



# **ARMENIA**

## **ICT ENVIRONMENT, INNOVATION POLICIES & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **EECA CLUSTER**

This report is a compilation of information and data collected in the framework of the EECA cluster work. It is a part of three wider reports on EECA countries ICT priorities, Innovation Policies and Strategies and International Cooperation.

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EAST-HORIZON is a FP7 Project –Grant Agreement No 611063

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# Armenia

## ICT Environment

### 1 Overview of the main trends in the National ICT Sector

#### 1.1 Recent Trends in Macroeconomic and Market Developments

Taking into consideration recent developments and new realities induced by the global financial and economic downturn, the Government of Armenia (GoA) has revised the Sustainable Development Program (SDP) adopted in 2008. In real situation besides the crisis, economy has been affected by a significant increase in the prices of energy imported from Russia which the authorities are striving to re-negotiate. The authorities continued to deregulate the economy and strengthen competition.

Due to tight economical and other political relations the government announced the country's decision to seek membership of the Eurasian Customs Union. The authorities should also implement the announced commitment to deepen economic ties with the European Union (EU), while benefiting from access to the Eurasian Customs Union. The formal accession process may take several years to complete. It remains to be seen whether membership of the Customs Union would be consistent with further approximation with the EU.

Under these general political trends the base macroeconomic country characterisation is summarised below in terms of the competitive position of the national economy vis-à-vis EU27 (28), key trends since 2009.

Comparable indicators of economic performance

Indicator	National performance		EU27(28)Average	
	2009	2013	2009	2013
GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) (EU25=100)	17.08	19.18	100	100
Real GDP growth rate (% change previous year)	5.1	3.1	-4.5	0.1
Labour productivity per person employed (EU25=100)	68.8	72.4	100	100
Inflation rate (average annual)	3.4	5.8	1.0	1.5
Unit labour costs (growth rate)	0.27	0.2	3.3	0.6
Unemployment rate (as % of active population)	18.7	18.5	8.8	10.8
Foreign direct investment intensity	3.3 (% of GDP)	4.64		
ICT Expenditure (% of GDP)	1.1	:		
Broadband Penetration Rate (% population with broadband access)	:	25		
Index of Economic Freedom	25	34		

key: (\*) EU25 average, (^) or latest available year (for example: 2005); (: ) not available

- Sources:
- Eurostat - Structural Indicators and Long-term Indicators <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>
- DAE Reports, Unlocking the ICT Growth Potential in Europe: Enabling people and businesses, <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/download-scoreboard-reports>



- National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=45>
- ISETECONOMIST (International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET)), Giorgi Machavariani, 2013, A Comparison of Unit Labour Costs in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, <http://www.iset.ge/blog/?s=Armenia>
- Armenian Development Agency, <http://www.ada.am/eng/>
- Armenia Investment Map, evConsulting, Yerevan, 2012, <http://www.ada.am/eng/>
- The World Bank, <http://data.worldbank.org>
- Economy Watch, <http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/>
- European Bank, <http://tr.ebrd.com/tr13/en/country-assessments/1/armenia>
- GOA <http://www.gov.am>

### Recent Trends in ICT Performance

The current ICT Armenia official characterisation by the GoA says:

- The total number of operating companies in IT sector is 380;
- The total number of human resources in IT sector is about 10740 person;
- The total turnover of IT industry is 379.1 million U.S. dollars;
- During 2008-2013, the industry recorded an average annual growth of 22.8%.

The development of information technology field in Armenian has always been in the center of attention of the Government. In 2008, the GoA adopted Information Technology Sector Development strategy. The main vision of the strategy is to form sustainable information society with advanced ICT infrastructure, high-level computer literacy, high level of computer saturation and internet access, extended use of e-services systems, existence of large local IT market and progressive knowledge-based industry, and to provide the existence of developed and internationally recognized information technology sector, with companies creating big surplus value and providing complex engineering solutions and services, local IT products competitive in international markets. For the implementation of the mentioned above vision the Government has carried out a number of long-term projects.

Particularly, for modernization of the technological education system and for training of IT high-qualified specialists, Armenian National Engineering Laboratories (ANEL) project has been implemented, in order to improve the skills of IT professionals many training programs have been implemented in Microsoft Innovation Center (MIC), Armenian-Indian Center for Excellence in ICT and Regional Mobile Application Laboratory (mLab).

For information society formation in Armenia and country's balanced regional development Gyumri and Vanadzor Technological Centers projects have been implemented in the scope of World Banks' loan project.

Several large-scale projects have been carried out with multinational IT companies, which contribute to the promotion of innovative ideas in ICT field, venture funding, investments, personnel training and to the achievements of other important initiatives. It is distinctive the collaboration with "Microsoft", "D-Link", "National Instruments", "Synopsis", "Mentor Graphics", "Nokia", "Intel", "Cisco", "IBM", "GFI" and another multinational companies.

In order to promote "IT trademark" and expand international cooperation annual DigiTech Business Forum, DigiTech Expo and ArmTech Congress have been organised.

Today the industry is high profitable and attractive for large-scale foreign investments.

The basic trends and technical content is visible from the following lists:

#### e-Government Systems in Armenia

- Online information and e-gov resources:
- President: [www.president.am](http://www.president.am)
- Federal /regional governments / agencies: [www.gov.am](http://www.gov.am), [www.region.am](http://www.region.am)
- National Assembly: [www.parliament.am](http://www.parliament.am)
- E-Visa and electronic paper management systems at MFA
- Government sessions e-system
- Cadastre information system
- Digital data resources of the Ministry of Justice
- Border and airport management systems at Zvartnots airport



#### e-Business and other e-Society Systems

- E-Dram web-based payment systems with online shopping
- ARCA electronic payment system
- CBA's "Bank Mail" inter-bank system
- Several small e-commerce businesses
- Several healthcare / hospital management systems
- e-Learning initiatives at Armenian Universities (AUA, SEUA)

For details see at Ministry of Economy of GOA (<http://www.mineconomy.am/eng/78/gortsaruyt.html>).

### Objectives and Targets of National ICT Policy

In Armenia Development Strategy for 2014-2025, The Annex To RA Government Decree # 442 – N On 27th of March, 2014 quotes:

Taking into account the short- and long-term potential for job creation, as well as the input in ensuring quality economic growth, the priority sectors and areas subject to the direct policies include:

- 1) Industry and export promotion;
- 2) Tourism development;
- 3) *Information technologies' sector development*
- 4) Agriculture and rural development
- 5) SME creation and ensuring their adequate activities;

In year 2000 information technologies (IT) were recognized one of the priority branches of Armenian economy and its development recognized as an essential contribution to the transition towards knowledge-based economy.

In 2008 the GoA adopted a new 10-year IT sector development strategy which includes objectives of infrastructure development, increase in the quality of IT sector graduates, creation of venture and other financial mechanisms for the start-ups, etc. Among particular goals of the new strategy are building of new TechnoParks and incubators, creation of a big venture fund,

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expansion of local market for local IT products and services, increase the volume of foreign direct investments.

In the period preceding the Government participated in a number of initiatives aimed at achieving the above goals. In 2007 the National Instruments Corporation founded an engineering and research office in Yerevan. In 2008 the Gyumri TechnoPark construction was initiated and it is currently in the process. The latter hosts the regional software development laboratory of D-Link International. In May 2011, within the framework of the Cooperation Memorandum signed between RA Government and Microsoft Corporation, the Microsoft Innovations Center was opened in Yerevan, which is aimed at creation of an environment promoting development of professional skills and capacity building through application of Microsoft tools and programs.

The mentioned and other initiatives launched by the government, as well as the active participation of the private sector resulted in significant growth of IT sector indicators in 2011 compared with 2008. Particularly, the total revenue increased by 84%, whereas the share of IT sector in GDP reached 2% in 2011 versus 1% in 2008. The number of employed in the sector increased by 38% and by around same percentage productivity growth was recorded.

During the strategy implementation period direct policies in IT sector will include:

- 1) Continuation of establishment of TechnoParks, Incubators and other IT infrastructures being implemented through PPP toolsets,
- 2) Support to universities in implementation of modern curricula and acquisition of necessary laboratories, through promotion of their cooperation with private sector,
- 3) Implementation of favorable tax policy promoting export potential in the sector,
- 4) Implementation of state-support programs for SMEs and start-ups involved in the IT sector, including access to markets, professional trainings and ensuring access to information,
- 5) Direct support to IT companies offering innovative products or services.

In addition to general framework policies, implementation of direct policies in the sector is expected to contribute to the creation of 10 to 15 thousand new jobs by 2025. Export will increase along with the sector growth: it is expected to export around 60% of products in 2017. The share of IT sector in GDP will be around 6-7% in 2025. ADS forecasts are in line with target indicators set in 2008 IT sector strategy and take into account the dynamics of recent years.

## Annex 1: Overview of ICT Policy Documents

### Main policy documents concerning ICT policy adopted/published since 2000-2013

Title of document	Date	Organisation responsible	Legal status
Electronic Government Armenia Strategy Development	11 January, 2006	GoA, ITDSC	Strategy
Government of Republic of Armenia Decree, No35, On Approving the Information Technology Sector Development Concept Paper	August 28, 2008	GoA	Development Concept Paper



Annex to the Republic of Armenia Government Protocol Decree N47, Concept Paper on Migrating too Digital Radio and TV Broadcasting System	November 12, 2009	GoA	Concept Paper
The Law of the Republic of Armenia on National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia	April 14, 2011	GoA	Law
Armenia Development Strategy for 2014-2025	March 27, 2014	GoA	Decree

## Annex 2: Overview of ICT Policy Measures

Strategy of design and development of different infrastructure and management (organization, industrial domain or other critical issues) deal with strategic plan and its assessment framework. Periodical evaluations help in correcting the strategy implementation and even elaborate integrated conclusions if the policy in action is acceptable. Several times since 1995 ICT Armenia was an object for a strategic planning. Some strategy documents (e.g. Master Strategy of 2004-2008) contain assessment indicators and procedures. But working with public, available information it is to accept the lack of comprehensive and integrated analysis of the whole ICT domain for Armenia. Instead, there is a list of competitive and complementary analyses, one after the other, provided by recognized international bodies that help to understand the different fragments of the complete strategic planning. Examples can be the following: “Electronic Government Armenia Strategy Development”, 2006, is a comprehensive planning document with assessment incorporated; 2020 Strategy of Institute for Informatics and Automated Problems of the National Academy of Sciences, developed by FP7 INARMERA-ICT project represents a typical policy mix scheme with assessment that is based on the French AERES approach. These examples demonstrate that together with the instruments any strategy procedure needs to have corresponding measurable indicators applied to assess the overall impact and success of that strategy. The set of measurable indicators and the assessment procedure are set up beforehand. Different assessment procedures are in use. An example can be the so called Delphi method (Linstone and Turoff, the Delphi Method: techniques and applications, 2002, <http://is.njit.edu/pubs/delphibook/>). This approach provides reflection to experts in which experts may revise their estimates, due to the real values of the average scores per item which may show the deviation from their own findings. Other means of machine learning methodology are also available. So the critical issue is in design of the set of indicators. They will be measurable, and not only for the particular country but also for the set of similar, regional or competitor countries, means by which are calculated. Probably this is the reason that the most used are the indicators involved in ITU reports and databases that are common, available and similarly measured. Of course this covers mainly the telecom analysis. We want to see the ICT divided in 2 basic components: Information Society (IS) establishment (*Develop an advanced information and knowledge based society in Armenia with sophisticated ICT infrastructure, high computer literacy, high computerization and internet penetration rates, large domestic IT market, and widely deployed e-government and e-commerce systems.*), and Information Industry (II) development (*Transform Armenian IT industry from a provider of low-end outsourcing services focused on cost advantages into an R&D powerhouse offering higher-value added research, development, and engineering services in specialized technology segments.*). Policy analysis here can be divided, separated, containing components like education, research, innovation, large list of ICT indicators, and economical characteristics. Telecom is a narrow but specific fragment of these studies. It is only the PIPES cluster of the



(Republic of Armenia: ICT Assessment, 15 July 2000 Version) in line with the parts Public sector, Private sector, and People.

IPM Number	Title of measure	Overview
1	Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions	Number of fixed line subscribers is decreasing since 2005 and currently the number of mobile phone subscribers is an important characteristic of the IS development.
2	Percentage of individuals using the Internet	Almost all territory is covered by Internet access and the number of subscribers is sharply increasing.
3	Fixed-telephone subscriptions	Fixed line IP telephony comes to replace the traditional phone connection.
4	Active mobile-broadband subscriptions	The use of fiber connection together with VPN becomes spread in Armenia.
5	Fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions	Here is to mention GEANT connection for Research & Education, EDUROAM, and 5G.





## 1.2 Recent National Policy Trends

The existing policy mix in favour of ICT appears by the set of actions/instruments and responsible Ministries as follows:

Governance	Policy mix is to be coordinated in a high <b>State</b> level. In Armenia this provides the Prime Minister Chaired “ <b>IT Development Support Council (ITDSC)</b> ”
R&D priorities	ICT is knowledge driven and ICT knowledge drives the society. Research and Innovation priorities are driven by <b>Academy</b> but they are importantly related to education, targeted outsourcing, to IS building by its components – mobility, telecom, banking ...
ICT education	Policy in ICT education is to determine the true balance between basic university knowledge and the modern tools and standardisation. It is also to correctly plan the necessary specialisation, number of graduates, etc. Over 300 ICT Companies keep this topic hot and the main responsible is the <b>Ministry of Education and Science (MES)</b> .
Finances to ICT	<b>Ministry of Finance (MF)</b> is to develop localised solutions for novel financial instruments to ICT businesses and services – such as venture capitals, angel investors and similar.
Societal Challenges	eGovernment provides many services to citizens – banking, media, taxation, document flows, juridical and others. Planning such services, technologies and their integration is a priority policy issue that is in scope of several organizations, <b>ITDSC</b> included.
ICT Industry	ICT is a priority domain in Armenia since year 2000. As a result of this today a large number of ICT companies play a serious role in Armenian economy. Driving force of this motion is the <b>Ministry of Economy (ME)</b> .
Internationalization	ICT Armenia is correctly integrated internationally. Markets, Standardisation, Researches are the successful domains of the Internationalisation. Further Internationalisation is through the targeted Agreements, Conferences, exhibitions etc. <b>ME</b> .

Policy priorities are also ruled in accord to the operational relations, negotiations and agreements. The most recent element of this type is adoption of ArmTab 8, the first Armenian tablet and phone as the base technology for education and for other needs.

### Lessons from the Evaluation of ICT Policy Measures

The main lesson of the experience above is that ICT Policy Evaluation is a cyclic procedure done by different organizations. The main responsible is the GoV Armenia, but interested parties can fulfil analysis using open available information and indicators. Such work needs several years - to plan, assess to correct and check – in level of recommendations of course.

### Review of Good Practice- Summary of good practice cases in Armenia

Year	Title of good practice case	Justification for selection
	On line forum promotes democratic participation	Armenia's National Academy of Sciences has launched Forum -- a new web site -- with support from UNDP to harness information and communications technology to promote democracy. Forum ( <a href="http://www.forum.am">http://www.forum.am</a> ) which is in Armenian, helps increase public participation in governance, create new opportunities to broaden



Year	Title of good practice case	Justification for selection
		public awareness about democratic issues and establish new opportunities for interaction.

### Updated National ICT R&D priorities towards H2020

Topics-areas
<b>ICT in 'Excellent science'</b>
<b>Research infrastructures</b>
Development, deployment and operation of ICT-based e-infrastructures
<b>ICT in 'Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies'</b>
<b>Future Internet</b>
Smart Networks and novel Internet Architectures
Advanced Cloud Infrastructures and Services
<b>Content technologies and information management</b>
Big data - research
Cracking the language barrier
Technologies for better human learning and teaching
<b>ICT Cross-Cutting Activities</b>
Cyber security, Trustworthy ICT
<b>ICT in 'Societal challenges'</b>
<b>SC1: Health, demographic change and wellbeing</b>
<i>Advancing active and healthy ageing</i>
Advanced ICT systems and services for Integrated Care
<b>SC3: Secure, clean and efficient energy</b>
Smart Cities and Communities solutions integrating energy, transport
<b>SC6: Europe in a changing world – Innovative, inclusive and reflective societies</b>
ICT-enabled open government
<b>SC7: Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens</b>
Privacy



## Innovation Policy

### Innovation Policies and International Cooperation

On 17 February, 2011 Government (GOV) of Republic of Armenia (RA) approved the **Concept Paper** “Initial Strategy of the Formation of Innovation Economy” (protocol decree N6) which is based upon the projects implemented by the Ministry of Economy of RA aimed at developing the innovation infrastructure, as well as legal, business, educational, financial and innovation measures providing the rapid development of general national innovation system.

In an earlier stage, 2 basic interrelated documents preceded the Concept Paper: Protocol of GOV RA from 20 January 2005, no. 2 “On Concept of Innovation Actions of RA”, and the Decision of GOV RA from 28 September 2005, no. 1729-N “On forming the Innovation System of RA and the action program for 2005-2010”. And 2 more State regulatory documents were introduced in 2006: RA Law “On State support to innovation action” (May 23), and GOV RA Decision, 19 October, no. 1466-N “On Defining the Priority Directions of Development of Innovation Sector”, that prioritised: innovation infrastructures, means of renewable energy infrastructures, development of high technologies, innovation and development of ecologically preferable technologies.

The Concept Paper of 2011 as the main regulatory act, is to support the development of knowledge-based economy and innovation activity in Armenia and implies the integration of socio-economic adjacent fields into the system particularly scientific, educational, fiscal, industrial and export promotion policies.

In individual domains the Concept Paper is complemented by different domain specific documents – concepts, programs and projects. The science and high tech component is accompanied by the National Academy of sciences<sup>1</sup> and the State Committee of Science of Ministry E&S<sup>2</sup>. Specific ICT related topics are under the control of IT Support Council of Armenia chaired by Prime Minister of RA and the member organizations of that Council<sup>3</sup>.

“National Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship” (NCIE)<sup>4</sup> among the operating organizations in the system of the Ministry of Economics plays an important role in the formation of an innovative policy of economy of the Republic. NCIE realizes the incubation process of innovative ideas development, supporting to the realization of necessary preparatory works for their commercialization, also provides scientific-technical information and library services.

The Center, having scientific-technical and patent resources gets an opportunity to manage effectively the innovative entrepreneurship. The Center acts as a platform for formation of long-term relationship with innovative small business, involvement and retraining of new specialists for companies in the sphere of innovative management.

The centre carries out “Cooperation project” the purpose of which is: to support to innovative,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sci.m>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scs.am>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.itdsc.am>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.innovcentre.am/>



scientific and technical, industrial programs and projects; the decision of information problems in various industrial spheres, using the potential of realization of investment projects. And proceeding from this purpose, in frameworks of the “Cooperation Project” works on database formation of national information resources are performed.

NCIE supports to the commercialization of intellectual property, provides with newest technological information, organizes seminars, forums, conferences, presentations and exhibitions. In the structure of the organization is acting the scientific and technical library in the specialized funds of which, there are about 17 million copies of patents, normative-technical documents, industrial catalogues, deposited scientific works, thesis and etc. Today the library is completed with modernized scientific and innovative literature, periodicals. Electronic delivery of articles of journals is carried out.

Several innovation actions and programmes in accord to the Concept Paper are on the way:

- Intergovernmental Programme of cooperation of CIS member countries in the sphere of innovation up to 2020;
- Project of the establishment of the Armenian Centre of Excellence in Oncology (ACEO);
- CANDLE -Center for the Advancement of Natural Discoveries using Light Emission.

### Annex 1: Overview of Innovation Policy Documents

Title of document	Date	Organisation responsible	Legal status
Conception on Improvements in the Science Sector in the Republic of Armenia	July 2007	Approved by the Armenian Government	Concept Paper
Decree no. 1729-N On 20015-2010 program of Innovation System of Republic of Armenia	September 28, 2005	GoA	GoA Decree
Appendix to the Protocol Decision N 6 of GOV RA, Concept of innovation economy establishment starting strategy	February 17, 2011	Ministry of Economy	GoA Protocol Decision

### Annex 2: Overview of Innovation Policies

IP Number	Title of measure	Overview
1	Creation and further development of innovation infrastructure	Systemic improvements.
2	Innovation in alternative energy sources	Recognition of the Renewable Energetic priorities.
3	Innovation in areas of high technological developments	High tech and ICT.
4	Investment and development in environmentally preferable technologies	Ecological mining, etc.

### Annex 3: The major sources and amount of financing of innovation policy

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Innovation financing or financing innovative activities are conducted to the following sources:

- a) The state budget. Innovation activities to be supported by the state budget of the Republic of Armenia, indicated in a separate line to the NCIE. The total amount for 2013 was almost 300 million Euro. Another component for innovations is included in Research and technology Development budget that is almost 0.25% of country GDP.
- b) Development of innovative actions, including funds from other sources. This point consists of international innovation actions like CRDF, ISTC and others, and several intergovernmental programs like in NIS EU framework programme, or company driven such as Microsoft Innovation Center in Armenia.
- c) Means of local and foreign investors and international financial institutions and funds. Innovation Matching Grants Competition<sup>5</sup> is one of these type actions.
- d) Venture funds. A successful example in this line is <http://granatusventures.com>

#### **Annex 4: The Global Competitiveness Report 2012–2013, World Economic Forum, Armenia**

##### **The Global Competitiveness Index in detail**

12th pillar: Innovation

12.01	Capacity for innovation	3.2	62/144
12.02	Quality of scientific research institutions	3.0	111
12.03	Company spending on R&D	2.7	111
12.04	University-industry collaboration in R&D	2.9	122
12.05	Gov't procurement of advanced tech products	3.1	108
12.06	Availability of scientists and engineers	4.0	73
12.07	PCT patents, applications/million pop.*	1.4	61

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.eif.am>

## International Cooperation

The origin of the Eurasian tight cooperation goes back to the Soviet Union. After break down in 1991 independent countries started establishing their own bilateral and regional ties to the neighbours. So in 1991-2000 Armenia signed State level Research-Technological agreements with Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, and other countries of EECA. The list of agreements with EU parties will come below. In addition agreements were signed with other none EECA and none EU countries such as Romania, China, Vietnam, Iran, Argentine, Lebanon, and India.



The most essential in EECA is the scientific cooperation with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. These countries were the traditional partners even in time of Soviet Union. Science technological cooperation that was around the defense industry involved all high tech and the computer industry. Control and space researches were separate parts but they were based sensitively on electronic computational means.

In science and technologies it is visible the Armenia-Russia cooperation where the main partners are RFBR and Humanities, and RFFR in Belarus. There are tens of on-going research studies funded by a bilateral scheme. The WEB Site of State Committee of Science says that there is an envisioned call for proposals in 2014 together with Ukraine.

Another tight cooperation component is together with Georgia. It is almost 10 years the partner teams of 2 countries plan and develop together high networking and computerised means for Education and Research. They succeeded to be partners in a large number of EU Research Framework Programmes.

**Table 1: Overview of bilateral Armenia-EECA agreements**

Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation
Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research	November 4, 2010	Belarus – Armenia/ Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research - State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation
Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus	March 19, 2010	Belarus – Armenia/ State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus - Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation

Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology	October 31, 2000	Belarus –Armenia- / Governments	Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology
Agreement between Georgian and Armenian Governments for the collaboration in the field of communication technologies.	May 19, 1993 till now	Georgia – Armenia / Governments	Agreement/ Representatives and specialists from both sides
Agreement on cooperation between the State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Foundation for Humanities	February 18, 2011	Russia – Armenia/ Russian Foundation for Humanities - State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement
Agreement on cooperation between the State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research	May 7, 2010	Russia – Armenia/ Russian Foundation for Basic Research - State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement
Cooperation Agreement between JSC «Moscow Committee for Science and Technology» and the State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	March 24, 2010	Russia – Armenia/ Moscow Committee for Science and Technology - State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement
Program of long-term economical cooperation of Russian Federation and Republic of Armenia till 2020 and corresponding action plan for years 2013-2015	2013	Russia – Armenia / Intergovernmental committee	Action plan
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Republic of Armenia on Scientific and Technical Cooperation	1998	Ukraine – Armenia/ Governments	Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation

### ICT Policy Measures facilitating co-operation with the EU

EU relations with Armenia are regulated by the EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (signed in 1996, in force since 1999), which allows for wide-ranging cooperation in the areas of political dialogue, trade, investment, economy, law-making and culture.

The inclusion of Armenia as one of the countries of the Southern Caucasus in the European Neighbourhood Policy (2004) and the Eastern Partnership (2009) has demonstrated the EU's





willingness to move its cooperation with Armenia beyond the terms of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

The EU is seeking an increasingly close relationship with Armenia, going beyond cooperation, to gradual economic integration and a deepening of political dialogue. The EU is officially represented in Armenia by the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia based in Yerevan. The Delegation's main role and objective is to enhance the bilateral relations in all fields – political, economic, people-to-people, and to assist the Armenian Government to implement reforms. The Delegation works closely with all counterparts: authorities, political parties, civil society representatives and organisations, the media, educational institutions and international organisations.

In all their joint activities the European Union and Armenia aim to:

- Promote democracy and good governance
- Strengthen energy security
- Promote public sector reform and environment protection
- Encourage people to people contacts
- Support economic and social development
- Offer additional funding for projects that reduce socio-economic imbalances
- Increase stability

Negotiations on an Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), were finalized in July 2013. The agreement was, however, not initialed in view of Armenia's decision to join the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, announced in September 2013.

At the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in 2013, the EU and Armenia agreed on the need to update the EU-Armenia Action Plan and build upon the existing framework for cooperation. The EU and Armenia reconfirmed their commitment to further develop and strengthen comprehensive cooperation aimed at the continuous improvement of democratic institutions and judiciary, the promotion of human rights and rule of law, good governance, the fight against corruption, strengthening civil society, further improving the framework for enhanced trade and investments, continued implementation of the mobility partnership and increasing sectoral cooperation.

The Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia came into force on 1 January 2014.

A Protocol to the EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement on a Framework Agreement governing the general principles for the participation of Armenian institutions in EU programmes was concluded in December 2012.

Armenia-EU research cooperation started by INTAS programme around the 1995. In a later stage INTAS became part of the FP6. Hundreds of INTAS projects helped researchers to stay active and cooperate with their colleagues in EU countries. EU Research Framework Programmes, FP4-FP6 were developing in parallel but transition of INTAS teams to FP was not supported/provided. As a result of this almost all EU projects with Armenian participation are Coordination and Support Actions.





As it was mentioned in IT Industry domain almost 1/3 of software companies are cooperating with linked EU companies and 1/3 of telecom operators is EU based (Orange, France). CORDIS search for FP7 projects with Armenian participants bring 29 projects. Tens of projects in diverse research areas are funded bilaterally by BMBF Germany and CNRS France.

And finally, it is more than one year Armenia is negotiating its association partnership to Horizon2020 Programme.

N°	Title	Organisation responsible
1	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), signed on April 22, 1996 and entered into force on July 1, 1999.	GoA
2	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Armenia, National Indicative Programme 2011-2013	GoA
3	Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership (Vilnius, 28-29 November, 2013)	RA
4	Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the Facilitation of the Issuance of Visas, 17 December 2012	RA

**Table 2: Overview of bilateral Armenia – EC agreements**

Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation agreed
Scientific cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science (Armenia) and the National Center for Scientific Research (France)	January 20, 2009	France – Armenia/ The National Center for Scientific Research – Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement
Memorandum of Intent on Science and Technology cooperation between the Armenia's Education and Science Ministry and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research	August 24, 2011	Germany – Armenia/ The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research – Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia -	Memorandum of Intent
Memorandum of Intent between State Committee on Science of the Armenia's Education and Science Ministry and the «Desir» (DESY-electron synchrotron Germany) center	August 16, 2011	Germany – Armenia/ The «Desir» center – State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Memorandum of Intent
Memorandum of Understanding on project co-financing in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, signed between State Committee for Science of the Armenia's Education and Science Ministry and the International Science and	April 1, 2009	ISTC – Armenia/ ISTC - Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement



Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation agreed
Technology Center (ISTC)			
Agreement for Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics and the State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia.	May 17, 2013, Yerevan	Italy – Armenia/ the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics - Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement
Cooperation Agreement between International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network and State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science, and National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.	July 25 2013, Yerevan	Italy-Armenia/ International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network - State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science - National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia	Cooperation Agreement
Memorandum of Intent between State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and Paul Sheerer Institute (PSI)	August 25, 2011	Switzerland – Armenia/ State Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia - Paul Sheerer Institute (PSI)	Memorandum of Intent