MEASURE 152

Agriculture and rural development ■ Annex 1 Roadmap (1 measure)



Performance

100%
COMPLETED

Administrative and Territorial reforms

The legal basis for the administrative-territorial reforms, as emphasized in the CEPA Roadmap, is provided by Laws HO-227-N¹ and HO-328-N², which were adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia as amendments and addenda to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On Administrative-Territorial Division,' on 17 April 2020 and 24 September 2021, respectively.

In the course of the reforms carried out in 2019-2021, the number of communities decreased from 502 to 79. As of December 2024, according to the legislative changes³, there are 71 communities, 64 of which are classified as enlarged communities. These enlarged communities consist of multiple settlements grouped around a central, larger community.

The participatory budgeting process was implemented in 4 communities⁴. This process is planned to be expanded to further communities.

"The concept of Decentralisation of Powers in the Republic of Armenia" was approved by the RA Prime Minister Decision No. 1111-A of November 7, 2023.

Implementation and enforcement of the reforms

Within the framework of the Local Government Reform Support Programme for Unified Communities and Component 2 of the Social Investment and Local Development Programme, a total of 47 unified communities were provided with 430 units of equipment and 3,225 garbage containers, the total cost of which is about \$15.75 million.

70 of the 71 communities of Armenia (except for the capital Yerevan) have been provided with community management information systems, thanks to the use of which the administrative capacities of local self-government bodies have been significantly expanded.

A unified electronic system for collecting local taxes (real estate tax and vehicle property tax) has been introduced since January 2021. Payment and collection of local taxes are carried out entirely digitally, online.

1 <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=141928>

2 <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=156516>

3 <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=165063> ; <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=59732>

4 The procedure of participatory budgeting was based on the GoA Decision N 1890-Nof 2023.



FISHERIES AND MARITIME GOVERNANCE



SUSTAINABLE

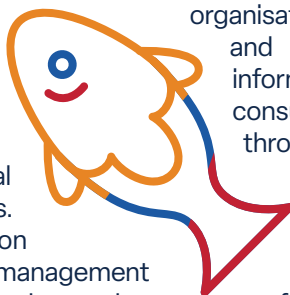


FISHERY
RESOURCES



Scope

The cooperation includes issues of mutual interest concerning fisheries and maritime governance, thereby developing closer bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation in the fisheries sector. It includes promotion of responsible fishing and fisheries management and cooperation through relevant multilateral and international organisations. Cooperation supports initiatives on sustainable fisheries policy covering the management of fisheries and aquaculture resources, inspection and control of fisheries activities, the collection of catch, landing, biological and economic data, the improvement of the efficiency of the markets,



in particular by promoting producer organisations

and providing information to consumers and

through marketing standards and traceability, the sustainable development of areas with lake shore or including points or a river estuary with a significant level of employment in the fisheries sector and institutional exchange of experience on sustainable aquaculture legislation and its practical implementation in natural basins and artificial lakes (Article 72-74).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Economy

Benefits for the society

- Better quality and sustainable aquaculture

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES

Amendments were made to the RA Government Decree No. 703-N as of May 22, 2003 “On Approval of the Procedure for the Use of Water Resources for the Needs of Fisheries” by the RA Government Decree No. 1148-N as of August 29, 2019. By the corresponding Decree the following annual water use and fish production volumes are set for fish farms operating in the Ararat Valley:

1

for trout fish species with a water flow of 1 l/s, a minimum of 700 kg.

2

for sturgeon fish species with a water flow of 1 l/s, a minimum of 800 kg



MINING



**RESPONSIBLE
MINING,**

**PROTECTED
COMMUNITIES**



Scope



Benefits for the society

- The alignment of regulations with EU legislation contributes to improving the investment environment. This fosters investor confidence, particularly among foreign investors. The adoption of respective legislative regulations can encourage greater foreign participation in oil and gas projects, leading to job creation and the development of strategic economic sectors.
- Regulations are introduced to protect public health, nature, and the environment from harmful effects associated with subsoil use. They also ensure the safety of operations and govern the protection of the rights and legal interests of the state and individuals involved in oil operations.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES

A package of draft laws “On the Features of Geological Study, Oil, and Natural Gas Extraction” and “On Amendments to the Law on State Duties” — has been developed and is currently undergoing the Government’s adoption process.

Following the adoption of these laws, the Government of Armenia will introduce sub-legislative acts to ensure their effective implementation.

The **Mineral Sector Development Strategy of Armenia**¹ was adopted in May 2023 and outlines a vision for the sector through 2035. Its primary goals include regulating and advancing the sector, promoting the rational and complex use of the subsoil resources, the managing and mitigating environmental and health risks, and defining mechanisms for fair and proportional income distribution. These measures aim to support the long-term development of Armenia’s economy.

Additionally, the strategy emphasises the transition to a sustainable and responsible mining industry, aligned with international standards and driven by digital and innovative technologies. It also focuses on creating an attractive investment environment and promoting improved mining practices.

Armenia is currently internationally recognised as a country that has successfully implemented the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standard².

The EITI Standard is the global benchmark for transparency and accountability in the oil, gas, and mining sectors. As a framework for disclosure and multi-stakeholder oversight, the EITI standard³ is designed to empower governments, industry and civil society to promote understanding of natural resource management; strengthen

¹ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=196183>

² <https://www.eiti.am/en/> , <https://eiti.org/blog-post/digging-deeper-how-armenia-leading-way-beneficial-ownership-transparency>

³ <https://eiti.org/eiti-standard>

public and corporate governance and accountability; and provide the data to inform policymaking and debate.

The implementation of EITI is beneficial to all parties involved: Government, mining companies and investors, and civil society:

- For **implementing countries**, the EITI contributes to improving the investment environment by sending a clear signal to investors and international financial institutions regarding the government's commitment to transparency. The EITI also promotes open and accountable governance, fostering greater political and economic stability.
- For **mining companies and investors**, EITI implementation helps reduce political and reputational risks, while contributing to the establishment of a level playing field. Political instability driven by opaque governance poses a threat to investments—particularly in extractive industries, where investments are capital-intensive and profitability depends on long-term stability. In this context, EITI plays a crucial role in enhancing the overall business climate.
- For **civil society**, EITI ensures transparency and accountability in the government's management of revenues from the extraction of natural resources. The initiative also fosters dialogue among the government, private sector, and civil society.



The decision of the Government of Armenia to implement the EITI Standard in the country was targeted to ensure greater transparency and accountability in mining sector, to establish multi-stakeholder participatory oversight of the processes and create public debate which would build trust among interested parties, in particular, the Government, mining companies and the civil society. In 2015-2017 Armenia fulfilled required sign-up steps for EITI Candidature Application submission and in March 2017 was accepted as an EITI candidate country by the EITI Board. Armenian EITI covers the metal mining which is more prominent in the mining sector.

In 2018-2024, the following key activities have been implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister:

- 5 EITI National reports⁴ have been prepared and published covering 2016-2022 FYs and presenting comprehensive information on Armenia's metal mining sector required by the EITI Standard.
- Reports.eiti.am online reporting system⁵ and EITI Armenia's official website www.eiti.am have been upgraded to enable online collection and public accessibility on de-aggregated financial data.
- The bo.e-register.am Beneficial Ownership Electronic Declaration System⁶ has been developed and launched since February 2021, which allows mining sector companies to submit electronic declarations on their beneficial owners, which are made available to the public through open data. Starting July 2021, the online platform is being used for other sectoral legal entities' BO declarations as well.

These efforts resulted in Armenia receiving the highest scores in both of its EITI validations. Today, within the international EITI community, Armenia is recognised as one of the leading countries in terms of compliance with the Standard.

⁴ <https://www.eiti.am/en/annual-reports/2018/>

⁵ <https://reports.eiti.am/hy/>

⁶ <https://bo.e-register.am/am/auth>

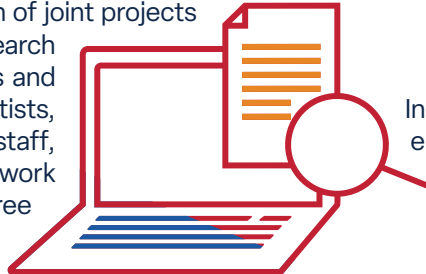


RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

SCIENCE
AND INNOVATION
FOR A COMPETITIVE
SOCIETY

Scope

Cooperation includes policy dialogue and the exchange of scientific and technological information, the facilitation of adequate access to the respective programmes of each Party, initiatives to increase research capacity and the participation of research entities from Armenia in the research framework programme of the EU, promotion of joint projects for research in all areas of research and innovation, training activities and mobility programmes for scientists, researchers and other research staff, the facilitation, within the framework of applicable legislation, of the free movement of research workers



participating in the activities and the cross-border movement of goods intended for use in such activities (Article 78-79).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports
The Ministry of High-Tech industry

In addition, CEPA addresses the enhancement of regulatory frameworks in cyber security and public information, ensuring alignment with international standards and practices.

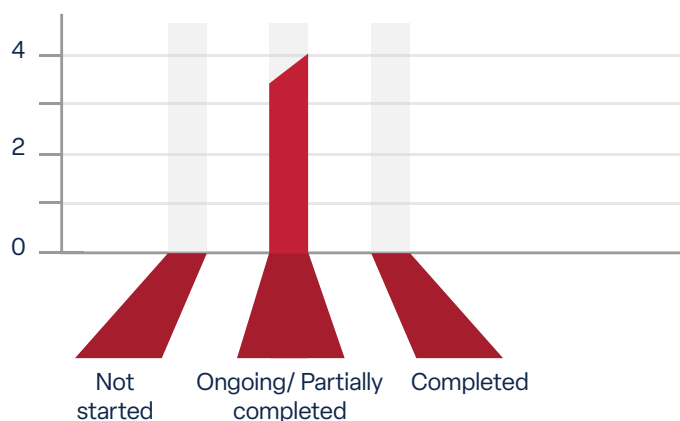
Benefits for the society

- Increase of the efficiency of public spending on science by adopting transparent and performance-based evaluation criteria, supporting competitive grants, and investing in priority areas aligned with national development goals.
- Increase of the engagement of foreign researchers in national programmes and enhancing the credibility and visibility of Armenian research on the global stage.
- Facilitating the integration of the RA research community into the European Research Area, fostering engagement with European research networks and consortia to strengthen partnerships and collaborative research, fostering adherence to international research standards
- The anticipated legislative reforms, alongside an increase in research capacities and mobility, as well as improvements in research infrastructure, are expected to enhance the role of the science sector in Armenia. This will make the sector more competitive and appealing to young people, helping to facilitate a natural transition between generations. Beneficiaries are higher education institutions, research organisations, research teams and young scientists.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2 MEASURES: 30 - 33

Research and innovation ■ Annex 2 Roadmap (4 measures)



Performance

100%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**

Advancing Research and Innovation in Armenia

Progress has been achieved in the direction of implementing Policy dialogue and the exchange of scientific and technological information. In 2019, under the EU Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility tool, a team of the EU experts carried out an expert mission to Armenia to evaluate Armenia's research landscape and provided tailor-made recommendations for furthering the reforms¹. The implementation of the recommendations is in progress.

Recommendations to enhance the research policy landscape in Armenia:

- Development of a model for evaluation and assessment of the public research institutions performance,
- Assessment and improvement of the performance-based funding system and advice on its implementation
- Measures aimed at bridging the gap between higher education and research.

The implementation of the recommendations will speed up the reforms in the science sector of Armenia and increase its competitiveness.

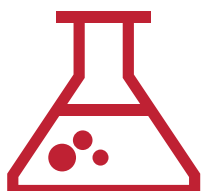
To implement the recommendations several reforms have been implemented, among them the establishment of **the Higher Education and Science Committee (HESC)** in the August of 2023. HESC has revised the existing laws on Higher Education and Science and has developed a unified **Law on Higher Education and Science**, the adoption of which is expected in 2025.



Another significant reform, which is underway, is the **merging of the Universities and the research institutions**. To that end, the Academic City project was initiated by the Government of Armenia. The project aims to create a unique environment combining quality education, research, innovative and service provision activities.

A number of measures, involving optimisation of the research infrastructures and increasing the efficiency of public spending on science have been developed and included in the Government Action Plan for 2021-2026.

To facilitate capacity building for managing the reforms in higher education and science, a TAIEX Study Visit on Science and Technology was completed in 2023. A TAIEX expert mission on Capacity Building for HESC was conducted in November 2024.



To facilitate Armenia's participation in **the EU Horizon Europe, the EU-ARMENIA Joint Committee on Research and Innovation** established under the Horizon Europe Association Agreement holds meetings at regular intervals to discuss the relevant issues concerning Armenia's participation in Horizon Europe as well as promote policy dialogue on Armenia's integration into the European Research Community.

In order to increase Armenia's participation in **the EU Horizon Europe, the Scientific and Innovation Partnership Assistance Centre** (<https://sipac.am/>) was set up in 2021 to coordinate the work of the Horizon Europe National Contact points by implementing awareness raising events and by providing expert advice to researchers and institutions on the EU Horizon Europe Calls and application procedures.

Armenia participating in Horizon Europe Calls

As of September 2024, 141 applications have been submitted under Horizon Europe Calls. So far, 16 Grants have been signed, and 3 Grants are under preparation with a total budget of 7.5 M EUR. The topics of the joint projects cover the fields of Food, Agriculture and Environment; Digital, Industry and Space; Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Climate and Energy and others.

¹ https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/rio/report/SS%2520Armenia_Final%2520Report_1.pdf

Armenia became a full member of the COST Association (November 2022) in order to increase training activities and mobility programmes for scientists, researchers and other research staff engaged in research and innovation activities. Currently, Armenian researchers are involved in 75 COST actions covering various topics on migration and religious diversity, environment, food, geriatric medicine, chemical ecology, etc.

Legislative Initiatives on Public Information and Cybersecurity

The draft laws of the Republic of Armenia “On Cybersecurity” and “On Public Information” have been developed to establish minimum cybersecurity requirements for data classification, storage, processing, and transmission.

The drafts are founded on a citizen-centric service delivery policy, and their regulatory scope extend to vital services and critical infrastructures.

The draft law on Cyber Security aims to legally regulate the detection, notification, prevention, and resolution of cyber incidents. It outlines the necessary compliance with legal requirements and introduces control, oversight, and accountability measures. The draft law defines the responsibilities of entities to ensure the security of the information systems they operate, as well as the protection of critical information infrastructures. It emphasises the continuous, uninterrupted, and secure use of these systems.

The draft law on Public Information is designed to regulate the relationships between the public and authorities in a secure digital environment. It promotes the effective and high-quality implementation of an open information policy, particularly regarding the provision of public services

“Cybersecurity” and “Public Information” laws are expected to yield both qualitative and quantitative improvements. Qualitatively, they aim to enhance trust in digital public services, improve data handling and incident management, increase transparency, and ensure continuous, secure system use. Quantitatively, the laws are anticipated to lead to a reduction in cyber incidents, higher compliance rates, and increased efficiency in public service delivery.

The draft laws provide a proactive approach to addressing emerging challenges in cybersecurity and information management, establishing a solid foundation for future regulations. In addition, the establishment of a data mapping and classification methodology supports the implementation of the planned laws, highlighting a systematic approach to enhancing cybersecurity measures and public information accessibility.





CONSUMER PROTECTION

SAFE **PRODUCTS,**
FAIR
PRICES,
STRONGER
CONSUMER
RIGHTS

Scope

Cooperation aims to ensure a high level of consumer protection and to achieve compatibility between the systems of consumer protection. It aims at approximation of Armenia's consumer legislation to that of the EU, while avoiding barriers to trade and promoting the exchange of information on consumer protection systems, including consumer legislation and its enforcement, consumer product safety, information exchange systems, consumer education and empowerment and consumer redress. It also includes training activities for



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Economy
The Competition Protection Commission
The Ministry of Justice
The Central Bank**

administration officials and other consumer interest representatives and encouraging the development of independent consumer associations and contact between consumer representatives (Article 81-82).

Legal approximation with the EU law on consumer protections includes the following elements:

- Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers.
- Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 on certain aspects of the sale of consumer goods and associated guarantees.
- Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market.
- Directive 2006/114/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 concerning misleading and comparative advertising.
- Regulation (EC) No 2017/2394 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004.
- Directive 2009/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on injunctions for the protection of consumers' interests
- Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights.
- Directive 93/13/EEC of 5 April 1993 on unfair terms in consumer contracts.
- Directive 2002/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 concerning the distance marketing of consumer financial services.
- Directive 2008/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on credit agreements for consumers.
- Directive 2008/122/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 January 2009 on the protection of consumers in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts.
- Directive 2013/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes.
- Commission Recommendation of 11 June 2013 on common principles for injunctive and compensatory collective redress mechanisms in the Member States concerning violations of rights granted under Union Law (2013/396/EU).
- Directive (EU) 2015/2302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on package travel and linked travel arrangements.

Benefits for the society

CEPA strengthens consumer rights and **ensures better protection for everyone in Armenia**. By working with the EU, Armenia is improving laws **to make sure products and services are safe, fair and reliable**.

Through CEPA, Armenia is strengthening consumer rights so **people can make safer choices and avoid unfair practices**. It is also **ensuring higher safety standards for products to better protect families and communities**. These efforts mean **better quality products, safer shopping, and stronger rights for all**.

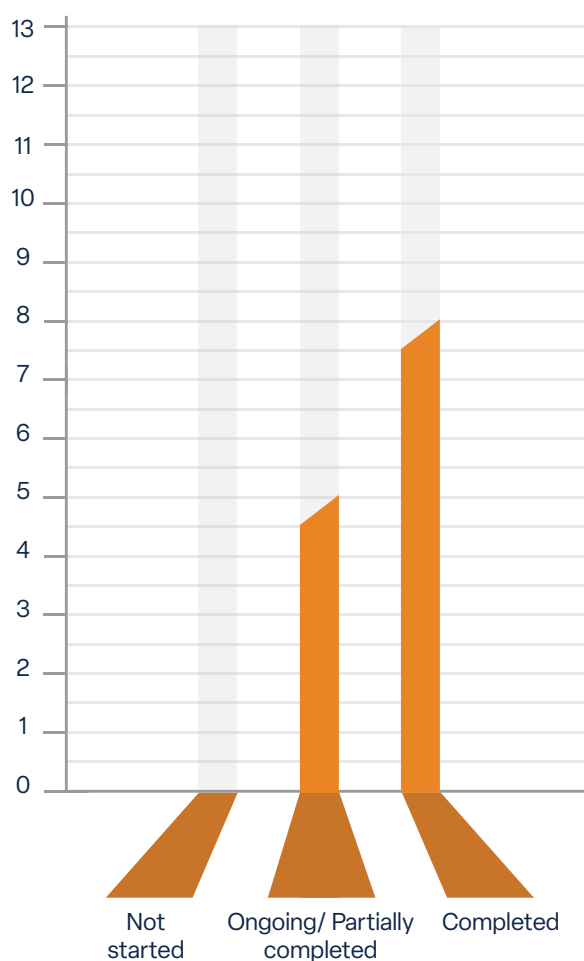
This improved consumer protection system helps Armenians **feel more secure in their everyday purchases, knowing they have the right to fair treatment and safe products**.

The main benefits include:

- Increase the level of consumer protection in term of providing information on prices of products offered to consumers.
- Increase the level of consumer protection in the context of the internal market.
- Improvement of regulation concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market.
- Regulation of misleading and comparative advertising and making them in line with EU best practices.
- Developing cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws.
- Improving consumer protection legislation and making it in line with EU best practices.
- Ensuring a high level of consumer protection within the agreements concluded between consumers and suppliers.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROAD MAP ANNEX 1 MEASURES 136 - 151



Performance

38%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

Performance

62%
COMPLETED

At the time the CEPA was signed, the objectives of the Law “On the Protection of Economic Competition” were to: protect and promote free economic competition, ensure a fair competitive environment, foster entrepreneurship development, safeguard consumer interests.

The primary mechanism for consumer protection was the offense of unfair competition, which constituted a violation of competition law as defined by the legislation.

Recognising the need for continuous improvement in competition protection legislation based on best practices, it became essential to introduce legislative amendments. These amendments aimed to clarify the scope of offenses affecting both competing businesses and consumers, as well as to enhance investigative tools to effectively address these issues.

In this context and given the need to implement measures related to the competencies of the

Competition Protection Commission (Measure 141 and 142), an online TAIEX expert mission on EU best practice on improvement of the legislation on consumer rights protection and guiding principles for determination of existence of unfair commercial practices was held from 1 to 5 March 2021.

Accordingly, the **RA Law on Making Amendments to the Law “On Protection of Economic Competition”** (hereinafter referred to as “the Law”) was adopted by the National Assembly of Armenia on 3 March 2021 and entered into force on 31 May 2021.

Moreover, by the new edition of the Law, various institutions of competition law, including regulations on misleading the public or other unfair practices, have been clarified and aligned with international best standards and principles.

As part of efforts to enhance consumer protection, the Commission has proposed a legislative initiative **to regulate discounts and promotions**. This initiative draws on best practices from EU countries, including Poland, Serbia, and Estonia, making it a significant step forward in safeguarding consumer interests.

Particularly, on 7 July 2022 was adopted **the Law “On making amendments to the RA Law “On trade and services”**. The provisions of the Law are aimed at solving a number of identified issues and regulating legislative gaps related to the conduct of promotions (discount) for consumers at trading points (changes entered into force on July 31, 2022).

Promotions and discounts in the new Law

According to the amendments in order to prevent unfair competition practices while announcing discounts and other promotional activities the concepts of “discount” (with the conditions for their application and provision to consumers), “price reduction” and “promotions” are defined.

There are envisaged restrictions on the period for granting a discount (up to three months) or on the starting price of the discount, etc.

Moreover, the amendments specified notifying requirements about ongoing promotions (the nature of the promotion, the start and end dates of the promotion, etc. shall be specified on a compulsory basis), requirements for the submission of text information in such notifications (for example, the difference between the largest and smallest sizes the font of the content of the publication about the conditions of the promotion cannot be more than two times).

Another important novelty of these changes is that in the case of discount with intervals (such as – 70% discount the maximum discount threshold should be applied to at least one fifth of the cost of goods or services participating in the promotion.

The amendments to the RA Law **“On trade and services”** were implemented in line with Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers.

They aimed at strengthening consumer protection were implemented within the context and framework of competition legislation.

The Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and the Investment Board of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development elaborated the drafts of the laws **“On making Amendments to the Law on Protection of Economic Competition”** and **“On making amendments to the Law “On Trade and Services”**.

The Competition Protection Commission as the main body responsible for enforcement of the consumer protection in Armenia has submitted official request to the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) Presidency to become a partner organisation and became an ICPEN partner in November 2023.

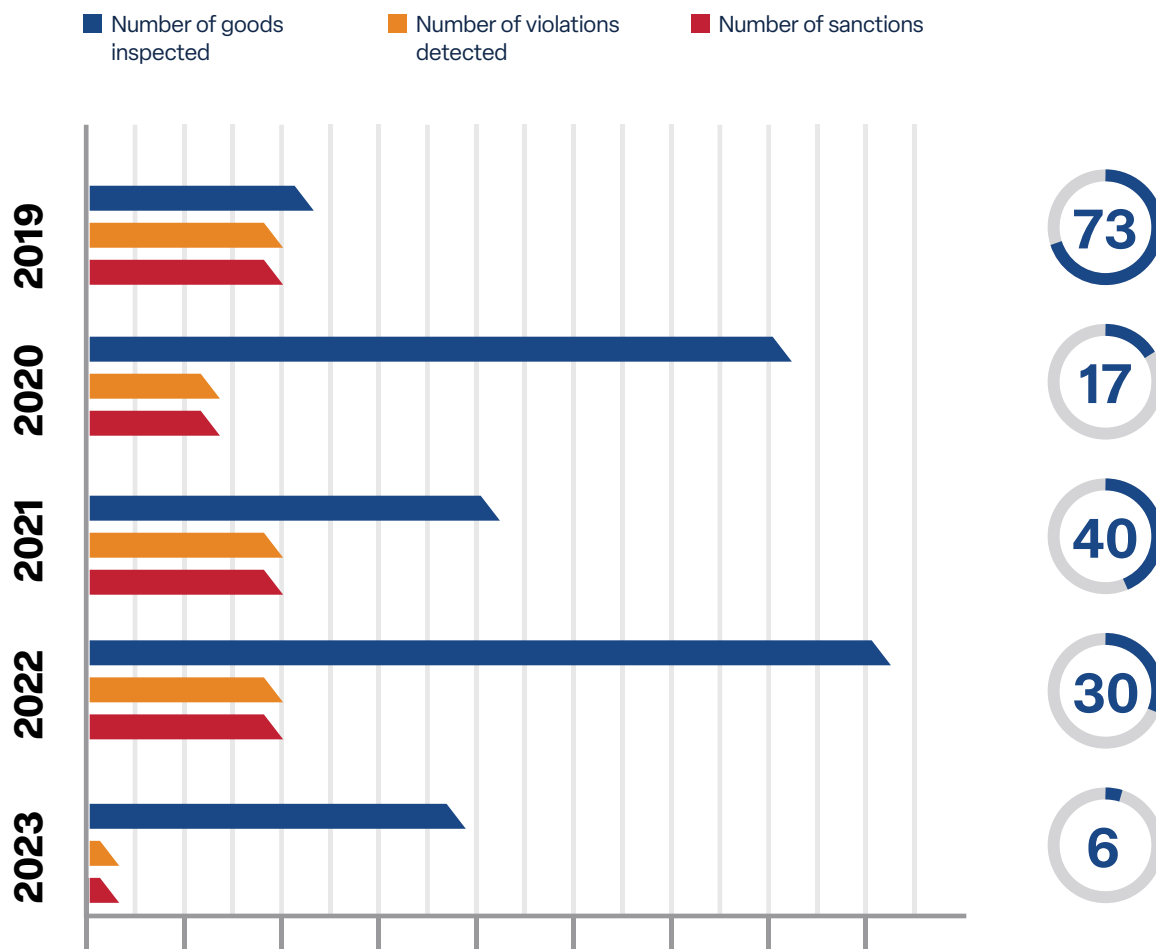
Enhancement of the Competition Protection Commission work

As a result of the legislative amendments, the Commission’s practices have significantly improved. The main actions taken by the Commission across various areas:

- As early as in 2020, the Commission conducted a detailed and comprehensive study in the circulation of dairy products, according to the findings whereof the producers attempted to create through marking a false impression among consumers that they acquired dairy products (for example, sour cream) instead of products containing milk with milk fat substitute (for example, a product containing milk with milk fat substitute that is made with sour cream technology).
- The Commission qualified this conduct as acts of unfair competition involving a practice of misleading the public.
- Each year the Commission has consistently studied this sector which has its positive impact. In particular, the existing statistics show that due to the effective administration carried out by the Commission, the number of offences recorded in the sector of circulation of dairy products is decreasing year by year. Moreover, it is noteworthy that as a result of the study conducted in 2023, a violation was detected with respect to only one product out of 18 products inspected by the Commission.



Study of the sector of circulation of dairy products



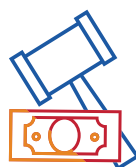
- In 2021, the Commission studied 176 imported goods produced by 61 economic entities, the boxes or packages of which were marked with terms “organic” or “ecological”, “eco-friendly”, “biological” or their individual or compound words of their short forms “eco”, “bio” or other short forms.
- In many cases the Commission has qualified the marking with such words as unfair competition involving a practice of misleading the public, as the economic entities attempted to create a false impression among the consumers (misinformation) that those goods are organic agricultural products certified in accordance with the rules of organic farming.

Studied



61

Economic entities



43



Proceedings were instituted

176

Product types with marketings “eco”, “bio” and similar markings

38

Economic entities were subjected to sanctions

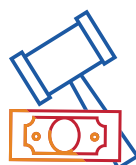
- The next measure implemented by the Commission is the study of the sector of circulation of bottled non-carbonated drinking water.
- The study reviewed the activities of economic entities engaged in the production and sales of bottled non-carbonated water with markings “spring water” and “natural drinking water”, which has established that many economic entities produced and sold bottled non-carbonated water with markings “spring water” and “natural drinking water” while, within the meaning of the EAEU regulation, those goods are not considered “spring water” and “natural drinking water”, i.e. they are not springs and/or have been treated with chlorine preparations at any stage of production.



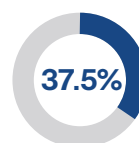
Bottled non-carbonated water with markings “spring water” and “natural drinking water”

24

Economic entities



12



Proceedings were instituted

9

Economic entities were subjected to sanctions

- The Commission has conducted a study also in the sector of circulation of sausage products. The study has been aimed at identifying the compliance of labels and/or packaging films with the requirements of technical regulations, as well as the compliance of ingredients used in sausage products with the ingredients marked on the labels and/or packaging films. The study has identified numerous issues which include, for example, inconsistency in the amounts of the meat in the information on circulation of the meat for sausage products and the ingredients included in the raw materials of sausage products produced, in particular the amounts of the meat used in the production of sausage products are inconsistent with the amounts of the meat calculated by ingredients, inconsistency in the marking on the packaging of the sausage products, etc.
- The Commission has qualified the above-mentioned issues as unfair competition involving a practice of misleading the public.

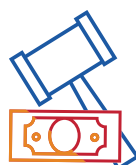


765

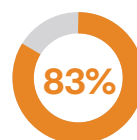
Product types for meat circulation and the ingredients included in the raw materials of sausage production produced

12

Economic entities (99.1% of the production)



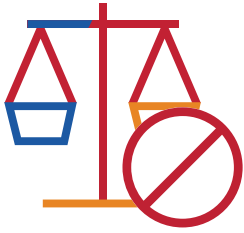
12



A sanction was applied

10

Economic entities admitted the attributed offences / eliminated the deficiencies



There were deviations in the amounts of the meat calculated by ingredients

Information on the presence of certain ingredients were missing in the marking of sausage products

The sausage products were marked and sold in violation of the requirements of technical requirements

- The Commission has studied numerous promotions carried out by companies engaged in online games of chance. In the course of proceedings, it became evident that the companies presented information in their advertising carried out in relation to certain promotions in a way that had the potential to confuse and give a misleading impression, several important conditions were applicable as part of the promotions, but no information was mentioned in the advertisements on the origin and source of existence thereof, depriving the consumer of the ability to form a complete understanding of these conditions.

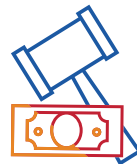
Studied



Numerous promotions made by companies engaged in online games of chance

3

Proceedings were instituted



Fine Constituted

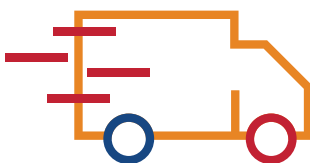
433 075 078 AMD

3

Economic entities were subjected to sanctions

- Another study conducted by the Commission concerned the sector of provision of delivery services. The study has established that the companies published on their official websites, dates of delivery from different countries, in different ways (by air, sea, land) of goods to the Republic of Armenia, while consistently failing to meet these dates, simultaneously failing to review them and bringing the published information in line with the conduct that had become predictable.

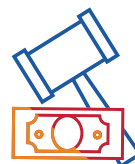
Studied



Sector of provision of delivery services

11

Proceedings were instituted



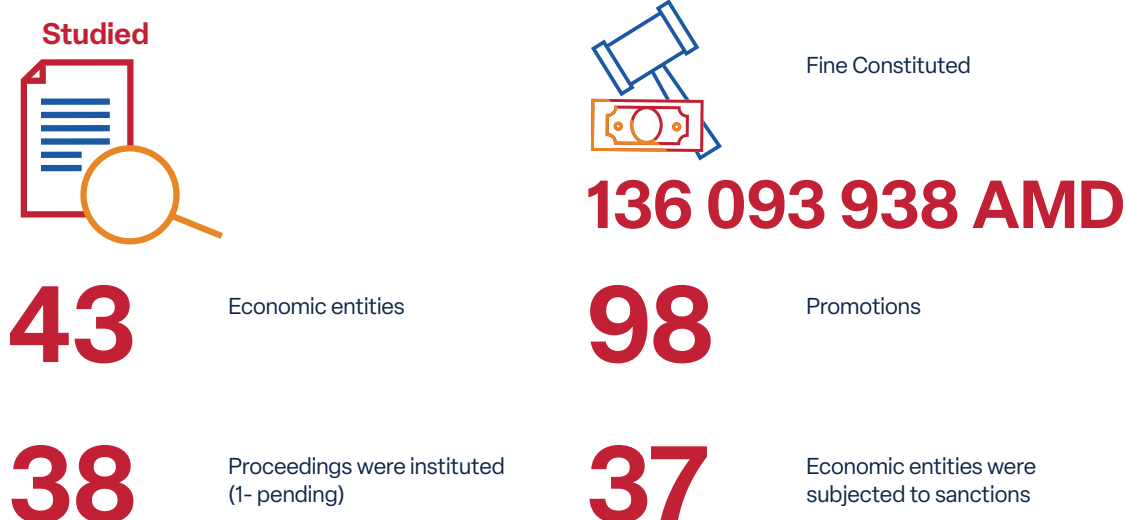
Fine Constituted

89 853 063 AMD

8

Economic entities were subjected to sanctions

- The Commission has also made legislative amendments and conducted studies concerning the relations pertaining to discounts and other promotions. They have established that the requirements for informing about promotions were not observed.
- In particular, the methods of informing consumers about the campaign lack a brief description of the campaign's essence, the clear range of goods and services subject to promotion or the sources of their availability, the duration of the promotion, including its start and end dates, there was no interest reduction in the price of goods or services from the average price of the sales of goods or provision of services within a month preceding the start of the promotion, the highest percentage of the announced discount of the promotion did not apply to at least one fifth of goods available at the start of the campaign, the difference between the biggest and smallest font sizes in the published content on terms of the campaign was more than twice, etc.



EU support was received under the project “**Support to CEPA monitoring, implementation and communication**” in 2024. The technical assistance aimed to achieve a clear institutional framework of consumer protection, to conduct depth study of the consumer protection laws in Armenia – and recommendation that gives the enforcer role to CPC, to identify capacity-building measures, to increase the level of knowledge and skills among employees of relevant government agencies and leveraging ICPEP’s network to share best practices and experiences with other countries.

A report “**On assessing the level of approximation of Armenian consumer protection legislation with EU consumer protection acquis**” was developed. This report includes a comprehensive study of the legal frameworks in the EU and the Republic of Armenia. It also presents proposals for the general directions of the approximation process of the consumer protection legislation of the Republic of Armenia to align with EU standards, as well as suggestions for increasing consumer awareness and education. In line with the proposals and recommendations of this expertise aimed at the continuous approximation of consumer protection legislation and legal practices to international best practices, the Commission, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, **developed a package of legislative amendments to align with EU directives.**

Approach to approximation

In the first stage of the developing the package of legislative changes, the following EU directives are set to be approximated:

- Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers,
- Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market,
- Directive 2009/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on injunctions for the protection of consumers' interests “,
- Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws.

The package of draft laws “On Amendments and Supplements to the RA Law “On the Protection of Economic Competition”” and “On Amendments and Supplements to a number of Related Laws” were adopted by the National Assembly in the first reading on 12 May 2025. Before the second reading, it is planned to discuss the package of drafts in the lead committee of the National Assembly in accordance with the established procedure. The package, among other things, envisages:

- clarification of the central body for the protection of consumer interests, in accordance with the regulations defined by Directive 2009/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on injunctions for the protection of consumers' interests” and Regulation No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws.
- definition of unfair commercial practices against consumers and other offenses against consumers, as well as liability measures for these practices in accordance with the regulations established by Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market.
- definition of rules on indication of prices and liability measures for their violation in accordance with the regulations set by Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers.
- definition of the specific aspects of the proceedings initiated by the Competition Protection Commission regarding offenses against the consumers' interests.

Simultaneously, ongoing joint efforts are being carried out to approximate several other EU directives in accordance with Armenia's international obligations.

The Law “On Amendments and Supplements to the Law on the Protection of Consumer Rights”¹ was adopted in May 2023, which included the terms of the contract considered unfair, introducing the logic of approximation to EU legislation to the extent that EU regulations are applicable under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

There is an ongoing work on the draft law “On Amendments and Additions to the Law on Protection of Consumer Rights”, “On Amendments and Additions to the Law on Trade and Services”, “On Amendments and Additions to the Law on the Protection of Economic Competition, law “On Amendments and Additions to the Law on Protection of Consumer Rights”, “ On Amendments and Additions to the Law on the Protection of Economic Competition”.

¹ Law HO-186-N



EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



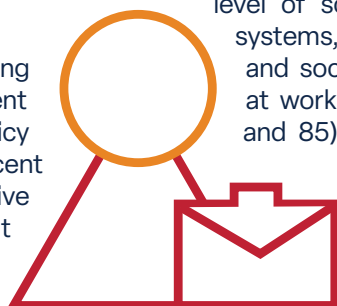


EQUAL
CHANCES,
SAFE WORK,
STRONGER
SOCIETY

Scope

Cooperation defines the general requirements for the regulation of labour relations and working conditions, emphasising the involvement of all stakeholders, including civil society organisations, and in particular, social partners, in the reform process. It includes strengthening dialogue and cooperation on promoting the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Decent Work Agenda, employment policy, health and safety at work, social dialogue, social protection, social inclusion, gender equality and anti-discrimination, and thereby contributing to the promotion of more and better jobs, poverty reduction, enhanced social cohesion, sustainable development and improved quality of life.

Cooperation focuses on the following areas: poverty reduction and enhancement of social cohesion, employment policy aiming at more and better jobs with decent working conditions, promoting active labour market measures and efficient employment services.



It aims at modernising the labour markets, fostering more inclusive labour markets and social safety systems that integrate disadvantaged people, equal opportunities and antidiscrimination. The objectives are enhancing gender equality, ensuring equal

opportunities. The social policies aim at enhancing the level of social protection, modernising protection systems, enhancing participation of social partners and social dialogue, as well as promoting health at work and corporate responsibility (articles 84 and 85) of social partners and promoting social dialogue, promoting health and safety at work and promoting corporate social responsibility (Article 84-85).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

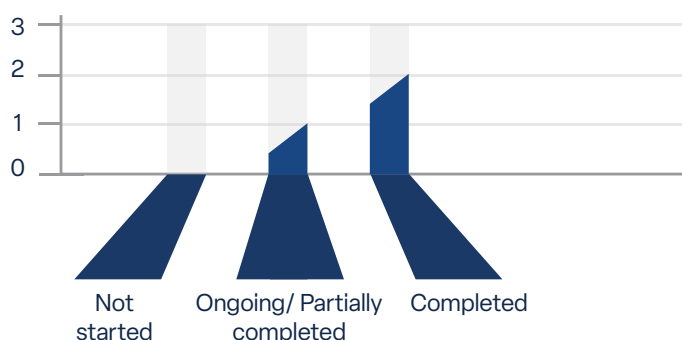
The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
The Ministry of Justice
The Ministry of Health
The Urban Development Committee
The Health and Labour Inspection Body

Benefits for the society

- Efforts are ongoing to ensure full and effective employment, decent work, and safe working conditions in line with health and safety standards.
- The Government of Armenia adopted the Gender Policy Implementation Strategy for 2025–2028, which outlines sustained measures to promote equal participation of women and men in all areas of public life, fostering an inclusive and democratic environment.
- Recent amendments to the Law on Domestic Violence have strengthened protection and support services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, improved referral and response mechanisms, and introduced new support services.

Progress on implementation:

CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES, 125, 127 AND 130¹



Labour

■ Annex 2 CEPA Roadmap
(3 measures)

Performance
33%
**ONGOING/
 PARTIALLY
 COMPLETED**

Performance
67%
COMPLETED

¹ The area is covered by measures listed under Annex 2 of the CEPA Roadmap, specifically measures 117 to 158. Among these, measures 125, 127, and 130—with a deadline of 2023—have been included in the monitoring of Roadmap activities. The reporting period for the monitored measures is set for 2024, following the provisional application of the Agreement.

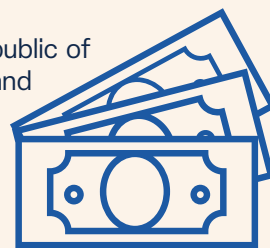
Labour market

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been implementing active labour market programmes, targeting various unemployed persons, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, as well as participants in military operations and demobilised persons. Programmes or measures have been implemented in various directions: professional training and job experience acquisition, development of skills and abilities of persons with disabilities, provision of business support, partial salary compensation, provision of lump-sum support for job placement, provision of temporary employment, provision of support for organizing childcare alongside work.

In 2019, **“Decent Work” national programme 2019–2023** was signed by the International Labour Organisation (hereinafter: the ILO), the GoA, the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia and the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia, which defined the priorities, main results and implementation strategies of cooperation between ILO and RA for 2019–2023.

Examples of activities carried out in the frame of the Decent Work national programme:

- The law adopted in May 2023 made extensive changes to the Labour Code aimed at bringing the Labour Code into full compliance with international agreements, in particular, the fundamental conventions of the ILO and the Revised European Social Charter, eliminating certain legislative gaps and internal contradictions of the Code, as well as a place for different perceptions. clarifying the giving provisions.
 - The amendment to the Labour Code (in October 2022) defined the concept of “compulsory or forced labour”, its prohibition, as well as the scope of job that is not considered such labour.
 - As part of another legislative initiative (in October 2023), the Labour Code was amended to provide such regulations that enable employees to perform job remotely.
1. According to the legislative changes made in December 2019 (in the Labour and Administrative Offenses Codes, and then also in the Statute of the Health and Labour Inspection Body, from 1st July 2021, the HLIB has been assigned full jurisdiction over labour legislation to carry out control, as well as the authority to apply measures of liability in cases provided by law.
- The Law “On Amendments and Supplements to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia” adopted in December 2024 (will enter into force on 1 July 2025) and the Law “On Amendments to the Law “On Audiovisual Media”” (will enter into force on 1 January 2026) provided for the introduction of a digital system for concluding employment contracts and the conclusion of employment contracts through that system. The amendments were made to improve the state control toolkit over labour legislation, increase its efficiency, as well as improve the system for protecting employees’ labour rights.



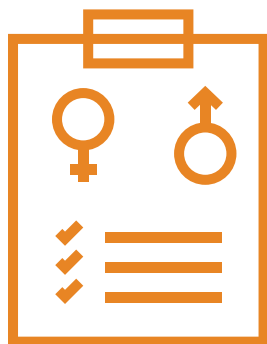
After the signing of the “Decent Work” national programme, a draft for changing the minimum monthly salary was developed twice. The 1st was adopted in November 2019, by which the minimum monthly salary became 68,000 AMD from 55,000 AMD from 1 January 2020. The 2nd draft on increasing the minimum monthly salary was developed in 2022, according to which, from 1 January 2023, the amount of the minimum monthly salary in the Republic of Armenia increased from 68,000 AMD to 75,000 AMD.

Gender equality

In the area of gender equality, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) carries out its activities in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the Law **“On Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men”**, international documents ratified by the Republic of Armenia, state strategic programmes and measures, and established standards.

The unified positions and approaches of the Government are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

2030 agenda and endorse women's full participation in all spheres of public life, provision of their rights and equal opportunities, women's social protection and exclusion of gender discrimination.



The MLSA implements continuous programmes and measures aimed at women's economic empowerment, promoting women's participation in the decision-making process, ensuring access to education, health services and employment, and preventing violence and discrimination against women.

The implementation of gender policy in Armenia is institutionalised at the national, regional and community levels. As a national mechanism, the Women's Affairs Council is functioning, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister. The Council on Women's Affairs monitors the impact of public policies on gender equality, women's empowerment in various spheres of public life, empowerment, reduction of discrimination and prevention of gender-based violence. The Council consists of representatives of the concerned departments and non-governmental organisations operating in the field. In order to coordinate the current activities of the Council, a working group was created, which is headed by the Deputy Minister coordinating the sphere

of the MLSA. The Council may establish ad hoc thematic groups to address individual or urgent issues in the field of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

After the completion of the **2019-2023 Strategy for implementation of gender policy and action plan**, on the basis of the issues and recommendations received as a result of the gender impact assessment carried out by the UN-Women expert group, **the 2025-2028 Strategy for implementation of gender policy** in the Republic of Armenia is being developed.

Priorities of the 20245-2028 Strategy for implementation of gender policy in the Republic of Armenia

1. Overcoming gender discrimination in all areas of management and at the level of decision-making. Improving the national mechanism for the advancement of women, ensuring and expanding opportunities for equal and full participation of women and men,
2. In the socio-economic sphere, in the labour market, in various branches of the economy, encouraging gender-sensitive approaches in work activities, reducing the gender gap in the labour force and improving mechanisms for the protection of labour rights,
3. Overcoming gender discrimination in the field of education and science, promotion of full participation of women and men and expansion of equal opportunities.
4. Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in the health sector,
5. Prevention and overcoming of gender violence and discrimination, protection and support of persons subjected to violence in the family,
6. Developing gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches to climate change, ensuring inclusive principles and awareness raising.

Starting from 2020, with the resources of State budget, the MLSA is implementing 3 programmes for persons subjected to violence in the family (including women, men, children, persons with disabilities, older persons):

- Services to persons subjected to domestic violence, within the framework of support centres which operate in all regions and in Yerevan. The support centres inform the victims of domestic violence about their rights, on the available services, provide socio-psychological and legal assistance, support

in the matter of job placement.

- Shelter services for persons subjected to domestic violence who are provided with safe, secure accommodation, food, hygienic supplies, necessary school supplies for children, social-psychological and legal support.
- Provision of one-time monetary compensation of up to 150,000 AMD to persons subjected to domestic violence.

These programmes are implemented with the state funding. As a result of the grant competition, NGOs, recognised as winners, provide services of support centres for persons subjected to domestic violence, shelter services for persons subjected to domestic violence, shelters for victims of human trafficking and exploitation (including potential victims) and other necessary socio-psychological services.

Women participation



In order to promote the **free, active and full participation of women in all spheres of social life**, the MLSA also implements programmes aimed at women's economic empowerment, designed for special vulnerable groups.

Thus, starting from 2023, in 3 regions the services provided by the support centres for persons subjected to domestic violence have been expanded to women's economic empowerment and independent organisation of their lives. The provision of economic empowerment services includes the provision of vocational skills training and tools. The selection of the course is made according to the preference of the beneficiary, based on assessed needs. In 2024, the programme will be implemented in 6 marzes.

In order to increase the involvement of women in the decision-making process at the state and local levels, amendments were made in 2020 to the Electoral Code of Armenia, as a result of which the minimum threshold for quota in the National Assembly elections was set at 30 percent. The parties of the National Assembly are obliged to ensure at least 30 percent participation of women. The quota setting at least a 30/70 gender ratio of candidates in the party lists was also applied in the elections of local self-government bodies of communities with more than 4,000 voters held by the proportional electoral system, as a result of which the representation of women in local self-government bodies increased compared to previous years.

Currently, women make up 36% of the National Assembly of the 8th convocation, 6% in the leadership positions of the community hall, and 29% of the members of the community council.

In order to have clear information about the participation and shares of women and men in decision-making processes in state and local bodies, statistics are conducted with the presentation of gender-disaggregated data. Statistical data are collected, analysed and presented by the Armenia's Statistical Committee.

Since 2020, the application of the gender sensitivity component has been ensured for all programmes included in the state budget of Armenia, as a result of which the content of the state budget reflected the goals of gender equality and social justice by distributing funds and forming revenues in a way that is fair from social and gender perspectives and budget expenditure planning when taking into account the interests of all population groups, including the impact of state budget measures on women and men.

In order to address the existing problems and challenges in the field of women's issues, the MLSA cooperates with international partners, as a result of which various programmes and events are jointly developed and implemented, and thematic working groups and bodies are formed.



In the field of women's issues, the MLSA, together with representatives of other interested state bodies, non-governmental organisations and international partners, participates in the activities of 4 working groups:

- Gender Thematic Group, which includes representatives of various UN agencies, other international organisations, the GoA, non-governmental organisations and aims to promote and support the inclusion of the gender issue in the development agenda of Armenia. Group meetings take place 2 to 3 times a year.
- Sub-working group on combating gender-based violence, which was formed within the framework of Gender Thematic Group.
- Gender equality working group within the framework of Armenia-UN sustainable development cooperation, whose meetings are held 2 to 3 times a year. The working group brings together representatives of the Government, international organisations and the public sector to discuss the existing problems, challenges, planned programmes and initiatives in the field of women's issues.
- Since September 2020, due to the events in Nagorno-Karabakh, a Protection Working group was formed together with partners of international and public institutions. The group has two subgroups dealing with the issues of forcibly displaced women and children from Nagorno-Karabakh.

The above-mentioned working groups, as necessary, can also carry out monitoring and monitoring works.



Health and safety at work

In recent years, significant progress has been made in strengthening the regulatory framework governing occupational health and safety in Armenia. A series of construction norms and legal acts have been adopted to ensure safe working conditions, compliance with safety standards, and improved resilience of buildings and infrastructure.

The Urban Development Committee has developed and approved several construction norms, including:

Earthquake-Resistant Construction. Design Norms (Construction Norms RA 20.04-2020), approved by Order No. 102-N on 28.12.2020²;

Steel Constructions (Construction Norms RA 53-01), approved by Order No. 104-N on 28.12.2020³;

Civil Defence Protective Structures (Construction Norms RA 31-03.02-2022), approved by Order No. 06-N on 04.04.2022⁴;

Bearing and Covering Structures (Construction Norms RA 13-03-2022), approved by Order No. 22-N on 19.09.2022⁵;

Energy Efficiency of Buildings (Construction Norms RA 24-02-2022), approved by Order No. 31-N on 22.12.2022⁶;

Engineering Protection Against Geological Hazards (Construction Norms RA 22-02.01-2023), approved by Order No. 09-N on 28.09.2023⁷;

Urban and Rural Settlement Planning and Development (Construction Norms RA 30-01-2023), approved by Order No. 04-N on 22.05.2023⁸.

² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=172012>

³ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=149036>

⁴ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=186843>

⁵ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=168823>

⁶ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=172776>

⁷ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=183655>

⁸ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=206637>

To enhance workplace safety in the construction sector, additional regulations have been implemented:

- **Safety Techniques in Construction** (Construction Norms RA 13-02-2022), approved by Order No. 21-N on 26.08.2022⁹;
- **Technical Requirements and Safety Measures for Construction Projects**, approved by Order No. 09-A on 09.02.2023¹⁰, which outlines procedures for compliance, supervision, and enforcement related to safety violations during construction activities.

As part of ongoing legal reforms, a package of amendments and additions to the Code of Administrative Offenses was developed in 2023 and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for finalisation.

To support environmentally safe construction practices, bans on asbestos-containing roofing materials were introduced under:

- **Roofs and Roofing** (Construction Norms RA 31-04-2022), approved by Order No. 13-N on 22.06.2022¹¹, and
- A subsequent set of updated **Roofing Regulations**, approved by Order No. 18-N on 15.10.2024¹².

These measures collectively aim to enhance safety at workplaces, strengthen construction resilience, and ensure alignment with international standards for occupational health and safety.



9 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=168124>

10 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=183655>

11 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=165281>

12 <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=198667>



HEALTH



BETTER

PREVENTION
FOR A



HEALTHIER

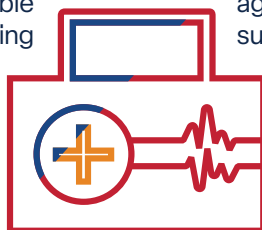


SOCIETY



Scope

Cooperation in the field of public health addresses the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including through the exchange of health information, the promotion of a health-in-all policies approach, cooperation with international organisations, in particular the World Health Organisation, and the promotion of the implementation of international health agreements such as the



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Health

World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of 2003 and the International Health Regulations (Article 91-92).

Benefits for the society

- Public health security has significantly strengthened, alongside enhanced institutional capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies—particularly those involving chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats.
- The implementation of the “One Health” approach has bolstered prevention, control, and rapid response to infectious disease outbreaks affecting humans, animals, and plants.
- Targeted and comprehensive actions have been launched to combat antimicrobial resistance, reflecting Armenia’s commitment to global health priorities.
- Efforts have been made to strengthen the availability, training, and effective deployment of qualified human resources for emergency response.
- Communication systems for emergency information dissemination have been upgraded, with an emphasis on community engagement and public participation.
- A new public health standard, “Standard Definitions of Notifiable and Registrable Diseases,” was adopted under Minister of Health Order No. 49-N (dated 26 May 2025). Its implementation enhances the epidemiological surveillance system, enabling early detection and timely application of preventive and anti-epidemic measures in line with international standards.
- As part of its commitment to expanding preventive healthcare, the Government amended Decision No. 2129-N (17 December 2020)¹, launching the phased introduction of varicella (chickenpox) vaccination. This ensures broader coverage among children and high-risk groups, reducing disease burden and improving population immunity.
- Professional training programmes have elevated the quality of vaccination services, improved patient counselling, and fostered increased public confidence in immunization.
- By Government Decision No. 2005-N (19 December 2024)², the List of Medical Assistance Services Provided in the Republic of Armenia was revised. Concurrently, laboratory research training sessions were held, contributing to enhanced laboratory service quality.
- With support from the European Union, the Nursing Development Strategy and Action Plan were developed and formally approved by Minister of Health Order No. 470-L, 4 February 2023 . Implementation of the action plan is actively underway.
- The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products was translated, adapted to the national context, and shared with relevant stakeholders. The ratification package has been submitted to the Government for approval.

¹ <https://www.arlis.am/documentView.aspx?docID=148508>

² <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=201088>

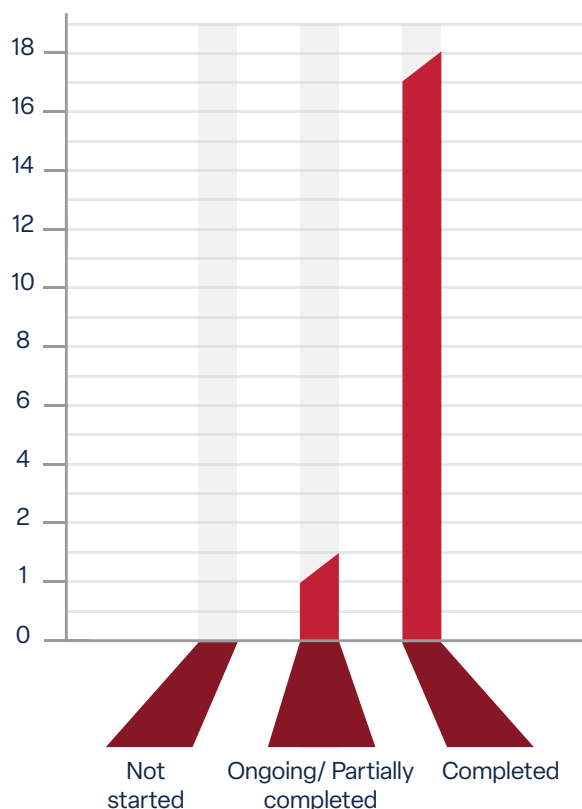
³ <https://moh.am/uploads/470.pdf>

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES ANNEX 2: MEASURES 34-52 WITH CONTINUOUS IMPLEMENTATION.

Healthcare

■ Annex 2 Roadmap
(19 Measures)



Performance

5%
**ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED**

Performance

95%
COMPLETED

The Ministry of Health has initiated a **comprehensive healthcare system reform** and committed to introduce Comprehensive Health Insurance, through the establishment of an insurance fund (Universal Health Insurance Fund – UHIF). The task of the Fund is to implement health insurance in accordance with the procedures established by legal acts, to represent the interests of the insured people. The Fund is to be established as an independent (self-governing) public institution, separate from the structures of the public health care system and with its own governing bodies and budget. The “employer, State and insured” principle will be the core of the management process of the UHIF.

With the EU support, the MoH was provided with expertise from November 2023 to February 2024 aimed as revising the **legal framework and functions of the future UHIF**, as well as preparation of a transition plan of the currently existing and functional State Health Agency (SHA) into the UHIF.

The reforms aim to **strengthen tobacco control policies** and legislation, and their rigorous enforcement in line with the country’s commitment towards transposition and implementation of the EU acquis under the CEPA and with Armenia’s obligations under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

It also includes undertaking every effort towards accession of Armenia **to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products**. The draft Protocol is circulating among stakeholders.

The Ministry of Health of the RA outsourced NGO for monitoring of enforcement of the Tobacco Law. The process is ongoing, and the NGO submits monthly results on findings to MoH (Ministry of Health).

The ‘Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for 2021–2026’ (GD No. 1092-L of 18 November 2021) was approved and envisaged the development of a National Action Plan for Public Health Security.⁴ In light of recent changes, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and new approaches introduced by the World Health Organisation, Armenia conducted a second Joint External Evaluation (JEE) with international experts from December 4 to 8, 2023. The results of this evaluation formed the foundation for drafting the National Action Plan for Public Health Security. The finalised project package was presented to the Armenian Government staff on 23 October 2024.

“The Development of Strategy of the Healthcare Sector Laboratory System and the Resulting Programme of Activities for 2023-2026” was approved on 3 July 2023 (GD N1237-L). In 2024, the order of the Ministry of Health regarding the methodological guide for equipment management was implemented in laboratories.

⁴ Government Decision No. 1902-L dated November 18, 2021

A draft legal act on standard definitions of infectious disease cases has been developed (in accordance with Decision N945/2018EU adopted on 22 July 2018).

In the **National Immunisation Schedule of the Republic of Armenia**, a change was made to Government Decision N 2129-N of 17 December 2020⁵, to enable the phased introduction of vaccinations against varicella and COVID-19 in 2024. This amendment was approved by Government Decision N 2035-N of 3 November 2023, entitled “On Making Amendments and Additions to Government Decision N 2129-N of 17 December 2020⁶”. It has led to a proposal made by the “National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG)” and submitted to the Ministry of Health, covering the prevalence of varicella, the cost-effectiveness, and impact of introducing the vaccine.

From 2021 to 2023, **97 nurses and 38 doctors participated in immunisation training courses** organised by the “Academician S. Avdalbekyan National Institute of Health” CJSC of the Ministry of Health. Additionally, 1,485 doctors and 1,346 nurses completed immunisation courses via the Zoom platform. In 2023, 16 nurses and 27 doctors attended CME-accredited courses.

Within the framework of the Armenia-EU CEPA agreement, Order No. 53-N of 2023 was developed and adopted by the Minister of Health **regarding the quality of drinking water**. Its implementation is planned for 2027.

Measures directed at **raising public awareness about the risk factors of COPD** (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) among the population (printing and distributing informational brochures and posters) were conducted. Materials for raising awareness about the risk factors of COPD have been developed and posted on the official website and Facebook page of the Ministry of Health. The process of printing and distributing posters continued into 2022-2023. In 2022-2023, information regarding the main causes, clinical signs, prevention, and treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease was developed and posted on the Ministry of Health’s Facebook page. Additionally, informational materials dedicated to the World COPD Day were posted on the official website and Facebook page of the Ministry of Health.

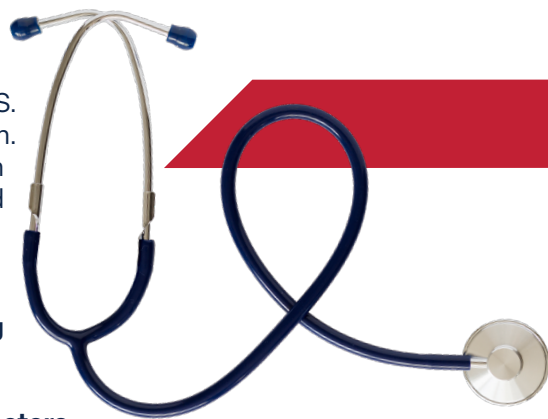
In relation to implementation of measures to fight cancer by the order No. 1126-L of the Minister of Health dated 7 April 2021⁷, a programme of measures to combat malignant neoplasms was approved, with an implementation period of 2021-2024. At the same time, the implementation of the measures specified in the programme was included in the Government’s action plan for 2021-2026. **A cancer registry** has been created, which includes the integration of the malignant neoplasms registry data repository into a unified electronic health system accessible to medical organisations. During the reporting period, **three clinical guidelines** were developed and approved by orders of the Minister of Health.

On 8 October 2022, as part of the events dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the establishment **of the National Centre of Oncology** named after V.A. Fanarjian, a new palliative care clinic with 30 beds and 26 patient rooms was opened, complying with international standards.

On 28 September 2021 for the first time in Armenia, **the first palliative service for pediatric cancer and the palliative medical care department have been established**.

From 2024 started new programme for pediatric palliative outpatient care provided for children up to 18 years, this pilot programme covers Yerevan and 4 marzes- Ararat, Armavir, Kotayq and Aragatsotn (subregions which are located 30 km from Yerevan).

In relation to measures to fight cardiovascular diseases, the implementation of measures to fight cardiovascular diseases has been included in the Government’s action programme for 2021-2026, with a deadline of 2023. In 2022-2023, four clinical guidelines related to cardiovascular diseases and two patient management protocols were developed and approved by orders of the Minister of Health.



⁵ <https://www.e-gov.am/gov-decrees/item/40868/>

⁶ <https://www.e-gov.am/gov-decrees/item/35350/>

⁷ <https://moh.am/images/legal-743.pdf>



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH



QUALITY **EDUCATION** **FOR EVERY** **GENERATION**

Scope

The cooperation in the field of education and training aims to intensify policy dialogue with a view to approximating the education and training systems of the Republic of Armenia with policies and practices of the EU. It includes promotion of lifelong learning, modernising education and training systems, promoting convergence and coordinated reforms in higher education, reinforcing international academic cooperation, encouraging the learning of foreign languages, developing the national qualifications framework to improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences with the European Network of Information Centres and National Academic Recognition Information Centres (ENIC-NARIC) community aligned with the European Qualifications Framework, enhancing cooperation to further develop vocational education and training and reinforcing understanding and knowledge of the European



integration process, the academic dialogue on EU-Eastern Partnership relations and participation in relevant programmes of the EU (Article 94).

In the area of youth, the cooperation focuses on reinforcing cooperation and exchanges in the fields of youth policy and non-formal education of young people and youth workers, facilitating the active participation of all young people in society, supporting mobility of young people and youth workers and promoting cooperation between youth organisations to support civil society (Article 95).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Education,
Science, Culture and Sports
The Civil Service Office**

Benefits for the society

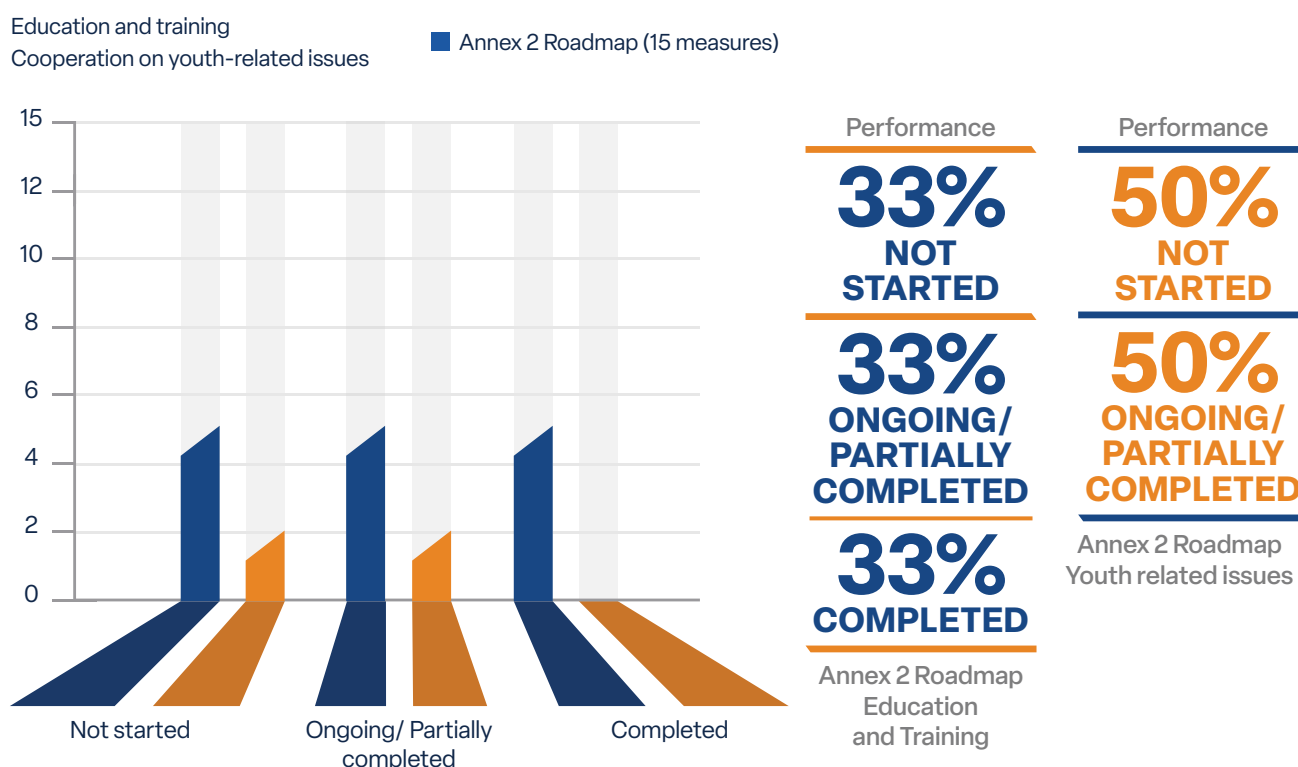
- The reforms in all levels of education sector are targeted at the creation of an environment for inclusive education, the revision of the content of education, state standards and educational programmes and the modernisation of educational infrastructures. Enhancing the wide use of modern information technologies in the training and management systems and the strengthening of the education, labour market bonds are pivotal. The beneficiaries of the above-mentioned are children, students enrolled in all education layers, parents, pedagogical staff, professors, academic staff, migrants, refugees.
- The reforms in the field of higher education are targeted at intensifying cooperation and policy dialogue with a view to approximating the education and training systems in the Republic of Armenia with policies and practices of the European Union. The Parties shall cooperate to promote lifelong learning and encourage cooperation, transparency of higher education. The reforms shall focus on promoting convergence and coordinated reforms in higher education in line with the European Union Agenda for Higher Education and Area, encouraging the learning of foreign languages, as well as developing the national qualifications framework to improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences within the European Network of Information Centres and National Academic Recognition Information Centres ("ENIC-NARIC") community aligned with the European Qualifications Framework. The beneficiaries are students, professors and academic staff.
- Self-certification of the national qualifications' framework will ensure compatibility and recognisability of the qualifications of the Republic of Armenia with the qualifications in the European Higher Education Area. Number of programmes and specialties of higher education will undergo the revision and modernisation based on the National and Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks in accordance with the requirements of the labour market that will provide the students with knowledge and skills based on the needs of labour market. The beneficiaries are students, lecturer, academic staff, employers.
- Developing and introducing mechanisms for teaching foreign languages, training teachers, developing and introducing educational materials enables students, teachers, lecturers to participate actively in international programmes, master foreign languages and communicate freely. Thanks to learning and mastering languages by various modernising tools teachers develop their professional skills, become more and more confidence in communication, as well as this enhance their participation in different

international platforms and programmes. The beneficiaries are considered to be students, teachers, lecturers.

- The necessary changes in the civil service training are aimed at increasing the efficiency of the public administration, which in turn should contribute to the improvement of the quality of services rendered to the society by civil servants, who shall continuously develop their professional knowledge.
- Lifelong education is a learning outcome achieved throughout a person's life through participation in formal, non-formal education, based on which an individual acquires or improves his/her knowledge, skills, abilities and the system of values through non-formal trainings provided by supplementary education programmes. The results evaluated and recognized by the non-formal and informal learning outcomes recognition system can be the basis for entering the labour market and performing a specific job or occupation. The beneficiaries are young people, adults, people belonging to different social groups and also private organisations.
- The beneficiaries of professional education and training, as a result of the mentioned measures, acquired relevant labour market skills and abilities through improved educational programmes, work-based learning, thanks to which they become more competitive in the labour market, the employability of the beneficiaries being increased. As a result of the formation of entrepreneurial skills, they have the opportunity not only to work in any organisation, but also to establish and create their own enterprise within the framework of their qualifications. Thanks to this action, the number of students enrolled in the 2024-2025 academic year has increased. The beneficiaries are students enrolled in VET institutions, pedagogical staff, employers, private sector, young people, adults, socio-economically disadvantaged groups, migrants and refugees.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2 MEASURES ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING (MEASURES 53–63, 65–67, AND 69), AS WELL AS MEASURES ON COOPERATION IN YOUTH-RELATED ISSUES (MEASURES 70–73)¹.



¹ The implementation deadline for Measures 64 and 68 is set for 2025; therefore, these measures are not included in the current monitoring statistics.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

It includes activating promoting lifelong learning, modernising education and training systems, promoting convergence, coordinated reforms in higher education, encouraging the learning of foreign languages, developing the national qualifications framework and enhancing cooperation in vocational education and training.

Lifelong education is a learning outcome achieved throughout a person's life through participation in formal, non-formal education, based on which an individual acquires or improves his/her knowledge, skills, abilities and the system of values through non-formal trainings provided by supplementary education programmes, the maximum duration where of can be up to five months.

The legislative draft on making supplements and amendments to the RA law **“On Education”** was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 4 May 2022, according to which Article 26 of the law was edited and supplemented by Article 26.1. As a result, the Article stipulates **the need for assessment and recognition of the results of non-formal and informal learning**, as well as sub-legislative acts supporting this process.

Pursuant to Article 26, Part 4 of the RA law “On Education” and according to the order approved by the RA Government Decision No 1062-N dated 10 September 2015, Point 3 sub-point 2): creating mechanisms for the registry, its operation and application are currently under discussion².

The RA Government Decision N 744 of 13 May 2021 approved **“The State educational standard of preschool education”**, which defines the content of educational programmes for the development of preschool children (according to age groups) and the maximum amount of educational load for preschool children. On 16 November 2021, the orders of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia were approved, in order to implement the preschool education standard, comprehensive preschool educational programmes for all age groups. The gradual implementation of programmes in the preschool institutions began in the 2022/2023 academic year. In 2024 the State new standard for preschool education was already implemented in 532 institutions.

On July 1, 2024, in order to effectively organise the implementation of the state educational standard for preschool educations, **the lists of mentor preschool educational institutions (23) and institutions selected for the introduction of basic preschool educational programmes (352)** for training of the implementation of the state educational standard of preschool education in the 2024/2025 academic year, were approved by the orders of the Minister.

The RA law **“On Preschool education”** adopted on 6 May 2020 (HO-267-N) defines the requirement for mandatory training of pedagogical workers of preschool educational institutions. The Minister's Order No 27-N of 25 July 2022 approved “The Procedure for the selection and training of the training organisation of preschool educational institution directors and pedagogical workers”.



Training of pedagogical workers

From May to August 2024, approximately 2 500 pedagogical workers were trained by about 70 mentors who had been selected and trained by the National Centre for Education Development and Innovations Foundation (NCEDIF). In the first semester of 2024, 204 candidates were awarded the certificate for principals of preschool educational institutions. As of July 2024, 80% of preschool educational institutions have certified principals. In 2024, as a result of efforts to enhance the professional development of pedagogical workers and improve payment mechanisms, 27 preschool educational workers were awarded a new qualification category. The process is ongoing³.

² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=163051>, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=100589>

³ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=196532>, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=180284>, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=189134>

Enhancing Education and Training in the Civil Service

The EU-funded Twinning project “Support to the Reforms of the Public Administration Sector in Armenia” included a dedicated component on reviewing the civil service training system. This review was based on challenges identified during the implementation of the Law on Civil Service and its sub-legislative acts.

As part of the Government’s 2021–2026 Activity Programme (Annex No. 1, Decision No. 1902-L), the Project measure “Improving the system of non-financial incentives in the state sector” calls for developing a training policy combining mandatory and voluntary elements, informed by international private sector best practices. To this end, the Office of Civil Service drafted amendments to the Law on Civil Service, adopted by the National Assembly on December 13, 2024 (Law HO-475-N). Article 19 of the Law which is on the training system for civil servants was revised and will enter into force six months after relevant sub-legislative acts are adopted. Recommendations from the Twinning project respective components were incorporated into the reforms.

The Project components also identified issues with organising professional training due to procurement-related constraints. Law HO-475-N now mandates the Civil Service Office to organise training for civil servants performing similar functions. Civil servants may also, with appropriate approval, participate in trainings aligned with their job functions and institutional priorities. The revised law also triggers updates to the Deputy Prime Minister’s Decision No. 2-N (January 9, 2019)⁴ on civil servant training procedures, credit allocation, needs assessment, and recognition of international certificates.

The training crediting system for civil servants has been updated in line with performance evaluation reforms, and civil servants are now allowed to participate in more than one training programme.

Overview of education reforms in general education sector

Ensuring the quality of general education is a central focus of the ongoing education reforms, which includes substantial changes in the curriculum, enhancing the professional qualifications of teachers.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted No 136-N Decision on 4 February 2021⁵ “On making amendments to the RA Government Decision No 439-N of 8 April 2010 “, which **regulates the process of standards formation and approval of general education state standard and subject programmes** as well as regulates the relations relating to their implementation in the general education system.

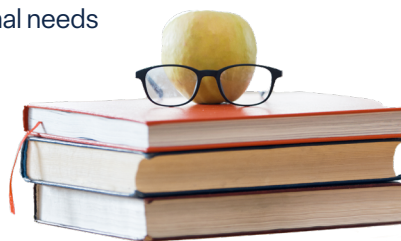
The new standard of general education was piloted in Tavush region in the 2021/2022 academic year, and starting from the 2023/2024 academic year, the process of phased implementation of the new state standard of general education in all schools has been ensured in the 2nd, 5th and 7th grades of schools from September 2023. New subject standards and curricula were approved in May 2024, as well as a legal framework for textbook development was formulated to promote flexibility and competition while improving the

copyright environment. The goal was to introduce the new education standard in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th grades in the 2024/2025 academic year, and in the 1st, 4th, 9th, 11th grades in the 2025/2026 academic year.

The Minister’s Order No 27-N, No 43-N of 7 May 7 2024, approved the subject programmes for the 1st, 4th, 9th, and 12th grades in public educational institutions and the Minister’s Order No 50-N, of 20 June 2024 approved the ‘World History’ subject programmes for the 9th and 12th grades in public educational institutions. Additionally, a new set of textbooks was authorised for use in public educational institutions by the Minister’s Orders No 1008-A/2 dated 10 June 2024, and No 1055-A/2 dated 12 June 2024.

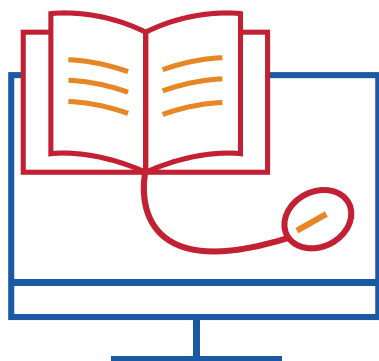
In the framework of the implementation of the new state standard of general education and the significant reforms, in the direction of training based on the identified professional needs of teachers, the Government Decision N 1385-N “On Amendments and additions to the decision No 1667-N of 27 December 2012” was approved on August 29, 2024. The process is ongoing⁵.

As a result, the new standard of general education was piloted in Tavush region of RA in the 2021/2022 academic year and the process of phased implementation of the new state standard of general education in all schools has been ensured in



⁴ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=149874>

⁵ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=149788>



7 grades out of 12 grades of schools across the Republic of Armenia in 10 marzes and in the capital Yerevan.

Within the framework of reforms, the work on revising standards and curricula, as well as creating and printing new textbooks continues

Overview of distance education

The law “On General education” adopted on 10 July 2009 (HO-160-N) defines the concept of “distance education” as a form of implementing an education programme, within which direct and indirect student-teacher interaction is maintained mainly through information technologies and telecommunications. The mechanisms, cases and mandates of various organisations for distance education are defined by Minister’s Order No

09-N “ on the organisation of distance education in general educational institutions» of 20 May 2020. This document stipulates that relevant educational and teaching materials shall use “information and communication technology” tools.

Since 2020 the National Centre of Educational Technologies has initiated a range of activities for smooth transition to online learning in public schools. Specifically, the National Centre of Educational Technologies with UNICEF Armenia has initiated a project for ensuring the continuity of education of children irrespective of Force Majeure situation thus expanding the access to education. The project covered the following activities: (i) video lessons have been created from the 1st to the 12th grades for all the subjects including video lessons in, (ii) centralised distance learning has been organised giving an opportunity for all students in Armenia to have access to online lessons, (iii) capacity building in e-course development and online teaching of teachers carried out.

To ensure the continuity and the right to education within the framework of distance education, it is worth mentioning about the “E-learning. Mentor Schools” project. In order to solve the lack of teachers in the rural communities of RA, via distance teaching, retraining courses are carried out for the representatives of the schools who expressed their willingness to be included as mentors in “E-learning. Mentor Schools” project. This ensures the continuity of education in schools of rural and border communities, where this or that subject was not taught due to the absence of a teacher. As of the 2024/2025 academic year, in the frame of the above-mentioned project 1352 hours of remote teaching were carried out by 195 teachers in 95 rural schools of the Republic of Armenia. Thus, within the above-mentioned project in 2024 the number of mentor schools in Armenia became 43. The trainings and monitoring carried out within the framework of the project are continuous.

Distance education platform

Under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) grant project a distance education platform has been developed to provide more learning modalities and information in a learner-friendly format. It is aimed to deliver online courses and provide teachers and students with real-time feedback mechanisms, assignment distribution and monitoring, and other student-centric learning tools. The ADB and the Government of the Republic of Armenia launched the distance education platform on 18 March 2022. The process is ongoing.

Modernisation of educational infrastructures

“The Procedure for alternative, cost-effective models of preschool education and their introduction” approved by Minister’s Order No 20-N of 26 January 2021, aims to form alternative preschool educational institutions in the populous communities of the Republic of Armenia, which will provide an opportunity to increase the number of children enrolled in preschool educational services, ensuring accessibility especially for socially disadvantaged families.

The Government of Armenia has set the target of increasing the number of children at the age of 3-5 enrolled in pre-primary institutions to at least 85% by the year 2026, which includes also the creation of alternative cost-effective models of preschool education in the populous communities of Armenia. Within the above mentioned, financial resources were allocated (in the form of grants) to 17 communities to create appropriate



conditions for the implementation of preschool educational services.

The implementation process of alternative, cost-effective models of preschool education has started in 2021. As a result, during 2021-2023 financial resources (in the form of grants) were allocated to 13 communities. The process of the implementation of alternative, cost-effective models of preschool education was completed, but the implementation of quality services in preschool education system continues.

Within the framework of the “the implementation process of quality services in preschool education system”, the programme “300 schools and 500 kindergartens to be built, overhauled or reconstructed until 2026” aimed at ensuring the availability and accessibility of preschool education, is considered to be one of the main targets of the Governmental Programme for 2021-2026. In 2024 the construction works were completed in 195 preschool educational institutions. The works are ongoing.



Overview of Inclusive education in preschool education system.

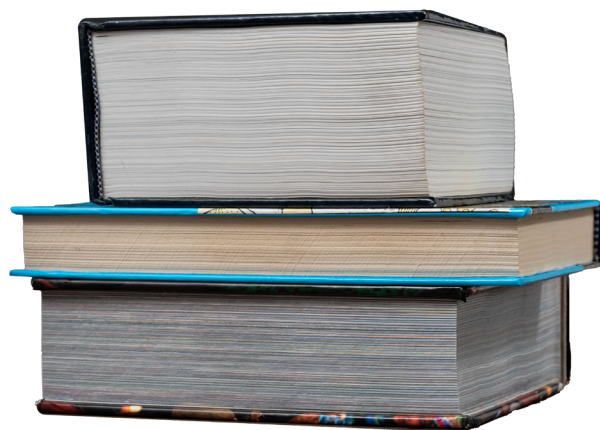
The universal inclusive preschool education system was implemented in the Republic of Armenia in 2023. The Government Decision No 598-N of 15 April 2021 approved “The Action plan and schedule for the Implementation of the universal inclusive education system in the Republic of Armenia”, according to which the universal inclusive preschool education system will be implemented in stages. As a result, in 2022 the system was implemented in 3 regions of the Republic of Armenia (Syunik, Lori, Tavush) and in Yerevan. And in 2023 it was implemented in the remaining 7 regions, namely: in Vayots Dzor, Shirak, Kotayk, Gegharkunik, Armavir, Ararat, Aragatsotn. Though the implementation phase has been completed, but the process is ongoing.

The RA Government Decision No 1169-N of 15 July 2021 defines the procedure for funding preschool educational institutions from the state budget based on per child calculation. According to the decision, funding for children with special educational and development needs has been implemented from September 1, 2022.

The Minister’s Order No 24-N approved on 15 July 2022, defines pedagogical-psychological assessment criteria for children with special educational and development needs. The Minister’s Order No 34-N approved on 7 September 2022, defines the procedure of provision of pedagogical-psychological support services for organisation of education and development of children aged at 0-6. In preschool educational institutions the assessment of the child’s need for special conditions of education and development is carried out throughout the academic year. And as a result, in 2024, 1836 children of preschool aged were assessed. Moreover, the free of charge preschool education for these children is fully provided for by the state budget funds. 10296 pedagogies of preschool educational institutions have been retrained. The process is ongoing⁶.

Overview of Inclusive education in general education system.

The universal inclusive general education system was implemented in the Republic of Armenia in 2022 according to the approved RA Government Protocol Decision “The Action plan and schedule for the implementation of the universal inclusive education system” of 18 February 2016. The policy of inclusive education is aimed at ensuring the accessibility, opportunity of equal participation and quality of education of each child. As a result, in Armenia a smooth transition into the universal inclusive education system in the field of general education was carried out including all 10 regions and Yerevan. Positions of teacher’s assistants and psychologists were introduced in the schools. The Republican Pedagogical-Psychological Centre and 17 Territorial Pedagogical-Psychological Support Centres operate in the republic, the provision of pedagogic-psychological support to children in 3 regions of RA (Tavush, Ararat and Vayots Dzor) are carried out by “Bridge of Hope” NGO, “For You” public charity and “Child Development Foundation” organisations. The process is completed.



In order to **match VET professions and skills provided by VET institutions** to the demand of the labour market

⁶ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=152208>, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=184248>, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=166329>

according to the priority sectors of economy and regional development programmes every year the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MESCS) implements the development of the new and revision of the existing state educational standards and relevant modular programmes and curricula for VET professions. At this stage respectively 286 and 190 state educational standards have been developed and revised.

Highlighting the strategic significance of entrepreneurial human capital for the development of Armenia's economy, since 2016 the "Entrepreneurship" module and corresponding modular programme has been included in all newly developed and revised VET state educational standards. Concerning **dual education**: dual education long-term programmes of 27 professions and qualifications have been developed and introduced in 20 VET institutions. However, in addition to long-term programmes, the dual approach has also been localised for short-term programmes, and in this case, the main vision extends to the formation of new skills that are in demand by the private sector, but do not have a corresponding long-term educational programme. 18 dual short-term programmes have been developed. The process is ongoing.

With the new law on **"Vocational education and training"** adopted by the National Assembly on May 22, 2024 (HO-250-N), the following main regulations are defined:

1. Harmonisation of concepts and their definitions used in Vocational education and training (VET) law,
2. Improvement of the work-based learning (WBL)/dual system,
3. Implementation of a cooperative model of education management and organisation - responsibility of social partnership.
4. Transition to national framework of qualifications (NQF) and sectoral framework of qualifications (SQF) and credit system in VET sector,
5. Improving the management of VET institutions,
6. Revision of general requirements for professional educational programmes, including the opportunity to offer additional educational programmes that certify the learning outcomes obtained and are the basis for micro qualifications/ micro credentials.
7. Licensing of the right and qualifications to implement the professional educational programme,
8. Revision of VET financing system and promotion of entrepreneurial activity,
9. Reforming the mechanisms of recruiting, improving, evaluating, encouraging, responsibility, and career assurance of the administrative and pedagogical staff of VET institutions, providing for them the training, certification, awarding of categories and titles,
10. Regulation of rights and responsibilities of VET system students and trainees,
11. Ensuring equal opportunities to receive professional education and training by providing and including special conditions for education.

The process is ongoing⁷.

Strengthening human resources through trainings in VET sector

This is one of the priority directions of the reforms implemented in this field. Training of the administrative, pedagogical staff and members of the management boards of VET institutions are carried out every year. During the last three years, training has been delivered to around 4500 people. However, there is still much to be done in terms of professional capacity building. The requirements of the newly developed state educational standards, the need of quick response to the changing labour market requirements, introduction of new systems make training implementation a priority. Periodical training (methodological assistance) of pedagogical staff allows enhancing VET system management efficiency, improving teaching process and increasing the qualification and employability of students. The Procedure of the training and attestation of VET lecturers and trainers was approved by the RA Minister's Order No 07-N on 7 February 2024, which considers a salary increase. Four sectors have been selected for trainings and approved: IT, agriculture, jewellery and cooking. The list of training organisations was approved. The training process has started since 10 September 2024. 361 people participated in the training process. The certification was organised on 30 November 2024. According to the preliminary

⁷ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=193918>

results, 310 out of 361 trained educators were certified. As a result of the certification, 88.4% of the participants passed the minimum threshold and were considered certified.

Overview of teaching foreign languages

Since 2021, within the **framework of the partnership with the British Council Armenia Office**, in accordance with the vision and priorities of the Ministry of Education, a great number of important activities has been carried out in the following directions: development of a policy and framework for continuous professional orientation of schools in Armenia, “Future English: Roads to Excellence” conducting research in the English teaching system, in-depth research and promotion of innovations. Implementation of research projects “Impact of English” and “Coding Skills: Connecting Present to the Future”. In partnership with the British Council, the concept paper of continuous professional development of teachers was developed, which included the entire vision of continuous professional development of the teaching staff of the Republic of Armenia. This concept became the basis for the development of training programmes for teachers, the establishment of professional standards, and the mapping and implementation of the entire process. The British Council Armenia Office has launched professional development training courses in the framework of the “Future English” programme. The programme offers English language teachers, continuous professional development, providing an opportunity to carry out the entire process through an innovative, modern online platform. The platform will be used to offer a 17-week professional development programme for English teachers. The process is ongoing.



On 24 September 2024, Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and the **“Children of Armenia” charitable fund** was signed. The purpose of the Agreement is as follows: to implement the English enhancement for the students of 15 public educational institutions of the villages of Armavir, Aragatsotn and Shirak regions, bringing the participants to the C1 level of English. 15 schools of these 3 regions are enrolled in the “Linguistic Horizons: Revealing the Opportunities for Teachers’ Development and English Teaching in Armavir, Aragatsotn and Shirak Marzes” programme. The process is in its implementation phase.

Overview of Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks (SQF) in higher education sector

As of 2023, **Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks (SQF)** for a total of 21 qualifications have been developed and approved by the orders of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia: Construction, Veterinary, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Medicine, Pedagogy, Sociology, History, Architecture, Law, Mathematics, Computer Science, Social Work, Physics, Geology, Philosophy, Chemistry, Geography, Service, Biology and Management. Educational programmes at universities have been updated according to the approved SQFs by 2024 (which is already 50% of the target planned for 2025). The process is completed.

Since 2017, **multiple pilot projects on dual education** and apprenticeships contributed to building the capacity of VET institutions and companies and thus creating a culture of WBL. In cooperation with GIZ in the framework of “Private Sector Development and Vocational Education and Training in the South Caucasus” project in 2017 the Ministry started the piloting of dual system in VET institutions.

Overview of dual education system

As of 2024 dual educational system has been experimentally introduced in 20 VET educational institutions by the 27 professions and qualifications of priority for economic development such as agriculture, IT, Precise Engineering, Vine making, Tourism and Hospitality, Technical maintenance and repair of automobile transport, Culinary. For each Programme the VET institutions signs about 2-5 cooperation memorandums with employers. More than 1000 students are involved in dual education programmes. The programme has contributed to the improvement of skills, key competences and employability of students, expansion of VET system partnership with the employers, organisation of training and industrial internships at the workplace and implementation of effective active labour market policies.

The adopted new law on VET considers putting the implementation of work-based learning and dual education on a solid base, to provide effective mechanisms for work-based learning implementation, to facilitate work-based learning methodology, regulation, to straighten/ improve the legal bases for cooperation with the private sector. Work-based learning is considered as a priority by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport as one of the best tools to boost VET quality, as well as to match education supply and labour market demand.



In 2019 the “**Concept paper and road map for development of the work-based learning (WBL)** in Armenia for 2019-2025” with concrete actions schedule was developed. The road map has been revised according to the law on approving “The State programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030” and its Action Plan.

More recently, since November 2022, the State programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030 recognises the systematic introduction of work-based teaching and learning mechanisms as a priority in the VET system. In particular, it foresees the “implementation of flexible approaches in case of VET institutions” highlighting, not only the issues of modernisation of the institutions’ infrastructures within the framework of further development of WBL, but also the possibility of using employers’ infrastructures

in the educational process. It is envisaged that the process of implementing WBL/dual model will be expanded gradually after the adoption of the new law on VET. The process is ongoing.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the RA law on approving “**The State programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030**” on 16 November 2022 (HO-441-N) which covers all fields of education focusing on education quality, accessibility and efficiency. The programme defines the strategic priorities of the state policy of the Republic of Armenia in the field of education, presenting their organic connection with state, public and private needs, as well as global development tendencies. It also stipulates vision, goals and three strategic directions of the development of education until 2030, particularly: creation of a universally inclusive, learner-centred educational environment, increase of education efficiency and internationalisation and export of education services and products.

The ultimate **goal of the Education Strategy** is to form an effective and internationally competitive education system based on national and universal values aimed at the development of the country, which gives everyone, at all stages of their life, the opportunity to receive quality education meeting their needs and abilities, ensures the competitive professional preparedness of individuals to build their own well-being in their country and taking an active civic position to exercise their own rights and responsibilities, as well as willingness to engage in social good and the country’s multidimensional security. The Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the Action Plan arising from the above-mentioned programme on 16 March 16, 2023 (Decision N 351-L) , which currently undergoes its implementation phase.⁸

The overview of the reforms in higher education sector

The draft law “**On Higher Education and Science**” is developed with new concepts such as micro-credentials, academic credits, qualifications sectoral framework, regulated professions, joint educational programmes, etc. have been defined. As a result of the adoption of the law “On Higher Education and Science”, it is expected that there will be reforms implemented in the fields of higher education and science, legal basis, principles, conditions, licensing standards, uniform regulations for the development of necessary policies that contribute to the achievement of the goals defined by the law on approving ‘The State Programme for the development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030’.

The law on approving “**The State programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030**” sets, as a goal, the revision and update of the list of specialties and qualifications of higher professional education of the Republic of Armenia, including the regulated and interdisciplinary specialties, ensuring comparability of qualifications with a comprehensive system of European Qualifications Framework in compliance with the requirements of a modern and progressive labour market and society developing requirements. The development of critical and analytical thinking, innovative, research skills, the “green” education component are particularly highlighted. A system of Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF) will be developed in accordance with the final results of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), the universities will modernise educational programmes in accordance with the final results of SQFs.



⁸ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=171800>

By the draft law “On Higher Education and Science” new mechanisms of university self-government, autonomy, academic freedoms, accountability and funding are developed. The law “On Approval of the State Programme for the development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030” marks the importance of development and implementation of an electronic platform for the organisation and management of education in higher education institutions, completion and launch of the Education Management Information Platform.

One of the goals set by the law approving “The State programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030” is expanding opportunities for teaching in a foreign language at all levels of higher education and creating equal opportunities for educational programmes taught in both Armenian and foreign languages. Mechanisms for mutual recognition of higher education qualifications, credits mobility, ensuring mutual recognition of qualifications and credits of higher education of the Republic of Armenia.

By the draft law “On Higher Education and Science” a legal framework has been created according to which two or more universities (including foreign ones) can jointly develop and implement an educational programme and assign qualifications at any level of higher education, confirmed by a single graduation document (diploma) issued by participating universities, or separate graduation documents (diplomas) of one or all participating universities. Individual courses or individual course topics, study modules and educational programmes can be taught in a foreign language, which will contribute to the internationalisation of higher education.

Overview of self-certification of the national system of higher education qualifications

Implementation of the process of self-certification of the national system of higher education qualifications is planned for 2025 according to the law approving “The State programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030”. A process of self-certification of the national higher education qualifications system will be carried out (as a result, a self-affirmation report will be published). Moreover, the system of Sectoral Qualifications Framework will be developed in accordance with the final results of the National Qualifications Framework.

The draft law “On Higher Education and Science” has already been submitted for public discussion, the results are being summarised. Higher education self-certification process is planned for 2025. The above- mentioned activities in the higher education field will be possible to implement only after the adoption of the Law “On Higher Education and Science” which is supposed to be adopted in 2025. The process is ongoing.



YOUTH

Cooperation areas cover reinforcing cooperation, exchanges of young people and workers, active participation of young people in society, supporting mobility of young people and young workers and promoting cooperation between youth organisations.

Year by year, the implementation of various programmes with the support of the EU increases and within the framework of these programmes (Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, EU4Youth, Erasmus+ Youth, etc.) the organisation of study and capacity improvement visits aimed at exchange of experience of policy makers, youth workers, representatives of CSOs engaged in activities related to youth. The above-mentioned programmes are also greatly contributing to the outline of the vision of the structural coordination of the sector in RA, as well as the implementation of works aimed at legislative regulations, in particular, the drafting of the “Youth Policy” law, because the accumulated experience and studies were invested by the beneficiaries to outline the sequence of steps aimed at sector reforms and more to create a participatory document. The beneficiaries of the youth sector are young people, policy makers, youth-related CSOs and youth workers.

In the framework of the legislative regulations of the youth sector it is worth mentioning about the draft law “On Youth Policy” “ (hereafter; the draft law) which was submitted to the RA Prime Minister’s office. On 7 November 2024 the draft law was approved by the Government Resolution No 1763-A and was submitted to the National Assembly. The purpose of this law is to establish a legal framework for the state’s policy on youth, to regulate the

processes of developing and implementing youth policy, and to manage the legal relations arising among local self-government bodies, youth organisations, youth centres, and state authorities.

Armenian decision-makers and representatives of non-governmental organisations have conducted exchange visits to some EU countries for study the processes of developing and implementing legal documents, methodologies in the youth sector. The Youth Policy Law was adopted on 5 March 2025. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport has already begun working on the development of sub-legislative documents arising from the law.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport submitted an application for an expert mission of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Tool (TAIEX) of the European Commission, which was approved in the summer of the year 2024. The main purpose of the assignment is to provide the Armenian government with expert guidance and practical expertise regarding the adoption and implementation of the “Youth Policy” law. The visit’s agenda is currently under development. The law will also greatly contribute to the recognition and establishment of the institution of “youth work”. The adoption of the law also results in the development of the “Youth Programme”, an action plan for a certain period, which will serve as a tool for the coordination of sectoral actions and their measurability. The active support of the EU and other partners is also expected in the implementation of the planned steps.

The changes to the procedure for the implementation of the activity “Support for the participation of Armenian young people and youth delegations at international festivals, conferences, competitions, conferences, seminars, courses and other public events” was approved by the Minister’s Order No 614-A/2 on 5 September 2019. Moreover, financial support - reimbursement of the cost of the air tickets was given to young people and groups of young people for participation in international programmes and events. The changes are meant to bring the procedure into line with the logic of the state youth policy, as well as to direct the allocated financial resources, exclusively to the increase of the involvement of young people and youth groups in youth events and programmes and more active participation on international platforms. The event promotes the development of international cooperation and youth mobility. The process is ongoing.





CULTURE

PRESERVING
AND
PROMOTING
HERITAGE,
FOSTERING CREATION

Scope

Cooperation in the culture is conducted in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005. Cooperation focuses on cultural cooperation and cultural exchanges, the mobility of art and artists and the strengthening of the capacity of the cultural sector, intercultural dialogue, cultural policy dialogue, the Creative Europe Programme and cooperation in international fora such as



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of Education,
Science, Culture and Sports**

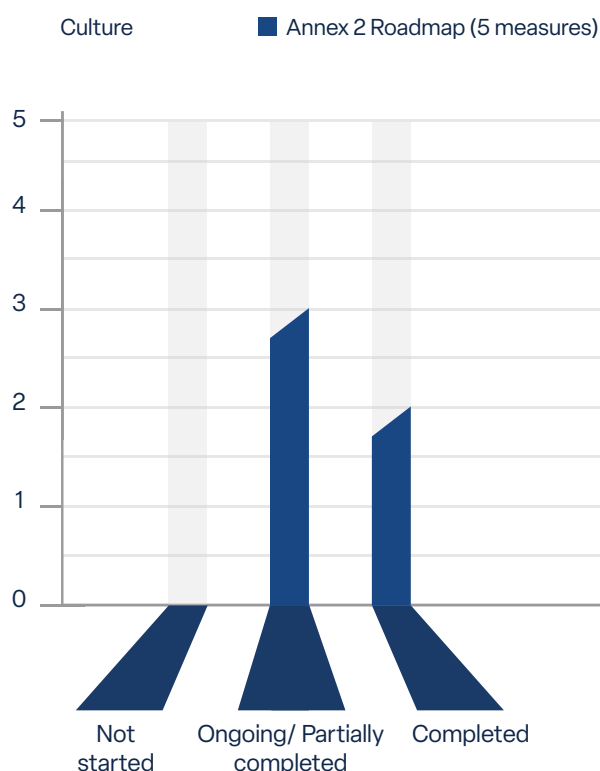
UNESCO and the Council of Europe (Article 96 and 97 of CEPA Agreement).

Benefits for the society

- Cultural expansion through the participation in international projects abroad, contributes to the identification, development of abilities, improvement, as well as encouragement of the most talented artist representing the Armenian artistic performance in the international arena. The cultural cooperation of artists, cultural exchanges, as well as intercultural dialogue play an important role, which contribute to the popularisation of art on prestigious international platforms, the acquisition of new partnership ties and the implementation of processes stipulated by international agreements. Beneficiaries are artists, individual creators, creative groups, filmmakers.
- Establishing the legal framework in the cultural field: the Law “On Museums” which regulates relations connected to the activities of museums, defines the types and functions of museums, the principles of creation and operation, as well as issues related to the registration, preservation, use, and security of the museum collections of the Republic of Armenia. The Law amendments and additions to the “Law on libraries and library work» offer new regulatory mechanisms in the field of libraries to develop new services and activities, including but not limited to economic activities. Beneficiaries are the general public, professionals in museum and library sectors, educational institutions with focus on schools.
- “The Creative Europe” programme plays a crucial role in cultural and creative sectors of Armenia in providing various benefits that extend to society at large. This programme not only enriches the cultural landscape but also fosters social cohesion, economic growth, and innovation across communities of the Republic of Armenia. The programme also supports a broad array of cultural and artistic projects, enhancing cultural diversity and cross-cultural cooperation. By providing funding and exposure, it encourages local artists, musicians, writers, and cultural organisations to innovate and cultivate collaboration and cooperation. This programme enables Armenian creators to participate in international cultural exchanges, which not only allows them to share Armenia’s unique heritage but also benefits from other countries’ experience and arts.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2 MEASURES 74-78



Performance

60%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

Performance

40%
COMPLETED

The Strategy of Preservation, Development and Promotion of Culture of the Republic of Armenia 2023-2027, adopted by the RA Government in December 2023, sets the main objectives of the cultural policy of the country, aiming at the safeguarding, development and enhancement of culture, inclusivity, access to culture and art, encouragement of creativity, strengthening the power of democratic values. Culture and creative sectors are recognised a key source for development of the society and its well-being. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Strategy of Preservation, Development and Promotion of Culture of the Republic of Armenia 2023-2027 underscores the commitment of the Republic of

Armenia to achieve the UN's 2030 SDGs.

The Strategy recognises culture as an essential component of citizen education and is key to the development of human capital. One of the major goals of the Strategy is ensuring the creative involvement of society in cultural life, as well as expanding the role of culture and arts in the processes of sustainable development of the country, with the two main sub-goals: decentralisation of culture and synthesis of cultural and educational policies.

It aims at ensuring accessibility to arts education, the preparation and training of personnel and specialists in the field of culture, increasing the quality of cultural and educational services, forming future citizens of the Republic of Armenia.

The Strategy highlights the importance of synchronisation of arts and cultural policies, as part of which a major objective is the integration of culture into school educational programmes.

The partnership between schools and cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries, theatres, are highly encouraged on a policy and programme-implementation level.

Popularising the Armenian culture abroad, establishing mutual relations and developing professional skills of talented young people and exchanging experience.

In 2024, the **young musicians involved in the “Meknark” targeted talent development programme** participated in a number of different events: competitions, festivals, concerts, master classes. Many of them have won the title of laureates of national and international competitions. In particular: 7 members of the programme participated in international music competitions held in Germany, Belgium, Hungary, Greece and Spain and won the 1st and 2nd prizes. Three members of the programme gave concert performances in Hanover, Germany, alongside with a symphonic orchestra. Another 6 members performed solo concerts in Belgium, Germany and France, and participated in all stages of the Eurovision Classical Music Competition, out of them 3 participants advanced to the final round.

Programme members have received master classes from the world's best specialists from Finland, France, Italy and Switzerland. The programme is aimed at identifying the most talented young musicians-performers aged 11-20, developing their abilities, improving them, and encouraging them in order to present the Armenian performing arts in the international arena. The process is ongoing.

On 5 April 2022 a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed with the **Swedish Art Grants Agency** to establish cooperation within the framework of the **“ArtNexus” project**. This new Swedish initiative serve the cooperation between Armenia and Sweden in the field of art and culture and contribute to the formation and expansion of future cooperation programmes. The project aims at sharing the necessary experience and helps developing the capacities of cultural institutions and individual artists and promote state-public dialogue between Armenian art and culture figures and state stakeholders. Within the frame of the “ArtNexus” programme the “Peer to Peer” project has been launched. With the coordinators of the “ArtNexus” programme in Sweden a final meeting was held, during which the future course of the programme in Armenia was discussed. The process is ongoing.

In 2024, within the framework of the **“Cinematography” programme**, 16 individual creators and industry representatives were supported in the process of popularising Armenian culture abroad. In particular: 5 filmmakers participated in international events and film festivals held in France, Italy and Germany. Eleven representatives participated in the European Film Market attached to the Berlin International Film Festival held in Germany, in the Marché du film attached to the Cannes International Film Festival and the MIFA film market attached to the Annecy International Animation Festival held in France. The goal is to contribute to the popularisation of Armenian film productions on prestigious international film platforms and develop new partnerships.

In 2024, within the framework of the **“Arts” programme** 16 individual artists, 1 choir, 2 orchestras and 2 theatre troupes were supported in the process of promoting Armenian culture abroad. In particular: 9 musicians participated in competitions and events held in Germany, Belgium, Italy and Malta. 1 choir participated in a festival held in Poland. As part of the jubilee events dedicated to Charles Aznavour’s 100th birthday, the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia toured in Switzerland, Italy, Belgium and Germany, and the State Jazz Orchestra of Armenia held concerts under the title “Jazznavour” in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Hungary. One theatre troupe participated in the Theatre Festival d’Avignon, to which Armenia received an invitation for the first time and presented itself with the mono performance “Cold Day in Hell” of the State Song Theatre of Armenia, as well as one artist and one theatre troupe participated in theatre festivals held in Spain and Poland. The goal of the programme is to contribute to the popularisation of Armenian modern art on prestigious international platforms. The process is ongoing.



The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia **adopted the RA law “On Museums”** on 28 February 2024 (HO-93-N). The law defines the rights and responsibilities of museum workers, the legal basis of museum education, regulations for the accreditation of private museums, and the principles of community museum activities. Adoption of the Museum law defines the legal framework for the preservation and protection of cultural heritage, the development of new economic mechanisms in the field of culture, as well as the regulation of relations arising between legal entities and individuals¹.



The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the RA law amendments and additions to the **“Law on libraries and library work”** on 2 October 2, 2024 (HO-344-N). The amendments to the law provide definitions on public and digital libraries, defines specific provisions regulating the duties and responsibilities of librarians. It will contribute to the improvement of the main operational functions of the library sector, including, but are not limited to replenishment of library collections, storage, research, preservation, digitalisation of collections, as well as delivery of new public services. The process is ongoing².

Within the framework of Armenia’s membership in **“The Creative Europe Programme (2021-2027)”** of the European Union, the participation of the Republic of Armenia to “The Creative Europe Programme (2021 -2027)” was signed and entered into force on 28 December 2022. The main objectives of the Programme are as follows: (i) to safeguard, develop, and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage; (ii) to increase the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, particularly the audiovisual sector. The programme supports the exchange of ideas and best practices, empowering Armenia’s creative sector to address local and global challenges, promote sustainable cultural development, and contribute to Armenia’s

¹ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=191085>

² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=198712>

cultural diplomacy efforts. **“The Creative Europe Desk (CED) Armenia”** operates in Yerevan under the guidance of the European Commission and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport. Coordinated by the Yerevan Perspectives International Music Festival, CED Armenia aims to promote “The Creative Europe” programme within Armenia’s cultural and creative sectors. The key objectives are as follows: (i) Facilitation of access to EU funding, providing information and guidance, and promotion of Armenia’s participation in “The Creative Europe” projects, (ii) Visibility and awareness, (iii) Stakeholder engagement, namely building networks with local cultural organizations, professionals, and the public, (iv) Participation promotion, (v) Information dissemination.

Overview of activities of the Creative Europe Desk Armenia

1. Website: www.creativeeurope.am (well-maintained and regularly updated website in ARM & ENG)
2. Social Media Campaigns: Utilising Facebook (4.3K followers), Instagram (279 followers), and LinkedIn (120 followers) to share updates, success stories, upcoming events, and funding opportunities
3. Database & Email Newsletters: Database of contacts created and sent regular newsletters featuring news, events, deadlines, and tips (450 organisations, lists being updated regularly).
4. Webinars & Information Days: Host online and offline webinars and information days in Yerevan and marzes to present the projects and explain the application process, eligibility criteria, etc. (cooperation with local municipalities and cultural organisations). 30 online and offline events from September 2023 to October 2024
5. Networking Events: Arrange events where cultural professionals can network, share ideas, and explore potential collaborations locally and internationally (Coffee Talks in CED Armenia, etc.): 3 Networking Events locally and with “The Creative Europe Desk Germany”
6. Workshops and Capacity Building: Organising and sharing in-person and virtual workshops with local experts and CEDs to provide hands-on guidance on project development and proposal writing. Workshops have been organised by the CED Armenia. 5 face-to-face and online capacity-building training and seminars
7. Daily consultations and meetings: More than 125 consultations and meetings, guidance through the application, PIC number declaration, validation, EU Funding & Tenders Portal. Daily consultations in the face-to-face format at the CED office, partners’ offices, via phone, Zoom, and Teams.
8. Guides and Links: Translation, adaptation, and dissemination of the calls, “The Culture EU Funding Guide”, Q&As, useful links, etc.
9. Arranging interviews with “The Creative Europe Desk Armenia” and beneficiaries on radio, TV, and podcasts. More than 15 articles and interviews.

Within “The Creative Europe” programme the following activities have been carried out:

1. 10 mobilities of individual artists within the frame of the Culture Moves Europe
2. Armenian Centre for Contemporary Experimental Art /NPAK - 1 residency project within the frame of the Culture Moves Europe
3. European Cooperation Projects - 4 projects, and 2 projects with the Armenia’s organisation being a Coordinator
4. Teryan Cultural Centre - European Heritage Award
5. Perform Europe (one of the 42 approved projects) - coordinator the Today Art Initiative NGO based in Yerevan
6. Yerevan Music Week - approved project of the European Festivals for Emerging Artists.



AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA FIELDS



DIVERSE

AND

QUALITY MEDIA,

INFORMED

CITIZENS



SCOPE

Cooperation aims at strengthening of the audiovisual industries in the EU and in Armenia in particular through training of professionals and the exchange of information. It focuses on policy dialogue on audiovisual and media policies, cooperation in international fora (such as UNESCO and the WTO) and audiovisual and media cooperation, including cooperation in the field of cinema (Article 98).



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry
The Ministry of Justice
The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports
The Television and Radio Commission

CEPA facilitates the enhancement and alignment of audiovisual media services legislation with EU standards, promoting better integration of Armenia's media landscape with that of the EU.

Benefits for the society

- Aligning with EU directives enhances the regulatory framework for audiovisual media, fostering a diverse and competitive media environment.
- Improved media standards and access to a broader range of content, which supports cultural exchange and strengthens democratic values.

In the frame of audiovisual and media cooperation in the field of cinema it should be mentioned that the implementation of EU Audio-Visual Media Services Directive will make possible to join "The Creative Europe" programme Media strand.

The key provisions of this directive are as follows:

1. **Scope and Definitions:** the directive covers various forms of media, including traditional television and on-demand services. Armenia would need to expand its definitions to include digital platforms and streaming services,
2. **Content Regulation:** the directive includes rules on content standards, such as the protection of minors, prohibition of hate speech, and requirements for promoting European works. Armenia would need to adopt similar standards.
3. **Advertising Regulations:** there are strict guidelines on advertising, particularly concerning food and beverages aimed at children. Armenia would have to enforce these rules, potentially affecting local advertising practices.
4. **Accessibility:** the AVMSD emphasises accessibility for persons with disabilities. Armenia would need to enhance accessibility features in audiovisual content.
5. **Cultural Promotion:** the directive encourages the promotion of European works, which might necessitate the establishment of quotas or support for local content production in Armenia.

Its impact on the society is as follows:

1. **Cultural Identity and Diversity:** aligning with the AVMSD could strengthen the local audiovisual sector by promoting Armenian culture and content, fostering a diverse media landscape that reflects national identity.
2. **Armenian films as European Works:** by aligning with European standards, Armenia can enhance its film industry's visibility and strengthen collaborations, paving the way for partnerships under "The Creative Europe" programme Media strand. This alignment will not only facilitate distribution opportunities but also enable Armenian filmmakers to access funding, training, and networking prospects within the

broadier European market, ultimately enriching both Armenian and European cinematic landscapes.

3. Consumer Protection: enhanced regulations on content quality and advertising could improve consumer protection, particularly for vulnerable populations like children.
4. Media Pluralism: improved standards might lead to greater media pluralism, reducing the dominance of a few major players and encouraging a broader range of voices in the media landscape.
5. Increased Investment: compliance with EU standards could attract foreign investment in the Armenian media sector, boosting local economies and creating jobs.

The beneficiaries are filmmakers, representatives of Armenian media sector, different layers of the society including vulnerable population like children.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES¹

Amendments to the Law on Mass Media

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance media regulation in Armenia, a draft legislative package aimed at amending the Law on Mass Media was circulated for public consultation and submitted to relevant state bodies for review on 30 November 2023. Based on the observations received during this consultation phase, the draft was revised and submitted to the Prime Minister's Office on 29 March 2024.

On 15 June 2024, the draft was submitted to the Venice Commission for an official opinion, which was received in October 2024. Considering the Commission's recommendations, the package was revised accordingly and re-submitted to the Prime Minister's Office. The legislative package is currently undergoing another phase of revision in line with the received comments and recommendations.



Alignment with the EU Audio-Visual Media Services Directive

In order to implement the requirements of the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive—Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010, as amended by Directive 2018/1808/EU of 14 November 2018—it is necessary to amend the Law on Audiovisual Media, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia. To initiate the process, during July and August 2024, specialists from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports held a series of meetings with representatives of the Commission on Television and Radio. The Ministry of High-Tech Industry has translated the relevant EU directives and submitted them to the Commission on Television and Radio to support further implementation efforts.

The ongoing cooperation between the Ministry and the Commission has laid a solid foundation for aligning national legislation with EU standards. These proactive measures demonstrate a clear commitment to fulfilling Armenia's obligations under the CEPA and ensuring compliance with the evolving European regulatory framework in the audiovisual media sector.

¹ One measure related to the Chapter on "Cooperation in the Audiovisual and Media Fields" (Article 99, point 2) has been included in the 1st Annex of the CEPA Roadmap. This measure concerns the development and adoption of a legislative package amending the laws regulating the mass media sector. Although this article falls under the Chapter on "Cooperation in the Audiovisual and Media Fields," it has been included in the measures relating to "Justice, Security and Freedom". Consequently, it is presented in the progress report under the "Justice, Security and Freedom" chapter within the scope of the monitoring process.



SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



ACTIVE **LIFESTYLE** **AND** **WINNING** **ATHLETES**



SCOPE

Cooperation in the field of sport and physical activity focuses on exchange of information and good practices in order to promote a healthy lifestyle, good governance as well as the social and educational values of sport and in order to fight against threats to sport such as doping, match-fixing, racism and violence within the EU and Armenia (Article 101).



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

Benefits for the society

The overall activity in the field of physical culture and sport in Armenia is aimed at the harmonious and multifaceted development of individuals, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, and encouragement of active recreation within society. These efforts contribute to improved well-being, increased longevity, and the strengthening of Armenia's international reputation. Anti-doping initiatives remain a key priority, supporting the fair and successful participation of Armenia's national teams in European and World Championships, as well as in the Olympic Games. The primary beneficiaries of activities in the sports sector include professional athletes, schoolchildren, and citizens across the 18–40 and 41+ age groups.

In 2024, Armenian athletes achieved remarkable success on the international stage, winning a total of 388 medals across various sports disciplines, including:

- 4 medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games: 3 silver and 1 bronze
- 123 gold, 107 silver, and 154 bronze medals at adult, youth, and junior World and European Championships

These achievements reflect Armenia's growing prominence in international sport and the effectiveness of state-supported development initiatives in the sector.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES

Strategic Development of Physical Culture and Sport

In 2023, the Government of Armenia approved “The Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia on Physical Culture and Sport for 2024–2030” along with its corresponding Action Plan (Decision No. 2145-L). The strategy outlines the strategic priorities of state policy in the fields of physical culture and sport, guided by the needs of both the public and private sectors, as well as global development trends. The overarching goals of the strategy are:

1. To promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle as a national way of life;
2. To position Armenia as a country of high sporting achievements.

The strategy also envisions the development of specialised, well-equipped sports facilities in line with international standards, the training of high-level coaches and professionals, and the provision of internationally compliant sports equipment to federations and other sports organisations as needed¹.

¹ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=186978>

Legislative Developments and Anti-Doping Measures

On 1 March 2023, the National Assembly of Armenia adopted the Law “On Making Amendments and Additions to the Law on Physical Culture and Sport” (HO-44-N). This law includes provisions related to anti-doping activities, aligned with the standards set by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)².

From 2022 to 2024, the Anti-Doping Agency of the Republic of Armenia actively conducted anti-doping programmes, published educational materials, and carried out doping control tests. The primary stakeholders included Armenia’s leading athletes across various sports disciplines and national team members.

- In **2022**, 129 doping tests were conducted.
- In **2023**, this number increased to 440.
- In **2024**, 380 doping tests were planned.

These anti-doping efforts support Armenia’s fair participation in European and World Championships, as well as the Olympic Games.

Sectoral Infrastructure Development

In 2024, a newly constructed sport school was inaugurated in Armenia, named after world champion weightlifter Simon Martirosyan. The construction was funded by the state budget.

Additionally, renovation works were completed in the Yerevan Tennis and Badminton Children’s and Youth Sports School in 2024, also funded through the state budget. These infrastructure developments represent a continued commitment to expanding access to modern, high-quality sports facilities across the country.

Hosting of Major Sporting Events and Promotion of Mass Sports

Armenia has gained valuable experience in hosting major international sporting events. Notably, in 2023, the country successfully hosted the European Adult Weightlifting Championships, IBA Junior World Boxing Championships, European Youth Boxing Championships, World Sambo Championships (Adults), and the World Dance Sport Youth Latin American Championships. In 2024, Armenia hosted the UEFA Futsal Champions League Finals, further strengthening its international sports profile.

Looking ahead, Armenia is set to host several prestigious events, including:

- 2025: European Under-16 Boys Volleyball Championship, European Adult Karate Championship, European Under-20 Youth Basketball Championship (Division B)
- 2026: European Adult Fencing Championship, European Adult Shooting Championship
- 2027: Francophonie Games, European Adult Artistic Gymnastics Championship, World Weightlifting Championship.

In addition to elite sports, Armenia has actively promoted mass sports activities. From 2022 to 2024, five types of mass sporting events were organized: swimming, running, team cross, cycling, and table tennis.



² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=175704>

The events were inclusive and open to all genders, targeting three main beneficiary groups:

1. Schoolchildren
2. Adults aged 18–40
3. Adults aged 41 and older

Participation in these events was substantial:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|
| • 2022:
participants | 17,335 | • 2023:
participants | 40,228 | • 2024:
participants | 38,053 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|

These figures reflect the growing popularity of mass sports in Armenia and the Government's commitment to promoting an active and healthy lifestyle across all age groups.





CIVIL SOCIETY



GIVING CITIZENS

A VOICE

IN

DECISION-MAKING



Scope

Cooperation aims to ensure involvement of the civil society in the relations between the EU and Armenia, to enhance civil society participation in the public decision-making process, in particular by establishing an open, transparent and regular dialogue between, on the one hand public institutions, and on the other hand representative associations and civil society, facilitating the process of institution-building and the consolidation of civil society organisations in various ways including advocacy support, informal and formal



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**The Ministry of
Foreign Affairs**

networking, mutual visits and workshops and to enable civil society representatives to become acquainted with the process of consultation and dialogue between civil and social partners (Article 103).

Benefits for the society

- More effective involvement of the civil society in Armenia- EU relations
- Increasing the role of civil society in decision making
- Considering their input and expertise for attainment of the main objectives within different sectors enshrined in the CEPA.

Progress on implementation:

THE AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES

In the context of Armenia-EU relations, the cooperation with civil society is coordinated within the following two formats: **Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform** established in accordance with Article 366 of the CEPA, and the EaP Civil Society Forum. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia has always participated in the events and meetings organised within these two formats, emphasising the role of civil society as a bridge in further deepening and developing Armenia-EU relations.

Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **regularly holds meetings with civil society** representatives, presenting the progress of the CEPA implementation.

On 23 July 2024 and 30 January 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held two discussion-meetings with the participation of CSOs on the draft **of the Armenia-EU New Partnership Agenda** presenting the structure, main thematic content of the document as well as current state of play of the negotiations. In the aftermath of these discussions all the recommendations and proposals from the CSO representatives were presented to the EU side for further deliberations.

The fourth and fifth meetings of the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform took place in Yerevan and Brussels on 4 March and 15 October 2024, respectively.

From 31 March 2025 to 3 April 2025 a delegation of the European Economic and Social Committee visited to Armenia and attended the 6th meeting of the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform, which was held on 1st April 2025.

In 2024, the first summit of **the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum** was held in Brussels, which was attended by both the representatives of the Eastern Partnership National Platform and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CROSS BORDER AND REGIONAL LEVEL COOPERATION

BALANCED
GROWTH AND
COLLABORATION,
THRIVING
COMMUNITIES

SCOPE

Cooperation aims at promoting mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation in the field of regional development policy. Cooperation aims at aligning the practice with the following principles (1) strengthening multi-level governance in so far as it affects the central, regional and local levels, with special emphasis on ways to enhance the involvement of regional and local stakeholders and (2) consolidating the partnership between all stakeholders involved in regional development and co-financing through financial contribution by the Parties involved in the implementation of regional development programmes and projects.



It also includes supporting and strengthening the involvement of local and regional authorities in regional policy

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

cooperation, including cross-border cooperation and the related management structures, enhancing cooperation through the establishment of an enabling legislative framework, sustain and develop capacity building measures and to promote the strengthening of cross border and regional economic and business networks (Article 105-107).

Benefits for the society

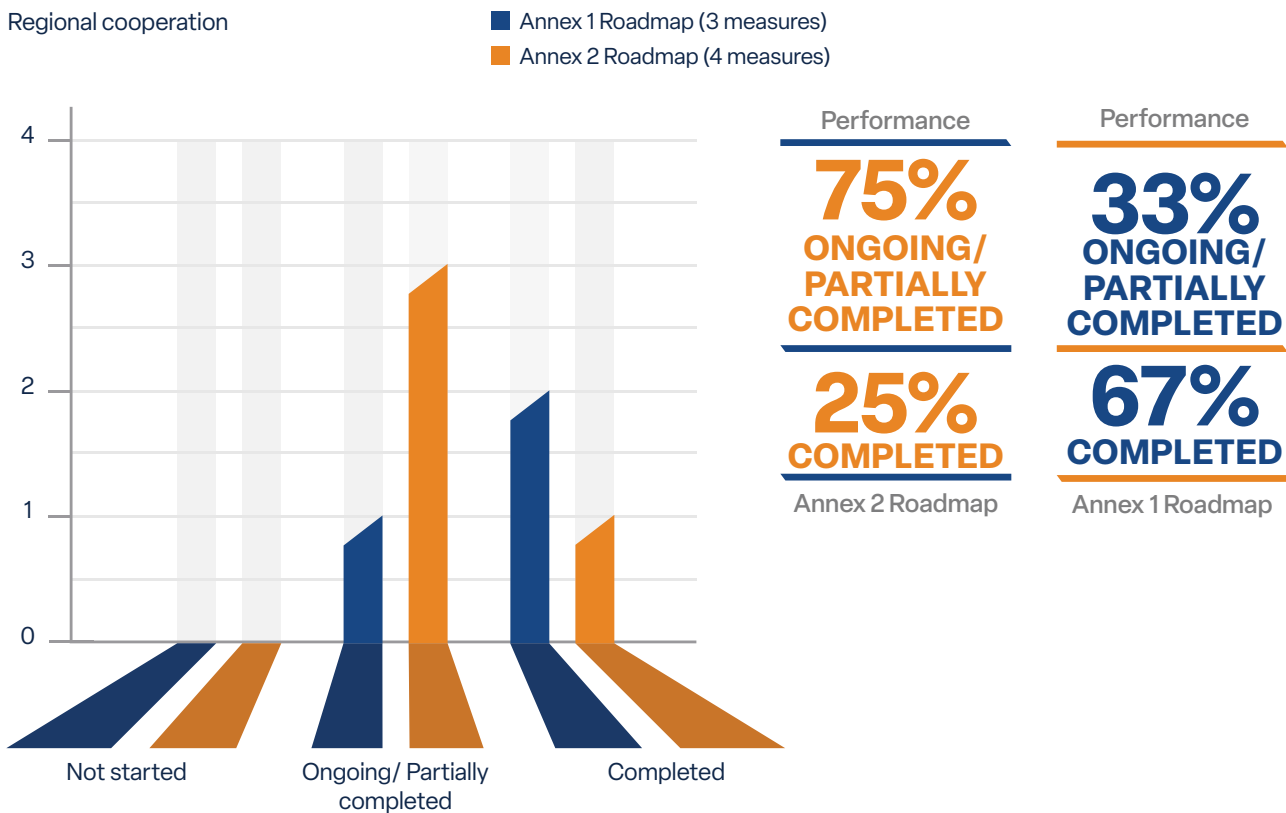
- Sharing knowledge, information and best practices on regional development policies to promote economic well-being for local communities and uniform development of the regions.
- Improving mechanisms of vertical and horizontal interaction of central and local administration in the process of development and implementation of regional policies,
- Developing the capacity of regional and local authorities to promote cross-border cooperation, taking into account regulations and practice of the European Union,

Progress on implementation:

The area is covered by

- **CEPA ROAD MAP ANNEX 1: 132-134 MEASURES**
- **CEPA ROAD MAP ANNEX 2: 79-82 MEASURES**

Regional cooperation



In 2017, by delegation of the committee, **the development of micro-regional level integrated spatial planning documents** of the regions of Armenia have begun (documents for the whole territory of Armenia have been developed, and the confirmation process is at the final stage). It should be noted that the package of the above-mentioned documents includes plans for the balanced development of both regions and individual settlements, ensuring economic growth, and infrastructure development with the inclusion of social issues.

In the context of the work carried out in the direction **of interregional cooperation between Armenia and Georgia**, the three-phase course of the Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe (May 2022) aimed at the activation of cross-border cooperation held during last two years was an effective platform for communication, exchange of ideas and representatives of border communities of Armenia and Georgia. The training provided an opportunity to activate contacts between the representatives of the local authorities of the border communities of Armenia and Georgia. It ensured the exchange of experience in the direction of developing mechanisms of mutual assistance, highlighting existing problems in communities. The training made the mentioned communities acquainted with the best tools of the European experience in this field. 20 participants from Armenia and border communities of Georgia took part in the first stage of the training. On 17 and 18 October 2022, the second round of the Council of Europe Cross-Border Cooperation Leadership Academy course was held in Akhaltsikhe. On 3 and 5 April 2023, the last, 3rd stage of the three-level course of the Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe aimed at activating cross-border cooperation was held in Gyumri.



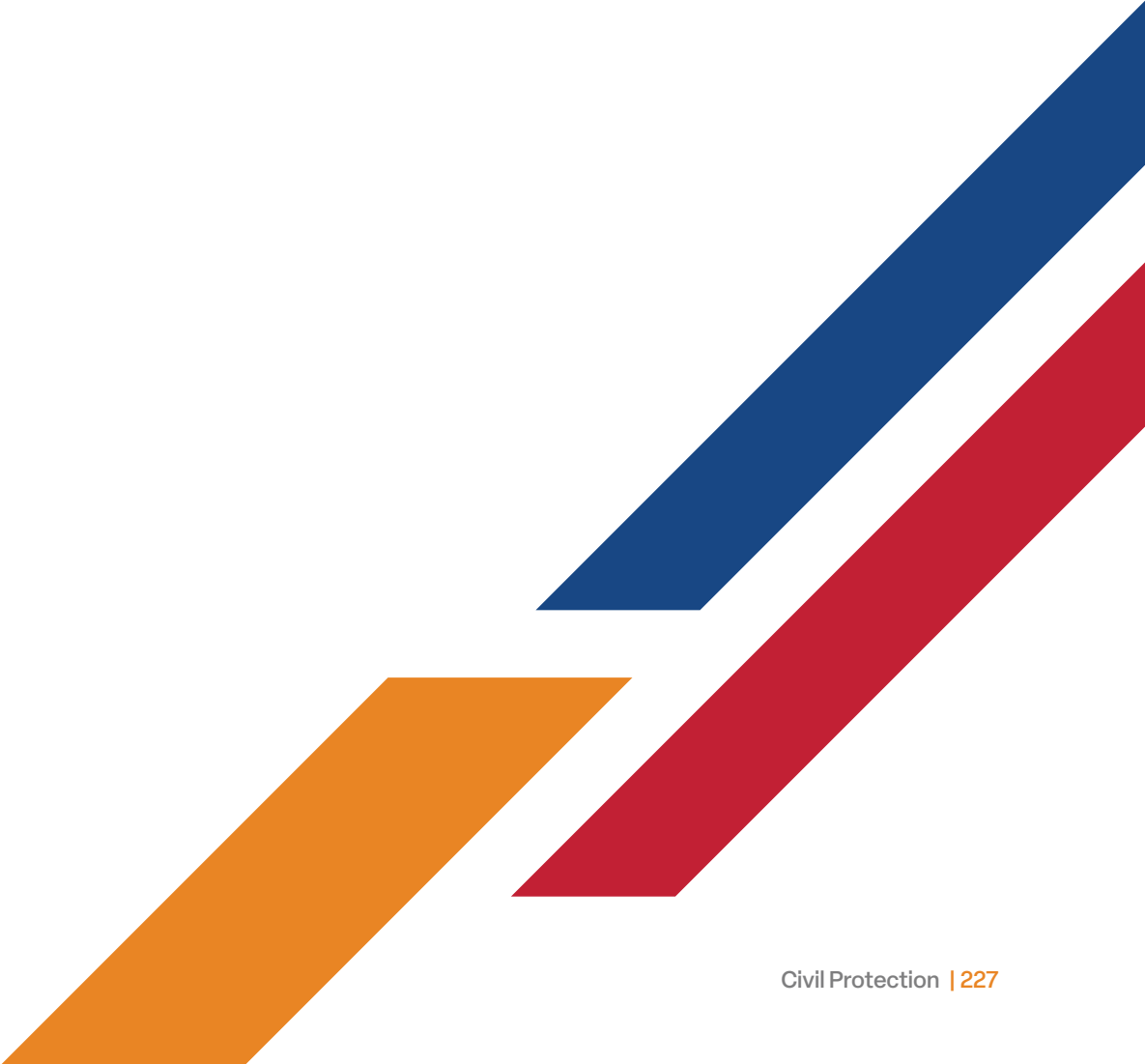
On 5 April 2023, the memorandum **“On cooperation between Ijevan community of Tavush marz of Armenia and Rustavi city of Kvemo Kartli region of Georgia”** was signed.

Within the framework of the Council of Europe’s initiatives to foster cross-border cooperation, the 4th stage of the Leadership Academy Programme took place on 26 and 27 June 2024 in Dilijan, Tavush marz. This event served as a practical platform for enhancing the capacities of regional and local authorities to effectively engage in cross-border cooperation, in line with EU norms and best practices. Participants had the opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss EU regulations and frameworks for cross-border initiatives, and explore avenues for institutional strengthening. The presence of national and regional decision-makers underlined the importance of coordinated policy planning and implementation for cross-border collaboration. The Leadership Academy format also contributed to the development of strategic leadership skills necessary for advancing regional integration and sustainable development across borders. This stage of the programme reaffirmed the commitment of Armenian and Georgian authorities to work together, aligning their regional development strategies with European standards and enhancing the administrative capacities of local governments for effective international cooperation.





CIVIL PROTECTION

Three diagonal bars in orange, blue, and red extend from the bottom left towards the top right.



PROTECTING PEOPLE AND



ENVIRONMENT



Scope

Cooperation aims at improving the prevention, preparation and response to natural and man-made disasters. It focuses on exchanging and regularly updating contact details in order to ensure continuity of dialogue and in order to be able to contact each other on a 24 hour basis, facilitating mutual assistance in case of major emergencies, provide early warnings and updated information on large-scale emergencies, exchanging information on the provision of assistance, cooperating with regard to host-nation support when requesting or providing assistance, exchanging best practices and guidelines in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and response and



cooperating on disaster risk reduction, improving the knowledge base

on disasters, assessment of the environmental and public health impact of disasters, inviting experts and observers and strengthening cooperation on the most effective use of available civil-protection capabilities (Article 109 – 112).

It covers the implementation of the Directive 2012/18 / EU on the control of the risks of major accidents caused by the presence of dangerous substances and establishment of effective coordination mechanisms between competent authorities.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (Rescue Service)

Benefits for the society

- More effective and efficient response to major disasters, ensuring the safety of citizens through improved emergency coordination and rapid intervention.
- Enhanced resilience and capacity development to prevent man-made accidents, reduce their societal and economic impact, and protect both the population and the environment. This includes the development of the Rescue Service, fostering a stronger safety culture and improving public preparedness.
- Improved public safety and disaster resilience through strengthened early warning systems, preparedness measures, and faster emergency response mechanisms.
- Greater public awareness and institutional readiness, enabling both citizens and authorities to respond effectively during emergencies, supported by modernised legal and technical frameworks.
- Stronger cooperation and capacity building through expert exchanges, international assistance mechanisms, and alignment with EU standards, contributing to long-term, sustainable risk management.

Establishment of Coordination Mechanisms

The effective coordination mechanisms between competent authorities has been created by the decision of the Prime Minister N934-A of 16 July 2019, an operational working group has been established in order to coordinate mechanisms between the relevant authorities.

Legal Framework for Emergency Population Protection

In the system of protection of the population in emergency situations, effective mechanisms of coordination between state, territorial and local self-government bodies and organisations in the event of major accidents caused by the presence of hazardous substances have been introduced, the basis of which is the Decree of the Government dated 8 July 2010 No. 861, 2010 **“On Approval of the Plan for Protection of the Population in Case of Accidents or Chemical Hazards at Chemical Facilities and Emergency Restoration Works in Case of Accidents at Chemically Hazardous Facilities”** and Decree of the Government No. 1064-N dated 29 July 2004 **“On Establishing the Procedure for Establishing and Ensuring the Functioning of the System of Continuous Monitoring of the Radiological, Chemical and Microbiological Situation”**. The Government Decree No. 861-N, dated 8 July 2010, establishes the procedure for the protection of the population, rescue and emergency operations from the harmful effects of accidental release of hazardous chemical substances in the event of an accident at chemical facilities.

Potentially Hazardous Substance - a substance which, due to its physical, chemical, biological or toxicological properties, poses a threat to the life and health of humans, animals, plants, the environment and buildings.

In the event of an accident at a chemical facility, decisions on measures to protect the population are made by the Emergency Commission, which includes the heads of the state administration, territorial authorities, local self-government bodies and organisations or their deputies.

In case of major accidents caused by the presence of hazardous substances, the coordination of measures for the protection of the population is entrusted to the authorized body in the field of protection of the population in emergency situations (Ministry of Internal Affairs).

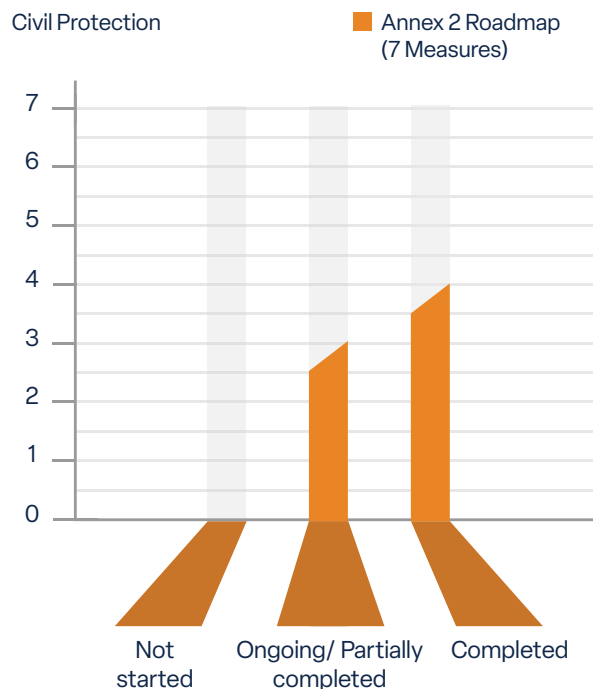
Operational groups of ministries (agencies) involved in reducing and eliminating the consequences of major accidents caused by hazardous substances operate within the framework of the Commission for Emergency Situations, ensuring a quick and effective response.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has developed a Draft law “On Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection”, which has been circulated among stakeholders and will soon be submitted to the Government for discussion. The RA law “On Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection”, and about 45 sub-legislative amendments of legal acts are envisaged to be adopted.

Progress on implementation

AREA IS COVERED BY CEPA ROADMAP ANNEX 2: MEASURES 83-89

The CEPA Roadmap includes a number of key measures aimed at strengthening Armenia’s civil protection system. The following provides a summary of progress made under these measures:



Performance

43%
ONGOING/
PARTIALLY
COMPLETED

Performance

57%
COMPLETED

- **Strengthening Disaster Prevention and Response Capabilities:**

Work on improving and developing Armenia’s capabilities to prevent and respond to natural and man-made disasters is ongoing. This is a continuous activity.

International best practices have been studied, and Armenia’s legislative and regulatory frameworks for disaster risk management have been enhanced. Reforms in the Rescue Service have been initiated. In cooperation with the EU, joint exercises have been conducted, and material-technical resources have been partially procured.

- **Modernising the Seismic Observation Network and Enhancing Risk Assessment:**

Seismic hazard and risk monitoring activities are being actively implemented. The modernisation and expansion of Armenia's national multi-parameter seismic monitoring system is currently underway, contributing to more reliable seismic safety measures.

- **Alignment with European Approaches to Natural Disaster Prevention:**

Within the framework of the EU-funded PPRD East 3 project, Armenia assessed the practices of EU member states and found that no unified guidelines for disaster prevention exist; instead, countries apply risk-specific approaches. Armenia has adopted a similar model. A new draft law on nuclear safety, aligned with EU Directive 2009/71/Euratom, has been developed and is undergoing review by international institutions. It will be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office by September 2025.

- **Development of Information Exchange Systems:**

Significant progress has been made in developing information exchange mechanisms. Activities include legal amendments, trainings, and the publication of awareness materials, such as the booklet "When There is an Emergency." These efforts have been supported by the PPRD and EU Twinning projects. In 2024, a seminar on crisis communication was held to strengthen inter-agency coordination and public awareness.

- **Establishment of Host Country Support Mechanisms:**

Host country support mechanisms have been formalised through Government Decree No. 105-N (2017). A National Support Body—comprising key state institutions—has been established to facilitate the reception, transit, and distribution of international assistance arriving by land or air. Procedures for expedited customs clearance and logistical coordination are in place to ensure an effective response during emergencies.

- **Localisation of EU Risk and Hazard Assessment Methodologies:**

Armenia's national disaster risk management approach has been aligned with both EU Guidelines and the "Risk Management at Local Level" methodology. National guidelines have been updated accordingly. A draft law on radioactive waste management, aligned with EU Directive 2011/70/Euratom, is currently under review by international partners.

- **Exchange of Experts and Capacity Building:**

The exchange of experts and organisation of joint seminars and workshops continues under various EU-funded initiatives. These activities have contributed to capacity building in the areas of disaster preparedness, emergency response, risk assessment, and the retraining of rescue personnel.

- **Twinning on Enhancing Civil Protection in Armenia**

With the support of the European Union and a Swedish Lithuanian consortium, the Rescue Service implemented the Twinning project "Enhancing Civil Protection in Armenia" during 2020–2022.

The project aimed to strengthen disaster risk management capacities by developing a comprehensive civil protection system, enhancing resilience to disasters, and significantly reducing various risks to human life, the national economy, and local communities.





TRADE AND TRADE RELATED ISSUES

BETTER

PRODUCTS

AND CHOICES,

SAFER MARKETS,

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Scope

The EU-RA Partnership Committee Trade Configuration (coordinated by the Ministry of Economy) was established to discuss issues related to Title VI (Trade and Trade-related Issues) of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The meetings of the EU-RA Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration usually take place once a year, on rotation basis, in Yerevan and Brussels.



INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministry of Economy
The Ministry of Labour
and Social Affairs
The Ministry of High-Tech Industry
The Ministry of Finance
The Ministry of Environment
The State Revenue Committee
The Food Safety Inspection Body
The Competition Protection
Commission
The Central Bank

While the 1st meeting of the **EU-RA Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration** was held in Yerevan on 25 September 2018, the 6th meeting was held in Brussels on 24 and 25 October 2024.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the issues related to bilateral trade and economic cooperation, updated 12 roadmaps covering 12 Chapters of the Title VI (Trade and trade-related issues), as well as the implementation of the provisions outlined in Article 237 of the Agreement regarding the geographical indication “Cognac” and the rebranding process, the debriefs of GIs and Customs Issues subcommittees were also made.

The following 3 Sub-Committees are operating under the Armenia-EU Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration:

- **Sub-Committee on Geographical Indications (GI),**
- **Sub-Committee on Economic Cooperation and Other Related Sectors,**
- **Sub-Committee on Customs Cooperation.**

While the 1st meeting of the **Sub-Committee on Geographical Indications** took place in Brussels on 16 October 2019, the 5th meeting was held online in Yerevan on 18 October 2024.

The parties discussed the implemented measures related to the provisions concerning the “Champagne” and “Cognac” geographical indications outlined in CEPA, as well as bilateral legislative developments regarding geographical indications and changes to the lists of geographical indications.

The 1st meeting of the **Sub-Committee on Customs Cooperation** was held in Yerevan on 17 March 2021 and the 4th meeting took place in Yerevan on 20 March 2024.

The 1st meeting of the **Sub-Committee on Economic Cooperation** and Other Related Sectors was held in Yerevan on 12 March 2019 and the 3rd meeting took place in Yerevan on 14 March 2023.

Title VI (Trade and Trade-Related Matters) of the CEPA consists of **12 Chapters, each chapter covering a corresponding roadmap.**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Trade in Goods | 7. Intellectual Property |
| 2. Customs | 8. Public Procurement |
| 3. Technical Barriers to Trade | 9. Trade and Sustainable Development |
| 4. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters | 10. Competition |
| 5. Trade in Services, Establishment and Electronic Commerce | 11. State Owned Enterprises |
| 6. Current Payments and Movement of Capital | 12. Transparency |

The preliminary versions of 12 roadmaps of the chapters of Title VI (Trade and Trade-related Matters) of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) were discussed and approved during the 1st meeting of the EU-RA Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration on 25 September 2018.

The roadmaps are comprehensive documents (in English and in a bilaterally agreed format) including the implementation process of the provisions under the relevant Articles of the Chapters of the CEPA, as well as

recent developments related to bilateral cooperation.

The implementation and yearly update of the roadmaps is coordinated by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia. Almost all line Ministries and state bodies are involved in the implementation process, according to their respective competencies.

The 12 roadmaps have been regularly updated for 5 years and, as a rule, are discussed during the meetings of the **EU-RA Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration**.

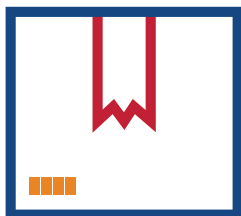
During the 5th meeting of EU-Armenia Cooperation Committee in Trade Configuration on 17 October 2023, it was discussed and decided to initiate amendments in the formats of the roadmaps of Title VI. In particular, at the initial stage, it was planned to amend the roadmap of Chapter 9 “Trade and Sustainable Development”, as it is the most extensive in terms of sector coverage.

There are no approximation issues regarding the implementation of the provisions of Part VI (Trade and Trade-Related Issues) of the CEPA. In particular, **Article 237** stipulates that after the transition period, the use of ‘Cognac,’ considered a protected geographical indication by the EU, will be terminated for Armenian products **(the deadline for exported products is 1st June 2043, and for products circulating within the territory of Armenia, the deadline is 1st June 2032)**.

This obligation is currently in the implementation stage. A new preferred name for Cognac is “Armenian Brandy” which was officially informed to the EU side at the end of 2023.

The main elements of progress in the trade areas are presented below.

TRADE IN GOODS



ARTICLE 116 (Export duties, taxes or other charges)

According to Article 36 (3) of the RA Law on customs regulation, the customs duty rate for goods exported from the Republic of Armenia is set at 0 percent, exported to all countries. At the same time, according to point 1 of part 2 of Article 65 of the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia, goods exported from the Armenian territory under the customs procedure “Export” (except for scrap of ferrous and non-ferrous metals whose exports are exempt from VAT) are applied to 0% value added tax. According to point 1 of part 2 of Article 89 of the Tax Code, excise tax is exempted on the goods subject to excise tax but

exported from the territory of the Republic of Armenia under the “Export” customs procedure.

CUSTOMS

Article 123 (Customs cooperation)

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) customs code states two forms of preliminary information, one of which is used to assess risks and make decisions on undertaking customs control measures before arrival of goods. The submission of this information carries obligatory character and is used for supply chain security perspectives (Points 2 and 3 of Article 11 of EAEU Customs Code).

The order of suspension of the release of goods which include objects of intellectual property rights by customs authorities is legally stated in Article 124 of the EAEU Customs Code.

Article 124 of EAEU Customs Code

The Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, among other purposes, also ensured compliance with the provisions of the Revised Kyoto Convention. It should be noted that Armenia is currently implementing such international instruments as Data Model, Single Window, Trade Facilitation Agreement, Risk Management Compendium, Harmonised systems, etc.

It should be noted that Armenia is currently implementing such international instruments as the World Customs

Organisation Data Model, Single Window, Trade Facilitation Agreement, Risk Management Compendium, Harmonized System, and others.

On the other hand, Articles 23, 33 and 38 of the EEU Customs Code provide legal grounds for making preliminary decisions on classification, origin and valuation methods of goods.

Since March 2017 **the Trade Facilitation Agreement** adopted by the protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement on the establishment of the World Trade Organisation has been in force for Armenia, and in order to ensure its uniform implementation, the Mercator programme of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) has been operating since 2014, to which Armenia has joined since 2018. Through the mentioned programme, the implementation of the provisions set forth in the Trade Facilitation Agreement is ensured, which are aimed at the application of simplified customs control and formalisation procedures, the creation of effective cooperation conditions between border control authorities, as well as the improvement of electronic systems and the quality of electronic services provided by the State Revenue Committee through the improvement of modern technologies.

The Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, has significantly reduced the period of implementation of a number of customs operations, including the registration of declaration of goods, the release of goods, the completion of customs transit procedures and so on. It should be noted that the institute of authorised economic operators has also been reformed, three types of Authorised Economic Operators have been set up according to different status criteria and various simplifications in line with EU best practice.

The customs clearance technologies include the systems, implemented at the Armenian National Single Window for Foreign Trade portal (<https://trade.gov.am>). The automated risk-based analysis and control are organised through the Risk Management System of the portal.

In accordance with Article 310 of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, the risk management system is applied during the selection of customs control facilities, customs control forms and (or) measures ensuring the implementation of customs control.

The general provisions for the application of the risk management system are defined by Chapter 50 of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, Article 188 of the Law “On Customs Regulation”.

The guidelines for the use of the risk management system supported by TAIEX in the selection of customs control objects, forms and (or) means and the use of customs control forms and means by the customs authorities were approved by the decision N1327 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated on 03.10.2019.

The procedures for the release of goods and vehicles are described in Chapters 13 to 18 of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union (In particular, the mentioned chapters define the operations of arrival, departure, temporary storage, declaration, release of goods).

Notifications and clarifications regarding international agreements and acts in the field of customs regulation are carried out by the Eurasian Economic Commission and customs authorities by posting them on the official website of the Eurasian Economic Union and the official website of the customs authorities, as well as informing the public about them through official correspondence, television and radio, using information technologies, as well as by using other public methods of information dissemination.



At the same time, the State Revenue Committee operates a call centre-department that provides organisations and individuals with information on the rights and responsibilities of taxpayers, taxes, customs duties, customs and other mandatory fees, their calculation and payment procedures, tax reports (calculations, declarations, references) regarding the procedures for filling out and submitting forms, as well as the powers and authorities of tax and customs authorities and their officials, other provisions established by tax and customs legislation.

Draft amendments to the acts regulating the customs sphere are submitted for public discussion by posting them on the unified website for the publication of draft legal acts (<https://www.e-draft.am/>), as well as regarding issues related to tax and customs administration reforms, discussions are organised in the meetings of the Public Council on Income Administration Reforms established in the RA State Revenue Committee.

In 2019, a 5-day workshop on integrity was organised in Yerevan at the “Training Centre” of the State Revenue Committee of Armenia, in cooperation with the World Customs Organisation, in which about 30 customs officers participated. The workshop was aimed at discussing the main provisions on good governance and integrity of the revised Arusha Declaration on “Integrity in Customs”. The experts of the World Customs Organisation conveyed to the customs officials the best international experience in integrity, presented the tools developed and used by the World Customs Organisation in this field and the strategy of fighting corruption. The Armenian customs officers in their turn presented the rules of ethics established for Customs Officers /revised in 2022/, through interactive discussions, comparisons were made between the principles and norms established for customs officers and those adopted by WCO, as a result of which a number of recommendations were presented to the customs service of the State Revenue Committee for the improvement of the sector, which, having a consultative nature, are applied within the framework of defining the rules related to integrity of the customs officer, the development, adoption and enforcement of legal acts in that context.

The State Revenue Committee also participated in the WCO European Sub-Regional Virtual Workshop on Integrity in the Customs Sector in June 2021, the purpose of which was to exchange experience and identify existing challenges on measures to increase the transparency and predictability of control operations carried out by customs authorities. The speaker of the State Revenue Committee made a presentation on the experience of the Armenian Customs Service in integrity, the strategy used by the State Revenue Committee in this field, existing tools and established legal regulations.

The Decision N 1902-L of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the programme of activities for 2021-2026 provides the adoption of the draft decision **“On approving the anti-corruption strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the programme of activities for its implementation for 2023-2026”**. At the same time, on 14 February 2023 the Minister of Justice adopted an order “On creating a working group and approving its individual composition in order to develop the anti-corruption strategy and the programme of measures for its implementation for 2023-2026”.

The Governmental Decision No. 1332-N dated 3 October 2019 approved the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the programme of measures for its implementation for 2019-2022. The 7th measure of Annex 2 to the said decision establishes the appointment and definition of the functions of those responsible for anti-corruption programmes in the bodies of the state administration system. Based on the above, by the Order dated 28 February 2023 of the State Revenue Committee, an official responsible for anti-corruption programmes and a substitute official were appointed in the State Revenue Committee, and the functions of the official responsible for anti-corruption programmes were defined.

Various training courses for the employees of the Customs Service have periodically been organised by the experts of the World Customs Organization.

Namely, in 2022 on the initiative of the State Revenue Committee and with the assistance of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), a training course was conducted for the staff of SRC, within the framework of which the peculiarities related to the control of strategic goods, including dual and military use, as well as effective control in the sphere of trade were discussed with the WCO accredited experts.

Then, a five-day seminar was also conducted with the WCO accredited experts within the framework of which the participants touched upon the



entities engaged in foreign economic activity classified by their risk level, implementation of systematic control on the riskiest companies, to the questions related to the certification of the level of law enforcement of non-risky companies and the application of simplified customs procedures related to them.

In 2022, the RA State Revenue Committee in collaboration with Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument programme of the European Commission (TAIEX) organised a two-day seminar entitled “The Implementation of Smart Risk Management” as well as a seminar on “Time release Study” with the WCO accredited experts and customs officers. Two diagnostic missions have already been carried out within the framework of the WCO Mercator programme. With the support of experts an appropriate programme of measures has been drawn up, those responsible for their implementation and deadlines have been defined, a summary report is sent to the WCO every three months.

At the initiative of the State Revenue Committee, a workshop entitled “Time Release Study” was organised in 2022 with the participation of an expert accredited by the WCO. The purpose of the workshop was to identify the problems that appeared during the reduction of the time of release of goods in the process of customs formalities and to discuss the steps towards their elimination. The WCO expert presented the modern tools used in the process of transporting and releasing goods, transferring international best practices to customs officials. Armenia is a member of the WCO WGDS (Working Group on Data and Statistics). Our international work focuses on Members’ Experiences on Data Sharing and Data Exchange. To facilitate effective communication and consistency in data-related activities, we recognise the need for a shared understanding of terms, definitions and concepts. In collaboration with the WCO secretariat’s support and guidance, members are going to work on the development of a common lexicon.

According to Article 430 (8) of the Eurasian Economic Union Customs Code, separate specifically designed simplified procedures for authorised economic operators which are stated in EAEU Customs Code can be granted to economic operators of the non-member states on a reciprocal basis according to the international agreement between EAEU and third countries. According to paragraph 9 of the same article, in accordance with the international treaties of the Member States of the Union, the specifically simplified procedures established by the same Code may be granted to the authorised economic operators of the non-Union States on a reciprocal basis. In addition, such specifically simplified procedures may only be applied in the territory of a State Party to such international agreements.



Article 430 of EAEU Customs Code

On November 10, 2021, the State Revenue Committee applied to the head of the Customs Service of Serbia and the management of the General Directorate of Taxation and Customs of the European Commission, expressing willingness to join the “**Common Transit Convention (CTC) Working Group**” as an observer, as well as the Joined Committee and other relevant groups for new computerised transit system.

The Republic of Serbia was the co-chair of the joint committees of the EU-Common Transit Convention member states during that period. The Joint Committee meeting took place on 10 December 2021, and during the meeting, Turkey made a reservation regarding Armenia’s acquisition of observer status, without providing additional justification. In this regard, the European side informed that despite two expert meetings held in February and March 2022, Turkey did not lift the reservation, as the latter was related to political considerations. The Armenian side has repeatedly emphasised the importance of the EU’s role in resolving the above-mentioned issue.

Modernisation processes in the field of Customs service are organised and carried out mainly by the EU investment programmes, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), with the funding opportunities by the World Bank (UK Good Governance Foundation), as well as with the support provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Programmes implemented in 2024 within the framework of EU TAIEX - Technical Assistance and Information Exchange, tool of the European Commission

1. From 12 to 15 March 2024, an EU TAIEX expert mission took place in Armenia in the direction of developing the capacities of the SRC Canine Centre.
2. From 27 to 29 February 2024 was organised a study visit of 5 Armenian customs officers from the State Revenue Committee to the Czech customs service, in order to study the best practices of the EU within the framework of the Authorised Economic Operators institute reform.
3. From 22 to 24 May 2024 was launched a three-day course for SRC customs officers “On quickly and efficiently organising the identification of sanctions goods subject”. The course agenda includes a number of current topics of customs administration implementation, in particular, duties of customs authorities in applying dual use goods, cooperation mechanisms with other countries, detailed description of import and export procedures under dual use goods, inspection procedures, customs risk assessment strategies. The participants also get acquainted with the regulations regulating the given sphere. SRC customs officers have the opportunity to get acquainted with the best European practices in order to apply the acquired knowledge for the development of the given sector.

Article 124 (Mutual administrative assistance)

Mutual cooperation with the EU member states on customs matters is carried out within the framework of Protocol II of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement “On Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters” /in force from June 2018/. The agreement is in full force on 01.03.2021, the temporary enforcement of the provisions under the exclusive jurisdiction of the EU started as early as 01.06.2018.

Article 125 (Customs valuation)

According to Article 38 of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, the provisions of the Code on customs value are based on the general rules and principles laid down in the WTO 1994 Agreement on the Application of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the 1994 Agreement on the Application of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which means that Article VII of the GATT is fully applicable in the Republic of Armenia.

Article 38 of EAEU Customs Code.

TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

On 2 February 2017 the Armenian National Standardisation Body (SARM) renewed its membership to CEN (European Standards Committee) and signed “**Agreement on the Status of a Companion Standardisation Body with CEN**”.

According to the Government Decree N 1472-A of 24 October 2019, as a result of reorganising and merging the «National Institute of Standards» CJSC and «**National Institute of Metrology**» CJSC, the «**National body for standardisation and metrology**» CJSC was established. Amendments to the Law “On Standardisation were finalised and done with the Law N°410-N of 26 October 2022.

European standards adopted by the National Body for Standards and Metrology” CJSC in the framework of CEPA:

- HST* EN 419211-1-2022 “Protection profiles for secure signature creation device – Part 1: Overview”
- HST EN 419211-2-2022 “Protection profiles for secure signature creation device – Part 2: Device with key generation”.

During 2023 the following European standard was developed and adopted by “National Body for Standards and Metrology” CJSC:

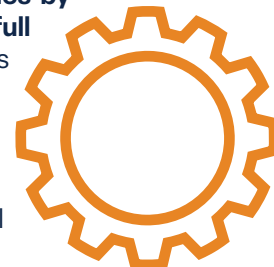
- HST EN 419211-3-2023 “Protection profiles for secure signature creation device – Part 3: Device with key import”.
- HST EN 419211-4-2024 “Protection profiles for secure signature creation device – Part 4: Extension for device with key generation and trusted channel to certificate generation application”
- HST EN 419211-5-2024 Protection profiles for secure signature creation device – Part 5: Extension for device with key generation and trusted channel to signature creation application”.

*HST refers to Armenian national standards classification

A new strategy is being developed for **enhancing the quality infrastructure system**. This strategy aims to outline activities tailored to each industry, addressing their specific needs within the quality infrastructure framework. It will also identify sources of financing to support these activities.

A draft law “**On Ensuring the uniformity of measurements**” has been developed and shared. This legislative initiative is aimed to align the project with EU regulations, ensuring compliance with international standards and practices.

On 9 December 2021 the European Union signed a Contribution Agreement with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO.) The EU is investing 4 million euros in a new technical assistance project in Armenia with UNIDO. The project **supports an upgrade of the metrology system of Armenia** through institutional strengthening of the National Body for Standards and Metrology, and improving legal, regulatory and governance systems in line with international recommendations and best practices, and increase Armenia’s participation in the international and regional metrology communities, as well as interaction with the European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET). The goal of the project is to modernise the quality infrastructure system in Armenia, in particular, **the development of laboratory capabilities by international standards, the upgrade of the standardisation system, the provision of full comprehensive metrology and laboratory service** and as a result 2 calibration laboratories were established- calibration laboratory for the mass and related quantities and calibration laboratory for thermal and related quantities. A list of equipment required for the next 4 laboratories and technical specifications were compiled, which were discussed with international experts. These efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to **improving quality infrastructure and measurement practices**, with a focus on aligning with international standards and regulations.



The Law on Accreditation was adopted in June 2023 with comments and add-ins to comply with Regulation (CE) 765/2008 amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and the new edition of the applicable standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017. In order to ensure the transparency in the field of accreditation and in order to ensure the implementation of the accreditation process in accordance with international requirements, the structure and functions of an e-accreditation system have been developed and currently the e-accreditation system is under the pilot process.

From 24 September 2021 to 4 June 2023 a Twinning project on ‘Setting Conditions for Recognition of the Armenian Accreditation System by the European Co-operation for Accreditation’ was launched. The objective of the Twinning project was to support the implementation of CEPA with regards to fostering an **internationally recognized accreditation and conformity assessment system** in Armenia.

Project on Setting Conditions for Recognition of the Armenian Accreditation System by the European Co-operation for Accreditation (2021-2023).

The project was designed around two interlinked components:

1. The legal and procedural framework revised with respect to ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant provisions of EU regulation 765/2008/EC.

The joint group of experts drafted the law “On accreditation” and provided comments and add-ins to comply with Regulation (CE) 765/2008 amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and the new edition of the applicable standard ISO/IEC 17011:2018 and 4 drafts of secondary legislation (1201-N Gov. decision on “CAB’s accreditation provision”, 311-N “Accreditation fee”, N 1565-A “Statute of ARMNAB”, N 890-N Gov. decision on “Establishing the “National accreditation body-ARMNAB”).

Within the mission “Alignment of policies and procedures” the ARMNAB documentation was reviewed to bring it into line with ISO/IEC 17011 standard (with particular reference to management system manual, procedure for handling of appeals, pre-accreditation agreement and accreditation agreement and the procedure for developing a new accreditation schemes, job descriptions of ARMNAB Personnel involved in the accreditation process, ARMNAB Goals, Procedure PR 9.8 “Document Procedure on Management Review).

2. Enhanced institutional capacity of ARMNAB to provide accreditation in line with the European Accreditation (EA) rules. Within this component numerous workshops have been implemented (ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17065, ISO/IEC 17025, ILAC P 10; ILAC G 8 and ILAC P 14 for testing and calibration laboratories, ISO/IEC 17065 - with a focus on Geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed protected in the EU, EA Policy for the accreditation of Organic Production Certification, including the required Competence criteria for technical assessors for the Organic sector, ISO/IEC 17043 (Conformity assessment — General requirements for proficiency testing, ISO 13528:2015: Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by inter-laboratory comparison), as a result of which the level of awareness of external and internal assessors of ARMNAB was increased.

The necessary amendments to the Law “On Accreditation, prerequisite for application before the European Accreditation (EA)”, were approved on 4 June 2023, and the new “Conformity Assessment Body’s accreditation provision” was drafted. National Accreditation Body submitted the full documentation for its application for signatory status to the European Accreditation secretariat on 8 December 2023. On 22 December 2023, the EA confirmed the registration of the application. According to the procedures, a pre-evaluation on-site was conducted in December 2024. The full evaluation will be completed by the beginning of 2026.

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MATTERS

In the framework of CEPA, 13 bilateral **veterinary certificates** were signed on 24 November 2017, between the European Union represented by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE) and the Republic of Armenia represented by the State Service for Food Safety of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia.

As part of Article 136 of the CEPA, the activities were carried out in 2024, according to which the import procedures for a number of goods from the European Union member states to the Republic of Armenia were facilitated.

Cooperation on measures to allow Armenian fish exports to the EU and joint steps have been taken to follow up on Armenia’s request to add new species to the list of fishery products authorized for export to the EU.

By the Decision № 1089-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 11 July 2024, an amendment was done to the appendix of the Decision № 1442-N of 21 October 2010 **“On import, export and transit of food, materials in direct contact with food**, as well as export of goods (products) subject to veterinary control (supervision), to define the procedure for implementation of state border control by customs authorities at state border inspection points, Decisions № 1228-N of 19 August 2004 and № 1901 of 9 November 2005 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia were repealed”, according to which the import of commodities related to following HS codes: 0206, 0207, 0209, 0210, 0301, 0302, 0303, 0304, 0305, 0306, 0307, 0308 (except for freshwater trout, sturgeon and carp), 1601 00, 1602, 1604, 1605 into the territory of the Republic of Armenia with “Release for domestic consumption” customs procedure, from the member states of the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Canada and the United States of America will be allowed regardless of the fact that the business operators

are registered in the register of organisations and individuals carrying out the production, processing and (or) storage of goods imported into the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter referred to as the Register), therefore, all producers of the above-mentioned products from the EU Member States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Canada and the United States of America have received the right to export to the Republic of Armenia without registering in the Register.

At the initiative of the Republic of Armenia, on 21 May 2024, the Council of the Commission of the Eurasian Economic Union adopted Decision 54, according to which during the import of milk-dairy products with HS codes 0401-0406 (except for raw milk and raw cream), as well as consignments with HS codes 2105, 3501 to the Republic of Armenia, registration of the organizations in the Registry will not be required.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia “**On Geographical Indications**” has been amended, including Article 37 with a new edition, according to part 3 of which it is prohibited to produce, sell, export and import the products with unregistered geographical indication, place of origin and guaranteed traditional product labelling.

According to part 1 of this article, the state control over the compliance of the marking of traditional products with Geographical Indication (GI), place of origin and guaranteed, registered as well as imported from other countries (with geographical zone is outside the territory of the Republic of Armenia) is conducted out by an authorised body carrying out state control in the field of food safety in accordance with the Law “**On State Control of Food Safety**”, therefore, with the recommendation of the Inspection Body, the question “Is the product registered with the GI, place of origin and guaranteed traditional product marking?” was included in the checklists of the Governmental Decision № 1266-N of 11 August 2022 “**On Approving Checklists of Inspections carrying out by the Food Safety Inspection Body of the Republic of Armenia**”.

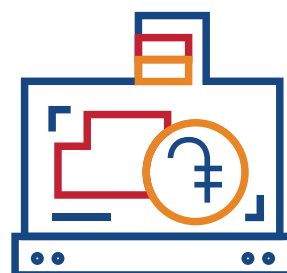
The EU has applied **TRACES new rules** for countries authorised to export consignments of honey and other apiculture products intended for human consumption. From 29 November 2024, consignments of honey and other apiculture products intended for human consumption may only enter the EU if dispatched from, obtained and/or prepared in establishments authorised to export these goods. The Republic of Armenia should follow this requirement and use the TRACES platform during export activities.

TRADE IN SERVICES, ESTABLISHMENT AND ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Electronic commerce

Under Point 38 of the “Electronic Commerce Development” measure, which is part of the Government’s 2021-2026 Programme, a report entitled “Research on a Comprehensive Legal Framework Regulating Electronic Commerce in RA” has been developed. This report summarises the findings from a study of the legislative framework regulating e-commerce in Armenia, its gaps, international best practices, and an assessment of private sector needs.

Following discussions, the expediency of regulating electronic commerce through a separate law or by incorporating provisions into existing laws will be clarified.



Benefits for the society

Regulating e-commerce offers numerous benefits to society by fostering a more secure, transparent, and fair digital marketplace. These benefits extend to both consumers and businesses, ultimately contributing to economic growth and public trust: E-commerce regulation benefits society by safeguarding against fraud, ensuring data privacy, and providing dispute resolution, creating a level playing field for businesses and encouraging innovation, building trust, expanding markets, and increasing participation in the digital economy, reducing the sale of illegal goods and fraudulent practices online.

Article 165 (Prevention of market distortive practices)

The Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union establishes that international postal deliveries are defined as deliveries and accompanied by documents used only by national postal operators envisaged by the legal acts of the Universal Postal Union. Accordingly, customs operations on such deliveries have some peculiarities. It should be noted that the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union also stipulates the concept of express cargo, which imply expedited deliveries by using electronic tracing control systems. Accordingly, currently under the Eurasian Economic Union legislation, a number of changes are planned to simplify the customs operations on express cargo, either, which is essentially anti-monopoly policy in the field of postal and courier communications. The Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission Board N 142 of 28 August 2018 defines the simplified forms of the goods custom's declaration and the Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission Board N 158 of 16 October 2018 simplified forms of direct custom declaration for express cargo.

At the same time, the Decision of RA Government N 126-N of 4 February 2021 defines, that before launching the automated customs declaration of goods for express cargo using the electronic versions of the direct customs declaration for express cargo, the paper versions shall be accepted by the customs authorities while declaring the goods to be transported as express cargo by the customs authorities.

Article 188 (Clearing and payment systems)

On 27 May 2021, the Governmental Decision No. 883-N was adopted **“On the introduction of Customs Duties** (value-added tax, Excise Tax, State Duty Levied for Customs Operations, Special, Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties, Nature protection payment and Road Tax, individual customs duties and taxes in single rates and for goods for personal use). The GD also foresees methods for fulfilling obligations on fines incurred for violations of customs rules as well as payment methods (moment, ways – bank transfer, cash, payment terminals, payment cards, electronic money etc.) regulated by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.

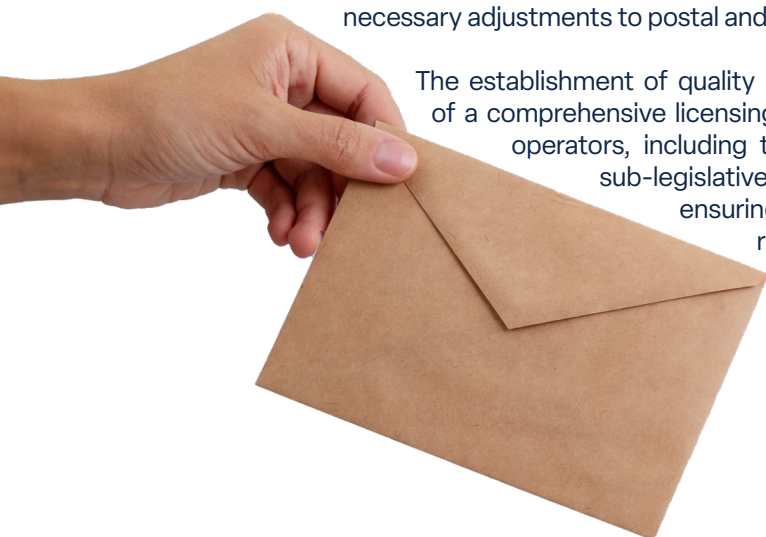
On 27 May 2021, the Governmental Decision N 869-N “On making Amendments to the decision N 496-N dated April 2012” was adopted, which states the obligation of paying to customs authorities all duties, taxes, fines, interest and penalties.

Postal service

CEPA includes provisions for enhancing the legal framework of the postal sector to align with EU standards, ensuring efficient and accessible postal services.

Amendments to the **“Law on Postal Communication”** to clarify the concept of universal postal services, establish quality requirements, define tariff calculation methodologies, and introduce reporting mechanisms were done in 2023. The amendments aim to ensure reliable postal services that meet quality standards, enhancing accessibility for all citizens. Improved postal services can boost communication and trade efficiency, fostering economic growth. Challenges include ensuring compliance among multiple service providers and maintaining service quality across the sector.

The adoption of the amended law and subsequent regulatory changes demonstrate a commitment to modernising the postal sector in line with EU practices. The law was adopted on 24 May 2023, establishing a clearer regulatory framework. Key government decisions (N 444-N and N 445-N) adopted on 28 March 2024, made necessary adjustments to postal and courier regulations.



The establishment of quality norms for universal postal services and the introduction of a comprehensive licensing system that allows for competition among 54 licensed operators, including the national postal operator. The ongoing alignment of sub-legislative acts with the new law reflects a systematic approach to ensuring that all market participants operate under consistent regulations, thereby promoting fair competition and service quality in the postal sector.

Benefits for the society

The aim of the amendments to the legal acts in the sector is to ensure postal services that meet the established quality standards, ensuring access for all citizens, as well as improved postal services that can stimulate economic growth.

The definition of quality standards for universal postal services and the improvement of the licensing process contribute to all market participants operating in accordance with the relevant regulations, thus promoting fair competition and high quality of postal services, as a result of which 51 licensed operators are currently operating in the Republic of Armenia, including the national postal operator.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

CEPA foresees **data protection of plants production products**. As of Article 253, Armenia became the 79th member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) on 2 March 2024. This was preceded by amendments to the Law “On the Protection of Plant Varieties” in 2023. The aim of UPOV is to ensure the protection of the rights of breeders of new plant varieties by encouraging the creation of new plant varieties, which is one of the key prerequisites for ensuring high productivity in agricultural crops. Armenia’s membership in the UPOV is contributing to ensuring food security and increasing the competitiveness of the plant breeding sector.

The principle of regional exhaustion is included in the new RA Law “**On Patents**” and RA Law “**On Industrial Design**”, entered into force on 1st July 2021.

The new draft law “**On Copyright and Related Rights**” is still under discussion in the RA Government.

A Development Strategy 2023-2026 is currently being developed jointly by the Intellectual Property Office and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) expert group.

The Beijing Treaty on **Audiovisual Performances** was ratified by the National Assembly of RA in April 2020.

“The Amendments to the RA Law “**On Trademarks**” entered into force on 12 August 2023. The registration of trademarks bearing the word “Champagne” is stopped since June 2020.



On 26 October 2022, the National Assembly adopted the **Law on Amendments and Additions to the Law on Geographical Indications** (HO-398-N), and in order to ensure its implementation, Governmental Decree # 75-N was adopted on 19 January 2023, making amendments and additions to Government Decree # 310-N as of 10 March 2011.

With the support of USAID and the involvement of an international expert, the technical specifications for the geographical indications “Armenian Matsun,” “Armenian Lavash,” “Armenian Basturma,” and “Armenian Sujukh” were developed and approved by Order № 2381-L of the Minister of Economy on 27 November 2023, for registration as products with geographical indications at the Intellectual Property Agency as prescribed by law, after having been accredited by the relevant certification bodies.

Additionally, with the support of USAID’s Business Enabling Environment Project in Armenia, work has been undertaken toward developing technical specifications for the geographical **indications of wines from Vayots Dzor**. In June 2023, a workshop was organised with representatives of Vayots Dzor winemakers and the Armenian Viticulture and Winemaking Foundation to develop and finalise the technical specifications for Vayots Dzor wines.

In accordance with Article 237 of the CEPA, in order to ensure the smooth and effective termination of the use of the **geographical indication “Cognac”** for products originating from the Republic of Armenia, the EU support programme for strategic advice and capacity building was launched on 1st February 2021 for a 10-month implementation period. The overall objective of the contract was to support the implementation of the CEPA provisions concerning Geographical Indications and the development of a new name for brandy originating from Armenia. In the framework of the mentioned project a number of working discussions, workshops and

awareness-raising events were organised and held jointly with EU experts, in which representatives of Armenian brandy producing companies also participated.

In this context of rebranding, the Ministry of Economy initiated a process involving international reputable organisations with experience in rebranding processes and held certain discussions with them in order to receive proposals regarding the strategic vision and the concept. In particular, as a result of the discussions, the “Backbone” company developed a road map and a proposal to conduct a study aimed at the positioning of Armenian brandy. As a result of the work carried out with the Backbone company and the corresponding studies, it was **proposed to use the name “Armenian Brandy” as a preferred option for “Cognac”**. This was officially informed to the EU at the end of 2023.

In order to facilitate the termination of the use of the EU Geographical Indication (GI) “Cognac” for products originating from the Republic of Armenia and assist in designing and establishing a GI system for Armenian brandy, the EU provided technical assistance “Support for implementation of Article 237 CEPA – Phase I” (2.9 million euros) financial agreement. The project was launched in June 2024, with a duration of 2 years with the objectives of providing support in establishing a GI system for Armenian brandy, ensure quality control of Armenian brandy, designing and establishing functional testing and quality control system and developing robust brand identity and drafting marketing strategy.

Article 266 (Border enforcement)

Protection of intellectual property objects by the customs authorities within the framework of customs control is ensured according to legislation.

In particular, transporting goods registered in the registry of intellectual property rights (IPR) and in the National Registry of Intellectual Property Objects within the framework of the Union, customs bodies suspend release of goods in accordance with Article 124 of the Code, as well as in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Customs Regulation.

The control of IPR objects, registered with the Customs and included in the respective customs registry of IPR objects, is based on automated risk profiles, implemented in the Risk Management System of RA National Single Window for Foreign Trade portal (<https://trade.gov.am>)

In order to create the possibility for customs authorities to suspend the release of goods containing intellectual property objects not included in the customs register of intellectual property objects, is planned to provide appropriate regulations in the Law of “Customs Regulation”.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The alteration of the procurement appeals system was carried out by the Law ՀՕ-4-Ն (entered into force on 01.06.2022) **“On Making Supplements and Amendments to the Law “On Procurement”** adopted by the National Assembly on 21.01.2022 given the requirements of commitments undertaken by the Republic of Armenia under the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement and the European Union-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement.

In particular, starting from 1st June 2022:

- Appeals regarding procurement procedures are being carried out only judicially. The conditions for submitting and examining appeals starting from the specified date also apply to procurement procedures announced and not completed before the specified date.
- The appeal is carried out in accordance with the RA Law “On Procurement” and the RA Civil Procedure Code according to which disputes related to the procurement procedure are examined and resolved in the court of first instance of general jurisdiction of Yerevan city.

Moreover every:

- interested person shall have the right to appeal against the actions (inaction) and decisions of the contracting authority, the evaluation commission.
- person shall have the right to appeal — by the deadline for submission of bids against the descriptions of the subject of procurement, the requirements for the prequalification notice or those of the invitation.

The court examines and resolves appeals within 30 days after accepting the claim (appeal) for proceedings. With the reasoned decision of the court, the specified period can be extended once by up to 10 calendar days. The decision of the court to accept the claim (appeal) is immediately sent to the RA Ministry of Finance, which publishes it in the bulletin at procurement.am.

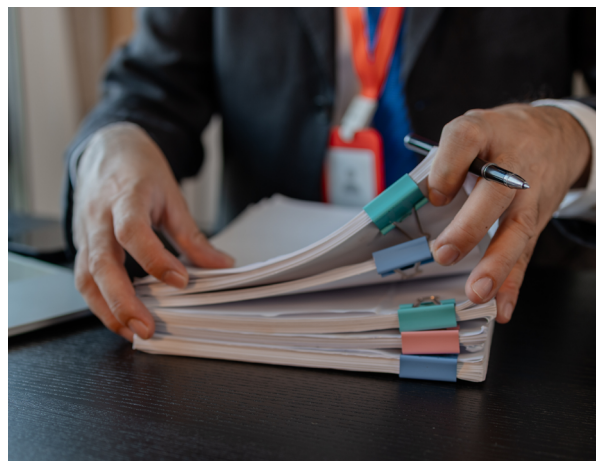
The appeal against the actions (inaction) and decisions of the contracting authority, the evaluation commission (with the exception of decisions of the contracting authority to include the participant in the list) automatically suspends the procurement process from the date of publication of the court's decision on accepting the claim for proceedings in the bulletin until the date of entry into force of the final judicial act issued by the court based on the results of the dispute investigation.

In cases where it is necessary to continue the procurement process in the interest of public or defence and national security, the court makes a decision to lift the suspension of the procurement process based on the written petition of the heads of bodies defined by Article 2, Part 1 of the Law **"On Procurement"** and in the case of contracting authorities with the status of a legal entity, head of the executive body. The court immediately sends the decision provided for in this part to the Ministry of Finance, which publishes the decision in the mentioned bulletin.

The final judicial act of the court on disputes related to the appeal against the actions (inaction) and decisions of the contracting authority, the evaluation commission enters into force from the moment of its publication. On the day of its publication, the court sends the part of the final judicial act of the court or other final judicial act on disputes related to the appeal against the actions (inaction) and decisions of the contracting authority, the evaluation commission to the Ministry of Finance, which publishes it in the aforementioned bulletin.

The Ministry of Finance includes the bidder in the list of those ineligible to participate in the procurement process based on a reasoned decision of the head of the contracting authority.

Moreover, the head of the contracting authority makes the mentioned decision in this part within ten days following the day of declaring the procurement procedure as not having taken place or publishing the notice on the contract having been concluded or unilaterally rescinding the contract. On the day after making the decision, it is provided to the Ministry of Finance and the bidder. In regard to the judicial case, where the opportunity of enforcing the decision has not been eliminated based on the result of the court examination. A bidder is included in the indicated list for a time limit of two years following the day of his or her inclusion.



TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Article 274 "International labour standards and agreements"

According to the legislative amendments made in December 2019, the relevant inspection body (Health and Labour Inspection Body) was entrusted started 1st July 2021, with the authority to exercise full supervision over labour legislation.

With the framework of amendments made in October 2022, the term "compulsory or forced labour" was defined in the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, and it was also stipulated that compulsory or forced labour is prohibited.

The Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted in May 2023, brought extensive changes. The mentioned amendments and supplements were aimed at bringing the Labour Code (hereinafter referred to as the Code) into maximum compliance with the requirements stipulated by international treaties, in particular, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Fundamental Conventions and the Revised European Social Charter, eliminating certain legislative gaps and internal contradictions of the Code, as well as clarifying provisions that gave rise to different perceptions and resolving a number of problems that have arisen in legal practice.

Within the framework of another legislative initiative, the amendments of October 2023 made to **the Code enshrined flexible mechanisms for performing work remotely**, providing solutions in accordance with the trends and conditions of labour market development.

In order to improve the system of labour rights protection and improve the state control over labour legislation, on 4 December 2024, the package of Law “On Amendments and Supplements to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia” (entering into force on 1st July 2025) and Law “On Amendments to the Law “On Audiovisual Media” (entering into force on 1st January 2026) was adopted, which envisages introducing a digital system for concluding employment contracts.

The regulations regarding their concluding will be introduced in phases:

- From 1st July 2025 to 1st January 2026: voluntary
- From 1st January 2026, the conclusion, termination and amendment of employment contracts will be carried out exclusively through the Digital System.

Through the introduction of a digital system, it is planned to digitise employment contracts concluded in both the public and private sectors in the Republic of Armenia in order to improve the system for protecting employees’ labour rights. The presence of a digital system will enable the Health and Labour Inspection Body to implement more effective state supervision (more transparent, accountable, and rights-based), and on the other hand, the digital system will enable employees to have employment contracts that meet the requirements of the legislation.

The changes of 3 May 2023 to the Code are also aimed at improving the regulations of social partnership and collective labour relations. Within the framework of the above-mentioned changes, the concept of violence or sexual harassment in labour relations was also fixed in the Code, as well as the prohibition in this regard was clearly fixed.

Article 275 The International environmental governance and agreements

Implementation of Minamata Convention in the Republic of Armenia is guided by the following legal acts:

- Decision No. 147-N of the Government of 13 February 2025 “**On establishing the procedures for the export of mercury from the Republic of Armenia and the import of mercury** to the Republic of Armenia”. This decision regulates the procedure for importing and exporting mercury.
- Decision No. 139-N of the Government of February 13, 2025 “**On establishing the list of mercury-added products prohibited** for export from the Republic of Armenia and import to the Republic of Armenia”. This decision defines the list of **mercury-added** products and prohibits them from export and import.

The mentioned decisions are valid for a period of six months, after which they are renewed.

The following legislation was drafted:

- A draft law of the Republic of Armenia “**On Amendments and Supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Waste”**” has been developed and submitted to the Prime Minister’s Office, which envisages improving the waste management system, clarifying legislative regulations for ensuring monitoring (permanent monitoring) of landfills, establishing the competences of local self-government bodies in organising and supporting measures aimed at managing waste of electronic and electrotechnical equipment, introducing unified and modern systems of permits and licenses, harmonising the regulations enshrined in the Law “On Waste” with EU directives.
- A draft law of the Republic of Armenia “**On Amendments and Supplements to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offenses**” has been developed and submitted to the Prime Minister’s Office, which envisages establishing liability for violations of the landfill monitoring procedure also against landfill managers.
- Within the framework of fulfilling the obligations assumed under **the Stockholm Convention**, a draft legal act regulating the waste containing polychlorinated biphenyls has been developed and circulated. The draft is currently under discussion.

- The draft roadmap for the implementation of **Globally Harmonised System for the Classification, Labelling (GHS)** in Armenia was developed in cooperation with UNITAR. The draft is under discussions.

Article 276 Trade and investment favouring sustainable development

Recognising the value of **international environmental governance** and agreements as a response to global or regional environmental problems like protection of the ozone layer, Armenia consulted the **Low Carbon Solutions (I)**: Montreal Protocol, Clean Cooling & Heating, Digital Transition European Commission Directorate-General Climate Change on 5 December 2024 to get the enhanced understanding on their experience of implementing leakage checks under point 126, Annex 3 to the Roadmap for CEPA Implementation (Government Resolution N 666-L of 1 December 2019)

Another consultation on the same subject took place in February 2025 on the import quota distribution system for ozone depleting substances and F-gases operated by the European Union with the further intention to adapt it to the Armenian realities.

Armenia has been effectively implementing in its laws and practices the provisions of the Major international environmental agreements, particularly by the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (ratified by Armenia in 1999). Armenia regularly reports on the respective situations and progress on the implementation of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

Article 277 Biological diversity

The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** requires parties to take appropriate measures to implement its provisions and to prohibit the trade of specimens in violation of the Convention. These provisions are enshrined in the 2015 Conference of the Parties' Resolution 8.4, titled "National Legislation for the Implementation of the Convention"¹ decision, compliance with which is mandatory for the parties in fulfilling the measures and obligations set forth.

The Ministry of Environment has been working continuously to address the above-mentioned requirements. As a result, in November 2023, the status of the Republic of Armenia was upgraded after the acceptance of the Convention, moving to Category 2. However, there is still a need to address the fourth requirement of the Conference 8.4 (Rev.CoP15) decision, that concerns the development of legislation on the confiscation of illegally held and traded species, the absence of which creates significant challenges in the proper implementation of the Convention and the conservation of biodiversity. For this reason, the Ministry of Environment has submitted the TAIEX application to address the fourth pillar of the Convention.



Meanwhile various draft laws on amendments to the "**Law of the Republic of Armenia on Flora**", the "**Law of the Republic of Armenia on Fauna**" and the "**Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Armenia**" are linked to Armenia's international obligations. The amendments introduce provisions to prohibit trade in violation of the Convention and define responsibility for violations of illegal trade.

Benefits for the Society

Legal amendments are vital tools in the fight against the illegal trade of endangered species, offering lasting environmental, economic, and societal benefits.

Recent amendments to the **Law on Flora** and the **Code of Administrative Offences** in Armenia have the potential to significantly strengthen national efforts in wildlife protection. These legal changes aim to enhance species conservation, improve enforcement mechanisms, and align national legislation with international obligations, particularly those under the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered**

¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/COP/19/resolution/E-Res-08-04-R15.pdf>

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Strengthening legal protections for endangered species helps reduce the risk of extinction and preserves biodiversity—an essential component of ecological stability. In parallel, **enhanced enforcement provisions and stricter penalties** serve to deter illegal trade, promote responsible consumer behaviour, and reduce demand for illicit wildlife products.

To support the effective implementation of these legal measures, the **Ministry of Environment** is actively engaged in **capacity-building and operational support** for customs officials. These officials play a critical role in border control and the enforcement of CITES regulations. This effort is part of the **Green Customs Initiative**, which aims to improve inter-agency coordination and build institutional capacity to combat environmental crime.

The Green Customs Initiative was formally established in **2021 through a trilateral agreement** between the **Ministry of Environment**, the **State Revenue Committee**, and the **Armenian State University of Economics**. This collaboration reinforces Armenia's commitment to protecting endangered species and upholding international environmental standards.

Article 278 Sustainable management of forests and trade in forest products*

The Ministry of Environment, together with the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology, has developed the **National Standard “Chain of Control for Wood and Wood-Based Products (ISO 38200:2018)”**, which was approved by Order No. 69-N of the Director of the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology dated 27 June 2024.

Labour supervision

The **Health and Labour Inspection Body** was entrusted with the authority to exercise full supervision over labour legislation as of 1st July 2021. With the framework of amendments made in October 2022, the term “compulsory or forced labour” was defined in the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, and it was also stipulated that compulsory or forced labour is prohibited.

The Law on Amendments and Supplements to the RA Labour Code adopted in May 2023, align with the requirements stipulated by international treaties, in particular, the ILO Fundamental Conventions and the Revised European Social Charter, eliminating certain legislative gaps and internal contradictions of the Code, as well as clarifying provisions that gave rise to different perceptions and resolving a number of problems that have arisen in legal practice.

Within the framework of another legislative initiative, the amendments of October 2023 made to **the Code enshrined flexible mechanisms for performing work remotely**, providing solutions in accordance with the trends and conditions of labour market development.

COMPETITION

Competition measures are covered by Chapter 10 of Title VI of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Article 287 Legislative framework

The **Law on Protection of Economic Competition** was adopted on 6 November 2000. The Law on Making Changes to the RA Law on Protection of Economic Competition as well as package of related laws were elaborated in 2020 and on 3 March 2021 were adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The law entered into force on 31 May 2021. The amendments envisaged significant changes to the legislation and new institutions have been introduced, including:

- Strong negotiating position.
- Permitting concentration under simplified procedure.

- Expedited proceedings on the offence in the field of economic competition.
- Encouraging the voluntarily execution of decisions of the Commission.
- Institutions to review the grounds for initiating administrative proceedings by the Commission.

The acting bylaws in the **field of economic competition** have been reviewed, new bylaws were drafted for ensuring full implementation of competition rules in line with amended law. Thus, by the end of 2021, the Competition Protection Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”) adopted 18 bylaws.

The law applies to any actions, behaviours or acts of economic entities, state bodies, as well as their officials, which lead or may lead to the prevention, restriction, prohibition or unfair competition of economic competition, as well as harm the interests of consumers.

The manifestations of anti-competitive behaviour prohibited by Law include anti-competitive agreements, abuse of a dominant position, abuse of a strong negotiating position, coordination of economic activities, the execution of prohibited concentration, anticompetitive actions, and behaviour of state bodies, prohibited state aid. The law also envisions assessing the concentration of economic entities, based on which a decision is made to permit or prohibit the concentration.

Since 6 May 2024, **new legislative amendments to the RA law on the Protection of Economic Competition and the RA law on “On Trade and Services”** have entered into force aimed at regulating relationships related to violations of fair-trade rules by suppliers to trading networks as well as late payments in the purchase of agricultural products.

These amendments introduce new manifestations of abuse of the strong negotiating position. In addition, general requirements were established for the relationship between trading networks and suppliers, outline the information that must be published on the official website of the retail chain, and provide criteria and conditions for selecting a supplier’s product. Additionally, they facilitate access for new suppliers to the main terms of contracts with retail chains and clarify the conditions for product displays in retail networks, including the procedures for promoting goods, conducting promotions, and establishing benefits or other events to enhance product visibility. As part of these changes, the Commission has established thresholds for determining a strong negotiating position in the market for the sale of agricultural products.

On 1st October 2024 the **Commission adopted a Guideline on Methodology of assessment of anticompetitive actions of state bodies and officials thereof**. The guideline was elaborated with the cooperation of World Bank experts.

The Law applies to all private and public enterprises. There are certain peculiarities of the application of the Law in the following fields. According to Article 1 (4) of the Law, the Commission performs the functions provided for by the Law with respect to persons regulated or controlled by the Central Bank on the basis of mutual cooperation with the Central Bank. The same article regulates that the Law shall not apply to the relations of the regulated spheres of public services, the regulation of which is reserved to the Public Services Regulatory Commission.

The Commission officially adhered to the Recommendation on Merger Review issued by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in November 2023. Consequently, the OECD confirmed, that relevant RA legislation, policies and practices in the field of mergers are in line with Recommendation principles. Currently works are being carried out to adhere to the OECD Recommendation on Transparency and Procedural Fairness in Competition Law Enforcement.

Article 288 Implementation

The Commission was established on 13 January 2001. The Commission is an autonomous body responsible for ensuring freedom of economic activities, free economic competition, environment necessary for fair competition, as well business development and for protecting the interests of consumers.

The status of autonomous bodies is prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.



In particular, according to the Article 122 (1) of the Constitution in order to ensure exercise of the basic rights and freedoms of the human being and the citizen, as well as to protect public interests of fundamental significance prescribed by the Constitution, autonomous bodies may be established (...). Moreover, according to the Article 122 (4) of the Constitution, the powers of autonomous bodies, guarantees for independence, the requirements set forth for the members and the rules of operation thereof shall be prescribed by law.

Before amendments the members of the Commission were appointed by the President of the Republic. According to the Law the seven members (including President) of the Commission are currently appointed by the National Assembly, upon the proposal of the Government, ruling party and opposition party of the National Assembly. The members of the Commission are autonomous positions, and they are independent acting in accordance with the Constitution and laws. The same person may not be appointed as a member of the Commission established as prescribed by this Law more than two consecutive times, for the full term of office of five years.

According to the Article 48 of the amended Law, the Commission ensures the publicity of its activities, transparency through the mass media, the official website, and other means.

In March 2021 **the Law on Protection of Economic Competition and the Law on the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia** have been amended whereby it was reassured that in sectors regulated and supervised by the RA Central Bank, the Commission for Economic Competition shall implement its mandate prescribed by the Law on Protection of Economic Competition in cooperation with the Central Bank.



The Commission shall refrain from interfering in the matter of economic competition if the Central Bank reasonably informs the Commission that the matter is under the mandate of the Central Bank according to the law and the Central Bank shall perform the functions. In that case, the final decision shall be made by the Central Bank, considering the position submitted by the Commission, referring to all the issues raised by the Commission, indicating in its final position or decision the reasons for accepting or not accepting them.

The Central Bank and the Commission will elaborate joint decree on main dimensions and procedure of cooperation. Also, according to the Central Bank mandate for adopting legal acts on competition issues in financial services sector the Central Bank is considering the need for revising the existing internal regulations based on amendments to the abovementioned laws.

The Law on Economic Competition Protection of RA directly establishes **special regulations regarding transparency and fairness of procedures and activity of the Commission.**

This includes several principles which navigate the Commission during its activities.

- Competition law enforcement is carried out in a reasonable, consistent and non-discriminatory manner, including without prejudice to the nationalities and ownership of parties under investigation.
- Investigations are tailored to the seriousness and nature of each case, and the imposition of unnecessary costs and burdens on parties and third parties or on the Commission is avoided.
- Consistent rules and guidelines exist for procedural steps in competition law enforcement such as requests for information, inspections and interviews and it is ensured that these steps do not go beyond the scope of the investigation.
- Internal safeguards are applied for procedural steps in order to ensure lawfulness, proportionality and consistency
- The objective decision-making is ensured through the thorough examination of facts and evidence, and the application of internal checks and balances for evaluations and decisions.
- It is ensured that communications between the decision maker (e.g., competition authority or court, as applicable) and the parties and third parties are in writing, or, if oral, recorded, to the extent possible, in written minutes that form part of the case file or record.

Subsidies

Article 293 Transparency

The Competition Protection Commission developed the Law HO-79-N “**On Making amendments and supplements to the RA Law “On Protection of Economic Competition”**” that was adopted by the National Assembly on 24 January 2020, which clarified the concept of State Aid, defined the concept of Provider of State Aid, the requirement of maintenance of a register of state aid, the procedure and obligation of provision of information on granted state aid and the powers of the Commission in this area.

The Government adopted decision N 784-N on 21 May 2020 developed by the Commission that defines the procedure and deadlines for providing the Commission with the information on state aid, as well as the forms for providing information.

Thus, a **unified register of state aid** was established, which is maintained by the Commission.

On 23 December 2021 the Commission adopted Decision N 377-N on the form and procedure of the **maintained of the state aid unified registry**. The providers of state aid provide the Commission with information on granted state aid on regular basis in the deadlines and manner prescribed by law. The Commission includes the provided information in the unifies register of state aid.

On 26 July 2022 the Commission adopted Decision N270 **on the procedure of assessing the state aid**. The regulations of this bylaw are novelties for the Commission and were developed on the basis of International best practice in cooperation with the World Bank experts. The act further details the notion of state aid and specifies the types and stages of state aid assessment, analytical steps to identify distortive state aid, as well as the categories and conditions under which distortive state aid can be granted, including environmental reasons and instructors on the mandatory compliance with the Act.



Article 294 Consultations

According to the Article 58 (1) of the Law, the state body or its representative may, before taking relevant action, concluding a transaction or adopting a legal act, apply to the Commission to get a conclusion with regard to its prevention, restriction, prohibition, (or) harm to the interests of consumers, as well as other issues related to economic competition or protection of economic competition. Thus, the Commission has a mandate to provide a conclusion about the negative effects on the economic competition of the subsidy.

Article 295 Subsidies subject to conditions

According to the Article 25 (2) State aid, which directly or indirectly leads or may lead to prevention, restriction or blocking of competition in a goods market, or harms or may harm consumer interests, shall be prohibited except for the cases when the mentioned support is provided for by law or is aimed at protection of the environment, mitigation of the climate change impact and adaptation thereto, solution of problems of social nature, compensation for damages caused due to natural disasters or other exceptional cases, development of border communities, balanced territorial development, protection of cultural heritage, fulfilment of obligations provided for by law or an international treaty.

According to the Article 58 (1) of the Law, state body or its official may, before taking relevant action, concluding a transaction or adopting a legal act, apply to the Commission to get a conclusion with regard to its prevention, restriction, prohibition, (or) harm to the interests of consumers, as well as other issues related to economic competition or protection of economic competition.

Article 296 Use of subsidies

In June 2023, the Order of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia was adopted on the Approval of the Regulation of local inspection and monitoring carried out within the framework of the state support programme. The “Agricultural Services Centre” SNCO under the Ministry of Economy was appointed as a review body. The use of subsidies for the public policy objective is ensured by relevant providers of subsidy. The Commission is entitled to assess the feasibility of the state aid.

STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES

Provisions on State-owned enterprises (SOEs) are covered by Chapter 11 of Title VI of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Article 300 Delegated authority

According to the RA Law on Protection of Economic Competition (hereinafter referred to as the “Law”) “economic entity” is an individual entrepreneur, legal entity, other organisation, its representative or branch, a group of persons (...). According to the Law “state body” is a state or local self-government body, state or community non-commercial organisation, state or community institution, Central Bank, legal entity or other organisation acting on behalf of the Republic of Armenia or the community of the Republic of Armenia or exercising the function or authority of a state body or local self-governing body, an organisation with a 50% of share of the Republic of Armenia or the community of the Republic of Armenia.

Thus, if the organisation acts on behalf of the Republic of Armenia or exercises the functions of the Republic of Armenia, within the meaning of the Law it will be considered as the state body. Moreover, the Law precisely separates the prohibited conduct for economic entities and state bodies (including state-owned enterprise). The Competition Protection Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) considers the behaviour of enterprises, indicated by Article 300 only in the framework of powers prescribed by Law “On Protection of Economic Competition”.

Article 304 Non-discrimination and commercial considerations & Article 305 Regulatory principles

The Commission considers the behaviour of enterprises, indicated by Article 300 only in the framework of powers prescribed by RA Law “On Protection of Economic Competition”.

Article 306 Transparency

To provide information about the operations of that enterprise related to the activities This measure carries continuous character.

In 2024, the Ministry of Finance, with the support of the International Monetary Fund, elaborated the conceptual approaches on the “**Ownership Policy of State-Owned Enterprises (SOE)**”, based on which the comprehensive SOE ownership policy is currently being elaborated. Additionally, the Ministry of Finance is conducting an assessment and analysis of the fiscal risks associated with SOEs.





EU FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ANTI-FRAUD AND CONTROL PROVISIONS



**TRANSPARENT
SUPPORT**

AND



PARTNERSHIP

EU FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

To achieve the objectives of this Agreement, according to CEPA article 343, Armenia benefits from financial assistance through relevant funding mechanisms and instruments of the European Union. Armenia may also access loans from the EIB, EBRD and other international financial institutions.

Since gaining its independence, Armenia has significantly benefited from EU support, the European Union being one of its largest financial contributors to development programmes.

Following the signing of the CEPA, the EU has provided over EUR 138 million in budget support allocations for the period 2018–2024. These allocations have aimed at:



- Multisector budget support for Implementation of the ENP Action Plan (improved public internal financial control, improved public procurement, data protection and privacy, enhanced e-governance, strengthened travel passport security, upgraded customs legislation, improved quality infrastructure, and enhanced sanitary and phytosanitary frameworks)¹;
- Improving labour market efficiency and workforce employability²;
- Enhancing fiscal transparency and accountability³;
- Supporting the protection of human rights⁴;
- Strengthening the effectiveness of central public administration⁵;
- Assisting the Government of Armenia's COVID-19 response and mitigate its socio-economic impact⁶;
- Advance justice and anti-corruption reforms⁷;
- Improving the competitiveness of the education system in line with the 2021–2026 Government Programme⁸;
- Supporting short-term public finance management and address the medium- and long-term needs of refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh⁹.

As of end-2024, with the EU's direct and indirect involvement, around 13 technical assistance financing agreements — totalling approximately EUR 185 million — were signed and implemented between the GoA and the European Commission (2018–2024), in cooperation with international and local partners. The main areas of technical assistance include:

- Support to justice reform aimed at enhancing independence, transparency, and efficiency in the Armenian justice system in line with EU standards¹⁰;
- Support shared and balanced growth through addressing constraints linked to innovation and education with focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)¹¹;
- Promotion of economic governance, improved business climate, trade access, and implementation of Twinning projects¹²;
- Inclusive growth in Northern Armenia through sustainable agriculture, innovative tourism, and creative industries¹³;

1 Support to the Government of Armenia for the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan and preparations for the future Association Agreement – Phase II, CRIS number: ENPI/2011/23094.

2 Better Qualifications for Better Jobs, CRIS number: ENI/2015/038-246.

3 Public Finance Policy Reform Programme in Armenia, CRIS number: ENI/2015/038-229.

4 Support to Human Rights Protection in Armenia, CRIS number: ENI/2014/032-771.

5 Support to Public Administration Reform in Armenia: Better Service Delivery through a More Efficient and Responsive Public Administration, CRIS number: ENI/2016/039-595.

6 COVID-19 Resilience Contract for Armenia, CRIS number: ENI/2020/042-847.

7 Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia, Phase I, CRIS number: ENI/2020/042-019; Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia, Phase II, OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/ACT-61442.

8 EU Support to Education in Armenia, OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/ACT-61467.

9 State and Resilience Building Contract for the Republic of Armenia, OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/ACT-62364 and Addendum No. 1 (OPSYS ref.: ACT-62364), which tops up the financing provided under the initial agreement.

10 Consolidation of the Justice System in Armenia, CRIS number: 2017/040-664.

11 EU4Innovation in Armenia: Enhanced Education focusing on science, CRIS number: 2017/040-530.

12 Armenia Technical Cooperation Facility, CRIS number: 2017 / 040-523.

13 EU4Armenia - Regional Development, CRIS number: 2018/041-609.

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- Strengthening of democracy through civic engagement, government accountability, and transparency¹⁴;
 - Strengthen the GoA's capacity to plan and implement structural reforms¹⁵;
 - Improve energy efficiency and enhance environmental and water protection, including in Lake Sevan¹⁶;
 - Promote local growth and development leading to improved quality of life through community engagement in economic and social activity with particular focus on the Northern regions of Armenia¹⁷;
 - Assistance with the effective termination of the use of the EU geographical indication "Cognac" for products originating in Armenia, while assisting the country in maintaining its competitive position in export markets¹⁸.

Continuing the list of technical assistance programmes, it is worth noting that, within the framework of the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021–2027 for Armenia under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, the following priorities have been identified:

- Support for green, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable socio-economic recovery in the post-crisis and post-pandemic period, in line with the CEPA and the EU Economic and Investment Plan flagship programmes, with a particular focus on investments, jobs, and services in Syunik¹⁹;
- Strengthening of accountable service delivery in police, migration management, and human rights, based on the principles of good governance and the rule of law²⁰;
- Alleviation of energy poverty and improvement of energy security, independence, and climate resilience by expanding access to sustainable energy solutions in rural areas²¹;
- Support for CEPA implementation and broader reforms, including healthcare, business environment, and socio-economic inclusion of displaced persons, as well as alignment in trade, energy, climate, and aviation, in line with CEPA, MIP 2021–2027 (complemented in 2024 by financial assistance under Resilience and Growth Plan 2024–2027 priorities²²).

Cooperation in the Field of Nuclear Safety

Armenia and the EU are actively strengthening their partnership across various areas, including nuclear safety. The EU supports Armenia in enhancing safety at the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant through its Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC).

This bilateral cooperation aims to strengthen the capacities of Armenia's nuclear regulatory authority and operator, based on EU best practices and international standards; to promote a robust nuclear safety and radiation protection culture; to improve environmental radiation monitoring and emergency response systems; and to enhance the physical safety of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant, including severe accident management and resilience to external hazards.

Between 2018 and 2024, the EU has provided over EUR 21 million in technical assistance to Armenia in the field of nuclear safety²³.

14 EU4Citizens: Deepening democracy in Armenia, CRIS number: 2018/041-608.

15 CEPA Reform Facility, CRIS number: ENI/2019/042-040.

16 EU4 Energy Efficiency and Environment, CRIS number: ENI/2019/042-021.

17 Local Empowerment of Actors for Development (LEAD), CRIS number: ENI/2019/042-041.

18 Support for implementation of Article 237 CEPA – Phase I, CRIS number: ENI/2020/042-937.

19 EU Resilience Facility for Armenia, CRIS number: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2021/043-475.

20 EU for resilient and accountable institutions- police and migration reform and human rights protection in Armenia, CRIS number: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2021/043-003.

21 Sustainable energy, energy security and climate resilience in rural Armenia, OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/ACT-60866.

22 Reform and CEPA implementation Facility, OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/ACT-62369 and Addendum No. 1 (OPSYS ref.: ACT-62369), which tops up the financing provided under the initial agreement.

23 Promotion of nuclear safety and implementation of stress tests recommendations in Armenia (CRIS number : 2017/ 040-644), Promotion of Nuclear safety culture: Support to Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (Component B)) (CRIS number : 2019/042-202), Promotion of nuclear safety culture: Armenia (Component A)(CRIS decision number: 2020/042-470), Implementation of lessons from the post-Fukushima stress tests (INSC/2022/044-606), Strengthening nuclear safety, radiation protection and radioactive waste management infrastructure in Armenia (ACT-62490 and ACT-62492).

EU Economic and Investment Plan for Armenia:

The Eastern Partnership Economic and Investment Plan has aimed to boost resilience, integration, and post-COVID socio-economic recovery in EaP countries. It aligns with the EU's long-term policy objectives beyond 2020, prioritising investment in access to finance, SMEs and start-ups, transport connectivity, digital transition, etc. The plan supports NDICI–Global Europe targets seeking to leverage public and private investments through cooperation with EU institutions, international financial institutions, Member States, partner governments, and private investors. Actions have been tailored to each partner country and cover local, national, and regional levels, also targeting innovation, human capital, and improved policy/regulatory frameworks.

In line with the EU Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) —launched in July 2021²⁴ and later presented in Yerevan by EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi—the EU committed to mobilising EUR 2.6 billion through a range of financial instruments to support Armenia's development across five mutually agreed priority areas:

1. Supporting a sustainable, innovative, and competitive economy, including direct assistance to 30,000 SMEs.
2. Enhancing connectivity and socio-economic development, notably through the North–South transport corridor.
3. Promoting digital transformation, innovation, science, and technology.
4. Strengthening resilience in the southern regions of Armenia.
5. Advancing a greener Yerevan through investments in energy efficiency and eco-friendly public transport.

In addition, Armenia proposed two further domains for potential cooperation: expanding access to education and improving waste and water management systems.

The GoA's comprehensive proposal package outlining key priority projects under each flagship was formally submitted to the EU in September 2021. In response, the EU, together with European financial institutions, worked closely with the GoA to identify and approve the initial pipeline of investment projects.

The implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan has progressed effectively throughout 2024. Notably:

- Under Flagship 1, **“Armenia's Economic Resilience”** loan agreement—signed between the EIB and the German-Armenian Fund of the Central Bank for a total of EUR 70 million to support greening and technological advancement for SMEs, women's entrepreneurship, and regional development in Armenia — is successfully underway. Two tranches were already received, in 2024 and the third is expected in 2025²⁵.

Concerning the cooperation of European financial institutions and Armenian commercial banks the collaboration between the EBRD and Armenia's commercial banks, under the EU EIP, has led to the signing of projects totalling EUR 384.3 million since the inception of the Plan as of May 2025. In 2024, EBRD direct loan to the Armenian commercial banks (including trade facilitation programmes) amounted to EUR 113.7 million, out of which 54.1 million was loan and EUR 59.6 million – under trade facilitation programmes²⁶.

In 2024, the European Investment Bank (EIB) significantly expanded its direct lending operations in Armenia, supporting access to finance for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through partnerships with local financial institutions. These operations were implemented under the EU Economic and Investment Plan and aligned with the objectives of the Armenia MSME Resilience Facility. By end of 2024 the financing agreements confirmed and signed between the EIB and commercial bank amounted to EUR 230.5 million²⁷.



24 Joint Staff Working Document - Recovery, resilience and reform: post 2020 Eastern Partnership priorities, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/swd_2021_186_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v2_p1_1356457_0.pdf

25 <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20220158> .

26 Source EBRD.

27 https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-309-eib-global-signs-first-direct-loan-agreement-with-an-armenian-commercial-bank?utm_

- Under Flagship 2, as regards **Sisian-Kajaran road section** including the Bargushat tunnel, two financing agreements—each worth EUR 236 million were signed in 2024 with the EBRD and the EIB for the construction of the northern and southern sections²⁸.
- Under Flagship 3, it is noteworthy that several important developments were registered during the period 2021–2023. In 2022, the EBRD approved a EUR 18.7 million (USD 20 million) loan to Telecom Armenia. This funding is aimed at enhancing Armenia’s internal fibre optic network, with a particular focus on expanding access to approximately 1,000 rural communities²⁹.

Within the context of strengthening resilience in the southern regions of Armenia under Flagship 3 and Additional Initiative A “Improving access to education in Armenia”, in August 2023, the **“EU Support to Education in Armenia”**³⁰ budget support programme was signed with a total budget of EUR 32 million out of which Armenia has received EUR 18 million during 2024. Under the budget support, GoA intends to allocate EUR 15.3 million for the reconstruction and re-equipment of science laboratories in schools located in the Ararat, Kotayk, and Gegharkunik regions. Additionally, an allocation of EUR 14 million from this grant will be used for the reconstruction of 13 schools in Kapan and Goris cities in Syunik region.

- Under Flagship 4, in May 2024, the GoA and the EBRD signed loan and grant agreements for the **“Syunik Customs and Logistics Centre”** project³¹. The agreements provide for the construction of a modern customs and logistics facility in the Syunik region adjacent to the North–South transport corridor.

In 2023, the approval process began for a EUR 20 million programme to promote informal innovative education in the Syunik region. The initiative includes a EUR 10 million EU grant³² and a planned EUR 10 million loan from the EIB. The programme envisions the establishment of two **COAF Smart Centres** in Syunik³³.

With regard to strengthening the resilience of Armenia’s southern regions, under Flagship 4, the framework loan was finalised during 2024–2025, and the financial contract for the **“Armenia – Resilient Syunik Programme”**³⁴ was officially signed with the European Investment Bank (EIB) on July 16, 2025. The funds will be used to stimulate economic growth and improve infrastructure in key sectors, including water supply, healthcare, and education.

• The “Resilient Syunik” Team Europe Initiative

“Resilient Syunik” TEI was launched in January 2023 as a joint undertaking of the EU and Member States, the European financial institutions (EIB, EBRD), development agencies and Switzerland.

This TEI is aligned with the regional development priorities of the GoA, as well as the priorities outlined within the Flagship Initiative on Building Resilience in the Southern Regions of Armenia under EU’s EIP. The main objective of this initiative is to contribute to the sustainable socioeconomic and institutional development of the Syunik region. The initiative in particular aims to contribute to

source=chatgpt.com , https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20230970?utm_source=chatgpt.com, <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-311-armenia-eib-global-and-evocabank-join-forces-with-eur12-million-loan-deal-to-aid-small-businesses> , <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20230970> , https://www.armswissbank.am/en/events/?ELEMENT_ID=2847&utm_source=chatgpt.com , <https://www.fca.am/en/news/news.1546.html> , https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2025-047-armenia-eib-global-and-ameriabank-join-forces-to-provide-eur105-million-loan-to-support-small-businesses?utm_source=chatgpt.com .

28 https://www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/news/2024/ebrd-funds-largest-road-project-in-armenia.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com , https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-451-armenia-eib-global-signs-eur236-million-loan-to-finance-construction-of-sisian-kajaran-road?utm_source=chatgpt.com .

29 <https://www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/news/2022/ebrd-finances-us-20-million-including-for-network-upgrade-of-telecom-armenia.html>

30 https://armenpress.am/en/article/1138988?utm_source=chatgpt.com

31 <https://www.ebrd.com/home/work-with-us/projects/psd/54703.html>.

32 https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/global-gateway-forum-eu-announces-over-eu10-million-support-education-opportunities-armenia-2023-10-25_en .

33 <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/latest-news/eu-signs-e10-million-grant-to-support-education-opportunities-in-armenia/> .

34 <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20220193> .

- improved business environment for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and enhanced private sector competitiveness,
- improved access to high quality, people-centric public services,
- prioritization of green regional development and increased protection, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity.

As of 2024, around 44 projects worth EUR 126 million (EUR 50 million in grants and EUR 76 million in loans) have been implemented and are being implemented within the framework of this initiative³⁵. As of end-June 2025, the amount increased up to EUR 150 million of which EUR 65 million in grants and EUR 85 million in loans. The overall budget of the initiative may further increase³⁶.

- In 2024, the **Yerevan Energy Efficiency Phase II** project was launched, following a EUR 25 million loan agreement with the EIB signed in November 2023. The EU grant component of EU 10 million was also signed in November 2024. The project's objective is the comprehensive **reconstruction of 32 kindergartens and 6 polyclinics** in Yerevan, marking a significant progress towards sustainable urban development³⁷.

In addition, earlier, under the same flagship, in 2021, the **“Yerevan Bus Project”** loan agreement was signed between the Government of Armenia and the EBRD, providing EUR 25 million for the purchase of city buses and the modernization of the urban transport system. The funding includes a EUR 20 million loan and a EUR 5 million grant from the **Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P)**³⁸. The new natural gas-powered buses have been in operation since July 2023.

Investments' coordination platform

To ensure the effective Implementation of the EIP, as well as to activate the cooperation with the EU and European financial structures, on 29 November 2023, the EU-GoA investments' coordination platform was officially launched. On 28 February 2024, the 2nd meeting of the platform took place, under the co-chairing of DPM Mher Grigoryan and Director of Neighbourhood East and Institutional Building Adrien Kiraly. The 3rd platform meeting was held on 27 November 2024.

The objectives of establishing a structured and continuous coordination mechanism for the implementation of the EIP in Armenia are to **enhance coordination, expedite implementation and accountability**.

Resilience and Growth Plan for Armenia

At the Armenia–EU–USA high-level trilateral event held in Brussels on April 5, 2024, the European Union announced the launch of the EUR 270 million Resilience and Growth Plan (RGP) for Armenia for the period 2024–2027. The initiative supports the new Armenia–EU partnership agenda and the implementation of the EU Economic and Investment Plan (EIP). The plan provides EUR 200 million in grant assistance (budget support and technical assistance) and EUR 70 million in grant funding to promote investments in connectivity, resilience, and business development. Its main objectives are to strengthen societal resilience in Armenia, foster investments in connectivity and business sectors, and advance Armenia's alignment with the EU³⁹. To implement the RGP, starting in May 2024, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan began developing and regularly updating the Implementation Roadmap in cooperation with the EU, based on proposals from Armenia's state institutions.



³⁵ Source EUD.

³⁶ <https://eu4armenia.eu/team-europe-initiative/>.

³⁷ <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20180581>

³⁸ https://minfin.am/en/content/the_loan_agreement_on_yerevan_bus_project_has_been_signed_at_the_ministry_of_finance/#sthash.kiv4BGUQ.dpbs.

³⁹ <https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2024/04/05/Nikol-Pashinyan-Press-Release/> , https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/STR_EU-AM%20Growth%20plan%20V3.pdf.

As a result, in July 2024, the European Commission approved EUR 67.5 million in support to Armenia under the 2024 Annual Action Plan, including:

- **EUR 25 million in budget support** to address housing needs of forcibly displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh (complementing the EUR 15 million financing agreement “State and Resilience Building Contract for Armenia” previously signed in 2024),
- **EUR 20 million in technical assistance** for CEPA-related reforms, EIP promotion, and addressing urgent needs (complementing the EUR 3 million financing agreement “Reform and CEPA implementation Facility” previously signed in 2024),
- **EUR 19.5 million in investment grant financing** from the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP envelope), allocated to energy and water infrastructure projects,
- **EUR 3 million under the Civil Society Facility.**

Since December 2024, the DPM's Office has launched the programming process for 2025–2027 with the EU. In February 2025, based on needs assessments, the Armenian side submitted its 2025–2027 programme proposal to the EU, reflecting inputs from government agencies. The proposed new programming and action plan focuses on the following joint priorities / future programmatic scope:

- Investing in connectivity and business sectors: trade, energy, transport, digitalisation.
- Bringing Armenia closer to the EU: visa liberalisation, public administration reform.
- A resilient and inclusive Armenian society: education, employment, healthcare, social protection, civil society.

The new programme document is currently under development. Upon finalisation by both parties, the EU is expected to approve it in summer 2025. According to preliminary estimates, the Financing Agreement is expected to be signed by the end of 2025.

- **New Programming Approach and Multi-sector Budget Support**

It is noteworthy that at the end of 2024, the EU introduced a new programming strategy for enlargement and neighbourhood countries. Annual programming has been replaced with multiannual planning to enhance integration between financing and implementation, ensure flexibility, predictability, and long-term impact of support. The cornerstone of this approach is a new multi-sector budget support mechanism.

EU EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO ARMENIA

- **EU Response to mitigate COVID-19 consequences**

The EU reacted fast and responded to the urgent needs of Armenia and its citizens caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of Team Europe, the EU mobilised a tailor-made response package of over EUR 100 million ⁴⁰, to support immediate needs and socio-economic recovery. These funds provided substantial budget support to the Government and also targeted social assistance to over 3,000 vulnerable households, access to online education for 350 children, support to over 1,000 Armenian SMEs to develop new digital approaches for their businesses and key medical equipment for patient care in hospitals and COVID analysis in laboratories.

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/15085/> .

Armenia receives vaccines through the COVAX Facility, supported by Team Europe with over EUR 3 billion, and bilaterally from EU Member States.

Since 28 October 2021, digital COVID certificates are mutually recognized between the EU and Armenia⁴¹.

- **Humanitarian assistance**

The EU provides significant support to Armenia to assist refugees, particularly those 115.000 persons displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023. This support includes humanitarian aid, budget support, and civil society-led initiatives. As of December 2024, since September 2023 EU has mobilised EUR 67 million to assist refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, of which EUR 40 million is committed through budget support, EUR 18 million has been channelled so far through partners of ECHO and 8.8 million through 3 comprehensive programmes implemented by local civil society organizations, also several small scale rapid response projects⁴² were contracted totalling the assistance to EUR 67 million.



The resources mobilised within the outbreak of 44-day war until Azerbaijan large-scale military aggression in September 2023, the support amounted over EUR 20 million. As of December 2024, per DG ECHO's official communication since 2020 the European Commission has allocated in total EUR 38.4 million in humanitarian aid to provide emergency support to the affected people, which include the above-mentioned support between October 2020 and September 2023, EUR 12.5 million in 2023 and EUR 5.5 million in 2024⁴³.

In February 2025, the EU Ambassador to Armenia Vassilis Maragos, announced that the EU had allocated around EUR 100 million to meet the immediate needs and protect the rights of displaced Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians⁴⁴.

- **EU response to Armenia Floods in May 2024**

In May 2024, severe floods struck Armenia's Lori and Tavush regions due to relentless rainfall. At the GoA's request, a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was carried out with support from the EU, UN, and national authorities⁴⁵.

The assessment evaluated damage to infrastructure, economic disruptions, flood-related expenditures, and recovery needs in nine affected consolidated communities. The greatest impact was recorded in the productive and infrastructure sectors—particularly agriculture, business, and transport—with environmental degradation contributing to overall losses. The devastating floods in the Lori and Tavush regions of Armenia in May 2024 affected around 40,000 people and caused overall losses worth USD 33 million, according to the PDNA. The assessment further recorded total damages of USD 49.5 million, while total recovery needs across all sectors are estimated at USD 117 million⁴⁶.

41 https://eu4armenia.eu/wp-content/uploads/Armenia_factograph-1.pdf.

42 https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/european-union-launches-new-civil-society-actions-support-refugees-armenia_en?s=216.

43 https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/europe/armenia-and-azerbaijan_en?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

According to DG ECHO's official webpage, additional EUR 3 million was provided in 2025.

44 <https://armenpress.am/hy/article/1212864>.

45 Armenia floods, May 2024: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment,

<https://recovery.preventionweb.net/media/103118/download?startDownload=20250821>, https://recovery.preventionweb.net/publication/armenia-floods-may-2024-post-disaster-needs-assessment?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

46 <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/latest-news/eu-supported-assessment-of-flood-damage-in-northern-armenia-presented-in-yerevan/>.

Key EU responses included:

- Activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism on 30 May 2024 for infrastructure assessment, satellite imagery, and temporary bridges.
- EUR 200,000 allocated by DG ECHO via IFRC in June 2024 for emergency assistance to affected households.
- Activation of EU Copernicus mapping for landslide risk assessment.
- Deployment of an Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) Liaison Officer to support coordination.
- Dispatch of three Spanish engineers in early June to assess damaged infrastructure⁴⁷.

ANTI-FRAUD AND CONTROL PROVISIONS

According to anti-fraud and control provisions the authorities of the Republic of Armenia shall check regularly that the operations financed with EU funds have been properly implemented taking any appropriate measure to prevent and remedy irregularities and fraud. It is envisaged to conduct capacity development, approximation analysis (including legislation, policy and implementation capacity), training and advisory support for the further smooth and effective approximation in the sector of Anti-Fraud in line with CEPA requirements.

Starting from November 2024, the EU and local experts have been meeting with bodies engaged in anti-fraud activities to review the state of play and conduct field-related needs assessments. These efforts aim to strengthen capacity, carry out approximation analyses (covering legislation, policy, and implementation capacity), and provide training and advisory support to ensure the smooth and effective alignment of the anti-fraud sector with CEPA requirements.

Additionally, in terms of Anti-fraud and control provisions implementation, it should be noted that, following the operational conclusions of the 4th meeting of the EU-Armenia Sub-Committee on Economic Cooperation and Other Related Sectors held in Brussels on 8 November 2024, in order to prevent and detect irregularities, including fraud affecting the financial interests of the EU, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Armenia has expressed its willingness to undertake the functions of a counterpart of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) within the framework of the financing agreement for the Interreg programme (Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin as well as the future financing (budget support and technical assistance) agreements to be signed with the European Union.



⁴⁷ Source EUD.

