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CEPA

Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

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# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

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Year 2025

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# FOREWORD

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Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present the latest annual report on the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Armenia and the European Union. The report aims to raise awareness among the general public, the professional community and our partners of the progress achieved in the reform process, while also enhancing the overall coordination of implementation efforts.

Prepared with EU technical assistance, this report presents the work carried out by the Armenian state bodies in 2025, as well as the tools introduced for the implementation of the Agreement, which are intended to make sectoral approximation processes smoother and more effective.

The report also addresses the Strategic Agenda for the Armenia-EU Partnership adopted at the end of the year. Building on CEPA, the Agenda is intended to support its implementation by setting ambitious short- and medium-term priorities with a greater focus on approaches jointly agreed within the framework of bilateral cooperation.

A dedicated section on EU financial assistance to Armenia during the reporting period outlines the results of the agreement negotiated with the EU partners under the Resilience and Growth Plan setting out actions anchored in CEPA concerning Armenia's closer alignment with the EU, visa liberalisation, public financial management, export diversification and social inclusion.

The report also reflects our well-established dialogue with representatives of civil society and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on monitoring the implementation of CEPA. These exchanges provided a unique opportunity to communicate the results of the work carried out in 2025 to the public while ensuring accountability for those results.

Thank you in advance for your interest in this report, which presents the progress achieved in CEPA implementation during the reporting period, the challenges encountered, and the approaches taken to address them, as well as for any observations and suggestions you may wish to share.

**Mher Grigoryan**

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Steps Taken in 2025 to Advance Armenia–EU Relations



### 1.1 Expansion of the partnership and new areas of cooperation

In recent years, Armenia and the European Union have made significant progress in deepening their relations and expanding their partnership. In parallel with the intensification of political dialogue with the EU, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has continued to undertake targeted measures to ensure the effective implementation of bilateral commitments. In this context, the Armenia–EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) continued to serve as a key framework for the reforms underway in the country in 2025, contributing to progress in the judicial and legal sector, anti-corruption policy, the modernisation of public administration, as well as a number of other areas of sectoral cooperation.

During the reporting period, Armenia's interstate relations with the the European Union and its Member States entered a new phase. Positive trends were also observed in people-to-people contacts, driven by growth in tourism, air connectivity, business and student exchanges between Armenia and Europe in both directions.

These contacts received a further boost through the intensification of the Armenia–EU visa liberalisation dialogue and the transition of the process to a new phase. In particular, on 5 November 2025, Armenia was presented with the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP)<sup>1</sup>, which sets out the steps required to achieve a visa-free regime for short-stay travel to the EU's Schengen Area. This progress was largely driven by the continued implementation of wide-ranging EU-supported reforms in Armenia and the further strengthening of mutual trust between the parties.

Subsequently, on 2 December, at the 6th meeting of the Armenia–EU Partnership Council, the Strategic Agenda for the Armenia–EU Partnership<sup>2</sup> was signed. The document supersedes the previous Partnership Priorities and, building on CEPA, establishes a more ambitious and comprehensive framework for bilateral political, economic and sectoral cooperation.

### 1.2 New agreements signed or approved

At the beginning of the year, negotiations between the Government of Armenia and the European Commission on the Multiannual Action Plan for EU financial assistance for the 2025–2027 financial period, as well as on a future Financing Agreement, were launched and successfully concluded. The programme covers public finance management and internal control, export diversification, visa liberalisation dialogue and the rule of law,

<sup>1</sup> <https://mia.gov.am/2025/11/05/em-31/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/12/03/Armenia\\_EU\\_StrategicAgenda/13649](https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/12/03/Armenia_EU_StrategicAgenda/13649)

employment, skills and social inclusion. The programme forms part of the Resilience and Growth Plan (RGP)<sup>3</sup> announced by the European Union for Armenia during the Armenia–EU–US high-level trilateral meeting held in Brussels in 2024, with a total financial envelope of EUR 270 million. To monitor the implementation of this budget support, the parties also launched a High-Level Policy Dialogue in Yerevan in October.

### 1.3 High-level bilateral visits

During the reporting year, intensive high-level exchanges and meetings took place between the EU and Armenia, including working visits by senior Armenian officials, notably the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia, to Brussels and the capitals of Member States, as well as visits to Yerevan by senior EU representatives.

In particular, in July, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan met with the President of the European Council António Costa, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos<sup>4</sup>, the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Raffaele Fitto<sup>5</sup>, and the Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission, Gert Jan Koopman<sup>6</sup>. The Prime Minister of Armenia participated in the 6th and 7th European Political Community summits and in the second Global Gateway Forum. The Deputy Prime Minister also held meetings with the President of the European Investment Bank, Nadia Calviño, and Vice-President Teresa Czerwińska at the headquarters of the Bank in Luxembourg.

Of particular importance was the official visit to Armenia by Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission, during which the Agreement establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in European Union crisis management operations was signed. The visit also marked the launch of Armenia–EU consultations on security and defence.



The first visit to Armenia by the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos, in September 2025 was also significant for further deepening the Armenia–EU partnership agenda. In a joint statement with Deputy Prime Minister Grigoryan, she announced the approval of the second tranche under the Resilience and Growth Plan (RGP), amounting to EUR 202.5 million<sup>7</sup>.

The discussions during these visits and meetings covered partnership priorities, further expansion of economic cooperation, regional connectivity, Armenia–EU visa liberalisation dialogue, as well as the participation of the Prime Minister of Armenia in the Global Gateway Forum to be held in Brussels.

A delegation led by Audronė Perkauskienė, Deputy Managing Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the European External Action Service (EEAS), and Adrienn Király, Director for Neighbourhood East and Türkiye at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST), visited Armenia in October. During the visit, the 4th meeting<sup>8</sup> of the Investment Programme Coordination Platform and the first High-Level Policy Dialogue on Multi-Sector Budget Support under the Resilience and Growth Plan (RGP) took place.

In November 2025, a delegation led by Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission, visited Yerevan. During the visit, the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) was formally presented to Arpine Sargsyan, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and chief negotiator on the Armenian side in the visa liberalisation dialogue with the EU.

3 [https://euneighbourseast.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/str\\_eu-am-growth-plan-v3\\_arm-4.pdf](https://euneighbourseast.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/str_eu-am-growth-plan-v3_arm-4.pdf)

4 <https://www.primeminister.am/hy/foreign-visits/item/2025/07/14/Nikol-Pashinyan-visiting-Brussels/>

5 <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16143/>

6 <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16144/>

7 <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16181/>, <https://euneighbourseast.eu/hy/news/latest-news/hanjnakatar-kosy-haytararel-e-dimakayunutyun-ew-ach-cragri-shrjanakum-hayastanin-aveli-qan-200-million-evro-ajakutyany-hastatman-masin/>

8 <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16215/>

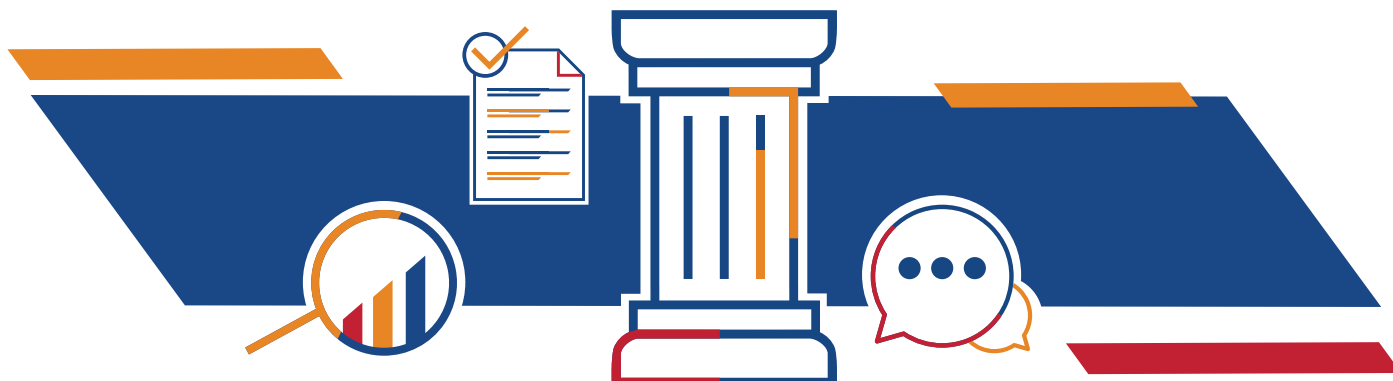
In the context of intensified Armenia–EU political dialogue on regional developments, the Armenia–Azerbaijan peace process, border delimitation and demarcation, and the unblocking of regional communications, continued engagement between the EU Special Representative, Magdalena Grono, and Deputy Prime Minister Grigoryan<sup>9</sup> should also be highlighted. In the reporting year, a senior delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia participated in the 6th meeting of the Armenia–EU Partnership Council held in Brussels.

In parallel, discussions continued with European financial institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The discussions covered the agenda of multifaceted bilateral relations, sectoral areas of cooperation and more ambitious prospects for the partnership.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16021/>



## 2. Pillars of CEPA implementation: approximation, monitoring and communication



### 2.1 Implementation progress report

In the reporting year, the Government initiated the preparation of annual progress reports on the implementation of CEPA for the first time, placing emphasis on the principles of transparency, accountability and public awareness. In particular, with the support of the EU-funded “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication” project, the CEPA Implementation Progress Report was published, covering the main reforms and progress achieved in 2018–2024 under the Agreement, as well as challenges in the approximation of national legislation, the monitoring of the Agreement and its implementation roadmap, and the measures taken to address them. This process also forms part of CEPA’s communication component, which aims to present the reform process in Armenia and its outcomes both to the Armenian public as well as to the EU and its Member States, as parties to the Agreement, and to international partners.

### 2.2 Institutional framework for Armenia–EU relations: discussions, monitoring and inter-agency coordination



The institutional and sectoral dialogue platforms between Armenia and the EU established under CEPA continued their work during the reporting year. In 2025, the 6th meeting of the Partnership Committee<sup>10</sup> and the 6th meeting of the Partnership Council<sup>11</sup> were held on 8 July and 2 December respectively, during which the parties discussed progress in the implementation of CEPA, joint priorities, the reform agenda in Armenia, sectoral cooperation, as well as regional and security issues.

The 7th meeting of the EU–Armenia Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration took place on 17–18 June 2025, during which the implementation of Title VI of CEPA, covering trade and trade-related matters, was reviewed. This included EU support programmes, the process concerning the “Armenian Brandy” geographical indication and the enforcement of geographical indications, the outcomes of the sub-committees, as well as further arrangements for bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

In the same year, a number of thematic subcommittee meetings also took place, including the 6th meeting of the Subcommittee on Geographical Indications, the 5th meeting of the Subcommittee on Customs Cooperation, as well as the 11th meeting of the Subcommittee on Employment, Social Affairs, Health, Education, Science, Culture and Youth in the “People-to-people” format. The discussions covered legislative and policy developments, the process of approximation to the EU acquis, and sectoral reforms.

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/07/08/Armenia\\_EU/13365](https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/07/08/Armenia_EU/13365)

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/12/03/Arm\\_EUjs/13654](https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/12/03/Arm_EUjs/13654)



Within the framework of bilateral cooperation, in 2025 the 10th meeting of the Armenia–EU Readmission Committee and the 8th meeting of the Joint Committee on Visa Facilitation took place. The discussions covered developments in migration policy, the visa liberalisation process, the implementation of the readmission agreement, reintegration programmes, and measures to prevent irregular migration.

In addition, the 14th meetings of the Armenia–EU dialogues on Justice, Freedom and Security, and on Human Rights took place, along with the 5th meeting of the Strategic Policy Dialogue on Justice, as well as the 4th meeting of the Armenia-EU Joint Committee on Research and Innovation under the Horizon Europe programme.

On 25 February 2025, the 4th meeting of the Armenia-EU Parliamentary Partnership Committee was held in Yerevan. The final declaration reaffirmed the positive momentum in the deepening of Armenia-EU relations, welcomed the National Assembly's adoption, in the first reading, of the draft law initiating the process of Armenia's EU accession, and underlined ongoing negotiations on a new and more ambitious partnership. It also highlighted the central role of CEPA in the reform agenda, and stressed priorities for expanding cooperation in visa liberalisation, security, resilience, democratic reforms, and the regional peace process<sup>12</sup>.

On 21 March 2025, the Second CEPA Retreat<sup>13</sup> was held with the participation of the Government, the National Assembly, the EU Delegation and the diplomatic missions of Member States accredited to Armenia. The event reaffirmed the key role of the Agreement as the main framework for bilateral relations and reforms, and presented progress achieved in the areas of monitoring, approximation and communication of the Agreement. Participants underlined the importance of deepening reforms, strengthening public administration capacities and ensuring more effective use of EU assistance in order to deliver tangible results for the citizens of Armenia. Annual discussions in this format contribute to the continued deepening of EU-Armenia political, sectoral and expert cooperation and the systematic monitoring of the implementation of CEPA.

During the reporting period, the Inter-agency Commission established by a 2018 decision of the Prime Minister of Armenia to ensure the implementation of CEPA and its Roadmap and coordinate the relevant measures held regular meetings. Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, the commission reviewed the process of approximation of Armenian legislation to the EU legal acts referred to in the Agreement, coordinated the work of the line ministries, and identified sectoral cooperation issues arising from the Agreement, aligning them with the Government's priorities and programmes. The commission also discussed work on updating the CEPA implementation roadmap, the challenges identified in this context, and proposed solutions.

Representatives of the National Assembly Standing Committees on European Integration and Foreign Relations also participated in the commission sessions. In addition, representatives of the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform established under Article 366 of CEPA and of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) National Platform attended as invited participants as well, given their important role in ensuring transparency and accountability in reform implementation.



<sup>12</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/293361/Final-Statement-and-Recommendations\\_4th-EU-Armenia-PPC\\_20250225.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/293361/Final-Statement-and-Recommendations_4th-EU-Armenia-PPC_20250225.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16057/>

### 3. Challenges in the implementation of the Agreement and their solutions



#### 3.1 Key challenges

A number of structural and capacity-related challenges have continued to affect the implementation of CEPA, including the lack of necessary infrastructure, the need to further strengthen the administrative and professional capacities of public authorities, the requirement for regular updating of the roadmap in the context of dynamic approximation to the EU acquis, as well as the need to further enhance monitoring, performance assessment and accountability mechanisms. Effectively addressing these challenges requires continued EU support, active engagement of the public sector and strengthened ownership towards CEPA implementation.

According to the 2025 assessment conducted by the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) “Support for Improvement in Governance and Management” (SIGMA) initiative, Armenia has made progress in implementing CEPA and strengthening the coordination of European integration processes, in particular through the Inter-agency Commission chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister<sup>14</sup>. At the same time, the assessment highlights the need to further develop capacities for European integration policy planning and accountability, as well as for the approximation of national legislation to the EU acquis, and to further clarify institutional responsibilities and roles in the context of European integration. It also underlines that strengthening coordination at administrative level, ensuring regular monitoring and accountability of the CEPA implementation roadmap, and the systematic and consistent use of correlation tables, verification and assessment tools, approximation guidelines and official translations require further institutionalisation, regulatory consolidation and refinement<sup>15</sup>.

These assessments highlight the need for further institutional strengthening, improved monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and continued development of administrative capacity in the next phase of CEPA implementation, in order to ensure effective and evidence-based approximation to EU standards.

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.sigmaweb.org/en/publications/public-administration-in-armenia-2025\\_f996600c-en.html](https://www.sigmaweb.org/en/publications/public-administration-in-armenia-2025_f996600c-en.html)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, pages 12–13, 30 and 36–37.





### 3.2 Roadmap revision process

The two annexes to the CEPA Implementation Roadmap, approved yet in 2019 and supplemented in 2021, did not include performance indicators. In addition, some actions were repetitive or not fully formulated, and in certain cases the institutional arrangements for implementing and co-implementing bodies required clarification and revision. All of this, in turn, complicated the measurement, assessment and systematic presentation of progress in legal approximation.

During the reporting period, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (DPMO) of the Republic of Armenia, with the participation of the state bodies involved in the implementation of CEPA and with the support of the EU, continued to develop initiatives and programmes aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of CEPA implementation and, in particular, capacities for approximation. The Deputy Prime Minister tasked the development of a unified, consolidated Roadmap that would provide a comprehensive overview of Armenia's legal approximation obligations, institutional reforms and political commitments undertaken under CEPA.

In this context, the revision of the Roadmap for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Agreement was of key importance. Its objective was to present the implementation process through a unified structure in a measurable, systematic and logically sequenced format, in line with the structure of CEPA's chapters and sections. It aims to define each measure and the corresponding actions, the implementation timeframe, the responsible body and, where appropriate, the form of EU support. It also establishes performance indicators for each action, enabling the measurement of progress, the assessment of performance, and the strengthening of accountability and monitoring by national institutions, civil society and the European Union.

In 2025, the revision of the Roadmap was completed, taking into account the findings of the 2024 final report of the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform. The revised version of the Roadmap was approved by a decision of the Prime Minister in early 2026.

### 3.3 Capacity building and monitoring mechanisms

A number of interrelated initiatives were implemented during the reporting period to give new momentum to the implementation of the Agreement:

- Special training courses and seminars were organised for the relevant state bodies with the aim of enhancing their familiarity with EU legislation.
- With a view to fully assessing the work carried out in the area of approximation, a training programme was organised aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Agency for Expert Examination of Legal Acts under the Ministry of Justice.
- Together with the Ministry of Justice and the relevant line ministries, the methodology for the monitoring mechanism of the Agreement was introduced. As a result, the updated Roadmap incorporated performance indicators for the measures, strengthened accountability arrangements for implementing bodies, and operationalised methodologies and approaches for performance assessment. On the basis of these improvements, it will be possible to present the implementation of the Agreement's Roadmap to the public and partners using quantifiable indicators. The present report on the progress of CEPA implementation has been prepared on the basis of the application of the new monitoring and evaluation methodology.
- Together with the EU side, the process of developing a digital platform for the monitoring and public communication of CEPA implementation, approximation processes, reforms and their results has been launched.

In order to implement the above-mentioned initiatives, extensive use was made of EU technical assistance, in particular through the "Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication" project. Continuous working-level coordination was maintained between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the relevant line ministries to discuss issues related to enhancing CEPA implementation and improving the effectiveness of the above-mentioned mechanisms. At the same time, the experience of countries that have already gone through or are currently undergoing similar stages of EU integration was analysed with a view to adapting it to the national context.

## 4. EU support framework



### 4.1 Cooperation with the EU and European financial institutions

With the support of the European Union, the Government of Armenia continued its work on reforms, resilience-building and economic modernisation, building on progress achieved in the previous period. During the reporting period, discussions and negotiations with the EU side were held on drafts of key financial instruments, aimed at supporting the bilateral commitments arising from the expanding and ambitious partnership between Yerevan and Brussels.

In this context, the launch and conclusion of negotiations on the financing agreement for the “Multi-Sector Budget Support Agreement” under the RGP was a key development. The total amount of the operation, which provides exclusively for grant support, is EUR 143 million, of which EUR 90 million is allocated as direct budget support for the period 2026–2028 and EUR 53 million as technical assistance for institutional capacity development. The support will be directed to public financial management and internal control, export diversification, the visa liberalisation dialogue and the rule of law, as well as employment, skills and social inclusion.

In 2025, Armenia received EU budget support amounting to EUR 5.5 million for justice sector reforms<sup>16</sup>. At the same time, efforts were undertaken during the reporting year to strengthen education reforms and to address the needs of displaced persons from Karabakh, including housing needs, with a view to compiling the results achieved in 2025 and securing the expected EUR 34 million in EU support.

Cooperation with European financial institutions remained ongoing during the reporting year. In particular, financial agreements signed or prepared with the EIB, the EBRD and relevant partner institutions of the Republic of Armenia were aimed at promoting SMEs and green investments, developing customs and logistics infrastructure, and strengthening the resilience of the Syunik region. These processes are closely linked to the implementation of the EU Economic and Investment Plan for Armenia. Since its launch, and as of 2025, the total volume of programmes implemented with the public sector, including signed, approved and forthcoming operations aimed at supporting a competitive economy, the North–South Corridor, digital transformation, the resilience of the southern regions and green investment promotion in Yerevan, has amounted to approximately EUR 900 million. In addition, the volume of loan agreements signed with financial institutions of the Republic of Armenia has exceeded EUR 1 billion.

More detailed information on EU financial assistance, as well as cooperation with European financial institutions, is set out in the relevant chapter of the annual report.

16 <https://www.moj.am/article/4488>

## 4.2 EU Technical Assistance

During the reporting year, with the support of the EU-funded “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication” project, the Government’s work focused primarily on the implementation of CEPA, approximation, institutional capacity building and the strengthening of monitoring mechanisms. Support continued in eight priority areas of approximation, including sectoral gap assessments, capacity building for compliance assessment and methodological advice provided to the Ministry of Justice, including on dynamic approximation, the evolving nature of EU legal acts and the clarification of deadlines laid down in CEPA. At the same time, the Government’s first annual report on CEPA implementation for 2024 was developed and refined with the support of the project, and the methodology and main results of CEPA monitoring were presented at the Second CEPA Retreat held on 21 March 2025. The project supported the implementation or advancement of sectoral assessments in the areas of the information society, labour and social affairs, environment and climate, transport and energy, as well as the continuation or initiation of activities in the areas of civil aviation, e-commerce, food safety, consumer rights and optimisation of the consumer complaints platform. Important progress was also achieved in the process of updating the CEPA Roadmap. In addition, the project provided expert support for the development of an action plan for multi-sectoral multi-annual financial assistance (budgetary and technical) under the RGP for the 2025–2027 financial years.

The High-Level Advisor engaged by the EU concluded its assignment in the reporting year, having provided support to the Government since June 2024 on the implementation of the economic components of CEPA, as well as on the application of EU best practices in trade, economic development, industry, energy and related sectors. The Advisor’s work focused primarily on trade diversification, export promotion, trade and economic diplomacy, SME and green economy policies, food safety, consumer protection, customs cooperation, digitalisation and high-tech sectors. During this period, 29 advisory analyses were prepared, including policy assessments and practical recommendations on the implementation of CEPA commitments, capacity development and Armenia’s participation in relevant EU programmes and instruments. Support was provided to further define the next steps in implementing the export promotion strategy, to assess SME and green economy strategies, to explore opportunities to strengthen links with the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programmes, and to identify capacity development priorities in the areas of food safety, market surveillance, customs and transport. Overall, the high-level advisory support contributed to clarifying policy, institutional and technical assistance needs in the economic areas of CEPA.

As regards the EU Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), a total of 17 activities were carried out in 2025. The activities were primarily aimed at approximation to EU legislation and sectoral policies, as well as at strengthening institutional capacities in the public sector. They covered visa liberalisation and migration management, justice and the rule of law, environment, climate and civil protection, food safety, animal welfare and plant certification, healthcare quality assurance and laboratory accreditation, youth and creative sectors, digital regulation and open internet principles, as well as gender equality and social inclusion.

Overall, the activities carried out in 2025 demonstrate the wide-ranging sectoral coverage of EU technical assistance and the practical progress in reforms stemming from the implementation of CEPA and the RGP priority agenda.

During the reporting year, the Twinning fiche for the establishment of a universal health insurance system in Armenia was revised and circulated to EU Member States for the submission of side proposals. At the same time, within the framework of the project aimed at supporting civil aviation safety standards in Armenia, a partner Member State was selected for capacity-building and institutional development purposes.

For Armenia and the European Union, 2025 was marked by deepening partnership, intensification of political dialogue, and strengthening of the institutional foundations for CEPA implementation. High-level mutual visits, the signing of the Strategic Agenda for the Armenia-EU Partnership, progress in the visa liberalisation process, the launch of consultations in the field of security and defence, as well as agreements on new financial assistance packages reflect the expansion of the bilateral agenda and a new level of cooperation.



CEPA has continued to serve as the main framework for Armenia's reforms, guiding processes of legal approximation, institutional development, sectoral cooperation, monitoring and communication. In 2025, particular emphasis was placed on the launch of CEPA implementation progress reporting, the continued work of institutional and sectoral dialogue formats, the involvement of civil society, as well as the process of updating the Roadmap. The updated Roadmap will constitute a significant step towards making CEPA implementation more systematic, measurable and accountable in the coming period, ensuring clearer definition of actions, the introduction of performance indicators and improved coordination between public authorities.

Overall, 2025 marked an important milestone in the deepening of the Armenia-EU partnership, contributing to the intensification of political, economic and sectoral dialogue, the expansion of the cooperation agenda and Armenia's closer alignment with the European Union and the wider European community, as well as to more effective implementation of CEPA and the advancement of Armenia's European reform agenda.



# STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF CEPA ROADMAP MEASURES (UP TO 2025 INCLUSIVE)

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The implementation performance of the measures set out in the two annexes of the CEPA Roadmap scheduled for implementation by December 31, 2025 demonstrates that the implementation of the Agreement has progressed substantially across the areas covered by the Roadmap.

## Implementation results recorded under Annex I

In Annex I to the CEPA Roadmap, the strongest implementation performance was observed in areas where measures were either fully completed or of an ongoing or recurring nature. In particular, full or continuous implementation was observed in the areas of Political dialogue, Foreign and security policy cooperation, Taxation, Migration, asylum and border management, as well as Agriculture and rural development.

In the area of Justice, Freedom and Security, 7 out of 8 measures were assessed as completed, and 1 as partially completed. As regards the partially completed measure, the media law reform process launched in 2022 continued in 2025. Progress primarily concerns to the introduction of a media self-regulation system and the clarification of key concepts in the Law on Mass Media, bringing them into line with international standards.

The Environment sector remains one of the largest implementation areas. Out of 116 actions, 72 have been completed, 38 have been assessed as partially completed or ongoing, and 6 have not yet been started. This reflects significant progress, while also highlighting the need for further legislative and institutional development in the sector, requiring additional coordination and technical support. As regards Climate action, one of the 8 actions identified in the previous report was reassessed and found to no longer be relevant. Of the remaining 7 actions, 6 have been assessed as completed and 1 as partially completed, indicating a high level of performance in the climate sector.

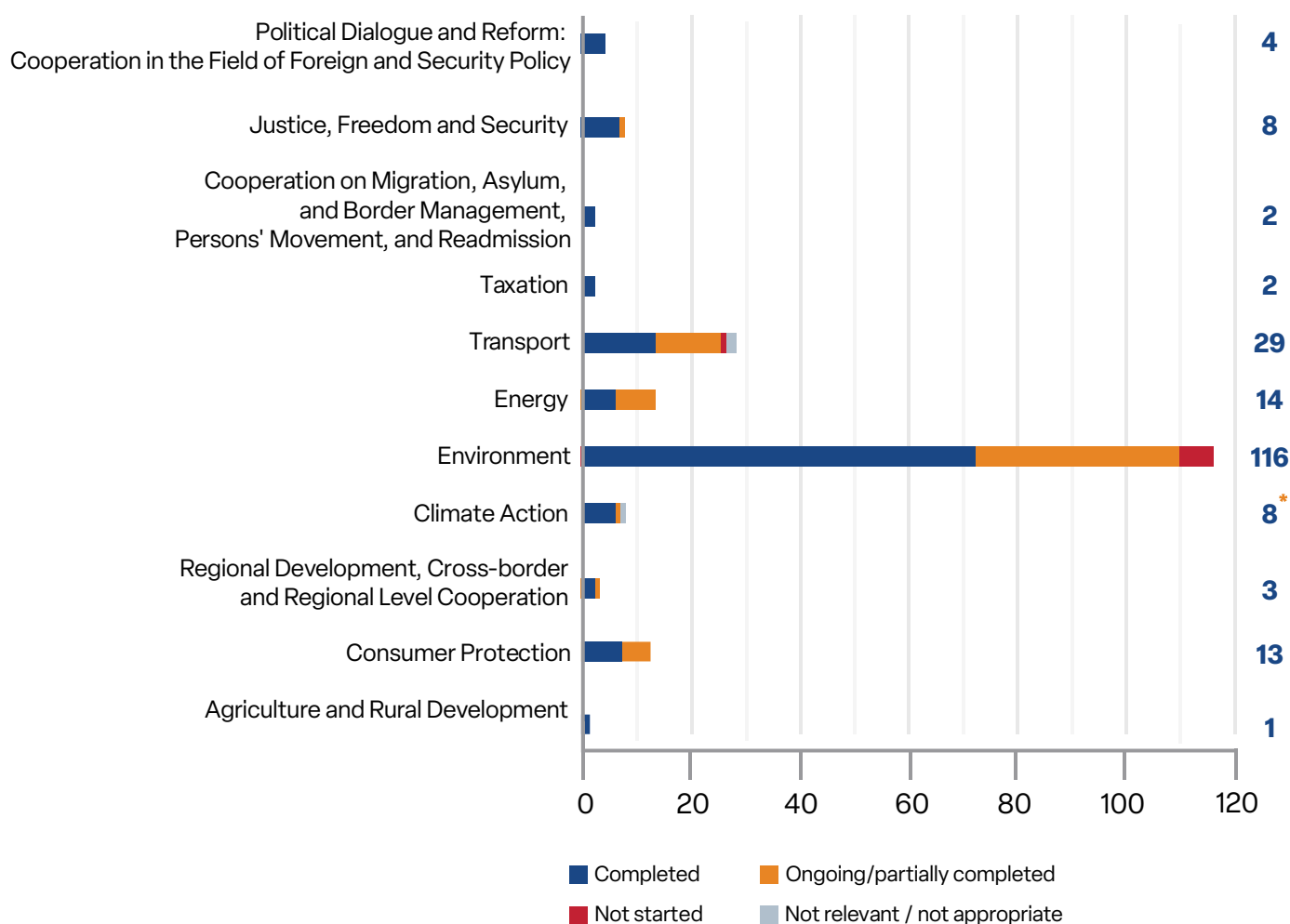
Of the 14 measures relating to Cooperation in the energy sector, 6 were assessed as completed and 8 as ongoing. Of the 29 measures envisaged in the CEPA Roadmap in the transport sector, 14 were assessed as completed and 12 as ongoing. At the same time, 1 measure has not yet been started, and the implementation or legal approximation of 2 measures was considered not appropriate, given Armenia's geographical and transport infrastructure specificities.

The overall state of implementation of the measures set out in Annex I with implementation deadlines up to and including 2025 is as follows: out of 199 actions, 124 (62%) were completed, 66 (33%) were assessed as partially completed or ongoing, and 9 (around 5%) have not yet been started<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The nine measures not yet initiated also include Measures 34 and 37, which were assessed as not appropriate under the Roadmap applicable in 2025, although they remained formally included in its framework.

## Implementation Status of the Measures under Annex I to the CEPA Implementation Roadmap



**124**  
COMPLETED

**66**  
ONGOING/PARTIALLY  
COMPLETED

**7**  
NOT STARTED

**2**  
NOT APPROPRIATE

\* One measure has been reassessed as no longer relevant:

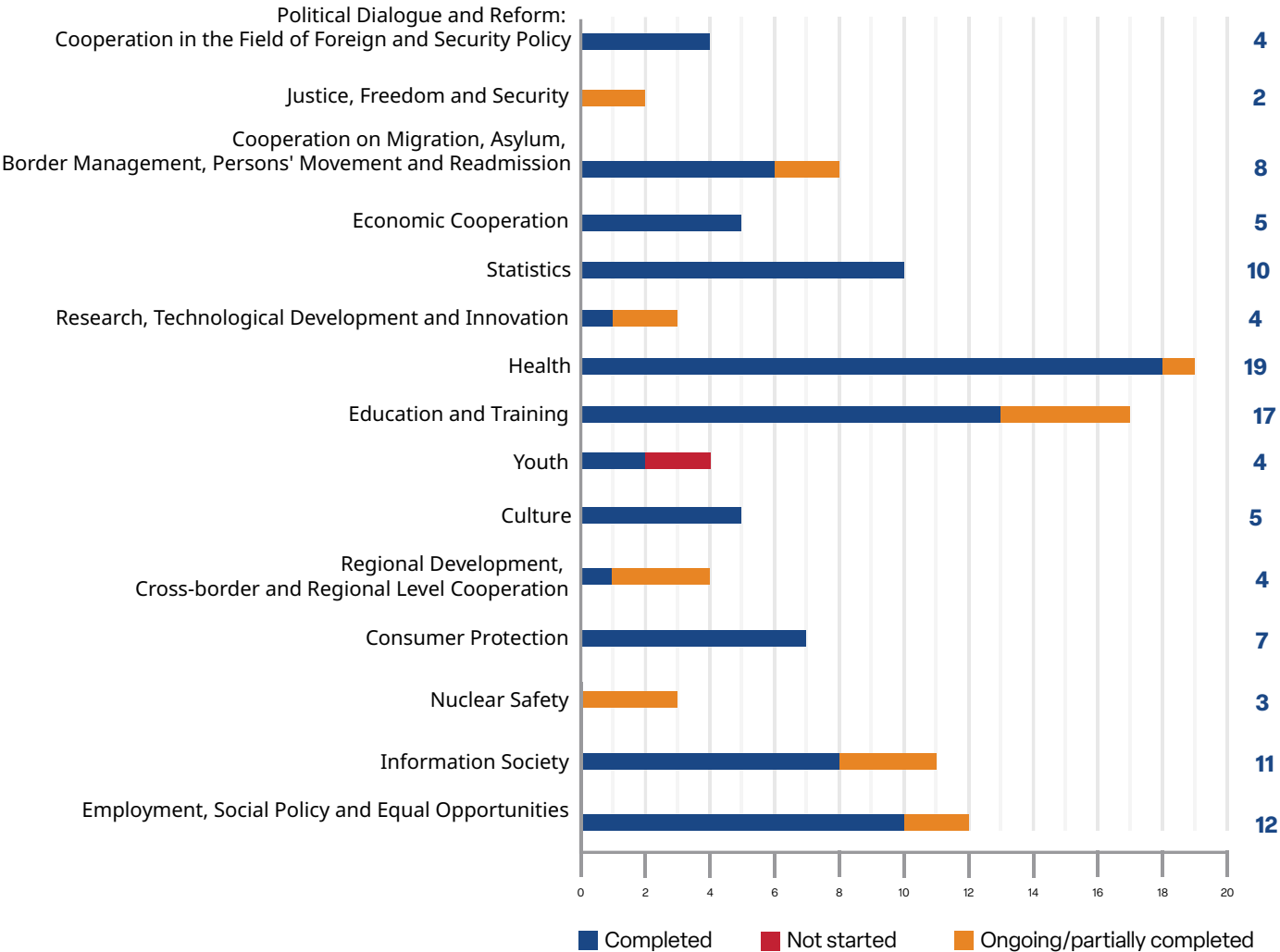
# Implementation results recorded under Annex II

Within the framework of Annex II, high performance indicators were recorded, especially in the areas of economic cooperation, culture and civil protection. Progress was maintained in the areas of statistics and health. All 5 actions of the Economic Cooperation section were assessed as completed as a result of the 2025 monitoring.

In the Education and Training sector, out of 17 actions due in 2025, 13 were completed, while 4 were ongoing or partially completed. In the Youth sector, 2 out of 4 actions were completed, while 2 have not yet been started.

In the field of Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities, 2 out of 12 measures were completed, while 10 are ongoing. This indicates that the sector still requires continued implementation efforts and consolidation of results.

## Implementation Status of the Measures under Annex II to the CEPA Implementation Roadmap





The 3 measures with deadlines in the field of Nuclear Safety are ongoing. This is attributable to the highly technical and regulatory nature of the sector, as well as the need for long-term convergence and capacity-building.

The overall picture of actions with a 2025 deadline set out in Annex II to the CEPA Roadmap is as follows: out of 115 actions, 78 (68%) were completed, 35 (30%) were assessed as partially completed or ongoing, and 2 (2%) were not yet started.

## **Main Reasons for Measures Not Yet Started**

The measures that have not yet started relate primarily to the areas of Transport, Environment and Youth. The reasons for their non-implementation vary and should not be viewed solely from the perspective of administrative or implementation delays.

In the field of Environment, the measures that have not yet commenced are, overall, considered feasible. The slippage against the planned implementation timelines is mainly attributable to the absence of the necessary diplomatic relations with neighboring countries, as well as substantial preparatory work required, including the conduct of the necessary studies, a comprehensive review of the legislative framework and the relevant assessments, all of which require additional time to ensure their proper completion.

In the Transport sector, the implementation of two measures has been assessed as not appropriate: with regard to Measure 34, legal approximation was not considered appropriate in view of Armenia's geographical location and the peculiarities of its existing transport connectivity. In particular, the relevant EU regulatory framework presupposes the existence of a railway or transport corridor linking at least two EU Member States or ensuring the necessary conditions for interstate transit. As Armenia does not share a common border with any EU Member State, it is not, in practical terms, in a position to establish a transport corridor meeting these requirements.

Similarly, approximation in relation to Measure 37 was also assessed as not appropriate, taking into account the technical and infrastructural characteristics of the railway system of the Republic of Armenia. In particular, Armenia's railway network does not comply with the technical specifications underpinning the relevant EU legislation, including those relating to the structure of railway infrastructure, operational requirements and rail gauge standards. Under these circumstances, the direct application of the relevant EU requirements to Armenia's railway system cannot be justified from either a practical or a legal perspective.

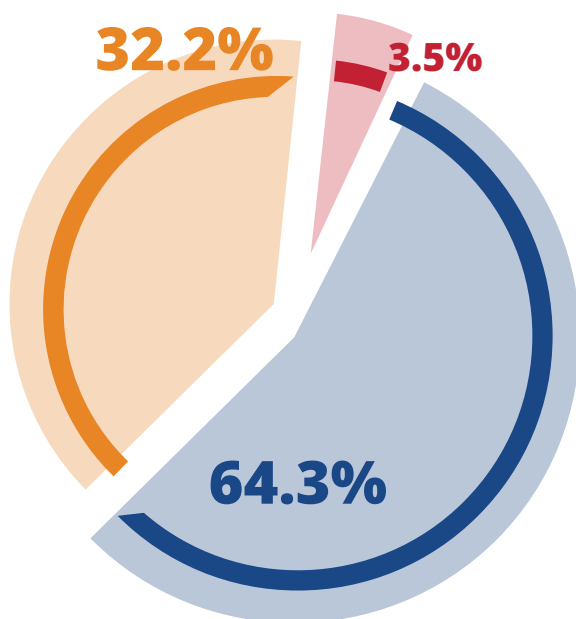
The two actions that have not yet been launched in the Youth sector are attributable to the absence of joint grant mechanisms with the European Union. Consequently, progress in this area will require, as a prerequisite, the establishment of the necessary financial and institutional mechanisms.

## Overall Assessment

Overall, of the 314 actions with implementation deadlines up to and including 31 December 2025, 202 actions were assessed as completed, including those of a continuous nature and those that, by their nature, are under continuous implementation. This represents approximately 64.3% of all measures. A further 101 actions (approximately 32.2%) were assessed as partially completed or ongoing, while 11 actions (approximately 3.5%) have not yet started.

The revised and updated CEPA Implementation Roadmap will enable the transition, from the next reporting cycle onwards, to a more up-to-date, consolidated and realistic monitoring framework. The results of the monitoring of the updated Roadmap will serve as the basis for the 2026 Annual Implementation Report, providing more comparable, measurable and policy-relevant statistical data for assessing the implementation of the Agreement.

### Overall Implementation Statistics for Measures under the CEPA Implementation Roadmap



**202**

COMPLETED

**101**

ONGOING/PARTIALLY  
COMPLETED

**11**

NOT STARTED

# HIGHLIGHTS OF CEPA ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

1

## Political Dialogue and Reforms

Armenia-EU relations entered a strategic phase with the adoption of the Partnership Strategic Agenda, the launch of security and defence consultations, extension of the mandate of EUMA and the ratification of Armenia's participation framework for EU crisis-management operations. Progress was also recorded in areas of the rule of law, cybersecurity, electoral, police and internal affairs reforms, democratic governance and the implementation of CEPA commitments.

## Justice, Freedom and Security

Progress was achieved in the areas of judicial, anti-corruption and integrity reforms, personal data protection, gender equality, the prevention of domestic and family violence, as well as migration, asylum and biometric documents.

The visa-liberalisation process advanced to the operational phase of benchmark implementation, following the EU's presentation of the Action Plan to Armenia and the completion of the first EU assessment mission.

## Economic Cooperation

Armenia strengthened the policy foundations for a green, transparent and evidence-based economy through the adoption of the green economy framework action program, green taxonomy, first automatic exchange of financial-account information and continued modernisation of official statistics.

## Transport

In the transport sector, progress was made toward alignment with EU standards through the regulation of international road transport operators, introducing systems for the professional training and qualification of transport managers and drivers, the full deployment of digital tachographs, strengthened road and tunnel safety governance, approximation to aviation-safety standards and the digitalisation of transport services for citizens.

1 Full list of achievements is presented in the report chapters' sections.

## Energy Cooperation, including Nuclear Safety

Energy sector reforms moved forward through electricity-market liberalisation, expansion of solar energy, preparation of renewable-energy and efficiency legislation, EU4Energy support and systematic nuclear and radiation-safety approximation to EU standards.

## Environment

Environmental implementation shifted towards practical systems: EU-aligned air-quality regulations, modernised water resources and Lake Sevan monitoring, the first sanitary landfill, integrated waste collection and pilot schemes for waste separation at source and extended producer responsibility.

## Climate Action

Armenia adopted its Climate Law and 2026-2035 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), established the basis for Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and climate-finance monitoring, tagged climate-related budget expenditure and submitted its first Biennial Transparency Report.

## Industrial and Enterprise Policy

Within the framework of Industrial policy, progress has been made in enhancing competitiveness, diversifying export and expanding EU market access, notably through pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) alignment, engagement with the Critical Medicines Alliance, textile-sector support and preparation of SME competitiveness and export-promotion strategies.

## Company Law, Accounting and Auditing, Corporate Governance

Corporate reform advanced through the concept for a unified Law on Commercial Organisations, practical corporate-governance tools, continued development of public oversight in accounting and auditing and stronger accountability for publication of financial statements.

## Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Services

Armenia adopted the Law on Cryptoassets, broadly aligned with EU MiCA principles, creating licensing, supervision and consumer-protection safeguards for a transparent and well-regulated cryptoasset market.

## Information Society

Digital approximation advanced through work on e-commerce, eIDAS-based electronic identification and trust services and NIS2-aligned cybersecurity, alongside stronger electronic-communications rules on subscriber rights, service quality and transparency.

## Tourism

A package of secondary legislation under the Tourism Law created clearer standards for tourism services, the classification of accommodation establishments, tourist buses, tourism villages and centres, thereby strengthening service quality, consumer protection and governance of the tourism sector.

## Agriculture and Rural Development

EU-supported rural development delivered concrete results through the second phase of the EU-GAIA programme, LEAD Local Action Groups and IADAAM irrigation support, promoting sustainable agriculture, local initiatives and improving rural livelihoods.

## Fisheries and Maritime Governance

Aquaculture governance was strengthened through the establishment of minimum annual water-use and fish-production thresholds for Ararat Valley fish farms, linking the sector's productivity with more sustainable management of scarce water resources.

## Mining

Mining sector governance moved closer to international standards through compliance with EITI reporting and validation requirements, preparations for CRIRSCO membership, digital-transformation work and the inclusion of critical raw materials in the Armenia-EU strategic agenda.

## Research, Technological Development and Innovation

Research reforms advanced through the adoption of the Law on Higher Education and Science, revised science-funding rules, the expansion of Armenia's participation in the Horizon Europe programme, and broad Armenian engagement in COST research networks.



## Consumer Protection

Consumer protection advanced through EU-aligned legislative reforms, a clarified central role for the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, and the launch of the Consumer Assistant digital platform, improving accessibility, transparency and consumer dispute resolution.

## Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities

Progress was made in the areas of labour and equality through gradual digitalisation of employment contracts, the removal of the blanket prohibition on trade union membership for members of the armed forces and personnel of the law enforcement, national security and judicial sectors, the implementation of active labour market programmes, and the continued advancement of anti-discrimination legislative reforms.

## Health Care

The adoption of the Universal Health Insurance Law and establishment of the Universal Health Insurance Fund (UHIF) marked the key system reform, complemented by public-health preparedness plans, varicella vaccination rollout and expanded paediatric palliative care.

## Education, Training and Youth

Education reform progressed across the system through school and preschool infrastructure upgrades, introduction of new education standards, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and higher-education legislation reforms, development of non-formal learning tools, the Youth Policy Law and CAF-based civil-service quality management instrument application.

## Culture

Cultural cooperation emphasised internationalisation of culture and the development of creative capacity, with continued strategy implementation, Creative Europe support, preparations for joining the MEDIA component, provision of Artbox entrepreneurship support and expansion of mobility for artists and cultural operators.

## Audiovisual and Media Fields

Media reform advanced through EU audiovisual-law approximation, a draft amendment package for audiovisual media and development of a self-regulation model centred on a Media Council and recognised self-regulatory bodies.

## Sport and Physical Activity

Sports policy delivered visible results through implementation of the 2024-2030 strategy, strengthening of anti-doping activity, hosting of major international events, expanded mass participation and 357 medals won by Armenian athletes.

## Civil Society Cooperation

Civil society engagement continued to strengthen the transparency and accountability of CEPA implementation through consultations on the Armenia-EU Partnership Strategic Agenda, the work of the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform, and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

## Regional Development and Regional Level Cooperation

Balanced territorial development advanced through the development of the draft 2026-2030 Territorial Development strategy, continued implementation of EU-supported LEAD grant schemes and establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for Local Action Groups (LAGs).

## Civil Protection

The new Law “On Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection” establishes the legal framework for disaster risk reduction, emergency rapid response, early recovery, and post-disaster recovery, for the implementation of which sub-legislative acts are being developed and capacity building is being carried out with the support of the EU.

## Trade and Trade-Related Matters

Trade implementation progressed through update of CEPA Part VI roadmaps, deeper institutional dialogue, customs systems digitalisation and infrastructure upgrades, quality-infrastructure progress, new EU market access for aquaculture products, strengthened geographical indication and intellectual property rights protection as well as ongoing reforms in public procurement and competition.

## EU Financial Assistance

EU financial support was further expanded through negotiations on a €143 million multi-sector assistance package, the continuation of support in the areas of justice, education and nuclear safety, substantial financing provided by the EIB and the EBRD, the signing of the Resilient Syunik Framework Loan Agreement, and the implementation of support programmes for displaced persons.

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**ADB** - Asian Development Bank

**AEOI** - Automatic Exchange of Information on Financial Accounts

**AEOI MCAA** - Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information

**AFD** - French Development Agency (Agence française de développement)

**API** - Advance Passenger Information

**ATUS** - Armenian Nationwide Time Use Survey

**ASA** - Advocacy Society for the Arts

**BEREC** - Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications

**BMZ** - German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

**CAF** - Common Assessment Framework

**CAPI** - Computer-assisted personal interviewing

**CBA** - Central Bank of Armenia

**CEP** - Classification of Environmental Purposes

**CEPA** - Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

**CIPE** - Center for International Private Enterprise

**CJSC** - Closed joint-stock company

**CMA** - Critical Medicines Alliance

**COAF** - Children of Armenia Charitable Fund

**CoE** - Council of Europe

**COST** - European Cooperation in Science and Technology

**CPC** - Corruption Prevention Commission

**CPI** - Consumer Price Index; Corruption Perceptions Index (context-dependent)

**CRI** - Counter Ransomware Initiative

**CRIRSCO** - Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards

**CSO** - Civil society organisation

**CT Travel Programme** - United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme

**DG JUST** - European Commission Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

**DG ECHO** - European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

**DG ENEST** - European Commission Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood

**DG SANTE** - European Commission Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety

**DVV International** - Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association

**E5P** - Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership

**EaP** - Eastern Partnership

**EBRD** - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**EC** - European Commission

**EE** - Energy efficiency

**EEC** - European Economic Community

**EFRA** - Economic Foundations for a Resilient Armenia programme

**eIDAS** - EU Regulation on Electronic Identification and Trust Services

**EIPA** - European Institute of Public Administration

**EITI** - Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

**EPF** - European Peace Facility

**EPR** - Extended producer responsibility

**ESMS** - Euro SDMX Metadata Structure

**ESQRS** - European Statistical System Standard Quality Report Structure

**EU** - European Union

**EU4Business** - EU Business Support Programme

**EU4Energy** - EU Energy Support Programme

**EU4GRE** - EU4Green Recovery East

**EU-GAIA** - EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia

**EUMA** - European Union Mission in Armenia

**FASP** - Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

**FCTC** - WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

**FEZ** - Free economic zone

**GAMSO** - Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations

**GBV** - Gender-based violence

**GDP** - Gross domestic product

**GDPR** - General Data Protection Regulation

**GF** - Global Forum

**GIZ** - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**GMP** - Good manufacturing practice

**GRECO** - Group of States against Corruption

**GSBPM** - Generic Statistical Business Process Model

**GSIM** - Generic Statistical Information Model

**GTG** - Gender Theme Group

**HAYPASS** - Public-private partnership company responsible for issuing identity documents

**IADAAM** - Irrigated Agriculture Development in Ararat and Armavir Marzes project

**IAEA** - International Atomic Energy Agency

**ICAO** - International Civil Aviation Organization

**ICC** - International Criminal Court

**ICT** - Information and communication technologies

**IEA** - International Energy Agency

**IFRS** - International Financial Reporting Standards

**IMF** - International Monetary Fund

**INSC** - European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation

**INTPA** - European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

**IOM** - International Organization for Migration

**ISA** - International Standards on Auditing

**ITC** - International Trade Centre

**IUCN** - International Union for Conservation of Nature

**LAG** - Local Action Group

**LEAD** - "Local Empowerment of Actors for Development" Programme

**LFS-ARM** - Labour Force Survey - Armenia

**LLC** - Limited liability company

**MAVETA** - Modernising Vocational Education and Training in Agriculture in Armenia

**MCAA** - Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement

**MFA** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**MHTI** - Ministry of High-Tech Industry

**MIA** - Ministry of Internal Affairs

**MiCA** - Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation

**MICS** - Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

**MLSA** - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

**MoE** - Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Environment (context-dependent)

**MoESCS** - Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

**MoJ** - Ministry of Justice

**MoTAI** - Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

**MRV** - Measurement, reporting and verification

**NA** - National Assembly

**NGO** - Non-governmental organisation

**NIS2** - Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union (NIS2 Directive)

**NSS** - National Security Service; National Statistical System (context-dependent)

**OECD** - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**ONAs** - Other national authorities (responsible for official statistics)

**OSCE** - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**PAR** - Public administration reform

**PNR** - Passenger Name Record

**RA** - Republic of Armenia

**RE** - Renewable energy

**RIA** - Regulatory impact assessment

**SDGs** - Sustainable Development Goals

**SDMX** - Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange

**SF-MST** - Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

**SIDA** - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

**SIGMA** - Support for Improvement in Governance and Management

**SIMS** - Single Integrated Metadata Structure

**SMEs** - Small and medium-sized enterprises

**SNA-2008** - System of National Accounts 2008

**SNCO** - State non-commercial organisation

**TAIEX** - Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument

**UHIF** - Universal Health Insurance Fund

**UN** - United Nations

**UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme

**UNFC** - United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

**UNFPA** - United Nations Population Fund

**UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund

**UNOCT** - United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

**USA** - United States of America

**USAID** - United States Agency for International Development

**VET** - Vocational education and training

**VNR** - Voluntary National Review

**WHO** - World Health Organization



AREAS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT

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

*A safer Armenia with the EU*





## Progress in implementation



In 2025, Armenia continued to deepen its multi-sectoral partnership with the European Union in a consistent manner, ensuring the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), while further strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law. These efforts contributed to the expansion of the bilateral partnership agenda, the deepening of sectoral dialogue, and the transition to the implementation phase of reforms. In this context, the establishment of the Armenia–EU High-Level Political Dialogue is of particular significance, providing an effective platform for the coordination of the above-mentioned priorities.

### Political Dialogue, Security and the Deepening of Bilateral Partnership

The active political and sectoral dialogue between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union continued throughout the reporting period. Progress in the implementation of the Armenia–EU partnership agenda was comprehensively reviewed at the meeting of the Armenia–EU Partnership Council held on 2 December, co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan, and attended by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, and the European Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos. On the same day, the Strategic Agenda for the Armenia–EU Partnership was adopted, replacing the previous Partnership Priorities and reorienting the bilateral cooperation framework in line with the objectives and commitments set out in the CEPA.

On 30 January, the mandate of the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) was extended for a further two years, until February 2027<sup>1</sup>.

On 30 June, Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, and High Representative Kaja Kallas, launched the Armenia–EU Security and Defence Consultations in Yerevan<sup>2</sup>. On the same day, Armenia and the European Union signed an agreement establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in EU crisis management operations<sup>3</sup>. The agreement was ratified on 28 November 2025. It will provide an opportunity for Armenia to enhance its capacities through participation in crisis management activities and the exchange of experience in areas including humanitarian emergencies, conflict prevention and resolution, and post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction.

In March 2025, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Law on Launching Accession Process of the Republic of Armenia to the European Union<sup>4</sup>. The law entered into force in April 2025.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/01/30/armenia-council-extends-the-mandate-of-the-eu-civilian-mission-for-two-years/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mfa.am/en/speeches/2025/06/30/Armenia\\_EU\\_CSDP/13344](https://www.mfa.am/en/speeches/2025/06/30/Armenia_EU_CSDP/13344)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents/treaties-agreements/agreement/?docLanguage=en&id=2025004>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/205203>



## International Legal Cooperation

In 2025, Armenia continued its active engagement in international multilateral fora. In particular, Armenia ratified the Hague Conventions<sup>5</sup> of 1899 and 1907 for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, thereby becoming a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. This development reaffirms Armenia's commitment to strengthening the international legal order based on the principles of international law, the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It also provides additional legal safeguards conducive to the development of a favourable investment climate.

In the field of combating crime, cooperation with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) continued to be further institutionalised in the area of judicial cooperation with the competent authorities of EU Member States in criminal matters. On the basis of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the cooperation between Eurojust and the authorities of the Republic of Armenia competent for judicial cooperation in criminal matters, ratified in 2024, and the related Working Arrangement<sup>6</sup> on its implementation, Government Decision No. 1353-A of 25 September 2025 provided for the establishment of the position of a Prosecutor (Liaison Prosecutor) for cooperation with Eurojust, to be based at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The process of appointing and seconding the representative is expected to be completed in 2026.

Continuing its cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), Armenia, as a State Party to the Rome Statute, participated in the special session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC held at United Nations Headquarters in July 2025, as well as in the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly of States Parties held in The Hague in December 2025.

In parallel, following joint work by representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Justice and other relevant authorities, a package of amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Legal Assistance in Criminal Proceedings and related legislation was developed and circulated. The amendments introduce provisions regulating cooperation with the ICC.

## Cybersecurity, Combating Terrorism and Organised Crime

In 2025, Armenia continued its cooperation within the framework of the CyberEast+ project to strengthen national capacities in combating cybercrime. Approximately 14 training activities were implemented, both in Armenia - aimed at enhancing the capabilities of national law enforcement authorities in countering cybercrime - and in a regional format. Two of these activities were included in the annual programme at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and focused on the investigation of ransomware attacks (Specialised Course on Ransomware Investigations) as well as on combating cybercrime and criminal disinformation through the use of electronic evidence tools (Training/Tabletop Exercise on Combating



<sup>5</sup> The agreements entered into force on 23 April and 22 June 2025, respectively.

<sup>6</sup> With regard to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, on 5 April 2024 an Agreement on cooperation between the competent authorities in the field of criminal proceedings of the Republic of Armenia and the Eurojust was signed. The Agreement was ratified by Law HO-320-N of 10 September 2024. On the basis of the aforementioned Agreement, a Working Arrangement on its implementation was signed on 3 September 2024 between the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, and Eurojust. The Working Arrangement was approved by Presidential Decree No. NH-380-N of 29 November 2024.

Criminal Disinformation through Cybercrime and E-Evidence Tools). Armenia also participated in the work of the Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI), thereby responding to growing international concerns related to cyberthreats.

During the reporting period, the Law on Cybersecurity and a package of related legislative acts were also adopted. In this context, work is underway to establish a national cybersecurity defence centre. International experience, as well as software and technical solutions offered by relevant sectoral providers, were examined, and participation in training courses aimed at enhancing knowledge in the field of information security was ensured.

In the context of combating terrorism, the National Security Service coordinated activities related to the fight against terrorism and extremism in Armenia and conducted counter-terrorism exercises. These exercises served to improve the procedures for joint and coordinated action by the competent national authorities aimed at detecting and neutralising terrorist threats against critical infrastructure and facilities in the country.

In 2025, the National Security Service coordinated the visit to Armenia of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as well as the engagement of national authorities in the framework of this visit.

In the context of combating terrorism and the fight against transnational organised crime, work continued on the introduction of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems. Armenia participates in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Eastern European Informal Working Group on Advance Passenger Information exchange and maintains close cooperation with the OSCE, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In this regard, Armenia officially joined the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme), submitted a technical needs assessment questionnaire, and initiated practical discussions on the implementation of API and PNR systems in the country.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the internal coordination process was launched for the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the United Nations on the licensing of the “goTravel” software solution and the provision of related support services, which is of key importance for the effective implementation of the above-mentioned systems.

## **Electoral Code Reforms and the Strengthening of Democratic Governance**

Significant progress was achieved in the improvement of electoral legislation during the reporting period. A package of draft amendments and additions to the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia and related legislation entered into force in April. The new provisions aim to enhance the efficiency of the organisation of electoral processes, strengthen guarantees for the exercise of electoral rights, regulate electoral campaigning, and improve oversight of electoral financing.

The main reforms include, inter alia, measures to ensure the effective exercise of the right to vote by persons with disabilities and reduced mobility, clarification of the rules on electoral campaigning, and improvements to the procedures for recounting votes. They also introduce new mechanisms for the management and financial oversight of pre-electoral funds, including the separation of functions between the supervision of the day-to-day financial activities of political parties and the financing of electoral campaigns. At institutional level, provisions have been introduced for the annual accreditation of members of electoral commissions, as well as for the accreditation of funds for the implementation of election observation missions.



As a result of the aforementioned legislative amendments, mechanisms have been introduced to facilitate broader voter participation in elections. In particular, voters with reduced mobility are now able to vote at an accessible polling station of their choice by submitting an electronic application to change their assigned polling station. Additional measures have also been introduced for voters with visual impairments.

The improvement of electoral legislation contributes to enhancing the transparency of democratic governance and electoral processes, which is important in the context of alignment with European standards. The introduced provisions aim to strengthen the accountability and efficiency of electoral processes. They also contribute to the stability of the public governance system and to increased public trust.

## **Reforms in the Field of Internal Affairs and the Institutional Development of the Police**

In 2025, extensive work was carried out on the institutionalisation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the completion of the structural and functional framework of the police, strengthening of the new institutional identity, enhancement of public trust, and improvement of service delivery.

The institutional development of the Community Police has continued, with increased emphasis not only on crime detection, but also on crime prevention, addressing community concerns, and strengthening active engagement with local residents. Digital and communication tools are also being developed to reinforce the interaction between citizens and community police officers. In addition, the Service has been equipped with vehicles and other technical resources to ensure an effective response to citizen reports.

In order to ensure the protection of the rights of detainees in line with international standards, a clear mechanism has been introduced for the registration and reporting of cases of torture or other forms of ill-treatment.

The Patrol Service continued to provide external services under a new operational model, contributing to the prevention and detection of administrative offences and criminal offences in public spaces. In 2025, significant infrastructure developments were undertaken for the Service: The Patrol Service Administration, the Yerevan Regiment and the Operational Management Centre were relocated to a new administrative complex. In addition, new technical equipment was introduced, including electric vehicles, video surveillance systems, as well as training and mentoring mechanisms.

On 1 November 2025, the fourth and final pillar of the Police, the Police Guard, was launched. It is a specialised service responsible for maintaining public order and is of particular importance for the effective exercise of the right of citizens to peaceful assembly.

Awareness-raising activities were carried out to prevent cybercrime. A “Cyber Police” Telegram channel was launched, professional advice was provided to citizens via a dedicated hotline, and cybersecurity and media literacy classes were delivered in educational institutions.

At the same time, work has commenced on the establishment of a unified 112 Operational Management Centre within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as a Crime Statistics and Research Centre, with a view to developing evidence-based policy, strengthening data analysis, and enhancing crime prevention.

As part of the establishment of a unified 112 Operational Management Centre, the functions of the Police Operational Management Centre and the National Crisis Management Centre of the Rescue Service will be transferred to the Ministry, thereby creating a single platform for the receipt of emergency calls.

The Crime Statistics and Research Centre will be responsible for the collection and management of crime data, the production of comprehensive statistical outputs, as well as the conduct of criminological research using artificial intelligence and other analytical tools. These activities will enable the identification of crime patterns and the forecasting of potential risk areas, thereby supporting the development of recommendations and analytical guidelines aimed at crime prevention.

In the context of improving the educational environment, work has been completed on the establishment of a single educational institution under the Ministry, namely the Educational Complex of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.



Efforts have continued within the police system to recruit and retain qualified personnel, including programmes to promote the participation of women, awareness-raising activities, and measures to improve service conditions. At the same time, cooperation with the media and civil society has been strengthened with a view to enhancing public trust and accountability, as well as ensuring effective feedback mechanisms.

During the reporting period, work continued to improve the legislative framework and law enforcement practice. The Law on Police Code of Integrity and Discipline was adopted<sup>7</sup>, as well as the Strategy for Combating the Non-Medical Use and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and its accompanying Action Plan for 2025–2027<sup>8</sup>. At the same time, amendments were introduced to legislation on the detention of arrested and detained persons, strengthening the protection of their rights<sup>9</sup>. In addition, a standardised procedure for the use of force by all police officers was approved, aimed at ensuring uniform standards of service activities.

In 2025, the EU-funded project “Accountable, Effective and Gender-responsive Institutional Systems for Policing and Rescue Service in Armenia” (AEGIS), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), was launched. The project aims to strengthen the strategic planning and implementation capacities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the area of police reform, while also enhancing the competencies of police officers in gender-responsive and non-discriminatory policing.

Lithuania’s support to the EU-funded project “Support to the Reforms of the Law Enforcement Bodies and Security Sector of the Republic of Armenia” continued during the reporting period, as did the implementation of the 2024–2027 programme ATHENA: Advancing the Human Rights Agenda and Enhancing National Authorities. These initiatives have contributed to the establishment and institutional development of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and to the implementation of reforms in its subordinate bodies. They have also supported the promotion of human rights, the rule of law, accountable public services, and citizen-centred public administration.



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/215495>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/207984>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/206618>

## Armenia–EU Cooperation in the Field of Defence

In 2025, discussions with EU partners continued in three main areas: the development of defence capabilities within the framework of the European Peace Facility (EPF), cooperation in the fields of education and science, and participation in EU missions and exercises.

During the reporting period, discussions continued on the deployment, use and training arrangements related to the field camp financed under the EPF package approved in 2024, as well as on the scope of assistance to be provided in 2025–2026.

Furthermore, in the context of the signing of the Armenia-EU Partnership Strategic Agenda, the EU announced the allocation of €15 million in support to Armenia towards strengthening peace, security and resilience. The assistance will support a range of initiatives, including demining training and equipment. EU funding will also be directed to support efforts to detect, analyse and counter foreign interference<sup>10</sup>.

In the field of education, opportunities for cooperation between the National Defence Research University of the Ministry of Defence and the European Union Institute for Security Studies, as well as the European Security and Defence College, were explored.

Armenia has expressed its readiness to participate in EU-led missions and exercises under the Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in EU crisis management operations, which was signed on 30 June 2025.

Overall, in 2025, Armenia–EU cooperation continued to advance across the areas of political dialogue, security, the rule of law, justice, home affairs, human rights, cybersecurity and institutional reform, gradually moving towards a more results-oriented and implementation-focused phase. While challenges remain with regard to the effective implementation of adopted measures and legislative frameworks, the strengthening of public sector capacities, the promotion of evidence-based governance, and the enhancement of public awareness and understanding of reforms, developments during the reporting period have provided an important basis for the more coordinated implementation of commitments under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and for the further deepening of the Armenia–EU partnership.

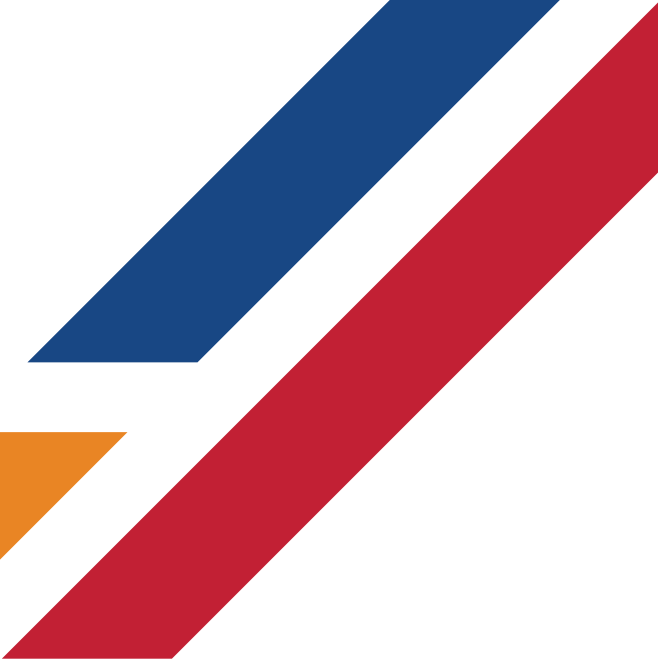
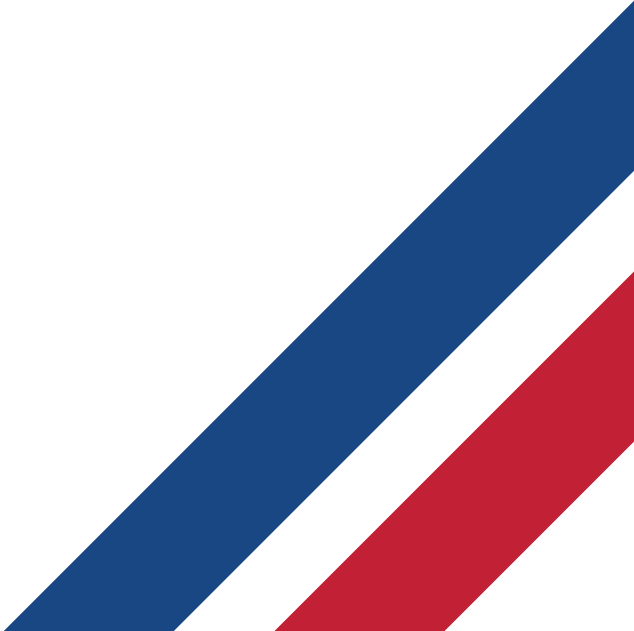
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<sup>10</sup> [https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/12/03/Armenia\\_EU\\_StrategicAgenda/13649](https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2025/12/03/Armenia_EU_StrategicAgenda/13649), <https://armenpress.am/en/article/1236591>, <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/latest-news/eu-allocates-e15-million-for-more-resilient-armenia/>



# **JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY**

*Promoting justice and fighting corruption  
for a safer society*





## Progress in implementation



Articles 12–21 of the CEPA set out the Parties' commitments to the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, implementation of the Agreement in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security continued in 2025 through measures aimed at strengthening migration and asylum management systems, border management and document security, advancing judicial and legal reforms, enhancing personal data protection, promoting gender equality, preventing domestic and family violence, and reinforcing integrity and anti-corruption frameworks.

### Migration, Asylum, Document Security and Mobility

In 2025, the Ministry of Internal Affairs continued to advance reforms in the areas of migration, asylum and border management, with a focus on the digitalisation of administrative processes, the simplification of procedures and their alignment with international standards. In particular, the Electronic Citizenship Case Management System became operational on a pilot basis in October 2025<sup>1</sup>.

Armenia continued efforts to digitalise and streamline the system for issuing work permits and residence permits to foreign nationals. To this end, the draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Foreigners, together with a package of related legislative amendments, was submitted to the National Assembly for consideration. The main objective of the draft legislation is to digitalise procedures for granting residence status to foreign nationals in the Republic of Armenia on grounds other than employment, building on the model already applied to procedures for granting temporary residence status for employment purposes.

The introduction of a unified electronic registration system for the granting of residence statuses to foreign nationals is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the exercise of state functions in this area, strengthen management and oversight mechanisms, and improve the quality of services provided to applicants.

### Asylum System Reform and Infrastructure Development

In 2025, efforts continued to improve the mechanisms established for the reception of foreign nationals and stateless persons seeking asylum in the Republic of Armenia. The draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Refugees and Asylum, together with related legislative amendments, was submitted to the Government for approval. The adoption of the draft legislation is intended, inter alia, to establish clearly defined forms of international protection, covering not only the granting of asylum to refugees, but also the protection of foreign nationals benefiting from the principle of non-refoulement; to provide a clearer definition of the term "refugee"; to establish clear and predictable grounds for refusing asylum; to ensure fair procedures for social support for asylum seekers; to guarantee the right of asylum seekers to legal assistance; to establish more transparent, simplified and predictable procedures and reasoned decision-making; to define clear rules for the processing of personal data; and to strengthen guarantees for the rights of asylum seekers at borders, as well as for foreign nationals subject to criminal prosecution and extradition, and for children.

In parallel, the main construction works for the new reception and temporary accommodation centre for asylum seekers in the city of Abovyan have been completed, and work is under way to connect the necessary utilities, including gas, water and electricity supply. The process is coordinated and implemented by the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The implementation of the electronic asylum management system is expected to significantly improve the efficiency of asylum application processing by reducing manual workload, minimising errors, and enabling real-time case tracking.

<sup>1</sup> As of 1 January 2026, the submission and appointment scheduling of citizenship applications will be carried out exclusively through the electronic system (<https://mcs-citizenship.am/am/guest>).

## Integration and Reintegration Policy

In 2025, efforts continued to coordinate the integration and reintegration policies for persons granted asylum or recognised as refugees, displaced persons, long-term migrants, and forcibly returning citizens of the Republic of Armenia. A key condition for the successful integration of these groups remains the provision of housing, which had previously been implemented through housing rental compensation schemes. Since March 2024, the development and implementation of government policy on the integration and reintegration of these beneficiary groups has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Within this framework, work continued on the development and approval of new procedures to ensure a unified and coordinated approach.

Existing support programmes also continued to be implemented. The housing programme for recognised refugees provides for monthly rent compensation of AMD 60,000 for a period of six months. In addition, the State programme for the initial reintegration of citizens returning to Armenia, including those returning under forced return procedures, provides financial assistance in the amount of AMD 60,000.

The draft Action Plan for the Strategy on the Regulation of Integration and Reintegration Issues within the Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia for 2025–2029, developed in 2025, was prepared by a delegation of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in cooperation with the expert group of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). It is intended to be considered within the framework of the comprehensive strategy being developed by the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and is not envisaged as a standalone strategy, with a view to ensuring policy continuity and coherence. Donor support contributed to the clarification of integration and reintegration policy planning and its alignment with the broader strategic framework of the migration sector.

In 2025, 24 beneficiaries received compensation under the housing assistance programme for persons recognised as refugees, and 8 beneficiaries received support under the initial reintegration assistance programme for returning citizens. These measures contributed to addressing the housing, basic social, and reintegration needs of vulnerable groups, thereby supporting their social inclusion and stabilisation.

## The Armenia-EU visa liberalisation process

On 9 September 2024, the dialogue on visa liberalisation between the EU and Armenia was officially launched in Yerevan. The dialogue continued throughout 2025, with three EU expert missions carried out to support the development of an action plan on visa liberalisation. On 5 November 2025, during the visit of Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission, the action plan, comprising 74 benchmarks, was formally presented to the Armenian authorities<sup>2</sup>.

Subsequently, in the context of the EU–Armenia visa liberalisation process, the first EU assessment mission took place in Armenia in December. During the mission, progress in the implementation of the benchmarks under the first phase, covering the legislative and policy framework, was discussed with the relevant Armenian authorities across all four areas of the Action Plan, with a focus exclusively on the benchmarks under the first phase relating to the legislative and policy framework. The findings of the mission will form the basis of the European Commission's first assessment report on Armenia, the publication of which is scheduled for May 2026 in Yerevan, in the context of the European Political Community Summit and the first-ever Armenia-EU Summit.



<sup>2</sup> [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/action-plan-visa-liberalisation-armenia\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/action-plan-visa-liberalisation-armenia_en)

This process is of significant importance for expanding contacts between citizens of Armenia and EU Member States, promoting mobility and intercultural exchanges, and supporting the deepening of reforms in the areas of document security, border management, migration, and law enforcement cooperation. As a positive outcome of the process, citizens of the Republic of Armenia holding a biometric passport will be able to travel to the Schengen area without a visa. The legal framework will apply solely to short-term Schengen visas (Type C), allowing a stay of up to 90 days within any 180-day period.

## Population Register and Biometric Documents

At the same time, reforms aimed at modernising personal identification and population registration systems continued, with a view to enhancing the efficiency and security of data management.

In July 2025, the new Law on the State Register of the Population was adopted, aiming to modernise the registry system and enhance the quality and security of data. The law will enter into force on the day following the launch of the State Population Register database, but no later than 1 January 2027<sup>3</sup>.

In 2025, work also continued on the preparation of a draft law on Identity Documents.

At the same time, the Ministry of Internal Affairs concluded a public-private partnership agreement with HAYPASS CJSC regarding the issuance and provision of identity documents, as well as the operation and maintenance of the systems used for this purpose. Work is ongoing to modernise the identity document system in line with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The new system is expected to include biometric data in all identity documents, including passports, identity cards, and residence permits.

In parallel with the technical implementation of the system, the Migration and Citizenship Service is also preparing the necessary legal acts to establish the legal framework for the launch of the new system, as well as to set clear deadlines for the phase-out of non-biometric passports.

Upon completion of the work on the introduction of biometric passports, identity documents issued by the Republic of Armenia will comply with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and will include biometric data, which, in turn, will contribute to enhanced travel security and greater efficiency in personal identification procedures.

## Cooperation with the EU and other Partners

The challenges in 2025 were driven by the need to implement sectoral reforms while simultaneously strengthening human resource capacities; accordingly, capacity-building activities continued under EU-funded programmes.

The EU-funded project “Enhancing Policy Framework and Capacity for Effective Migration and Asylum Management in Armenia” is currently being implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The project aims to ensure more effective and accountable service delivery, based on the principles of good governance and the rule of law, in the areas of asylum, migration, and human rights.

In the same year, the EU-funded project to strengthen the migration management system in Armenia, implemented since 2023 by the Czech non-governmental organisation People in Need, was completed. The project aimed to address irregular migration towards EU Member States by supporting the effective integration of returnees and foreign nationals in Armenia.

At the same time, the EU4IMPACT project (EU for Increasing Migrants’ Potential to Act for the Development of Armenia), implemented by the Armenian office of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD Armenia), has contributed to strengthening the capacities of labour migrants, returnees, and their family members.

<sup>3</sup> To ensure the implementation of the law, sub-legislative acts have been developed and issued, including technical regulations (<https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/209651>).

## Legal and Judicial reforms

The establishment of an independent judiciary free from corruption and patronage, as a political priority, together with the need to introduce and strengthen existing instruments of institutional democracy, human rights protection mechanisms, and legal and institutional reforms, formed the basis for the development and adoption of the judicial and legal reform strategies of the Republic of Armenia for 2019–2023 and subsequently for 2022–2026, together with the corresponding action plans.

Within the framework of judicial reforms, legislative packages were submitted to the National Assembly and adopted at first reading. These packages establish clear deadlines for the examination of civil and administrative cases and complaints, introduce written procedures, and provide a general rule for continuing the examination of cases from the point of interruption in the event of a change of judge, as well as more flexible procedures for the consideration of evidence by the new judge. In addition, judicial acts issued by administrative bodies concerning public-law monetary claims of up to AMD 300,000 are now excluded from appeal to the Court of Appeal, which is expected to reduce the workload of the Administrative Court of Appeal by 20–30%.

As of 1 July 2025, mandatory mediation in certain family law cases was introduced, and the electronic mediation system (e-mediation.am) was launched. As a result, the number of cases filed with the courts in the relevant categories decreased by approximately 57% within a single semester. In the context of the development of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, the Armenian Center for Arbitration and Mediation also recorded progress in the adjudication and mediation of cases in 2025, ensuring the conduct of both international and domestic arbitration and mediation proceedings. As of the end of 2025, the Center had handled approximately 300 arbitration cases, including one international case, and more than 160 mediation cases, including 15 international cases.

It is also noteworthy that the Electronic Administrative Procedure System was launched on 25 August 2025, followed by the introduction of a hotline for the daily inventory and resolution of issues. As a result, more than 70% of cases are now submitted electronically.

Within the framework of reforms of the judicial system, the National Assembly adopted a legislative package increasing the number of non-judge members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Issues Committee of the General Assembly of Judges by three, resulting in a Committee composed of six judges and five non-judge members. In addition, the procedural rules required for the Committee's decision-making were revised, and requirements were introduced obliging candidates for non-judge membership to submit a questionnaire and a declaration of integrity.





## Cooperation with the EU

Within the framework of the EU-funded “Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia: Phase II” project, and as a result of the full implementation of judicial and anti-corruption reform commitments and targets, the EU allocated €5.5 million in budget support to Armenia in 2025. The project was accompanied by technical assistance aimed at supporting the implementation of judicial and legal reforms and the anti-corruption strategy.

Under the “Support to the Implementation of Judicial and Legal Reforms in Armenia” project, implemented within the framework of Phase III of the EU–Council of Europe (CoE) joint programme “Partnership for Good Governance,” 12 mediators participated in intensive “Training of Trainers” sessions in 2025.

## Personal data protection

Under the objective of justice, freedom and security, it remains important to strengthen personal data protection mechanisms and further align them with EU standards.

At present, policy development and implementation in this area fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, while the competent authority is the Personal Data Protection Agency, which operates as a separate unit within the Ministry. This institutional arrangement is not in line with the international and EU-related obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia.

In view of the above, in 2025 a concept for the establishment of a new personal data protection authority was developed and approved by the Prime Minister. The concept provides for strengthening the institutional and functional independence of the authority in line with the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention 108+ and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It also envisages the introduction of a collegial governance model in the form of a Commission, with a view to ensuring a consistent approach to the formation of autonomous bodies in the Republic of Armenia.

Reforms in the field of personal data protection constitute an important component of the Armenia–EU visa liberalisation process. The modernisation of the legislative framework and the establishment of an independent supervisory authority will contribute to alignment with EU standards, strengthen the effective protection of citizens’ rights, and support enhanced mobility and cooperation with EU Member States.

## Cooperation with the EU

Within the framework of the “Improving Data Protection and Data Flows” project, implemented in cooperation with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), an assessment of the national legal framework’s alignment with EU standards was carried out. In addition, the “Support to Data Protection in Armenia” project was launched with a view to supporting legislative reform and strengthening institutional and sectoral capacities.

## Progress in the Area of Gender Equality

Policy in the area of gender equality in the Republic of Armenia continued to be implemented in line with national legislation<sup>4</sup>, international commitments and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Efforts focused on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, promoting women's participation in public life, and preventing gender-based discrimination and violence.

The Gender Strategy<sup>5</sup> adopted in April 2025 identified six key priorities: governance, socio-economic development, education, healthcare, the prevention of gender-based violence, and the integration of gender-sensitive approaches to climate change<sup>6</sup>. The Strategy also provides for measures aimed at addressing prevailing public perceptions of the Istanbul Convention and raising public awareness.

In terms of institutional development, the Women's Council, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as sectoral working groups, continued to operate, ensuring inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder cooperation. In 2025, thematic and expanded meetings, as well as discussions with civil society representatives, were held with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in cooperation with relevant state bodies, public institutions and international organisations, is actively engaged in the main platforms addressing gender issues, including the Gender Thematic Group (GTG), the Sub-Working Group on Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and the Working Group on Gender Equality under the Armenia–UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Through this engagement, it contributes to the mainstreaming of gender considerations in Armenia's development agenda, as well as to discussions with international partners and public stakeholders on existing issues, challenges, and programmes and initiatives in the area of gender equality. In 2025, one expanded meeting of the Working Group under the Council on Women's Issues and one expanded meeting of the Gender Thematic Group were held. Numerous additional meetings and discussions were also held with civil society organisations on the implementation strategy for gender policy in the Republic of Armenia.

## Cooperation with the EU

Continued EU support in this area is essential for advancing reforms. The EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project provided expert assistance in developing a gender-specific training module for civil servants, and training was also delivered to staff of the Unified Social Service on gender policy and the prevention of violence.

4 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/83841>

5 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/206364>

6 Within the framework of the Strategy, 71 measures are planned for the period 2025–2028, aimed at strengthening the legislative framework, raising awareness and enhancing capacities.





## Combating family and domestic violence

Law HO-169-N, which provides for amendments and additions to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Protection of Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence and the Restoration of Solidarity in the Family” and which entered into force on 1 July 2024, introduced significant changes to the legal framework for the prevention of domestic violence and for the support and protection of persons subjected to domestic violence. These changes include the revision of 11 of the 23 articles of the existing law to ensure alignment with the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia. In particular, the title of the law was revised to “On the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and the Protection of Persons Subjected to Family and Domestic Violence”. The main concepts were clarified in line with the definitions set out in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, a definition of “partner” was introduced, and the scope of victims was expanded to include children who witness violence or suffer its adverse consequences. The procedures and deadlines for the application of urgent intervention and protective measures were revised, the reconciliation procedure was abolished, and provisions were introduced establishing access to free and preferential medical care and shelters for persons subjected to domestic violence. The amendments are aimed at improving the quality of services provided to victims of domestic violence, strengthening the effective identification of cases, and enhancing referral mechanisms and risk assessment tools for the prevention of recurrence.

At institutional level, the Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence continued to operate as a consultative platform, with enhanced participation of civil society.

At the same time, the State continued to provide support services to victims of domestic violence throughout the territory of the Republic of Armenia, using State budget funds. Support centres operate in all regions of the Republic of Armenia and in Yerevan, providing socio-psychological and legal assistance, shelters with safe living conditions, as well as one-off financial assistance to cover basic subsistence needs. A programme for the economic empowerment of victims of domestic violence was implemented using State budget funds, aimed at promoting the financial independence of women subjected to violence, supporting independent living, and facilitating their socio-economic inclusion.



## Implementation of Anti-Corruption Policy and Institutional Capacity Development

According to the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published by the international organisation Transparency International, Armenia ranked 65th with a score of 46, which is above the global CPI average.

Significant progress has been recorded in six out of nine performance areas identified in the progress report of the fifth round of monitoring under the OECD Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Armenia<sup>7</sup>.

In 2025, extensive work was carried out to implement the 22 recommendations set out in the fifth-round evaluation report on Armenia prepared by the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). A status report on the implementation of these recommendations was submitted to the GRECO Secretariat.

In June, Armenia signed the UNCAC (United Nations Convention against Corruption) Coalition's Transparency Pledge, thereby becoming the 42nd State Party to the Convention<sup>8</sup>.

The regulations governing the disposal of gifts that become State property have been clarified, covering the process from the acceptance of gifts to the disposal of those transferred to the State. A corruption risk assessment system has been introduced in public authorities and in State and community organisations operating in specific sectors or receiving subsidies or grants from the State budget.

The Ministry of Justice submitted draft legislative amendments to the National Assembly providing for integrity checks for members of the Government, their deputies and advisers.

Approximately 53,200 beneficial ownership declarations have been submitted to the State Register of Legal Entities maintained by the Ministry of Justice.

In the reporting system (azdararir.am), 600 reports were registered in 2025, with the highest monthly number recorded in April (75 reports). Draft laws providing for amendments and additions to the Law on the Reporting System and related legislation have been developed and submitted to the National Assembly for adoption.

In 2025, four meetings of the Anti-Corruption Policy Council were held. The Anti-Corruption Monitoring Platform was launched. In order to raise public awareness, a video competition entitled "Corruption Through My Eyes" was organised for pupils in grades 10 to 12. Out of 200 submitted videos, four were selected as winners.

During the reporting period, the Corruption Prevention Commission (CPC) continued to implement measures aimed at strengthening the integrity system, enhancing accountability, and developing tools for the prevention of corruption. In order to raise awareness of the integrity system and promote anti-corruption education, the CPC launched an e-learning platform<sup>9</sup> offering five targeted courses for public officials and public servants. As of December 2025, 9,578 public servants had registered on the platform and participated in the courses. In addition, existing training programmes were delivered to 260 public servants of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police, Rescue Service, Migration and Citizenship Service).

In 2025, the recording of permissible gifts related to official duties continued, with a view to enhancing accountability and promoting transparency among public officials<sup>10</sup>.

7 [https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/armenia-fifth-round-of-anti-corruption-monitoring-follow-up-report\\_3d273009-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/armenia-fifth-round-of-anti-corruption-monitoring-follow-up-report_3d273009-en.html)

8 <https://uncaccoalition.org/armenia-signs-the-uncac-review-transparency-pledge/>

9 <https://elearning.cpcarmenia.am/course/index.php>

10 [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RQ\\_xV5zGNxT7cH5Yi0rtC9aw21IQcLFa](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RQ_xV5zGNxT7cH5Yi0rtC9aw21IQcLFa)

In 2025, and in line with the recommendations of the fifth-round GRECO evaluation report on Armenia, the CPC carried out a monitoring exercise on compliance with incompatibility requirements among 114 persons holding positions of public trust in the executive branch, including the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as well as advisers to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers<sup>11</sup>.

Based on the results of the EU Twinning project “Fostering Integrity and Preventing Corruption in the Public Sector in Armenia”, work continued on the introduction of corruption risk assessment systems in public authorities and in companies with State participation.

In December 2025, the National Assembly adopted, at first reading, draft amendments to the Law on the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. The amendments provide for the introduction of a corruption risk assessment system in public authorities, State and municipal organisations operating in a number of sectors, State foundations, as well as commercial organisations with significant State or municipal participation.

The CPC also began conducting corruption risk assessments on a pilot basis in five large State-owned companies.

The ongoing integrity check process continued during the reporting period. At the same time, as a result of the legislative amendments initiated, the publication of the final part of the advisory integrity opinions issued by the CPC is expected to contribute to strengthening the Commission’s accountability.

On 9 December 2025, the Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Electronic Platform was launched<sup>12</sup>.

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11 The final monitoring report is available at the following link:

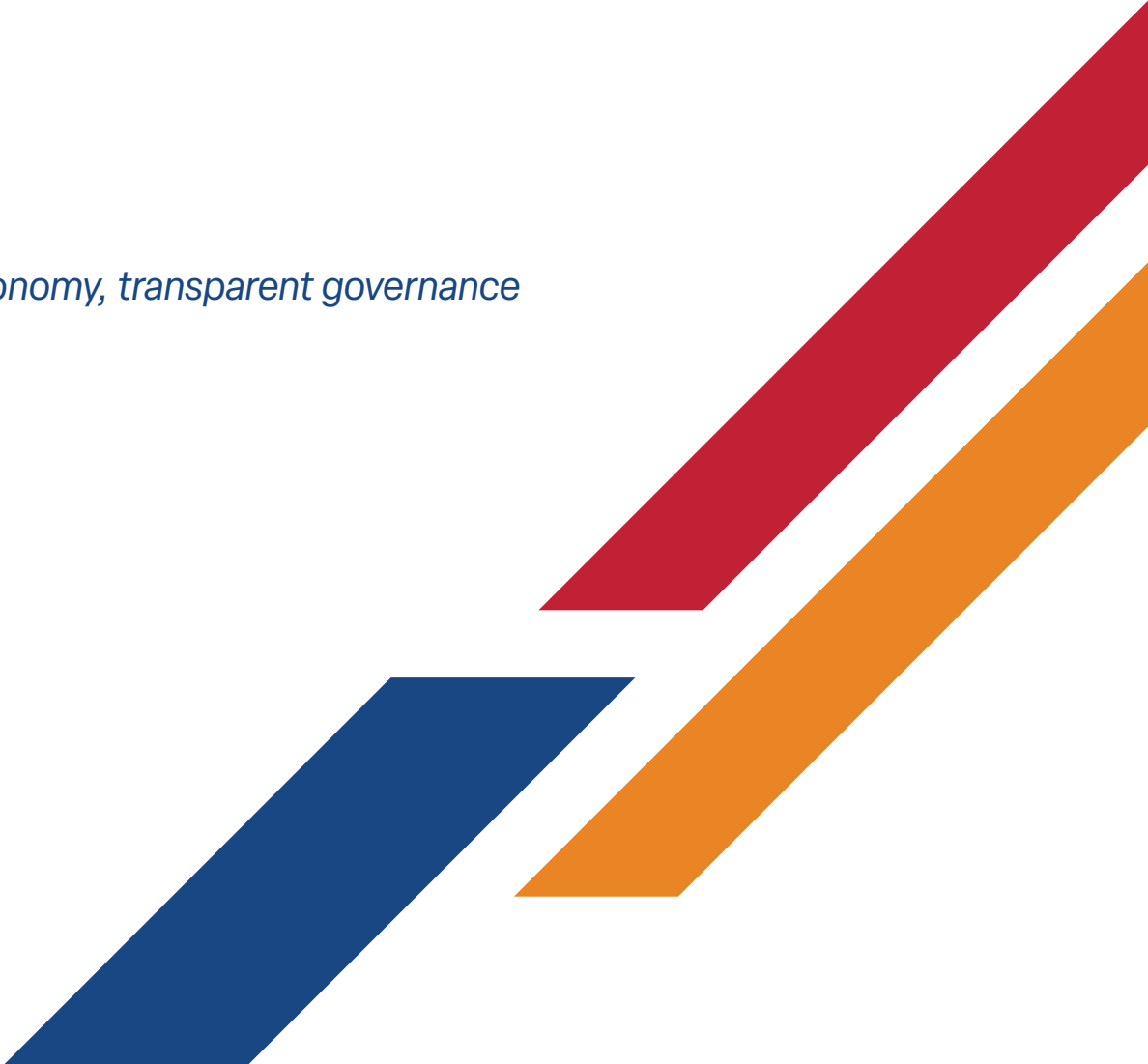
<https://cpcarmenia.am/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/%D5%A1%D5%B4%D6%83%D5%B8%D6%83%D5%AB%D5%B9-%D5%A6%D5%A5%D5%AF%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B5%D6%81.pdf>

12 <https://anti-corruption.gov.am/>



# **ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

*A stronger economy, transparent governance*



## Progress in implementation

### Economic dialogue

The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) identifies the exchange of information and best practices on macroeconomic developments and policies, as well as on structural reforms, including economic development strategies, as areas for regular economic dialogue.



With a view to promoting a green and sustainable economy, on 12 November 2025 the Prime Minister's Decision No.1028-L<sup>1</sup> "On Approving the Framework Action Plan for the Development of Green, Sustainable and Circular Economy (until 2030)" was adopted. The Action Plan aims to support the transition towards a low-carbon development pathway through the promotion of a green economy.

At the same time, as part of efforts to promote green and sustainable economic development, on 26 June 2025 the Government Decision No. 852-L "On Approving the Classification System (Taxonomy) of Green, Transitional and Enabling Projects and Measures in the Republic of Armenia" was adopted. One of the key instruments provided for under the taxonomy is the promotion of investment in green infrastructure.

### Taxation

Since 2023, Armenia has been working towards the implementation of the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters developed by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD Global Forum). As a result, in September 2025, Armenia carried out, for the first time, the automatic exchange of financial account information on non-residents with more than 40 partner jurisdictions through the OECD Global Forum's Common Transmission System.

Legislative amendments were adopted to facilitate the implementation of the Standard. In addition, the electronic reporting platform for financial institutions and the OECD Common Transmission System became fully operational, enabling the receipt and exchange of financial account information with partner jurisdictions in 2025. The process of ratifying the amendments to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (AEOI MCAA) was also initiated.

At the same time, with the support of the Asian Development Bank and the OECD Global Forum, workshops were organised to discuss challenges encountered during the implementation of the Standard and to identify possible solutions. Expert recommendations aimed at further improving the legislative framework were also presented.

### Statistics

In June 2025, Eurostat, with the participation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), conducted the second peer review of the Armenian National Statistical System (NSS). The review aimed to assess compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) and to identify areas for the further development of the NSS. The review covered the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (Armstat) and other national authorities (ONAs) responsible for the production of official statistics, including the Ministries of Finance, Environment, Health and Internal Affairs. The findings of the review confirmed Armstat's professional independence, strong institutional reputation, effective quality management system, use of innovative tools<sup>2</sup>, and progress in the development of an electronic platform for data collection and processing. The review also highlighted Armstat's active cooperation with the European Union, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other international partners.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/216418>

<sup>2</sup> CoP-compliant self-assessment, feedback mechanisms and administrative data quality assessment

The assessment found that the involvement of other national authorities has contributed to the development of an integrated NSS. However, challenges remain in relation to the need for a more coordinated and integrated statistical system, the lack of motivation of other producers of statistics, and the further expansion of the use of administrative data, which are being addressed on an ongoing basis<sup>3</sup>.

In 2025, the main results of the 2022 Population Census<sup>4</sup> were published, and demographic indicators for the period 2012–2022 were revised, ensuring their completeness and comparability<sup>5</sup>.

Work has commenced on the development of a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) toolkit, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The toolkit will provide internationally comparable and disaggregated data on child- and family-related areas, including data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, and will support monitoring of commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding between Armstat and UNICEF was signed in December 2025.

The fieldwork and initial data processing of the Labour Force Survey (LFS-ARM) were also digitalised through the use of CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing). In addition, the scope of statistical indicators produced by Armstat was expanded<sup>6</sup>, thereby improving data accessibility.

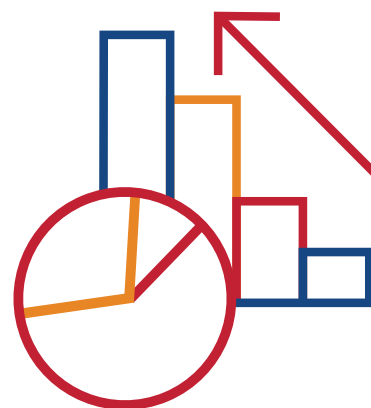
For the first time, employment in the tourism sector has been assessed using the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST), with a view to measuring sustainable tourism employment and compiling SDG indicator 8.9.2, thereby addressing a previously identified data gap in the sector.

In the field of social statistics, the comprehensive consolidated annual statistical reporting form and procedure on the activities of social protection institutions have been introduced jointly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA).

During the reporting period, work was carried out to verify the completeness and quality of the data from the Agricultural Census conducted in 2024, as well as to compile output tables. The results are scheduled for publication in the fourth quarter of 2026.

In 2025, the Structural Business Statistics Bulletin<sup>7</sup> was published for the first time, presenting a comprehensive set of indicators in accordance with the EU Regulation methodology, while also taking into account national specificities of statistical accounting.

In the framework of international cooperation, and within a programme funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a workshop<sup>8</sup> was held in 2025 by Polish experts. The workshop presented EU standards and Polish experience in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) statistics, and discussed innovative data collection methods, opportunities for the further development of ICT statistics, and formats for the dissemination of results.



3 The assessment report is available on the websites of Armstat (<https://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99566803.pdf>) and Eurostat (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/12944781/18537264/armenia-peer-review-report-2025.pdf/dbce0ec2-c926-5df7-0a0e-3f4fe4c853a4?t=1773045979837>).

4 ArmStatBank (<https://statbank.armstat.am/pxweb/en/ArmStatBank/?rxid=9ba7b0d1-2ff8-40fa-a309-fae01ea885bb>), Website illustration, "The Results of 2022 Population Census of RA" (<https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=944>), and Infographics (<https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=905&q=Census&month=0&year=2025>)

5 <https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=2786>

6 <https://armstat.am/am/?nid=82&id=2787>

7 <https://www.armstat.am/am/?nid=82&id=2785>, <https://www.armstat.am/am/?nid=82&id=2765>

8 "Digital Transformation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Eastern Partnership Countries" project (DT4SME), <https://www.edrc.am/digital-transformation-of-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-in-eastern-partnership-countries-dt4sme-giz-institut-fur-mittelstandsforschung-der-universitat-mannheim-march-2024-present/>



In the context of the development of macroeconomic statistics, the compilation of national accounts and institutional sector accounts continued during the reporting period, on the basis of which gross value added data and a complete set of national accounts were published<sup>9</sup>. At the same time, financial accounts and balance sheets of liabilities were compiled and published<sup>10</sup> in accordance with the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA 2008), using the “from-whom-to-whom” approach. In particular, statistics on the non-financial corporations sector were further improved.

In the field of price statistics, work continued on the introduction of seasonal adjustment to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As a result, seasonally adjusted monthly CPI series have been published since July 2025 for the first time, accompanied by metadata and comparative analyses.

In 2025, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), work continued on the development of environmental statistics and their alignment with European standards<sup>11</sup>.

The EU4Green Recovery East project was launched to develop waste, water and air accounts and to improve the management and exchange of environmental data<sup>12</sup>. At the end of the year, capacity-building activities were launched to develop the Classification of Environmental Purposes (CEP), with a view to improving the quality, consistency and comparability of reporting.

Armstat continued to develop horizontal activities through the implementation of an EU-compliant metadata system<sup>13</sup> (SIMS, ESMS and ESQRS), the SDMX standard, as well as the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)<sup>14</sup> and the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO)<sup>15</sup>, thereby ensuring process standardisation and strengthening quality management. At the same time, work was launched on the implementation of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM).

Since 2019, Armenia has been using the SDG Open Data Platform<sup>16</sup> as a key tool for the dissemination and accountability of national statistics, within which the availability of indicators has significantly increased (up to 76%) and the SDG Indicators Trend Assessment Dashboard<sup>17</sup> has been launched, thereby supporting evidence-based policy development and the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

In partnership with UN Women, an analysis of data from the National (Armenian) Time Use Survey (-ATUS) was carried out, and the scope of gender statistics publications was expanded<sup>18</sup>.

As part of a GIZ/BMZ-supported project<sup>19</sup> on gender statistics, work has begun on mapping gender statistics data and developing a dashboard, ensuring a data structure in line with international standards. At the same time, awareness-raising events were organised in cooperation with UN Women, the EU and GIZ, promoting the dissemination and use of the data.

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9 <https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=2773>

10 The data were published in the statistical handbook “Financial Statistics of Armenia, 2025” ([https://armstat.am/file/article/finansner\\_2025\\_6.pdf](https://armstat.am/file/article/finansner_2025_6.pdf)) and in the “Other statistical databases” of Armstat (<https://armstat.am/en/?nid=%2014>).

11 <https://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99535193.pdf>

12 <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=2684>

13 <https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=836>

14 <https://armstat.am/am/?nid=373>

15 <https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=909>

16 <https://sdg.armstat.am/>

17 <https://sdg.armstat.am/dashboard/>

18 <https://armstat.am/am/?nid=82&id=2780>

19 “Feminism in Action for Structural Transformation” (FAST) is a global programme aimed at protecting women’s rights, promoting gender equality and eliminating systemic barriers.

## EU support and cooperation

In 2025, Armstat actively participated in EU programmes (“EU4Green Recovery”, “EU4GenderEquality: Reform Helpdesk” and EU4Digital) and Eurostat events, contributing to capacity-building and alignment with European standards.

To summarise, it should be noted that official statistics are the fundamental evidence-based pillar of public policy development, decision-making and public accountability. Armstat operates as an independent institution, guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the 16 principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)<sup>20</sup>, ensuring high-quality, comparable and timely statistics. Armstat’s quality management system is fully based on the CoP principles, guaranteeing high reliability and applicability of statistical products.

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20 <https://armstat.am/file/doc/99558543.pdf>



# TRANSPORT

*Enhancing Safety and Modernising Transport*



## Progress in implementation

### Road Transport

In order to develop sustainable transport systems, Armenia and the European Union have undertaken, under the CEPA, to expand and strengthen their cooperation in the transport sector. In this context, the measures envisaged under the CEPA Roadmap during the reporting period were aimed at enhancing road safety, developing the international road transport sector and approximating national legislation to EU requirements. As a result, the organisation of road transport has been improved and, following a review of the existing legal framework, provisions aimed at further strengthening safety have been incorporated into the relevant regulations.



In 2025, legislative amendments in the field of road transport were adopted with a view to approximating national legislation to EU requirements. As a result, a legal framework regulating the activities of operators engaged in international transport was established, and systems for the professional training and qualification of transport managers and drivers were introduced. The necessary institutional and technical conditions, including examination arrangements, were put in place to enable organisations engaged in international road transport to obtain internationally recognised qualification certificates and carry out transport operations to European countries without undue obstacles. As a result, road safety, service quality and the economic efficiency of road transport operations have improved, while opportunities for Armenian carriers to access international and European markets have expanded, thereby strengthening their competitiveness. The system for the use of digital tachographs to monitor drivers' driving and rest periods has been fully implemented.

In 2025, the development of the legal framework governing the transport of dangerous goods and roadside inspections of vehicles engaged in passenger and freight transport was not fully completed. This was due to the need to establish effective control mechanisms, review the competences of the relevant authorities, and ensure the availability of the necessary technical equipment.

During the reporting period, workshops organised with EU support contributed to enhancing the effectiveness of CEPA implementation and to clarifying the criteria for legislative approximation.

### The Road Sector

In the road sector, efforts continued to approximate national legislation to the EU directives on Minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network<sup>1</sup> and on Road infrastructure safety management<sup>2</sup>. As a result, the amendments adopted in 2025 to the Law on Motor Roads revised the sector-specific competences, strengthening the powers of the Road Safety Authority of the Republic of Armenia in the areas of road infrastructure and tunnel safety management. A government decision<sup>3</sup> approved the list of public state roads of the Republic of Armenia and tunnels forming part of the international road network. In addition, procedures for conducting road safety audits and qualification requirements for auditors were developed and are currently under discussion. These include the grounds for the issuance or refusal of certificates, their validity periods, and the applicable training arrangements.

Although the full approximation of EU road safety directives remains ongoing, road construction works carried out under the North–South Road Corridor Investment Programme are already subject to road safety audits, and tunnel designs are being aligned with EU requirements. These efforts contribute to enhancing the safety and efficiency of the road network.

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex:32004L0054>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008L0096&qid=1777953847346>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/210927>

## Air Transport

Within the framework of the implementation of the provisions of the Armenia–EU “Common Aviation Area” Agreement signed in 2021, Armenia continued to align its civil aviation legislation with EU regulations and standards. In total, out of 68 legal acts identified for approximation, 8 were fully aligned by the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure during the reporting period, while 4 were partially aligned due to updates to EU regulations, and 2 draft legal acts are currently under domestic discussion.

Within the framework of the CEPA Roadmap measure related to the implementation of the Common Aviation Area Agreement, the EU Regulation on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation<sup>4</sup> was introduced by Government Decision No. 933-N of 10 July 2025.<sup>5</sup>

During the reporting period, a draft law entitled “On establishing minimum requirements for liability insurance for air carriers and aircraft operators to passengers, flight and maintenance personnel, baggage, cargo, and third parties” was developed. As regards the regulation on airport charges in Armenia, it has been circulated in accordance with the established procedure and is currently being amended on the basis of the comments received. The main challenge in the sector continues to be the absence of enabling provisions for the adoption of legal acts arising from the Common Aviation Area Agreement.

## Railway Transport

In 2025, legislative reforms in the transport sector continued, aimed at implementing the measures set out in the CEPA Roadmap and approximating national legislation to EU requirements. A package of amendments to the Law on Railway Transport was developed, with the purpose of establishing quality standards for international rail transport, the conditions for the carriage of passengers’ hand luggage, baggage and animals, as well as the liability framework in cases of injury or death occurring during international transport operations. The package also provides for the regulation of procedures for the education and retraining of train drivers and their assistants, the granting, suspension, termination and restoration of the right to operate railway rolling stock, as well as the conditions for issuing certificates and the establishment of state control mechanisms.

The implementation of two measures previously envisaged in the CEPA Roadmap was assessed as inappropriate. In particular, the approximation of EU railway system interoperability requirements, as well as Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight<sup>6</sup> and Directive 2008/57/EC on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community<sup>7</sup>, was considered inappropriate. This assessment was based on the fact that the Republic of Armenia does not share a common border with at least two EU Member States and is therefore unable to ensure the required transport corridor conditions, as well as on technical incompatibilities in the railway system, in particular the difference in track gauge, which limits the applicability of the relevant EU standards. In Georgia, the approximation of these directives was likewise considered inappropriate.

4 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32010R0996>

5 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/209344>

6 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2010/913/oj>

7 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/57/oj>





## Maritime Transport

In the maritime transport sector, the draft Merchant Shipping Code was developed during the reporting period with the aim of structuring the sector in Armenia by diversifying international transport, facilitating export and import operations, and ensuring the possibility of vessels sailing under the flag of the Republic of Armenia. The draft received an initial positive position from the Government and underwent an assessment of its compliance with EU legislation by EU experts. Continued EU expert support for the development of the sector remains important for the further advancement of the draft.

## Digitalisation of transport services and enhancement of delivery efficiency

The legislative amendments introduced as of 1 September 2025 simplified and digitalised transport services, allowing travel within the territory of the Republic of Armenia without the physical possession of a vehicle registration certificate and a driving licence, provided that these documents were issued by the competent authorities of the Republic of Armenia. From 1 September 2025, the possibility of participating in state extraordinary theoretical and practical examinations for obtaining a driving licence on a fee-paying basis was also introduced, as well as the option of receiving documents and registration plates issued as a result of the state registration and/or re-registration of vehicles by postal delivery. The reforms implemented have significantly reduced the administrative burden on citizens, accelerated service delivery, reduced waiting times and increased overall efficiency, thereby having a positive impact on both society and the economy.

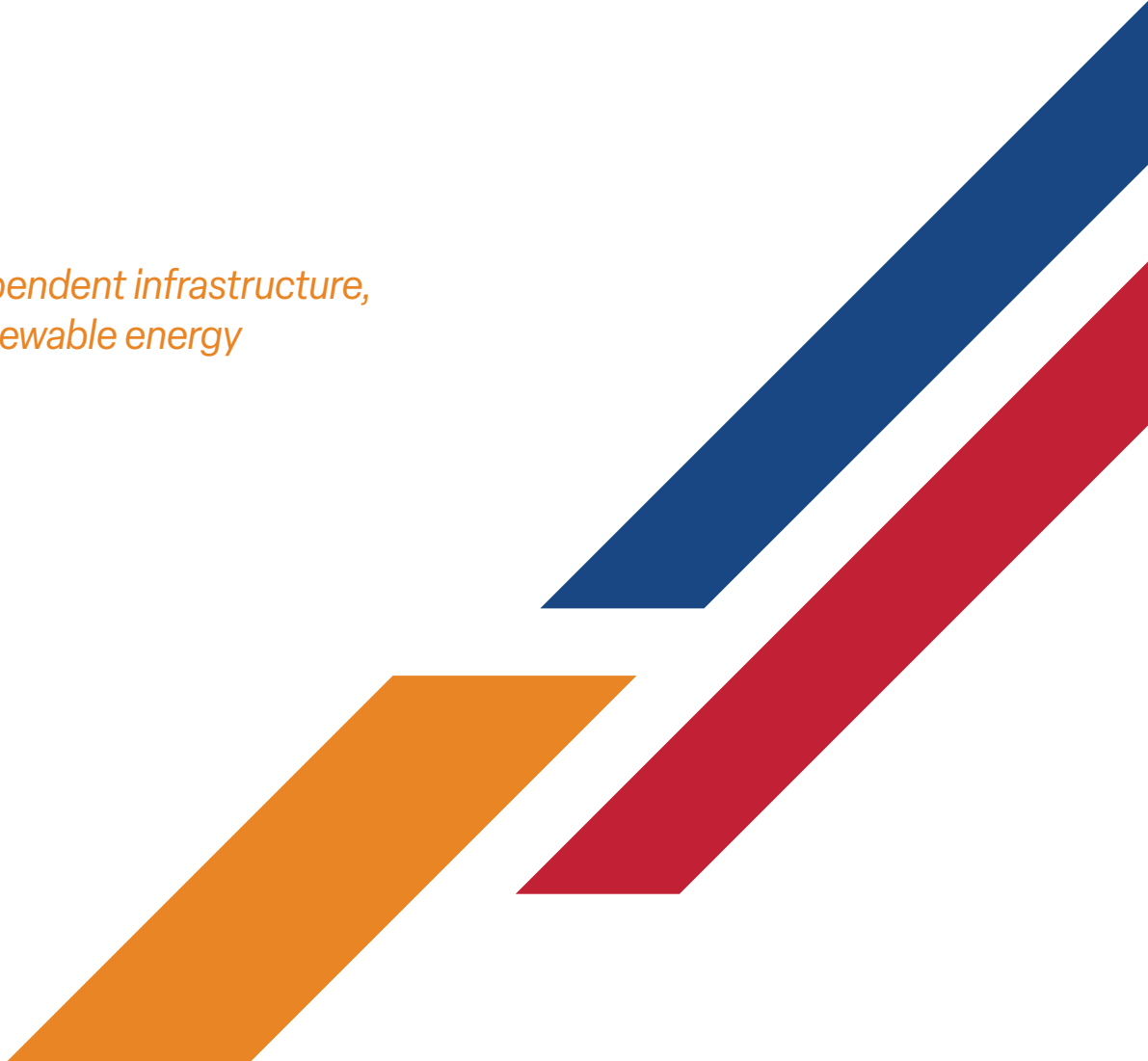






# ENERGY INCLUDING NUCLEAR SAFETY

*Reliable, independent infrastructure,  
affordable renewable energy*



Decorative graphic consisting of three parallel diagonal bars in orange, dark blue, and red, extending from the bottom left towards the top right.

## Progress in implementation

### Legislative and Institutional Reforms in the Areas of Energy Security, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Cooperation with the EU in the energy sector continued in 2025, with a focus on enhancing energy security, deepening regional cooperation and market integration, and promoting the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy savings.

Within the framework of the legislative approximation envisaged under CEPA, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) continued reforms of the energy sector legislative framework. Draft Laws “On Electricity” and “On Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” were developed, with their adoption planned for 2026 and implementation envisaged by 2029. In addition, the programme schedule for the second phase of the National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programme (NESREP 2022–2030) covering the period 2026–2030 was prepared. At the same time, the Fourth National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP 4, 2026–2030) remained under discussion, with its adoption planned by the end of 2026.

During the reporting period, the main priorities of state policy remained the enhancement of energy independence, the maximisation of the use of domestic energy resources, the diversification of energy sources, environmental protection, and the promotion of research and innovation in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency (RE&EE). The new regulatory framework is intended to provide for the adoption of an Energy and Climate Programme, a long-term strategy for the energy performance of buildings, procedures for energy audits, minimum energy efficiency requirements in public procurement, and requirements applicable to installers of RE&EE equipment.

### Cooperation with the EU

EU support in the energy sector continued to be provided through the EU4Energy programme, which has supported the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, including Armenia, since 2016. During the first phase of the programme, Armenia received technical and expert assistance, with the involvement of the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency (IEA), aimed at improving the legislative framework, developing secondary legislation and technical regulations, advancing regional market development, and supporting the liberalisation of the electricity market.

The second phase of the EU4Energy programme was implemented with the participation of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER). Activities focused on interconnections, regional market development, renewable and green energy sources, innovative technologies, energy storage, heat pumps, batteries, grid integration and public-private partnerships. Regulators were also presented with the experience of the Energy Community and Eastern European countries in the areas of consumer awareness and protection, complaint-handling mechanisms, transparency and regulatory practices. The final meeting of the second phase of the EU4Energy programme took place in Brussels in June 2025.

With regard to regional cooperation, the bilateral agenda continued to include the promotion of cross-border electricity trade within the framework of the Caucasus Transmission Network, including through the completion of the Armenia–Georgia 400 kV transmission line and substation construction project. Legislative approximation with the EU energy acquis under CEPA aimed to enhance the security, affordability, reliability and competitiveness of Armenia’s energy system. These reforms contributed to improving the investment climate, expanding business opportunities, promoting the development of renewable energy, strengthening consumer protection and advancing regional energy integration.

In May 2025, the Masrik-1 utility-scale solar power plant, with an installed capacity of 55 MW, became operational. As of 31 December 2025, the total installed capacity of operational solar power plants reached 1100 MW. A total of 50 059 self-generating electricity producers were operating, with a combined installed capacity of 640.14 MW. Compared with 2019, the number of self-generating producers increased approximately sixty-fold, while their installed capacity increased by approximately 52%.



## Liberalisation of the Electricity Market

Trading in the electricity market is fully digitalised and conducted through a single electronic platform operated and managed by the Market Operator, a state-owned joint-stock company. Market liberalisation represents one of the most significant reforms of the Armenian electricity system since 2004, aimed at replacing the monopoly-based model with a competitive market environment and providing market participants, in particular consumers, with choice. The reform has already contributed to attracting new investment, creating opportunities for electricity trading, and enabling the full utilisation of Armenia's energy potential.

The wholesale electricity market was launched in 2022. In the first year of its operation, despite the voluntary nature of participation, 5.3% of generated electricity was sold on the competitive market; this share increased to 20.1% in 2023, 27.8% in 2024 and 33.2% in 2025, representing a significant achievement. The number of market participants also increased substantially. While 70 participants entered the competitive segment in 2022, their number rose to 118 in 2023, 186 in 2024 and 302 in 2025. These include 32 suppliers, 9 wholesale licensees, 45 qualified consumers and 216 competitive generation plants.

## Nuclear Safety

In the field of nuclear safety, work continued on the approximation of the five EU directives identified in the CEPA roadmap. Each directive was analysed and compared with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, resulting in a gap analysis and the development of an action plan to reflect the relevant requirements in national legislation, as well as a list of additional implementing documents to be developed. A new draft Law on Atomic Energy was prepared, submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and discussed with international experts from the United States and the European Union, with its adoption planned for 2028.

Work is also ongoing on the development of basic radiation safety requirements with a view to aligning the regulatory framework of the Republic of Armenia with Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom<sup>1</sup>. A new draft Regulation on Radioactive Waste Management has been developed, and the preparation of a draft amendment to the regulation on the control and supervision of the transport of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel is currently ongoing. The adoption of these documents is planned for 2028.

At the same time, work is ongoing to establish the necessary prerequisites for the implementation of safety, accounting, registration and control systems for nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management.

## Cooperation with the EU

In 2024, the project “Nuclear Safety Regulatory Cooperation with the Armenian Regulator” (INTPA INSC/2024/436-156) was launched, with completion scheduled for the second quarter of 2026. In addition, the project “Strengthening Nuclear Safety, Radiation Protection and Radioactive Waste Management Infrastructure in Armenia” is planned for implementation under the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021–2027.

Work on legislative approximation in the field of nuclear safety<sup>2</sup> is ongoing. It is aimed at strengthening national systems for nuclear and radiation safety, as well as radioactive waste management and control, in line with EU standards.



<sup>1</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/59/oj>

<sup>2</sup> The CEPA Roadmap measures related to the nuclear energy sector are being implemented in accordance with paragraphs 81–85 of Annex 3 to Decision No. 666-L of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia of 2019. Their completion is planned for 2028.



# ENVIRONMENT

*Clean air, clean water and protected nature*





## Progress in implementation

Within the framework of the implementation of the CEPA in the environment sector, progress in 2025 has mainly focused on the adoption of legal measures approximating EU environmental requirements, the modernisation of monitoring systems, and practical improvements in waste and water resources management.

### Air quality

In the field of air quality management, air quality assessment criteria, pollution measurement methods, standardised measurement approaches, as well as unified criteria for the location and number of monitoring stations have been fully revised and aligned with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations and relevant EU directives<sup>1</sup>. By government decision adopted during the reporting period, the classification procedure for zones and agglomerations was approved, under which the territory of the Republic of Armenia was divided into the Yerevan agglomeration and separate zones for the purposes of air quality monitoring and emissions control. This constitutes a prerequisite for the development of air quality protection plans for each zone or agglomeration<sup>2</sup>.

The procedure for conducting state air quality monitoring, including data collection, analysis, evaluation and information provision, has been approved. The new regulations provide for the establishment of an air quality index, improved public access to information, including for sensitive populations and vulnerable groups, as well as provisions to raise awareness of the potential impacts of air pollution on human health, including related symptoms and preventive measures<sup>3</sup>. As part of the continuation of this process, critical air pollution levels and the principles for establishing critical load thresholds have also been approved<sup>4</sup>.

### Water quality and resource management

In the field of water resources management, the Management Plan for the Southern Water Basin for 2025–2030 was approved<sup>5</sup>. At the same time, during the period 2019–2025, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the “EU Water Initiative+”, “EU4Environment: Water Resources and Environmental Data” and “EU4Sevan” projects contributed to the modernisation of the laboratory of the “Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” State Non-Commercial Organisation (SNCO).

In terms of monitoring infrastructure, nine hydrological observation points have been upgraded with automatic water level radar stations, and the hydrometric work system has been supplemented with five new water gauge screws. An automatic hydrometeorological station equipped with a sensor for monitoring evaporation from the water surface has been established in the coastal zone of Lake Sevan. The state system for hydrobiological monitoring of surface waters has been introduced, and lake water quality monitoring has been enhanced, providing integrated hydrobiological and physicochemical observations on a monthly basis.

1 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/220790/latest>

2 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/210664/latest>

3 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/218805/latest>

4 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/220790/latest>

5 <https://arlis.am/hy/acts/216770>





At the same time, the water monitoring system continues to face challenges related to incomplete coverage of the monitoring network, the further development of laboratory capacities, and the integration of hydrobiological and hydromorphological monitoring. In order to achieve fuller compliance with the requirements of Directive 2000/60/EC<sup>6</sup> (Water Framework Directive), it is planned to expand the surface water and groundwater monitoring networks, as well as to strengthen the laboratory capacities of Armhydromet, particularly in the analysis of organic substances and priority pollutants.

To ensure the continuity of the above-mentioned initiatives, the EU4Sevan+ programme, officially titled “Sustainable Water Management for Resilient Community Development in Armenia”<sup>7</sup>, was launched in December 2025 for the period 2025–2028. Jointly financed by the EU and the the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ, the programme aims to improve water resources and wastewater management in Lake Sevan and its surrounding river basin areas. It also seeks to supports Armenian communities in implementing sustainable and environmentally sound water resources and wastewater management practices, while strengthening sectoral policies and local capacities in line with EU water management and climate-related commitments.

## Nature protection

In order to address gaps in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of resources in specially protected areas, a package of amendments to the laws “On Specially Protected Nature Areas”, “On Local Self-Government” and “On Environmental Control”, as well as to the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, has been developed and submitted to the Government for consideration. The proposed reforms aim to introduce a flexible management framework for specially protected areas, establish Category V protected areas (protected landscapes) as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), ensure the involvement of local self-government bodies in the management process, and clarify the system of payments, terms and definitions.

The revised candidate Emerald Network sites are currently in the assessment phase. The objective of the review is to delineate the actual boundaries of habitats and of animal and plant species listed in the Appendices to the Bern Convention<sup>8</sup>, and to establish more accurate site boundaries. The development and management component of the Emerald Network has been implemented within the framework of the EU4Environment Programme, and proposals for amendments have been submitted in relation to the National Action Plan for 2023–2030 supporting the establishment of the Emerald Network in Armenia, including with regard to financial assessment and financing mechanisms. In the next phase, it is planned to further discuss the revised package with stakeholders and to submit it to the Convention Secretariat for consideration on a phased basis.



## Industrial pollution and chemicals management

During the reporting period, requirements for the pre-treatment of industrial wastewater were established within the framework of industrial pollution management, in cases where the quality of such wastewater does not meet the requirements for discharge into the sewerage system<sup>9</sup>. The regulations are based on Directive 91/271/EEC<sup>10</sup> concerning urban wastewater treatment and Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions.

In the area of chemicals management, the development of the relevant legislative framework has been ongoing since July 2025.

<sup>6</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.giz.de/en/projects/sustainable-water-management-resilient-community-development-armenia>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/75409>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=130959>

<sup>10</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1991/271/oj>



## Waste management (including solid waste)

Within the framework of reforms in environmentally sound waste management and in line with the principles of Directive 2008/98/EC<sup>11</sup> (Waste Framework Directive), on 13 November 2025, Law HO-372-N<sup>12</sup> on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Waste and Law HO-394-N<sup>13</sup> on Amendments to the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Armenia were adopted.

In the field of solid waste management, the first sanitary landfill in the Republic of Armenia, constructed in accordance with environmental and urban development standards, was commissioned in 2025 in the Hrazdan community, covering an area of 24.28 ha. In addition, construction works for waste transfer stations were launched in the Martuni and Akunk settlements. In order to introduce an integrated waste collection system in line with EU standards in the two provinces, waste collection schemes were developed, and 28 Renault waste collection trucks, 7,000 waste bins, as well as specialised machinery and equipment necessary for landfill operation, were procured. The official launch of the project took place on 8 July 2025, and as of 30 December, integrated waste collection services were provided in 71 settlements across 10 communities in the two provinces.



Government Decision No. 143-L of 13 February 2025 approved the “Action Plan for 2025–2032 for the Implementation of the Waste Management Strategy”<sup>14</sup>. The Action Plan provides for the implementation of feasibility studies in the northern, central and southern zones, the preparation of design and cost-estimate documentation for landfills, transfer stations and treatment facilities, the organisation of tendering procedures for construction works, and the procurement of the necessary machinery and equipment for the integrated system. Taking into account the urgent need to reform waste management infrastructure in the central zone, it was proposed to include improvements to the Yerevan waste management system in the process as well, considering the Action Plan as covering the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Based on the technical terms of reference developed jointly with the EBRD, international tenders for the selection of consultants to carry out feasibility studies on solid waste management for the central zone, including Yerevan, as well as the rest of the Republic of Armenia, were launched in December 2025. The terms of reference provide for the specification of the number and location of sanitary landfills and transfer stations, the development of efficient logistics and waste collection schemes, the proposal of approaches for the introduction of waste sorting systems, the preparation of feasibility studies for treatment facilities, the development of tariff policy proposals, and proposals for the closure of existing landfills.

The four-year project “Waste Management Policy in Armenia” continued with the support of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MoTAI), the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the American University of Armenia, and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Within the framework of the project, a national model for waste prevention and source separation was developed, which is being implemented in a pilot format in the Sevan community of Gegharkunik Province. Necessary waste bins and a specialised waste collection truck were procured, awareness-raising activities were conducted, and the project was launched in August 2025.

Within the framework of the project, a draft law on Extended Producer Responsibility has been developed and is in the final stage of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). In 2025, following discussions with the MoE, the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia and the private sector, a pilot project for the practical application of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system was launched in Hrazdan. It provides an opportunity to identify institutional and technical gaps, assess the feasibility of the system, and apply the experience gained in the process of developing the legal basis for the nationwide introduction of the EPR system. The “EcoPack Armenia Producers Responsibility” Foundation was established within the framework of the pilot project. Its founders are Coca-Cola HBC Armenia CJSC, Jermuk International Pepsi-Cola Bottler LLC, and Yerevan Brandy Company CJSC. The project aims at the separate collection of packaging waste and its transfer to recycling companies.

11 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/98/oj>

12 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/217363>

13 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/217648>

14 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/203165>

## Cooperation with the EU and Donor Partners

The first sanitary landfill in Armenia was constructed under the “Kotayk and Gegharkunik Solid Waste Management” project, on the basis of an agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the EBRD. The total budget of the project amounts to EUR 14.8 million, of which EUR 5.5 million is financed through an EBRD loan, EUR 5.5 million is provided in grant funding (EUR 2.0 million from the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P) and EUR 3.5 million from the EU Neighbourhood Investment Facility), while the equivalent of EUR 3.8 million is provided through co-financing from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.

Within the framework of the preparation of capital investment programmes for 2027–2032, preliminary agreements have been reached with the EU, EBRD, E5P, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the World Bank. The planned measures envisage the introduction of a sustainable solid waste management system throughout the Republic of Armenia through the construction of three or four sanitary landfills and 8–12 transfer stations, the introduction of separate waste collection systems, the establishment of treatment facilities, the procurement of the necessary machinery and equipment, the closure of existing landfills, and improvements to the tariff policy. In addition, discussions are ongoing with the EBRD, E5P and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) regarding the acquisition of secondary sorting, composting and construction waste management equipment, as well as the development of a business model for the sanitary landfill constructed under the Kotayk and Gegharkunik project. With the support of SIDA, a methodological framework for cost recovery and tariff-setting in the areas of waste collection and solid waste management has also been developed.

## Main Socio-Economic Impact

As of 30 December 2025, waste collection services in line with EU standards were provided to approximately 300,000 residents across 71 settlements in two provinces. In these settlements, municipal waste is collected and transported to a sanitary landfill, thereby reducing the adverse impacts of uncontrolled dumping sites on human health and the environment. The sanitary landfill also carries out the sorting of recyclable waste and its transfer to recycling facilities. Through pilot projects implemented in the communities of Sevan and Hrazdan, source separation of waste is being introduced, while awareness-raising campaigns contribute to public participation and the separate collection of recyclable materials.

## Water Sector Reform Process

The measures envisaged under the CEPA Roadmap within the remit of the Water Committee of the MoTAI mainly concern the approximation of national legislation to the EU directives on urban wastewater treatment and the quality of water intended for human consumption, namely drinking water.

In the field of urban wastewater treatment, it is planned to review the existing legislative framework, designate the competent authority or authorities, assess the current state of urban wastewater collection and treatment, identify sensitive areas and agglomerations, and further develop the technical and investment programmes necessary for the implementation of wastewater treatment requirements. In the field of drinking water quality, plans are in place to establish a mechanism for providing information to consumers. These processes are currently at an early stage.

The implementation of the above measures is expected to contribute to improvements in wastewater treatment services, increase the accessibility of information provided to the public on drinking water supply, and support the introduction of more effective approaches to water sector management.

As part of the implementation of the measures envisaged under the Urban Wastewater Treatment and Drinking Water Quality Directives, options for improving wastewater treatment services and enhancing public access to information on drinking water supply will be identified, taking into account the most effective approaches to sector management.





## Nitrate-Vulnerable Zones and Good Agricultural Practices

In order to implement the CEPA Roadmap measure concerning the establishment of action plans and codes of good agricultural practices for nitrate-vulnerable zones, the Ministry of Economy developed, during the reporting period, a draft law of the Republic of Armenia on Amendments and Additions to the Law on Phytosanitary. The draft law provides for the introduction of an enabling provision that would allow the competent policy-making authority to approve action plans and codes of good agricultural practices for nitrate-vulnerable zones. Such regulation is necessary, as the current legislation does not contain an enabling provision for the adoption of the relevant legal act. This measure is important for preventing the pollution of water resources, maintaining ecosystem stability and preserving soil quality. It is expected to contribute to reducing the discharge of nitrogen compounds into groundwater and surface waters, promoting the application of scientifically based fertilisation standards, and supporting the development of sustainable and environmentally responsible agricultural practices.





# CLIMATE ACTION

*Combating climate change for healthier communities*





## Progress in implementation



Within the framework of the implementation of CEPA, legislative and institutional reforms in the climate sector continued in 2025. In particular:

### Legislative and Strategic Framework

The Law on Climate and a package of related legislation have been adopted, establishing the legal and institutional foundations of climate policy. They introduce market-based and regulatory instruments for climate finance, as well as mechanisms for international cooperation and information disclosure.

The document entitled “Nationally Determined Contributions of the Republic of Armenia under the Paris Agreement for 2026–2035 and its Implementation Plan”, which sets out clear economy-wide mitigation and adaptation objectives, establishes greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (compared to 1990 levels) of 44% unconditionally and 52% conditionally.

### Measurement, Reporting and Verification Systems

Prerequisites have been established for the launch of an online Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) platform, with the aim of creating a unified and transparent database on greenhouse gas emissions, climate policies, and climate finance. Guidelines and methodologies for data collection, monitoring, and accountability in relation to climate finance, greenhouse gas mitigation policies and measures have been approved. Adaptation indicators in the agriculture and water resources sectors have also been developed.

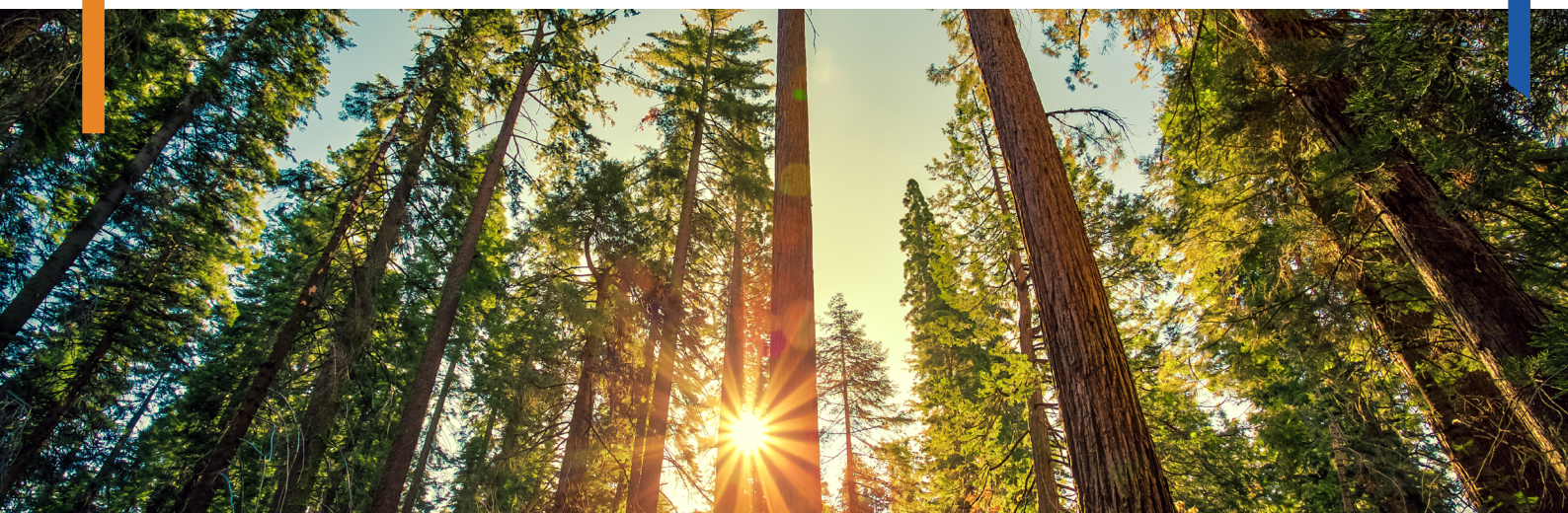
### Climate Finance and International Accountability

As part of a pilot project, climate expenditure mapping of the 2025 State Budget was carried out with the aim of identifying and mapping budgetary measures and expenditures included in the sectoral development programmes of various ministries that are intended to contribute to, or are aligned with, the objectives of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. As a result, the volume of climate change-related State Budget expenditures was estimated at 3.4% of total State Budget expenditure in 2025.

The first Biennial Transparency Report of Armenia and the inventory report of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory of the Republic of Armenia for the period 1990–2022 were prepared and submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### Youth Engagement

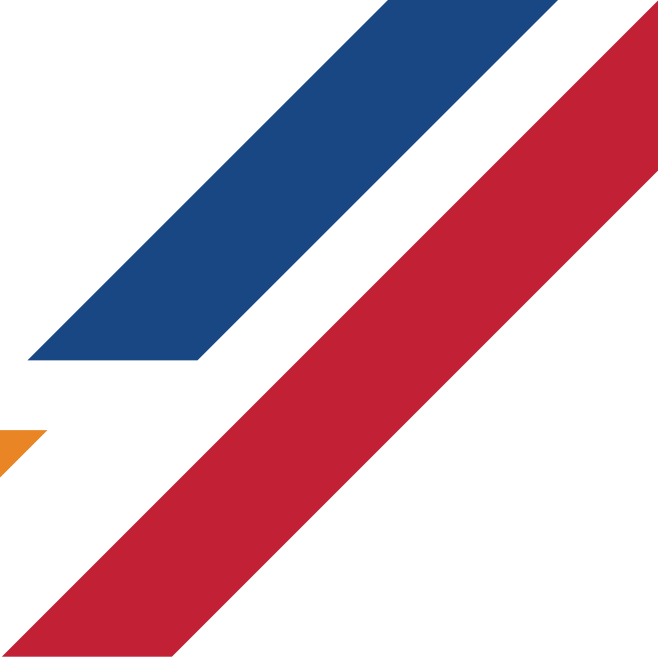
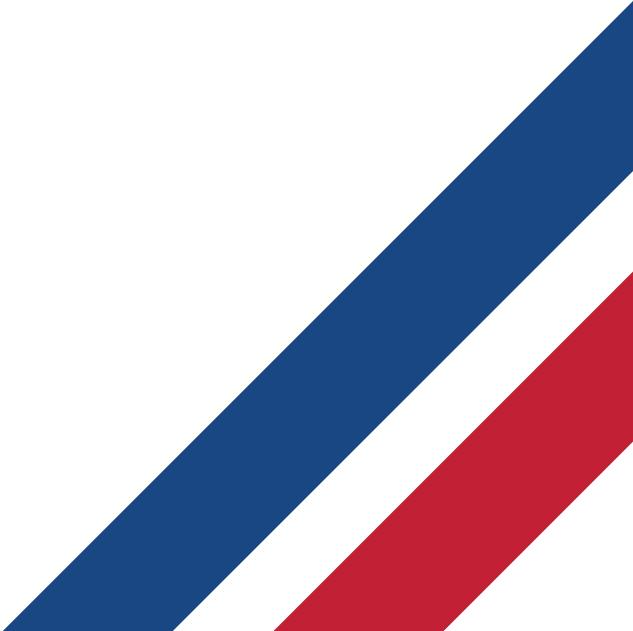
With the support of the Ministry of Environment and UNICEF Armenia, a 19-member Youth Council on Climate Change was established with the aim of strengthening the participation of adolescents and young people in climate action planning, decision-making, and the development of sustainable solutions.





# **INDUSTRIAL AND ENTERPRISE POLICY**

*Better business environment, more jobs*





## Progress in implementation

In accordance with CEPA, the Parties should develop and strengthen their cooperation on industrial and enterprise policy, thereby improving the business environment for all economic operators, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In 2025, work continued on five priority areas of industrial development: food industry, jewellery and diamond industry, heavy industry (including metallurgy and chemicals), equipment manufacturing, including devices, machinery and solar technologies, and the pharmaceutical industry. The priority was given to the enhancement of production capacities, the expansion of export markets, the improvement of quality and conformity requirements, and the enhancement of the competitiveness of the private sector.

In the pharmaceutical sector, the importance of aligning domestic production with EU Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements was emphasised, as this constitutes a key precondition for access to the EU market and for trade diversification. The GMP framework governs the entire production chain, ensuring consistent product quality, safety and efficacy, while reducing the risk of cross-contamination, mislabelling and other related risks.



During the reporting year, discussions were held on the possible participation of Armenian entities in the EU Critical Medicines Alliance (CMA), with the involvement of the EU High-Level Adviser, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Health, the “Centre of Drug and Medical Technology Expertise” SNCO, the Association of Manufacturers of Pharmaceuticals NGO, and local pharmaceutical companies. It is planned to conclude a cooperation agreement between the CMA and the Association of Manufacturers of Pharmaceuticals NGO in 2026.

## Main Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact

The participation of Armenian organisations in the CMA and the alignment of production processes with EU Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements are expected to facilitate the export of Armenian pharmaceutical products to EU Member States, thereby increasing export volumes and partially contributing to meeting demand for critical medicines in the EU through the production capacity of Armenian manufacturers. This is also expected to support the expansion of production-related investment, quality infrastructure and access to safe pharmaceutical products.

## Free Economic Zones (FEZ) in operation in Armenia

In the context of investment and industrial policy, Armenia’s Free Economic Zones continued to operate, namely: Meghri FEZ, focused on manufacturing and logistics; ECOS FEZ, focused on manufacturing and technical applications, including high and information technologies; and MYLER FEZ, providing services, primarily in the tourism and recreation sectors, including accommodation, food services, events, sports and leisure activities.

## Textile Industry

The implementation of the Armenian Textile Industry Development Plan and the resulting Action Plan for 2023–2026 continued in the textile sector. By Government decision<sup>1</sup>, the “Textile Sector Operator” Fund was established, which, in cooperation with

<sup>1</sup> <https://arlis.am/hy/acts/219475>



the Ministry of Economy, is responsible for implementing state programmes and measures aimed at the development of the textile industry. Within the framework of the programme, state support measures in the reporting year focused on attracting workers to the manufacturing sector (within which 637 new workers were employed in 2025), supporting the acquisition of management system and product conformity certification, as well as ensuring the diversification of supply chains in the textile sector.

### EU Involvement and Support

A TAIEX study visit on the structures and policies of creative hubs was organised in Helsinki during the reporting year, under which EU experience and models in the management and development of creative hubs were examined with a view to supporting the development of policies for the creative industries and relevant infrastructure in Armenia.

### Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development Policy

The development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has been identified as a key priority for sustainable economic growth, the promotion of innovation and balanced regional development. The objective of this policy is to increase the contribution of SMEs to GDP, encourage private initiative and create a more competitive, flexible and innovation-driven business environment. With a view to establishing highly productive, internationally competitive and innovative SMEs, and with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the participation of the International Trade Centre (ITC), the draft Strategic Program for the Competitiveness of Armenia's SME Sector for 2026-2030 was developed during the reporting year.

### EU Involvement and Support

The EU-funded joint project “EU4Business: Empowering Trade and Competitiveness in Eastern Partnership Countries” was launched in June 2025 in partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The project will support reforms aimed at enhancing economic competitiveness and improving the business environment in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries over the period 2025–2029. In the initial phase, actions are planned to be developed in line with the specific needs of each participating country, key national partners and stakeholders are to be identified, and their involvement ensured. The first Competitiveness Outlook assessment for Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus for 2025–2026 was launched within the framework of the project.

### Export Promotion

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved the Strategic Programme for Export Promotion of the Republic of Armenia for 2025–2030, together with its implementation action plan. The document was developed with the support of the USAID-funded “Economic Foundations for a Resilient Armenia” (EFRA) programme, with the participation of experts from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The Strategic Programme sets out the vision and practical measures for the development of Armenia's exports, based on current challenges, government priorities and the country's international interests. It is aligned with the export development objective set out in the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050 and the “Crossroads of Peace” concept, and indirectly contributes to human capital development and to the reduction of unemployment and poverty.





# **COMPANY LAW, ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

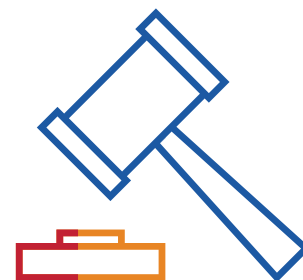
*Transparent business, protected investments*



## Progress in implementation

### Advancing Company Law

Within the framework of CEPA, Armenia and the European Union recognise the importance of a set of standards and practices governing corporate activity and corporate governance, as well as accounting and auditing, in a functioning market economy.



In 2025, work continued on the systematic modernisation of the legal framework governing the activities of commercial organisations. The need for reform is driven by the ongoing development of corporate legal relations, the need to eliminate inconsistencies in the regulation of different legal forms, as well as the development of capital markets and the creation of a more predictable and attractive environment for investors.

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Justice developed a concept for a draft Law on Commercial Organisations aimed at modernising and consolidating the legal framework governing commercial organisations through the adoption of a new law. The main directions set out in the concept include the elimination of inconsistencies in the legal framework regulating different organizational and legal forms, the establishment of comprehensive legislation governing the legal relations of commercial organisations, and the introduction of modern corporate governance solutions. Ultimately, the reforms are aimed at creating a more predictable and attractive business environment for investors.

### Advancing Corporate Governance in Armenia

In 2025, the Ministry of Economy continued its efforts towards promoting the new Corporate Governance Code and ensuring its practical implementation. A guideline dedicated to the 'Comply or Explain' principle, the Corporate Governance Progress Matrix/Guideline as well as three corporate-governance statements. The latter enables organisations to select and complete the appropriate format according to the maturity level of their corporate governance systems.

The implementation of the Code in listed companies was also supported by the Armenian Capital Market Support Programme, implemented by the EBRD with EU funding and the support of the Ministry of Economy.

### Accounting and Auditing



In the field of accounting and auditing, the development of a public oversight system aligned with the EU accounting and auditing directives continued. Work is ongoing to improve the external quality assurance system for audit services and to introduce a sustainability reporting framework. The current legislation maintains the requirement to apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), which have been in force in Armenia since 2011. The 2025 legislative amendments<sup>1</sup> increased the level of administrative liability for failure to publish financial statements in the manner or within the deadlines prescribed by law, bringing it closer to the average cost of an audit.

<sup>1</sup> Law HO-29-N of February 12, 2025 "On Amendments and Additions to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offences" (<https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/203924>)



# **BANKING, INSURANCE AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES**

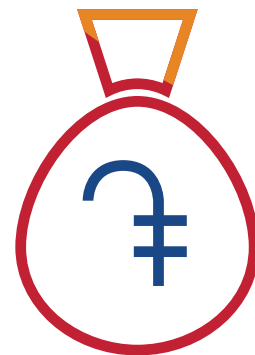
*Secure banking, reliable financial services*





## Progress in implementation

In 2025, significant legislative and institutional progress was achieved in the regulation of the crypto-asset market. The National Assembly adopted the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Crypto-Assets<sup>1</sup> (HO-159-N), which entered into force on 4 July 2025. The law establishes a comprehensive legal framework governing crypto-assets and related market activities. The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) serves as the main regulatory and supervisory authority for the crypto-asset market and is empowered to adopt secondary legislation and establish prudential standards governing the sector.



The law is largely based on the regulatory principles of the EU Regulation on Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA)<sup>2</sup> and represents an important step towards the approximation of Armenia's legal framework for crypto-asset markets to EU standards. It designates the Board of the CBA as the competent licensing and supervisory authority for the regulation of the activities of crypto-asset service providers.

A licensing regime for core crypto-asset services is being introduced, covering the operation of exchange platforms, the custody and administration of crypto-assets on behalf of clients, the issuance of asset-referenced tokens, as well as related advisory services.

At the same time, the law provides for transitional provisions: service providers operating in Armenia prior to 4 July 2025 are required to obtain a licence by 31 January 2027, failing which they must cease their activities. The law also establishes rules governing the establishment and operation of branches of foreign crypto-asset service providers in Armenia. The regulatory framework includes consumer protection safeguards, including requirements for the segregation of client assets, restrictions on the use of client funds for the benefit of the service provider, and basic business conduct obligations.

These provisions allow only authorised and transparent companies to operate in the market, thereby protecting the rights of crypto-asset purchasers and enhancing trust in the market.

1 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/208599>

2 <https://www.esma.europa.eu/esmas-activities/digital-finance-and-innovation/markets-crypto-assets-regulation-mica>



# INFORMATION SOCIETY

*Secure digital services*

Three diagonal bars in orange, dark blue, and red extending from the bottom left towards the top right.

## Progress in implementation

### Digital Sector Regulatory Reforms and Approximation to EU Standards

The measures assigned to the Ministry of High-Tech Industry (MHTI) under CEPA in 2025 continued to focus on improving the regulatory framework for the digital sector and the gradual alignment with European standards. In the reporting year, the measures set out in the CEPA Roadmap mainly concerned the regulation of e-commerce, as well as the establishment of a legal framework for electronic identification and trust services.

In the field of e-commerce, and with a view to complying with EU requirements<sup>1</sup>, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry (MHTI), together with the Armenian office of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and the EU, conducted an analysis of the comprehensive legislative framework governing e-commerce in Armenia, as well as a conformity assessment of the approximation to EU directives undertaken under CEPA. As a result, conceptual approaches to the draft law were developed, providing for the establishment of a number of requirements for e-commerce platforms with a view to protecting consumers and businesses.



A draft Law on Electronic Identification and Trust Services is being developed with a view to introducing electronic identification and trust services (eIDAS), on the basis of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014<sup>2</sup>. The draft aims to establish the legal basis for the establishment and maintenance of trusted lists, the use of electronic signatures and advanced seals, the assessment of the security of qualified signature and seal creation devices, as well as ensuring interoperability, taking into account relevant EU sectoral legislation<sup>3</sup>.

In the field of cybersecurity, the Law on Cybersecurity already incorporates the requirements of the EU NIS2 Directive<sup>4</sup>. At the same time, their full and detailed implementation is planned for the second half of 2027, with a view to ensuring the comprehensive transposition of network and information systems security requirements.

1 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/31/oj/eng>

2 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/910/oj>

3 [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2015/1506/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2015/1506/oj), [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2016/650/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2016/650/oj), [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2015/1501/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2015/1501/oj)

4 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555/oj>

## e-Communications

In 2025, the Public Services Regulatory Commission (hereinafter “the Commission”) continued to reform the legal acts governing the electronic communications sector and to implement new regulatory measures aimed at its further development.

Accordingly, the Commission has adopted regulations governing the terms of service contracts offered to subscribers by providers of public electronic communications services and the conditions for their termination, as well as the quality standards of the services provided, the provision of information to the public thereon, and the ensuring of public transparency<sup>5</sup>.

At the same time, quality standards for the provision of internet access services via fixed and mobile networks have been established, including specifications for data transmission rates to be set out in subscription contracts, the definition of timeframes for the connection or activation of services, time limits for responding to subscribers' complaints regarding service quality, as well as provisions governing the calculation of service provision and activation periods. In cases of deterioration in service quality or interruption of services (outages or malfunctions) due to technical reasons beyond the control of subscribers, requirements have also been established concerning the timeframes for restoring proper service quality or resuming interrupted services, as well as the cases and procedures for compensation payable to subscribers in this regard.

With a view to approximating national legislation to EU law in the field of electronic communications, the provisions of the EU Electronic Communications Code<sup>6</sup> and the Regulation on Open Internet Access<sup>7</sup>, as well as the interpretations set out in the guidelines adopted by the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), were taken into account in the development of the above-mentioned regulations.

The adopted regulations are expected to contribute to the enhanced protection of subscribers' interests in the electronic communications sector and to the improvement of the quality of public electronic communications services provided to them.

Overall, progress in the information society sector in 2025 focused on regulating the digital market, developing trust services, introducing cybersecurity requirements, improving the quality of electronic communications services, and strengthening consumer protection.



<sup>5</sup> It has been established that, in the case of fixed-term subscription contracts subject to automatic renewal, service providers are required to notify subscribers of the termination and renewal conditions at least five days prior to the expiry of the contract. At the same time, following the automatic renewal of such contracts, subscribers are granted the possibility to unilaterally terminate them within 30 days without any additional charges (penalties, cancellation fees or other charges).

<sup>6</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-electronic-communications-code>

<sup>7</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/2120/oj>



# TOURISM

*Economic growth, preserving cultural heritage*





## Progress in implementation

In accordance with CEPA, Armenia and the European Union shall cooperate in the field of tourism with a view to strengthening the development of a competitive and sustainable tourism industry as a driver of economic growth, empowerment and employment.

In 2025, a number of secondary regulatory acts deriving from the Law on Tourism were adopted, aimed at regulating the sector, improving service quality, protecting consumer rights and developing tourism infrastructure. In particular, Government Decision No. 76-N<sup>1</sup> of 23 January 2025 was adopted establishing the rules and requirements for the provision of services by tourism operators.

In the area of hotel industry regulation, Government Decisions No. 1380-N<sup>2</sup> and No. 1383-N<sup>3</sup> of 25 September 2025 were also adopted, establishing the criteria and procedure for the selection of the association of persons providing tourism services, which grants qualification to hotel establishments, as well as the technical requirements, descriptions, procedures and criteria for the qualification of hotel establishments, and the form and validity period of the qualification certificate.

In the areas of tourist transport and regional tourism development, Government Decision No. 1765-N<sup>4</sup> of 4 December 2025 was adopted, establishing the technical requirements, procedures, standards, certificate and sign templates, validity period of the certificate, issuance procedure and grounds for termination of qualification for tourist buses. In addition, Government Decisions No. 1820-N<sup>5</sup> of 11 December 2025 and No. 1945-N<sup>6</sup> of 25 December 2025 were adopted on the designation of tourist villages and tourist centres, respectively. Furthermore, Order No. 2524-L of the Minister of Economy of 10 September 2025 approved the template for a package travel contract.

The adoption of the aforementioned legal acts aims to regulate activities in the tourism sector, ensure the provision of high-quality services in line with international standards, protect consumer rights in relation to the provision of safe and high-quality services and accurate, clear information, and ensure the availability of the necessary infrastructure.



1 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/202530>

2 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/212997>

3 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/213020>

4 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/217630>:

5 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/217854>

6 <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/218766>

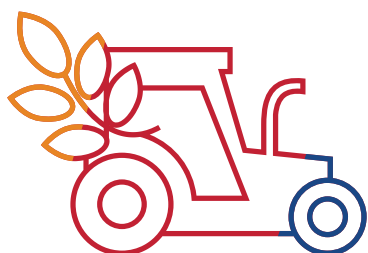


# AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

*Modern farming and prosperous rural communities*



## Progress on implementation



### Enhancement of Agriculture with EU Support (EU-GAIA Project)

With a view to promoting agricultural and rural development, the Republic of Armenia and the European Union have agreed, under CEPA, to implement relevant policies and the gradual approximation of legislation, and to set objectives including the sustainability and transformation of agricultural production, the promotion of organic agriculture, the enhancement of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and the efficiency and transparency of markets, as well as the socio-economic well-being of rural communities.

The EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia<sup>1</sup> (EU-GAIA, €13.2 million) is a key initiative for the modernisation, sustainability, competitiveness and market efficiency of the agricultural sector. The first phase of the project was implemented in 2019–2025 and supported sectoral policy development, capacity building, more than 300 agribusinesses, 20 demonstration platforms, 13 post-harvest infrastructure facilities, and 81 refugees. The second phase (December 2025–November 2028, €4.07 million) will be implemented in the Ararat and Armavir marzes, as well as in Aragatsotn, Shirak, Lori and Kotayk, and aims to enhance the competitiveness of seed production, promote sustainable land management practices and support organic agriculture.

### Rural Development (LEAD Programme)

The “Local Empowerment of Actors for Development” (LEAD) Programme<sup>2</sup> was launched in 2020 with the aim of strengthening administrative capacity at central and local levels and promoting economic activity in rural communities. As a result, by 2025, eight Local Action Groups (LAGs) had been established, bringing together public, private and civil society actors. In Tavush, 25 initiative groups received agricultural machinery, while in Lori, 67 vulnerable beneficiaries received fodder and veterinary support, and 187 farmers received advisory services on the preparation of grant applications. In addition, 12 farmer groups (including seven cooperatives) were formed and external financing was mobilised, while up to 80 jobs were created for persons displaced from Karabakh through the modernisation of four agro-processing plants.

### Irrigated Agriculture Development

The “Irrigated Agriculture Development in Ararat and Armavir Marzes” project<sup>3</sup> (IADAAM, €10 million) is funded by the EU and implemented by the Ministry of Economy, with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD). The project aims to modernise irrigated agriculture through the development of irrigation infrastructure, land consolidation and the strengthening of advisory services. Within the framework of the project, three advisory teams have been established in the Ararat and Armavir regions, more than 150 field visits have been conducted, 92 participants have received training, nine filtration plants have been constructed, and the water component and digitalisation of services were launched in 2025.

The Ministry of Economy is implementing a number of state support programmes that also contribute to the development of irrigated agriculture, including programmes for the development of intensive agriculture, pilot programmes for the establishment of orchards on household plots and the introduction of modern irrigation systems, among others.

<sup>1</sup> <https://eu4business.am/projects/eu-green-agriculture-initiative-in-armenia-eu-gaia/>

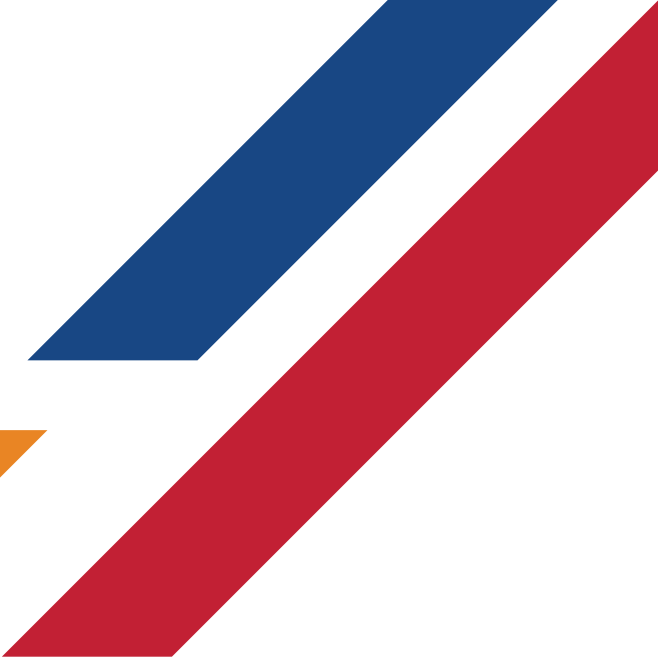
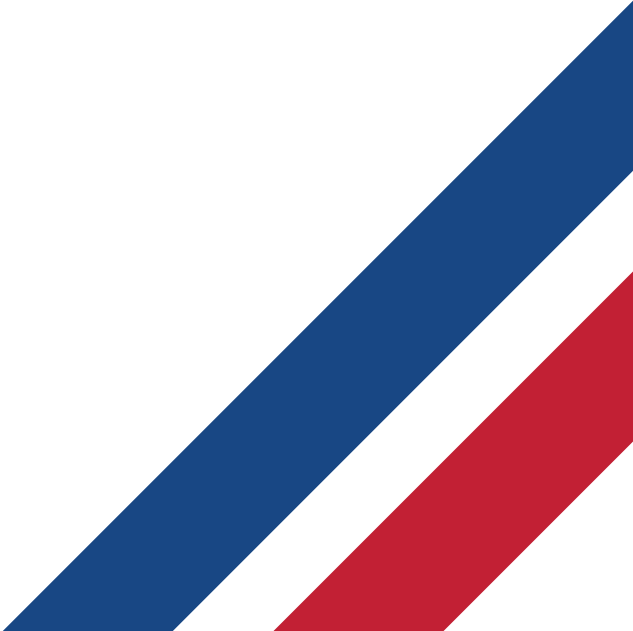
<sup>2</sup> <https://euneighbourseast.eu/hy/news/latest-news/teghakan-derakatarneri-zoreghacum-hanun-zargacman-lorru-ew-tavushi-marzerum-cragiry-sksum-e-ir-gorcuneutyuny/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://armenpress.am/hy/article/1203767>



# **FISHERIES AND MARITIME GOVERNANCE**

*Sustainable fishery resources*



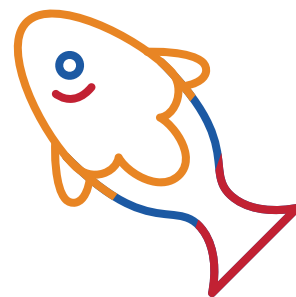
## Progress in implementation

In 2025, reforms aimed at sustainable and efficient management in the aquaculture sector continued, with a focus on the efficient use of water resources, increased production efficiency and the introduction of modern technologies.

The amendments to Government Decision No. 703-N of 22 May 2003 established minimum annual water use and fish production thresholds for fish farms operating in the Ararat Valley<sup>1</sup>. The regulation aims to promote more efficient water resource management and to increase the productivity of fish farms.

In the context of bilateral cooperation, opportunities for further cooperation aimed at supporting the implementation of the 2024–2029 programme for the development of industrial crayfish farming in Armenia are also being considered.

The aforementioned measures are expected to contribute to the introduction of modern and sustainable technologies in the aquaculture and fisheries sector, the more efficient use of water resources, and the strengthening of local production and food security. At the same time, they are expected to increase the productivity and competitiveness of the sector, improve product traceability, stimulate employment and economic activity in regional communities, and support the development of production with export potential.



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<sup>1</sup> At a water flow rate of 1 litre per second, the minimum production thresholds are 700 kg of trout and 800 kg of sturgeon.





# MINING

*Responsible mining, protected communities*



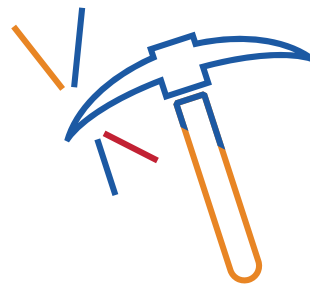
## Progress in implementation

During 2025, work on cooperation, information exchange, improving the business environment, sustainable development, training and skills development, and safety in the mining and raw materials sectors, as provided for in Articles 76–77 of CEPA, continued. The implementation of the measures set out in the Mining Sector Development Strategy<sup>1</sup>, approved in 2023, and the related action plan also continued.

Systematic preparatory work has been undertaken with a view to the digital transformation of the mining sector.

In 2025, active steps were also taken towards accession to the international organisation CRIRSCO, with a view to aligning the national mineral resource assessment system with reporting frameworks accepted by international financial institutions and stock exchanges. To this end, a multi-stakeholder working group has been established to coordinate preparatory work for the accession process.

In terms of transparency and accountability, Armenia continued its active participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). As a result of the second validation, Armenia received 89.5 points, fully meeting the 24 requirements of the Standard and exceeding the requirement on beneficial ownership disclosure. In 2025, the sixth EITI National Report was prepared and published, covering the reporting period 2023–2024. In 2025, Yerevan hosted the 64th meeting of the EITI Board, and, prior to that, an international workshop was held to summarise the five-year results of the Opening Extractives programme.



## Cooperation with the EU and Other International Partners

The “Strategic Agenda for the Armenia–EU Partnership”, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Armenia–EU Partnership Council on 2 December 2025 and based on CEPA, also attached particular importance to cooperation in the field of critical raw materials and minerals. In particular, emphasis was placed on assessing Armenia’s potential in critical raw materials, aligning the existing system of natural resource reporting and management with the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC), as well as cooperation in the exploration of new deposits of critical minerals and the exploitation of existing deposits in the context of the transition to renewable energy.

Armenia also attaches importance to the expansion of international cooperation and partnership engagement in mining sector governance. In 2025, Armenia actively participated in relevant international sectoral platforms, including the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) in Geneva and the Resourcing Tomorrow 2025 conference in London, which constitute important platforms for discussing issues related to responsible mining, critical raw materials, the sustainability of supply chains and investment cooperation.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/196183>



# **RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION**

*Science and innovation for a competitive society*



## Progress in implementation

In 2025, cooperation with the EU in the fields of research, technological development and innovation continued, focusing on systemic reforms of the science sector, increased participation in international research programmes, integration into the European Research Area, and the implementation of measures set out in the CEPA Roadmap.



### Systemic reforms in science and higher education

Building on the recommendations issued under the Policy Support Facility of the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, efforts continued during the reporting period to assess the performance of public research institutes, reform their funding arrangements, and strengthen the linkages between higher education and research. By a decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, new procedures governing basic, targeted programme and competitive grant funding for scientific and scientific-technical activities were approved.

On 11 September 2025, the Law on Higher Education and Science was adopted in full by the National Assembly. The Law entered into force on 20 October 2025.

Implementation of the Academic City programme also continued as a flagship initiative aimed at establishing a modern campus environment conducive to high-quality higher education and research.

### Horizon Europe and the Armenia-EU Research Agenda

In the context of Armenia's association to Horizon Europe, the participation of the Armenian research community continued to expand. During the period 2021–2025, 183 applications were submitted from Armenia, resulting in the signature of 25 grant agreements with a total budget of approximately EUR 8.325 million. The fourth meeting of the Armenia-EU Joint Committee on Research and Innovation was held in October 2025. Discussions focused on ongoing sectoral reforms, Armenia's participation in the programme, the work programme for the subsequent two-year period, and issues relating to the preparation of the EU's 10th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

In 2025, Armenian researchers were also involved in 119 COST actions within Horizon Europe, in the thematic areas of migration, religious diversity, environment, food, geriatric medicine, ecological chemistry and other areas.

### European Scientific Cooperation and Research Networks

Bilateral scientific cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space and the Italian National Research Council continued. By the end of the reporting period, four Armenia–Germany and ten Armenia–Italy joint research projects had been implemented.

### Main Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact

Sectoral reforms have contributed to enhancing the effectiveness of public funding for science through the introduction of transparent and performance-based criteria, competitive grant funding mechanisms and investments aligned with national priorities. Under the principle of reciprocity, five national competitive programmes equivalent to Horizon Europe have enabled the participation of EU research organisations and researchers. As of December 2025, 97 researchers were participating in these programmes. To promote integration into the European Research Area, the Scientific and Innovation Partnership Assistance Center (SIPAC) provided 90 individual consultations to Horizon Europe beneficiaries and disseminated approximately 200 information notices on European and international grant programmes, open calls, projects and participation opportunities.



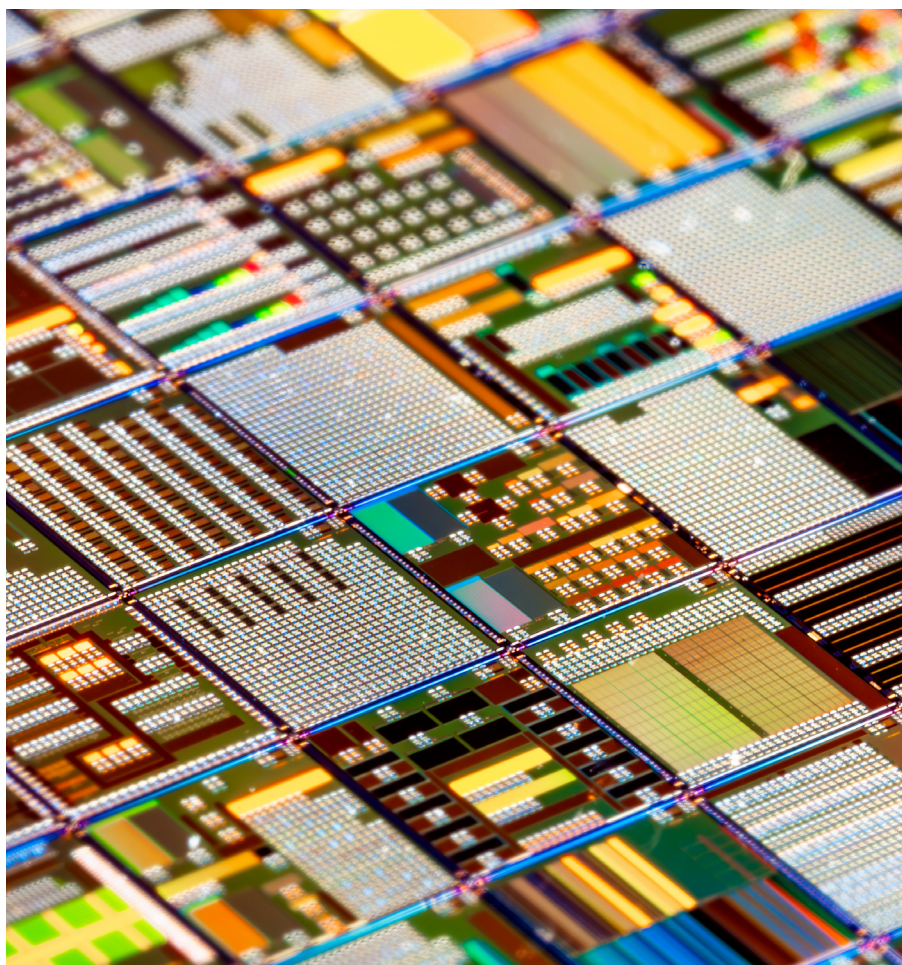
## CEPA-based measures for digital regulation and innovation ecosystem development

In line with the overarching objectives of the CEPA chapter on Research, Technological Development and Innovation, work continued in 2025 on improving the regulatory framework for the digital sector and progressively introducing European standards with a view to establishing an innovative and trustworthy digital environment. This included the legislative approximation of e-commerce rules, the regulation of electronic identification and trust services, the introduction of eIDAS-compliant trust services, and the implementation of security requirements for network and information systems.

During 2024–2025, a review of the legislative framework governing e-commerce and an assessment of its approximation to the relevant EU acquis were carried out in cooperation with the Armenian office of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and EU experts. A second phase of cooperation has been launched with the involvement of a national expert to support the preparation of the relevant legislative acts.

At the same time, a draft Law on Electronic Identification and Trust Services is being developed, with a view to establishing the legal framework for trust services and strengthening digital interoperability. In the area of cybersecurity, the Law on Cybersecurity already incorporates the requirements of the NIS2 Directive.

These measures are important for the development of a secure, predictable and EU-aligned digital environment conducive to research, technological development and innovation.





# CONSUMER PROTECTION

*Safe products, fair prices, stronger consumer rights*





## Progress in implementation

CEPA provides for cooperation between the Parties with a view to ensuring a high level of consumer protection and compatibility between their respective consumer protection systems. In 2025, progress in the field of consumer protection focused primarily on two areas: improving the consumer protection framework and strengthening consumer rights in relation to distance contracts and contracts off-premises contracts.



In the reporting year, the National Assembly adopted the first package of draft laws on amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Protection of Economic Competition and related legislation. The package established the central authority responsible for consumer protection, introduced the concepts of unfair commercial practices and other infringements against consumers, defined liability measures, and laid down rules on price indication, as well as specific procedural aspects concerning proceedings initiated by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission in relation to infringements affecting consumer interests, in line with relevant EU legal acts.

The legislative amendments strengthened the role of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission as the central and main contact point for consumer protection. The Commission was granted enhanced powers to identify, prevent and effectively address infringements of consumer rights. The procedural arrangements for the initiation and conduct of proceedings concerning infringements affecting consumer interests were also established, enabling a faster and more targeted response to such infringements.

With the amendments to the Law on Protection of Consumer Rights, the legal framework was supplemented with new principles and definitions. In particular, the consumer's right to free choice

was enshrined, and definitions were introduced for concepts such as the "average consumer", "commercial communication", "influence on the economic behavior of the consumer", "decision on transaction", and other relevant notions, thereby contributing to greater legal certainty, more consistent enforcement practice and improved predictability of legal interpretation and decision-making.

The amendments to the Law on Trade and Services aimed to enhance market transparency and promote informed consumer choice. A mandatory requirement was introduced for economic entities to indicate the unit price of goods offered for sale and, in the case of pre-packaged products, to display the unit price of the product contained in the package. This amendment enables consumers to make more informed and comparable transactional decisions.

In 2025, a second consumer protection legislative package was also developed with a view to ensuring approximation with four EU directives and covers consumer remedies in the event of lack of conformity of goods, safeguards against misleading and comparative advertising, rules on distance and off-premises contracts and unfair terms in consumer contracts. The package is aligned with Directive 1999/44/EC, Directive (EU) 2019/771, Directive 2006/114/EC, Directive 2011/83/EU and Directive 93/13/EEC.

## Implementation of CEPA Roadmap Measures

Analytical work continued on the approximation of the new EU rules on general product safety, as envisaged in the CEPA Roadmap. A comparative table setting out the provisions of the relevant EU legal act and the national legal framework was prepared. In view of the changes to the EU legal framework and the approximation deadline set for the first quarter of 2026, the analysis conducted will serve as a basis for the preparation of a new legal act and the necessary amendments and supplements to national legislation.

Although a draft Law on General Safety of Non-Food Products had been prepared, the 2023 amendments to the EU legal framework made it necessary to continue analytical work in order to further clarify the provisions to be included in the new legal act and the corresponding amendments to national legislation.

## EU Support

Within the framework of the EU programme “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication”, the technical assistance project “Approximation of Consumer Protection Legislation 2” continued, with the aim of ensuring the continuous approximation of legislation and enforcement practices in the sector to EU legal acts, as well as strengthening institutional capacities. With the support of the expert team, amendments to the second legislative package were developed to ensure alignment with EU directives on unfair terms in consumer contracts, misleading and comparative advertising, consumer rights, and sales contracts. Under the second component of the project, work was also carried out to improve the “Consumer Assistant” tool available on the Commission’s official website.

## Main Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact

One of the most significant achievements of the reporting year was the launch and further development of the “Consumer Assistant” digital platform, which has substantially modernised the handling of individual consumer disputes. The platform enables consumers to submit complaints in a simple and accessible manner via the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission’s official website. Complaints are automatically transmitted to the relevant economic entity, which is required to respond within 14 days by resolving the issue or providing a reasoned explanation.



This tool provides a more accessible and transparent mechanism for the exercise of consumer rights, encourages economic entities to resolve disputes voluntarily and within the established deadlines, reduces administrative burden, and enables the Commission to focus its supervisory capacity on more systemic and high-risk infringements. In addition, the platform contributes to the integration of organisations engaged in consumer protection into a unified system.

Sample electronic forms have also been developed for the most common categories of consumer complaints, including non-conformity of goods, delivery services, breach of warranty obligations, digital services, advertising, and contractual disputes. This improves the quality of complaint submission and enables more systematic data processing. The reforms implemented in a systemic manner contribute to the development of a more transparent, predictable and accountable market, enhancing consumer confidence and improving the conduct of economic entities. The combination of legislative and digital tools creates a more effective, modern and EU-aligned consumer protection system.

## Consumer Protection and Competition in the Financial Services Sector

In the sectors regulated and supervised by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia (CBA), the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission exercises its competences in cooperation with the Central Bank, in accordance with Article 7(1) of the Law on the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia. This approach is particularly important for the effective coordination of consumer protection and competition-related matters in the financial services sector.

During the reporting period, the CBA and the Commission continued work on the preparation of a joint decision setting out the main areas and procedures of cooperation, as well as on assessing the need to revise the existing internal rules. At the same time, the CBA is implementing a technical assistance programme with the World Bank, under which the preparation of a draft joint order is also envisaged. This provides an additional basis for a clearer and more coordinated framework for addressing consumer protection and competition issues in the financial sector.



# **EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

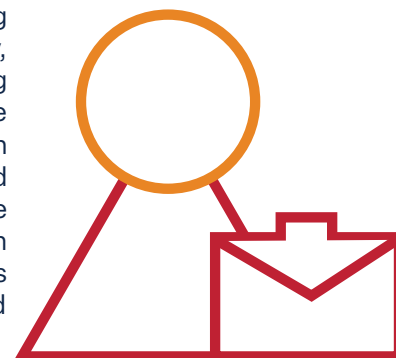
*Equal chances, safe work, stronger society*



## Progress in implementation

### Decent Work and Protection of Labour Rights: Summary of Progress Achieved

In line with CEPA, Armenia and the EU are committed to strengthening cooperation aimed at creating more and better jobs, reducing poverty, enhancing social cohesion, promoting sustainable development and improving quality of life. In order to regulate labour relations and ensure the effective implementation of the right to decent work, amendments were made in December 2024 to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, which entered into force on 1 July 2025. The amendments introduced a digital system for the conclusion of employment contracts, providing for the electronic conclusion of such contracts and the gradual digitalisation of employment relationships in both the public and private sectors. Until 1 July 2027, the system is applied on a voluntary basis; thereafter, the conclusion, amendment and termination of employment contracts will be carried out exclusively through the digital system.



The objective of the digital system is to strengthen the protection of workers' rights, ensure compliance of employment contracts with the applicable legislation, and enhance the supervisory capacity of the Health and Labour Inspection Body of the Republic of Armenia, thereby making state supervision more transparent, accountable and based on the rule of law.

On 4 December 2025, a package of amendments to the Law on Trade Unions and the Law on Military Service and the Status of Military Servicemen was adopted, lifting the absolute prohibition on trade union membership for employees of the armed forces, the police, national security bodies and the Prosecutor's Office, as well as for judges and judges of the Constitutional Court, in line with the position set out in the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia No. SDVo-1683 of 11 April 2023.

### EU Involvement and Support

Within the framework of the technical assistance provided under the "Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation and Communication" project, workshops and bilateral meetings were organised with the participation of international experts, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, and other relevant stakeholders. The work was aimed at ensuring the alignment of the nine directives set out in the CEPA Roadmap for the period up to 2025 with the provisions of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia.

### Main Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact

Efforts continued to promote employment, decent work and safe and healthy working conditions, in line with occupational safety and health standards. Active labour market measures targeted unemployed persons, including women, young people, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, war veterans and demobilised personnel. Measures were implemented to provide vocational education and training, work-based learning opportunities, skills development, support for entrepreneurship, partial wage subsidies, one-off employment support, temporary employment opportunities and childcare support to facilitate labour market participation.

### Protection Against Discrimination and Promotion of Equal Opportunities

In 2025, the implementation of the Action Plan for 2023–2025 stemming from the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection continued, focusing on systemic legislative reforms in the field of protection against discrimination, awareness-raising activities and training for law enforcement officials. The draft Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination was further developed; it defines the concept and forms of discrimination, as well as the legal and institutional protection mechanisms.

Legislative reforms in the area of the rights of national minorities also continued. The draft Law on National Minorities was further developed taking into account the joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII), and was submitted as a parliamentary initiative in 2025. The Ministry of Justice continues to participate in the further development and adoption of the draft as the representative of the Government.



## EU Involvement and Support

The reforms were supported by the EU-funded project “ATHENA: Advancing the Human Rights Agenda and Enhancing National Authorities”, implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as by the “Promoting Equality and Non-Discrimination” project under the third phase of the joint EU–Council of Europe “Partnership for Good Governance” programme.

## Main Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact

The equality and non-discrimination reforms aim to establish a comprehensive system for the prevention of and effective response to discrimination. The legislative initiatives are expected to enhance access to legal remedies for persons subjected to discrimination, establish a body for the prevention of and protection against discrimination, strengthen the institutional capacity of the Human Rights Defender, ensure equal opportunities, and further align Armenian legislation with European standards in the field of human rights protection.

In 2025, three videos on the prohibition of discrimination, as well as information posters on hate speech and its manifestations, were developed and disseminated via social networks and in public spaces, including metro stations. Awareness-raising materials were also produced on manifestations of hate speech against women. Guidelines for the investigation of discrimination, hate speech and hate-motivated crimes were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General’s Office and the Investigative Committee, alongside the organisation of thematic training courses. In August–September 2025, two-day training courses on gender equality were delivered for staff of the penitentiary and probation services.

The adoption of the draft Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination is also of relevance for the Armenia-EU visa liberalisation process and is expected to have a direct impact on citizens, by strengthening the human rights protection system and contributing to the expansion of opportunities for visa-free travel to EU Member States.





# HEALTH

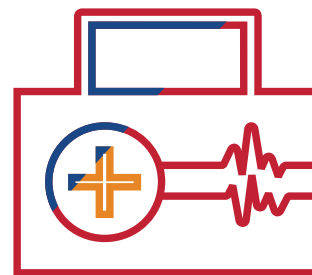
*Better prevention for a healthier society*





## Progress in implementation

In 2025, work on the implementation of CEPA in the health sector continued, focusing on strengthening the public healthcare system, advancing universal health coverage, improving the quality of health services, preventing and controlling infectious diseases, and strengthening the institutional capacity of the health system.



In the reporting year, significant progress was made towards comprehensive reform of the healthcare system. On 17 December 2025, the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Universal Health Insurance was adopted, following which the Universal Health Insurance Fund (UHIF) was established. The Fund's main task is to ensure the functioning of the health insurance system, as well as to represent and protect the interests of insured persons. The process was preceded by EU expert support aimed at reviewing the legal framework and functions of the future Fund, as well as at planning the transition from the State Health Agency to a new institutional model.

Within the framework of the implementation of the commitments set out in the CEPA Roadmap, the Ministry of Health continued activities in the areas of public health security, laboratory capacity, disease surveillance and immunisation. Inter-institutional cooperation further strengthened the One Health approach, contributing to the development of systems for the prevention, control and rapid response to outbreaks of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals and plants.

In 2025, the Public Health Security Action Plan was adopted, with implementation planned until 2029. On 18 September, the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Plan was also adopted. Public health regulations establishing standard definitions of notifiable and reportable diseases were adopted in line with the relevant EU decision.

The development of disease prevention and control capacities continued. Approximately 15 specialists from the National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the Ministry of Health participated in training courses and workshops organised under the EU Initiative on Health Security, the Health Resilience in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) programme and the MediPIET programme. The list of types of medical care and services provided in the Republic of Armenia was also reviewed, alongside training activities aimed at improving the quality of laboratory services.

In the field of immunisation, in 2025 vaccination against chickenpox was introduced for children aged 12 months and for pre-conscription age groups aged 15–16 years. By 31 December 2025, 76.7% of the target population had been vaccinated, exceeding the 2025 target of 50%. At the same time, training courses on “Interpersonal Communication on Immunisation” were delivered to general practitioners, therapists and paediatricians, with 843 and 397 specialists participating in the first and second phases respectively.

In terms of access to healthcare services and support for vulnerable groups, the development of paediatric palliative care continued. The pilot mobile paediatric palliative care programme for children under the age of 18 was expanded in 2025 and has been implemented as an ongoing programme since 1 July, increasing the number of beneficiaries from 40 to 70.

A draft Law on the ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products has been developed in the field of tobacco control. In October 2025, a mission of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Secretariat visited Armenia. During the visit, an inter-institutional workshop discussed strategic priorities for tobacco control, including tax policy, combating illicit trade and preventing interference in public health policies.

To monitor the implementation of the Law on tobacco control, the Ministry has engaged a specialised organisation, which provides regular reports on the results achieved. At the same time, a mobile application has been developed through which citizens can report violations of the Law, thereby contributing to more effective enforcement.

In the area of institutional development, the principles and classification of core professions, as well as specialised and supplementary qualifications in the health sector, have been approved and published. A register of human resources in the health sector has also been established, which may contribute to more effective planning and management of workforce needs.

### **Cooperation with the EU**

In 2025, EU support continued to contribute to the implementation of CEPA commitments through technical assistance, capacity building and expert advice. One of the key activities was a TAIEX expert mission in March 2025 supporting the implementation of Armenia's strategy to improve the quality of health services.

At the same time, in the reporting year, the EU Twinning project fiche aimed at supporting the implementation of universal health insurance reforms in Armenia was presented to EU Member States with a view to obtaining proposals for implementation in 2026.

Overall, EU technical assistance and professional exchanges have contributed to strengthening policy development, quality management, public health security and institutional capacity in the health sector, thereby supporting more coordinated and results-oriented implementation of the reforms envisaged under CEPA.





# EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH

*Quality education for every generation*



## Progress in implementation

### Overall progress and key reforms

In 2025, reforms aimed at implementing CEPA, expanding access to education, improving quality, strengthening professional capacities and institutionalising youth policy continued in the education, training and youth sectors. The work focused in particular on modernising educational infrastructure, introducing new standards, transforming the vocational education and training system, improving the legislative framework for higher education, promoting foreign language learning, developing tools for distance and non-formal education, and establishing a new legal framework for youth policy.



### Pre-school and general education

Within the framework of the Government's 2021–2026 Action Plan, the construction, renovation and major renovation of 500 kindergartens and pre-school institutions, as well as 300 schools, continued. By 2025, works had been completed in approximately 280 pre-school education institutions, which were also equipped with new furnishings and equipment. The pre-school education standard has been introduced in all pre-school institutions across the country. Approximately 5,600 educators have participated in the mandatory training programme for pre-school educators, of whom 1,100 in 2025.

In the general education sector, construction works have been completed in more than 100 schools. Since September 2025, the new general education standard has been introduced in grades 1–11 in all schools across the country, and in grades 1–12 in Tavush region. In parallel with the introduction of the standard, new textbooks have been developed and new educational content has been prepared. In 2025, 7,228 teachers participated in the voluntary certification process, of whom 4,982 reached the 60% threshold and became eligible for salary progression. Since the launch of the programme, 9,602 teachers have successfully completed the certification process, representing approximately one third of all teachers in the system.

As a result of improved access to pre-school services, only 87 out of 1,011 settlements in the country still lack pre-school provision. In 2025, the enrolment of children aged 3–5 in pre-school education system reached 81% representing an increase of approximately 17% compared to 2021.

### Vocational Education and Training

Systemic reforms in vocational education and training (VET) continued during the reporting year. The Law on Vocational Education and Training, developed in cooperation with the GIZ and entering into force in 2024, supports the transition from educational standards towards the National Qualifications Framework, sectoral qualifications frameworks, and their characteristics. The list of five sectoral qualifications frameworks for VET is under discussion, and the number of developed and revised educational standards has reached 476. In 2025, dual education programs were implemented in 20 colleges in 25 specialties. As a result, the share of specialties implemented through dual education reached about 14%, and the number of educational institutions involved reached 21%. Five areas have been approved for the training and certification of pedagogical workers of state educational institutions of vocational education: textile, agrarian, IT, jewelry and cooking. In April 2025, 35 training group courses were organized, of which 20 were in the regions. 862 pedagogical workers were trained and certified. 181 educators participated in the certification, 35 of whom passed the minimum threshold and received a rate change, and 111 participants registered a result above 70%, receiving the opportunity for an additional bonus.

Within the framework of the “MAVETA” project, professional and methodological training courses were organised for approximately 100 administrative and teaching staff from six partner colleges involved in the project, as well as for at least 31 representatives of sectoral associations.

## Higher Education

On 20 October 2025, the Law on Higher Education and Science entered into force. The Law is aligned with the objectives of the State Programme for the Development of Education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030 and relevant international standards, and provides a framework for strengthening the autonomy, academic freedom, accountability and transparency of higher education institutions.

## Foreign Language and Distance Learning

Cooperation with the British Council, the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and EU partners continued in the field of foreign language education. On 1–3 March 2025, the “Teaching for Success” conference was organised, and on 28 September 2025 the four-year “Teachers’ Online Community” project, aimed at the continuous professional development of English language teachers, was concluded. More than 1,500 English language teachers and over 200 students participated in these activities. The Law on Higher Education and Science provides that study programmes, their academic modules, individual courses, topics or research activities may be delivered or carried out in a foreign language in accordance with procedures established by the higher education institution.

In the area of distance learning, implementation of the “E-Learning: Mentor Schools” programme continued. The programme aims to address shortages of teaching staff in rural communities. As of 2025, 43 mentor schools were in operation.

## Non-formal and Informal Education

In 2025, the Procedure for the Accreditation of Modular Additional Education Programmes was approved, regulating the accreditation process for additional education programmes. During the period 2022–2025, a total of 803 additional education programmes were accredited, of which 703 in 2025. Development of the National Education Register was completed, with its deployment planned for 2026.

The “EduOPEN Stepanavan” centre was officially opened, complementing the network of adult learning and education centres operating in Armenia and bringing their total number to six.

Work continued on the development of the Procedure for the Assessment and Recognition of Non-formal and Informal Learning Outcomes, which is intended to regulate the recognition, validation and certification of prior knowledge, skills and competences.



## Youth

In 2025, significant institutional progress was achieved in the youth sector. The Law on Youth Policy was adopted on 5 March 2025. Within the framework of TAIEX, practical expertise was provided to the MoESCS regarding the process of adopting and implementing the law. Under the EU-funded programme “Youth in Action: Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development in Armenia”<sup>1</sup>, implemented in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a “Youth Environment” guide was developed and approved by the ESCS Minister’s Order.

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, up to 200 young people participated in mobility activities in EU Member States, including volunteering projects and training programmes for youth workers.



## Civil Service Training and Application of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The Civil Service Office (hereinafter referred to as “the Office”) launched the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in 2025. As a European quality management instrument designed for public sector organisations, the CAF provides a structured methodology for comprehensive organisational self-assessment based on nine criteria and 28 sub-criteria. Its application supports the identification of strengths, areas for improvement and strategic development priorities.

The Office’s engagement with the CAF commenced in April 2025 with participation in a masterclass held in Warsaw. In June 2025, the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), in its capacity as the European CAF Resource Centre, organised a two-day training course for the Office’s working group in cooperation with SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management), a joint initiative of the OECD and the European Union, and the GIZ Promoting Public Administration Reform in the Eastern Partnership Programme. As a result, a self-assessment exercise was carried out, followed by a two-day consensus-building workshop. Priority areas for improvement were identified and a two-year action plan was developed.

As a result of legislative amendments introduced in 2025, the Civil Service Office was also entrusted with responsibility for organising professional training for civil servants performing comparable functions within the supporting structural units of the respective state bodies. At the same time, civil servants were granted the right to participate in two training programmes per year, instead of the previous entitlement to one programme, with a view to further developing their professional knowledge and competences.

## Cooperation with the EU and Other International Partners

In 2025, progress across the sectors concerned was supported through financial assistance, technical support and expert advice provided by the EU and other development partners. In the fields of education and vocational education and training (VET), key contributions were provided by GIZ, the MAVETA programme, the British Council, the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), the Embassy of France and DVV International. In the youth sector, support was provided through the TAIEX instrument, EU-funded programmes implemented in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps. In the area of civil service reform, OECD/SIGMA assessments, advice provided through the EU Twinning instrument, support from the GIZ Promoting Public Administration Reform in the Eastern Partnership Programme, and expert guidance from the European CAF Resource Centre of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) played an important role.

This support contributed not only to the implementation of individual programmes, but also to the advancement of systemic reforms, as well as legislative and institutional development, quality management and capacity-building processes.





# CULTURE

*Preserving and promoting heritage and  
fostering creative environment*



## Progress in implementation

### Implementation of sectoral policy and the strategic framework

Under CEPA, the Parties agreed to maintain regular political dialogue in areas of mutual interest, including the development of the cultural sectors of the European Union and the Republic of Armenia and the promotion of intercultural dialogue. In the field of culture, implementation of the Action Plan<sup>1</sup> for the Strategy of promotion, preservation and development of culture in the Republic of Armenia for 2023-2027 continued in 2025. The Strategy sets out the main directions of cultural policy, namely the preservation and promotion of culture, the development of the cultural and creative sectors, the expansion of access to culture and contemporary art, the promotion of social inclusion, and the strengthening of democratic values.



### International promotion of Armenian culture and sectoral mobility

During the reporting period, programmes aimed at the international promotion of Armenian culture, the expansion of cultural cooperation, the professional development of talented young people and the exchange of expertise continued. Under the “Meknark” Talent Development Target Programme, 15 young musicians participated in approximately 61 international projects, competitions and festivals. Under the Cinematography Programme, the Armenian delegation and Armenian filmmakers took part in 14 international film festivals, three film markets and one film awards ceremony. Under the Arts Programme, support was provided to 58 freelance artists and 22 creative groups, enabling their participation in 15 competitions, biennials, music, dance and theatre festivals, and other cultural events.

These programmes contributed to enhancing the international mobility of Armenian artists, increasing the visibility of Armenian culture, strengthening intercultural dialogue with the EU, and developing capacities in the cultural sector. .

### Cooperation with the EU and other international partners

In 2025, efforts to expand cultural cooperation with the EU and other international partners continued. A discussion was organised jointly with the EU Delegation to Armenia on the implementation of the provisions of the Strategy of promotion, preservation and development of culture in the Republic of Armenia for 2023-2027<sup>2</sup> and on broadening the scope of cultural cooperation with the EU.

Activities carried out under the Creative Europe Programme also continued, in particular in the areas of European Cooperation Projects, the Circulation of European Literary Works and Culture Moves Europe. During an online meeting held on 25 March 2025, representatives of the EU presented the programme priorities for 2025, planned activities for the 2026–2028 period, as well as progress achieved under the MEDIA strand. The Creative Europe Armenia Desk continued its efforts towards participation in the MEDIA strand by organising meetings with relevant stakeholders, preparing the accession package, establishing a working group, and assessing the alignment of the Armenian media sector with EU standards through an expert study. As a result, an analytical report was prepared setting out the next steps.

During the reporting period, the Creative Europe Armenia Desk provided guidance to 280 individuals and organisations on programme opportunities, application procedures and project development. Staff of the Desk participated in more than 20 online information sessions with EU partners, and capacity-building training was delivered on the preparation of grant applications and project proposals.

Negotiations were held to ensure the continuation of the Swedish ArtNexus Programme in 2025. On 26 June, a meeting was held in Yerevan with the programme’s sub-coordinators, during which the main areas of

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/185185>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/185185>

cooperation were discussed. In the framework of the Yerevan International Conference: Crossroads of Cultural Diversities, held in November, a memorandum of cooperation in the field of contemporary art for the following three years was signed between the Swedish side and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS).



### **Development of the cultural and creative sectors and capacity-building**

Innovative and private initiatives also contributed to the development of the cultural and creative sectors. The Artbox creative incubator of the Creative Armenia Innovative Arts Foundation provided training to 500 representatives of the creative business and entrepreneurship sectors, supported the implementation of 50 acceleration programmes and the development of 100 arts entrepreneurs, and facilitated skills transfer to eight creative centres.

In autumn 2025, the activities of the ASA – Community of Art Advocates initiative group were officially launched. The initiative aims to contribute to the development of the cultural sector and to expand the international engagement of Armenia's cultural community. Opportunities for cooperation with partners of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and the Cultural Development Foundation were also identified.

In autumn 2025, the activities of the Advocacy Society for the Arts (ASA) were officially launched. The initiative aims to contribute to the development of the cultural sector and to expand the international engagement of Armenia's cultural community. Opportunities for cooperation with partners of the MoESCS and the Cultural Development Foundation were also identified.

### **Legal and institutional reforms**

In order to strengthen the legal framework of the cultural sector, 26 secondary legislative acts implementing the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Museums" had been adopted as of 2025. In addition, following the adoption of two legal acts stemming from the Law of the Republic of Armenia on amendments to the Law "On Libraries and Library Work", new conditions have been established for the functioning and development of libraries. These legal acts contribute to the modernisation of museum and library systems, the improvement of the quality of cultural services, and the expansion of access to cultural resources for the public and educational institutions.

### **Overall impact**

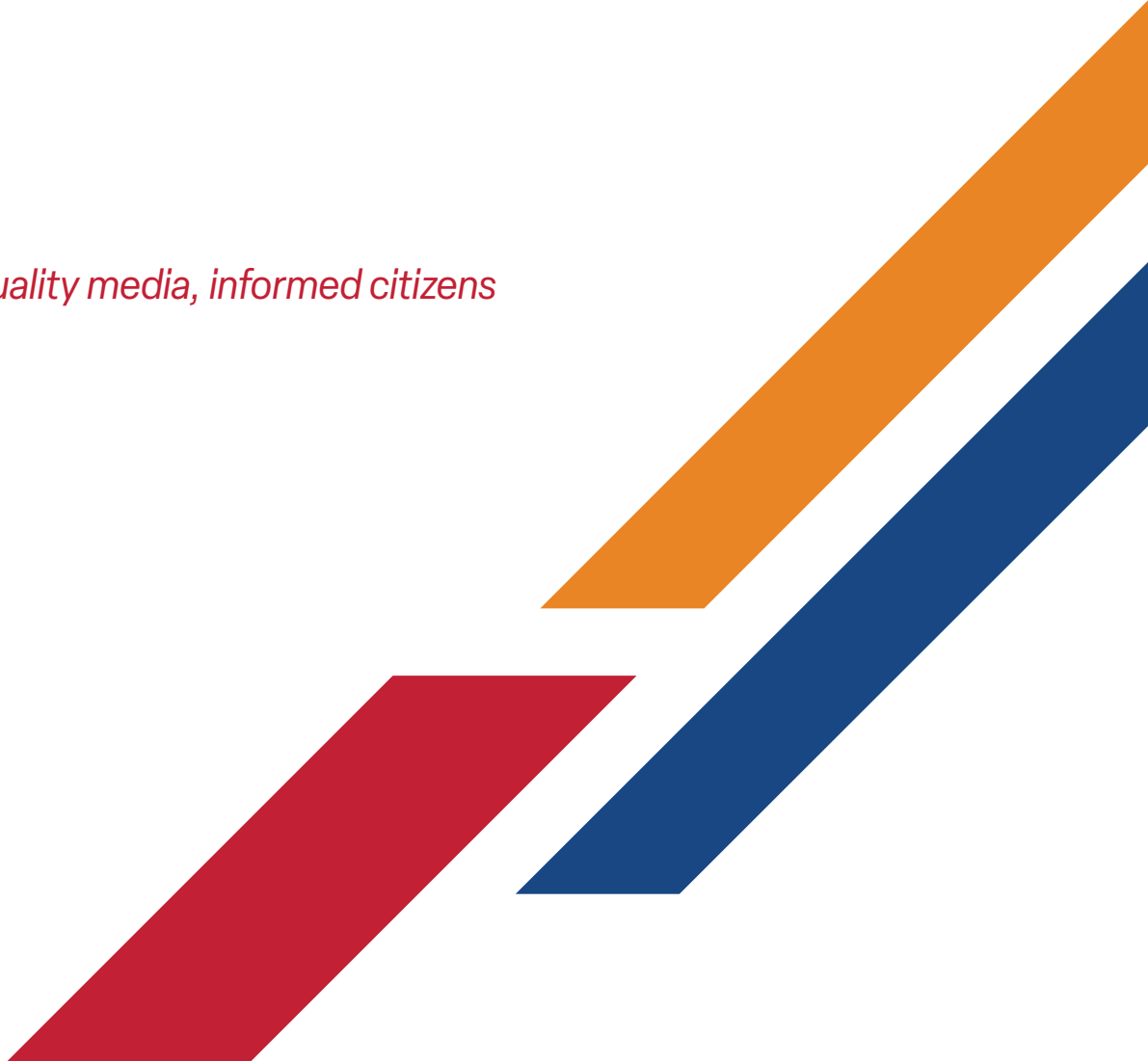
Activities implemented in the cultural sector during the reporting period contributed to strengthening the capacities of the cultural and creative sectors, enhancing the international mobility of artists, raising the visibility of Armenian culture, promoting cultural diversity and fostering intercultural cooperation. Cooperation with the EU and its Member States played an important role in the institutional development of the sector, the promotion of innovation, social cohesion, and the strengthening of culture as a driver of economic and social development.





# AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA FIELDS

*Diverse and quality media, informed citizens*



## Progress in implementation



In 2025, work on legislative approximation, institutional reforms and alignment with EU standards under CEPA continued in the audiovisual and media fields, with a focus on the regulation of audiovisual media services, media self-regulation, and enhancing transparency in the media environment.

### Audiovisual media sector: legislative approximation and interagency cooperation

In order to approximate Armenian audiovisual media legislation with relevant European Union legislation, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry (MoHTI) initiated the translation of the relevant directives<sup>1</sup> in 2024 and transmitted them to the Commission on TV and Radio. At the beginning of 2025, an independent expert carried out a comparative analysis of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and EU legislation, the findings of which were used to prepare an analytical report. On this basis, a working group was established by Order of the Minister of High-Tech Industry of 30 July 2025, with the participation of representatives of the MoHTI, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports (MoESCS), and the Commission on TV and Radio. Within this framework, the draft Law “On Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Audiovisual Media” was developed, which is currently undergoing internal consultations and state legal examination.

### Media self-regulation and institutional reforms

In the justice sector, the process of media legislative reforms initiated in 2022 continued during the reporting period. Progress primarily concerned the introduction of a media self-regulation system and the clarification of key concepts in the Law “On Mass Media”, with a view to aligning them with international standards. The legislative package under revision provides for the establishment of a system comprising a Media Council and recognised self-regulatory bodies, aimed at ensuring the consistent application of media ethical standards, reducing State interference, and strengthening the independence of journalists. At the same time, the definitions of “mass media”, “journalist” and “news-making activity” are being clarified, and safeguards for information quality for journalists and media consumers are being developed. Progress in this area also includes the consideration of the opinion of the Venice Commission and the subsequent revision of the legislative package.



<sup>1</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/13/oj>, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/1808/oj>

## Main achievements and the socio-economic impact

The establishment of a self-regulatory system and a Media Council is an important step towards the consistent application of ethical standards in the media sector, the reduction of State interference, and the strengthening of the independence of journalists. The legislative amendments provide additional safeguards for journalists and media consumers, contributing to the improvement of the quality of information and the development of more structured procedures for assessment and oversight.

Cooperation within the framework of CEPA contributes to the improvement of legislation on the audiovisual industry and media services with a view to aligning it with EU standards and deepening the European integration of the Armenian media sector.

The approximation of the relevant legislation of the Republic of Armenia with EU standards will promote the accessibility of audiovisual content, including for persons with disabilities, as well as the promotion of European and local works. It will contribute to a wider dissemination of Armenian culture and content, the development of the local audiovisual industry, increasing the international visibility of Armenian films, and the expansion of cooperation, financing, training and partnership links with the European market.

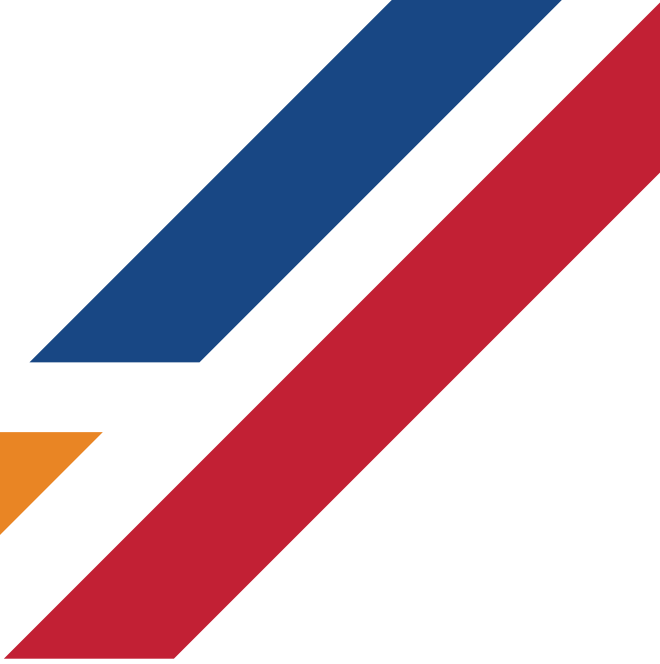
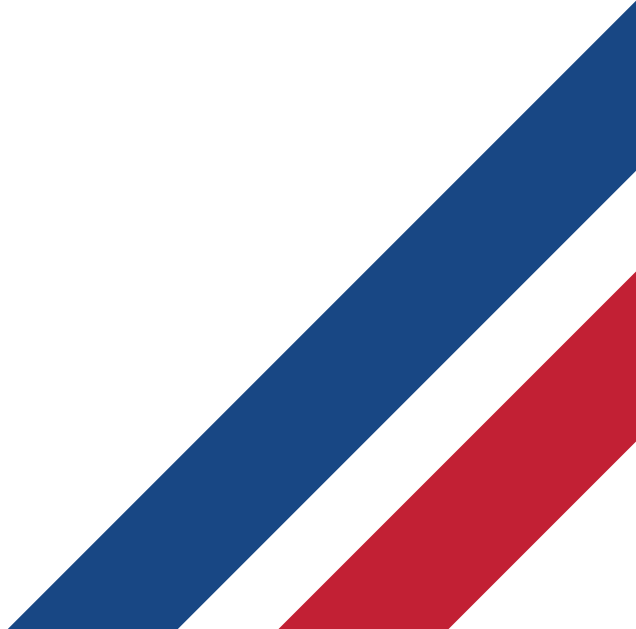






# **SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

*Active lifestyle and winning athletes*



## Progress in implementation



In 2025, progress in the field of sport and physical activity was driven by strategic planning, legislative and anti-doping measures, the development of sports infrastructure, the organisation of major international events, and the promotion of mass sport.

### Strategic and programmatic framework

The implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia for 2024–2030 and its Action Plan continued. The main objectives of the Strategy are the promotion of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle as a national priority, as well as the positioning of Armenia as a country with high sporting achievements. The 2025 Annual Programme was approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and sets out the priority actions of State policy in the sector for the year, derived from the Strategy. The construction of new buildings for three sports schools is in its final stage.

### Legislative and anti-doping measures

The anti-doping provisions enshrined in the current Law<sup>1</sup> “On Physical Culture and Sports” comply with the standards of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In the reporting year, the RA Anti-Doping Agency continued anti-doping programs, publication of educational materials and implementation of doping tests, ensuring Armenia’s fair participation in European and World championships and the Olympic Games. During the year, 454 doping tests were conducted, which exceeded the indicator of 2022 by 3.5 times.

### International competitions and mass sport

In 2025, Armenia hosted the EKF Senior Championships, with the participation of approximately 1,000 athletes and delegates from 49 countries; the FIBA U20 EuroBasket Division B, with approximately 1,000 participants from 21 countries; the final round of the CEV U20 Volleyball European Championship, with 1,500 participants from 16 countries; as well as the IIHF World Championship Division IV, with 200 participants from six countries. During the year, four mass sport events were also organised, with more than 38,700 participants, which exceeded the indicator of 2022 by 2.2 times<sup>2</sup>.

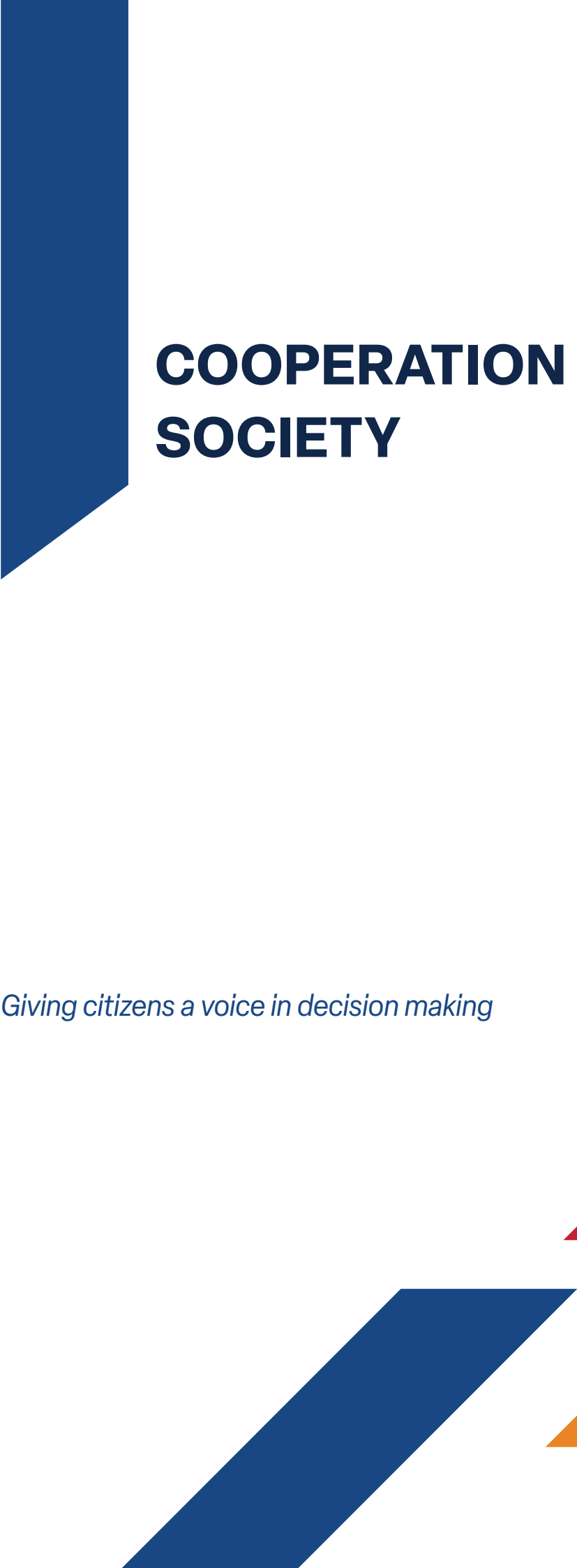


### Main achievements and impact

The measures implemented in the sector have contributed to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, the development of active recreation, the enhancement of athletes’ competitiveness, and the strengthening of Armenia’s international profile. In 2025, athletes representing Armenia won 357 medals across various sports: 114 gold, 113 silver and 130 bronze. Of these, 42 medals were won by women and 37 by athletes with disabilities. Since 2024, gold medals have accounted for the largest share of total medals, representing 32%, and the number of medals won by female athletes has doubled.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/67146>

<sup>2</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1raCAPwb1p3QG2tR6gSoPI\\_Hx4JLDiD-6/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1raCAPwb1p3QG2tR6gSoPI_Hx4JLDiD-6/view?usp=drivesdk)



# COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

*Giving citizens a voice in decision making*



## Progress in implementation

The Government of the Republic of Armenia, in particular Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, participated in meetings and discussions with civil society during the reporting period, placing particular emphasis on transparency and accountability in the implementation of reforms stemming from CEPA, in which the role of civil society is indispensable. Annual open, inclusive and result-oriented discussions, with the participation of relevant State bodies of the Republic of Armenia, have provided an opportunity for the Government to combine public policy-making with the expertise of civil society. Independent assessments, proposals and critical feedback have contributed to the development of more comprehensive and effective policies by the executive.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) continued, in turn, to work closely with civil society organisations in 2025, promoting their participation in decision-making processes and their involvement in the Armenia-EU Partnership Agenda, in accordance with Article 103 of CEPA, and ensuring their engagement in consultations and dialogue with civil society and social partners.



In the context of Armenia-EU relations, cooperation with civil society is structured through two formats: the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform established under Article 366 of CEPA and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. The MFA of Armenia continuously participates in events and meetings organised within these two formats, underlining the important role of civil society in the further deepening and development of Armenia-EU relations. Moreover, MFA regularly organises meetings with civil society representatives, presenting progress in the implementation of CEPA.

On 23 June 2025, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Kostanyan held a meeting and discussion with representatives of civil society organisations on the draft document “New Agenda for the Armenia-EU Partnership” (hereinafter referred to as the “Strategic Agenda for the Armenia-EU Partnership”), presenting its structure and main priorities, as well as the state of play of the negotiations, and responding to questions raised.

The Sixth and Seventh Meetings of the Armenia-EU Civil Society Platform were held in Yerevan and Brussels, respectively, on 1 April and 5 December 2025<sup>1</sup>. The meetings resulted in joint statements reaffirming the importance of civil society participation in the deepening of the Armenia-EU partnership and in the effective implementation of CEPA.

The Second Summit<sup>2</sup> of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum was held in Brussels from 2 to 4 December 2025, where the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan delivered opening remarks and the Deputy Foreign Minister Kostanyan participated in the panel discussions as a speaker.

In general, discussions with civil society have consistently focused on the implementation of CEPA, the rule of law, anti-corruption, human rights, security, social dialogue, labour rights, economic and sectoral cooperation, as well as the role of civil society in monitoring CEPA implementation and promoting reforms.

<sup>1</sup> <https://eu-armenia.am/news-platform/f/6th-meeting-of-the-eu-armenia-civil-society-platform?blogcategory=English>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eap-csf.eu/articles/2025-eap-civil-society-summit-report/> , <https://armla.am/en/9637.html>



# **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CROSS-BORDER AND REGIONAL LEVEL COOPERATION**

*Balanced growth and collaboration, thriving communities*



## Progress in implementation

### Balanced territorial development

Under CEPA, Armenia and the European Union are expected to promote mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation in the field of territorial development policy. In the framework of the CEPA Roadmap, strategic planning work aimed at ensuring balanced territorial development in Armenia continued in 2025. The Territorial Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for 2026–2030 was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office. At the same time, a draft action plan to ensure implementation of the strategy was developed and circulated.



### EU-supported grant schemes and local development

The implementation of EU-supported territorial development grant schemes continued. The Empowering Local Actors for Development (LEAD) project has been implemented since 2020 in the Lori, Shirak and Tavush regions of the Republic of Armenia with EU funding. Under the LEAD4Shirak project, 81 grant projects have been selected, resulting in a total of 83 jobs created. Under the LEAD4Lori and Tavush project, 203 grant projects have been selected, resulting in a total of 200 jobs created.

The possibility of establishing sustainable financing mechanisms for Local Action Groups (LAGs) is also being considered within the framework of the activities of the Territorial Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for 2026–2030, which is important for placing locally driven development approaches tested with EU support on an institutional footing.







# CIVIL PROTECTION

*Protecting people and environment*



## Progress in implementation

CEPA establishes a mutual commitment between Armenia and the EU to develop and strengthen cooperation in the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters.

On 18 April 2025, the National Assembly adopted the Law “On Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection”<sup>1</sup>, under which disaster risk management (DRM) measures are structured into subcomponents, namely disaster risk reduction, rapid response and early recovery, and post-disaster recovery. The Law clarifies the powers and functions of DRM and civil protection system actors and establishes the basis for determining the level of an emergency and for taking such decisions at republican, regional, community and local/facility levels. At the same time, the Law regulates the DRM and civil protection planning process at all levels, which was not fully covered under the previous regulatory framework. To ensure full implementation of the Law, work is currently under way to adopt approximately 45 secondary legislative acts in line with the list of measures<sup>2</sup> approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No. 705-A, with a deadline set for 1 January



2027. The Law further clarifies and expands the competences of State and local self-government bodies in organising and implementing civil protection, as well as sectoral responsibilities. It also strengthens the decentralisation of DRM by defining the legal framework for the establishment of republican, regional, community and local/facility emergency commissions, as well as interdepartmental working groups for consequence management, coordination and national support.

## Cooperation with the EU and other international partners

In 2025, the Accountable, Effective and Gender-responsive Institutional Systems for Policing and Rescue Service in Armenia (AEGIS) project was launched, aiming to address key capacity gaps within the Rescue Service and to enhance its operational efficiency.

At the same time, efforts were undertaken to deepen cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)<sup>3</sup> as a continuation of the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the Eastern Partnership Countries (PPRD East 3) programme<sup>4</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/206798>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=130249>

<sup>3</sup> With effect from 1 January 2026, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) was renamed the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF).

<sup>4</sup> <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/pprd-east-3-programme>



# TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MATTERS

*Higher-quality products, wider choice, secure markets,  
new opportunities*



## Progress in implementation

### General Institutional Dialogue and Roadmaps for CEPA Part VI

In 2025, the systematic advancement of Armenia-EU trade and economic cooperation continued within the framework of Part VI (“Trade and Trade-related Matters”) of the CEPA. On 17–18 June, the 7th meeting of the EU-Armenia Partnership Committee in Trade configuration was held in Yerevan. During the meeting, the parties discussed the latest developments in the areas of trade and investment, the sector-specific support provided by the EU to Armenia, the implementation of the obligations stipulated under Article 237 of the CEPA, the enforcement of the legal framework for the protection of geographical indications, as well as future directions for Armenia-EU trade and economic cooperation. The Committee also reviewed the debriefs of the Subcommittees on Geographical Indications and Customs Cooperation were made, including the agreements reached therein.



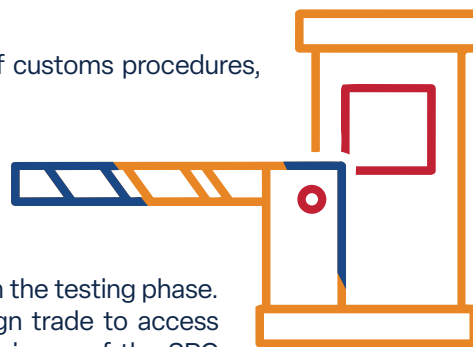
At the 6th meeting of the Subcommittee on Geographical Indications, held in Yerevan on 17 June of the same year, discussions focused on legislative reforms, the exchange of lists of newly registered geographical indications, and issues related to the exchange of experience and the further improvement of procedures in the field. On 13 May, the 5th meeting of the Subcommittee on Customs Cooperation took place in Brussels, serving as an important platform for bilateral discussions on customs administration, mutual administrative assistance and trade facilitation.

During the reporting year, the 12 roadmaps covering the 12 chapters of Part VI of the CEPA were updated: trade in goods, customs, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary matters, trade in services, establishment and e-commerce, current payments and movement of capital, intellectual property, public procurement, trade and sustainable development, competition, state-owned enterprises, and transparency.

### Customs and Trade Facilitation

In 2025, efforts in the customs sector focused on the simplification of customs procedures, risk management, digitalisation and the modernisation of infrastructure.

The State Revenue Committee (SRC) carried out extensive work to review risk profiles relating to tariff, non-tariff and targeted controls, with a view to making customs administration more risk-based and targeted. The EXIM electronic platform, which consolidates information required for customs operations, is currently in the testing phase. Once operational, it will enable economic operators engaged in foreign trade to access consolidated information on customs procedures. By Order of the Chairman of the SRC of 12 August 2025, uniform standard administrative procedures in the customs field were established through a single departmental regulatory act. In addition, an electronic notification mechanism was introduced within the system for the completion, submission and registration of goods declarations. As a result, the processing of customs declarations is now carried out predominantly through electronic means, reducing the need for declarants to make in-person visits.



With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of controls on dual-use and/or military goods, a specialised working group has been established, which carries out, on a cost-free basis, the preliminary assessment of goods and rapidly determines whether they are not dual-use or military goods or whether additional examination is required.

With the support of the EU and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the modernisation of customs infrastructure continued. On 19 September, the loan and grant agreements for the “Yerevan Customs and Logistics Centre” project were signed between Armenia and the EBRD. By the end of the year, the procedures required for the entry into force of the agreements and for the utilisation of loan funds under the “Syunik Customs and Logistics Centre” project had been completed, and the project had entered the consultant mobilisation phase. The modernisation of the Meghri border crossing point was ongoing in 2025 and remained in the construction phase.

Within the framework of the CEPA, mutual administrative assistance and the exchange of information in the customs field also continued. A total of 34 requests were received from the customs services of EU Member States, while the customs authorities of the Republic of Armenia submitted 28 requests to their counterparts in EU Member States. In the area of capacity-building, training activities were organised with the support of the World Customs Organization (WCO) under the drug detection capacity development initiative and the Central Asia and Caucasus Customs Administration Security Project. SRC is also considering requesting technical assistance under the EU TAIEX instrument for the establishment of a pre-arrival information exchange platform and for the examination of best practices in the prevention of illicit drug trafficking.

## Technical Barriers to Trade and Quality Infrastructure

Significant progress was achieved in 2025 towards the reduction of technical barriers to trade and the development of quality infrastructure. Within the framework of the process of concluding a Multilateral Recognition Agreement with the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), representatives of the accreditation bodies of EA Member States carried out an expert peer evaluation of the National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB) SNCO on 24–28 November. The evaluation confirmed ARMNAB’s compliance with the international standard ISO/IEC 17011, as well as with the requirements of EA, ILAC and IAF documents. At the same time, a number of non-conformities and recommendations for improvement were identified. Based on these findings, draft amendments to the RA Law on Accreditation and the relevant Order of the Minister of Economy were prepared, while a number of ARMNAB’s management system procedures were further revised, including those related to accreditation applications, general criteria, complaints handling, risk management, management review and the determination of flexible scopes of accreditation.

The approximation process to EU standards was supported by the German National Metrology Institute (PTB). With PTB support, and prior to the EA evaluation, an internal audit was conducted with the involvement of international auditors to assess ARMNAB’s compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and ISO/IEC 17011:2017 standard. The European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) is expected to take a decision on the conclusion of a Multilateral Recognition Agreement with ARMNAB in the period between December 2026 and May 2027.

In the field of metrology, efforts to strengthen national capacities continued. In parallel with amendments to the Law on Ensuring Uniformity of Measurements, the mass and thermal measurement calibration laboratories established within the “National Body for Standardisation and Metrology” CJSC received international recognition in May 2025 through accreditation by the Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD). Under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) programme “Support to Armenia’s Quality Infrastructure”, work continued on the development of laboratory capacities in the fields of linear and angular measurements, electrical quantities, time and frequency, chemical measurements, force, pressure and torque. The majority of the necessary equipment has been procured, and training courses involving international experts have been delivered to relevant specialists. In 2025, ESYD and ARMNAB also carried out processes to expand the scope of laboratory assessment and accreditation activities, the preliminary results, as well as the final results in certain areas, have been positive.

The development of internationally accredited calibration laboratories has a significant impact on both the export potential of Armenian products and the reduction of costs for economic operators. It ensures the international recognition of the measurements and tests performed in Armenia, reduces the need for re-calibration, enhances Armenia’s reputation as a reliable economic partner, and provides a robust metrological basis for industry, high technology, healthcare, energy and science. Within the framework of the CEPA Roadmap, the national standard on protection profiles for the secure use of digital signature creation devices also entered into force on 29 September 2025.



## Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters and Food Safety

In the field of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the key priorities in 2025 included science-based policymaking, the expansion of export opportunities to the EU market, and the enhancement of the effectiveness of official controls. By Government Decision No. 563-N of 8 May, the procedure for granting, suspending or revoking the authorisation of a scientific organisation to carry out risk assessment activities was established. On this basis, by Order of the Minister of Economy of 14 November, the “Food Safety Risk Assessment and Analysis Scientific Centre” CJSC was authorised for a period of five years to carry out risk assessment in the veterinary field, based on indicators of viral and bacterial diseases.

A significant achievement for Armenia in 2025 was its inclusion, as of March 2025, in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/354, which permits the export from Armenia to EU Member States of aquaculture products, including fish and fishery products. From 2 to 6 June, export-related training sessions were organised in Yerevan with the participation of experts from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). The sessions were attended by staff of the Inspection Body and representatives of the business community. Video consultations with EU experts were also held, and draft legal acts were developed. Within the framework of an EU-funded project implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), a guide and checklist for the export of fish and fishery products from Armenia to the EU have been developed, while the relevant draft Government decision is being circulated by the Ministry of Economy.

At the proposal of the Inspection Body, the issue of the digitalisation of official controls in the areas of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary measures was included in the agenda of the 7th meeting of the Armenia-EU Trade Partnership Committee. Its potential implementation could significantly enhance the efficiency of sectoral business processes and the quality of controls.



By Government Decision No. 1702-N of 27 November 2025, producers of certain types of food of animal origin from EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and Canada were permitted to export their products to the Republic of Armenia without the requirement of inclusion in the register of third-country establishments, until 31 December 2026. As a result of this facilitation granted by the Republic of Armenia to the aforementioned countries, export opportunities for those countries and import opportunities for Armenia have increased. This contributes to the diversification of imports and to broader access for EU producers to the Armenian market. On 9 September, the first Armenian honey-producing company authorised to export products of animal origin to the EU via the TRACES system was registered, namely “Byuregh Nektar” LLC, and the registration of additional companies is ongoing. Furthermore, by Government Decision No. 1546-N of 6 November, Armenia undertook to prohibit the use of antimicrobials listed in the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1255.



## Intellectual Property and Geographical Indications

In the field of intellectual property, legal and strategic reforms continued in 2025. The draft new Law on Copyright and Related Rights was finalised and submitted to the RA Government and the National Assembly. Its adoption is expected following additional discussions and the establishment of final positions. The new regulation aims to align national legislation with international standards and to promote the development of creative industries.

The preliminary draft of the Intellectual Property Development Strategy was prepared with the support of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). However, in light of recent developments in the sector, it is currently being revised with the participation of experts from the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and a local expert. The key priorities of the strategy include strengthening enforcement mechanisms for intellectual property rights and combating counterfeiting.

In the field of geographical indications, on 29 July 2025, the Intellectual Property Office registered the geographical indications “Armenian Matsun”, “Armenian Lavash”, “Armenian Basturma” and “Armenian Sujukh”, which were developed with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Their registration contributes to enhancing the recognition and protection of traditional Armenian products in both the domestic and international markets.

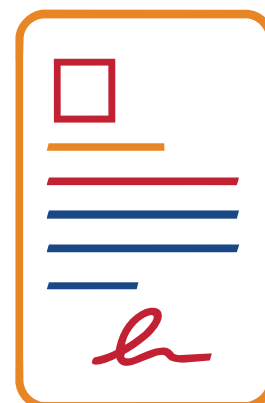
The EU-funded technical assistance project for the Development of the Geographical Indication “Armenian Brandy” continued. Within the framework of the project a number of activities carried out, including the zoning and mapping of production areas; the assessment of Armenia’s legislation for alignment with EU regulations; the development of a legislative approximation action plan; the assessment of relevant institutions and organisations; and the provision of recommendations on the control and certification system for the geographical indication. In addition, 20 potential export markets were preliminarily identified, and technical specifications together with a control plan were developed.

The programme is scheduled to be completed in June 2026. The registration of “Armenian Brandy” as a geographical indication is expected to contribute to higher product quality control standards and to strengthen the product’s position in international markets.

## Public Procurement

In 2025, legislative amendments were adopted in the field of public procurement with a view to strengthening competition, transparency, accountability and legal certainty. Law No. HO-242-N, which entered into force on 22 July, updated the procurement rules applicable to public service providers, particularly in cases where such entities procure goods, works or services from companies under their control or influence. The amendments stipulate that, in such cases, companies under the control or influence of the procuring entity must conduct procurement for their own needs in accordance with the procedures established by the Law on Procurement, thereby ensuring competition, transparency and accountability. The amendments also introduced a requirement to notify the Public Services Regulatory Commission in advance, established relevant procedures for the examination of complaints, made the application of the participants’ blacklist mandatory, and enabled public monitoring of contract implementation by civil society organisations and the media.

Law No. HO-336-N, which entered into force on 12 November, clarified a number of provisions of the existing law with a view to reducing divergent interpretations in legal practice. The amendments specify that a contracting authority may not alter the subject-matter of the procurement provided for in a concluded contract. The Government is mandated to determine the cases and procedures under which technical specifications and delivery and payment terms may be amended. The Government has also been entrusted with establishing the procedures governing procurement from a single source where such procurement is justified by copyright, related, special or exclusive rights.



The Ministry of Finance also prepared draft amendments to the Law on Procurement and the Civil Procedure Code. The drafts were approved by Government Decision No. 1732-A of 4 December 2025 and submitted to the National Assembly. The proposed amendments seek to prevent the suspension of certain procurement procedures, subject to the Government's prior approval, where such procedures are justified by public, defence or national security interests. They also aim to prevent undue delays in procurement timelines resulting from appeals.

## Trade and Sustainable Development

Within the framework of the trade and sustainable development agenda, a significant development in 2025 was the strengthening of international labour standards. On 11 September, the National Assembly adopted the law ratifying the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), which entered into force on 7 October. Given that the legislation of the Republic of Armenia already contains provisions prohibiting forced or compulsory labour, discrimination, workplace violence and sexual harassment, the ratification of the Convention provides an additional legal basis for the establishment of procedures aligned with international standards.

## Competition

The commitments under CEPA in the area of competition have been fully met. The relevant legislative framework has been fully incorporated into the national legal system and is administered and enforced by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Interests (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"). At the same time, as part of the ongoing refinement of the legislative framework, the National Assembly adopted a package comprising the Law on Amendments and Additions to the Law on the Protection of Economic Competition and related legislative amendments. The package introduces a number of key amendments concerning the powers of the Commission and the legal framework established for competition protection.

**1.** The amendments provide for the Commission's power to impose interim measures in order to prevent potentially irreversible or serious consequences arising from anti-competitive agreements, the abuse of a dominant position, or procurement-related actions or conduct by state authorities and their officials where there are prima facie indications of anti-competitive behaviour. The amendments also introduce detailed procedural rules governing the adoption of decisions on the imposition of interim measures.

**2.** The amendments further refine the rules governing the abuse of a strong negotiating position in the procurement of agricultural products.

**3.** The rules on the assessment of concentrations were also revised. In particular, the amendments clarify the categories of transactions that do not constitute a concentration, the grounds for prohibiting a concentration, and the specific rules governing the application of expedited proceedings. The legal consequences applicable where parties submit false, inaccurate or incomplete information, or fail to provide the requested information during the assessment of a concentration, were also amended. In such cases, the Commission is empowered to adopt a decision dismissing the application.

## State-owned Enterprises, Corporate Governance and Accountability

The main development in the area of the management of state-owned enterprises in 2025 was the adoption of the Government of the Republic of Armenia Decision on the State Ownership Policy for State-Owned Enterprises and Enterprises with Minority State Participation. The document sets out a unified, clear and transparent policy for the exercise of the State's ownership rights as a shareholder in state-owned enterprises and enterprises with minority state participation. It aims to clarify the rationale for State participation, define strategic objectives, clarify governance structures and functions, and ensure the efficient, accountable and competitively neutral management of public resources. The policy was developed by the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. The action plan approved by the Resolution is scheduled for implementation in 2026–2028.

In the field of accounting and auditing, the development of the public oversight system in line with EU Accounting and Auditing Directives continued. The Law No. HO-29-N adopted on 12 February 2025 increased the level of administrative liability for failure to publish financial statements in accordance with statutory requirements or within the prescribed deadlines, bringing it closer to the average cost of an audit. Work also continued on improving the external quality assurance system for audit services and on the introduction of a sustainability reporting framework. At the same time, it was noted that this sub-sector still falls outside the scope of the CEPA implementation roadmap.

## Overall Impact

Overall, progress in trade and trade-related issues in 2025 was characterised by the updating of CEPA Part VI roadmaps, the deepening of institutional dialogue with the EU, the modernisation of customs and quality infrastructure, the expansion of export opportunities on the EU market, the strengthening of geographical indications and intellectual property protection, and reforms of public procurement and the governance of state-owned enterprises. Cooperation with the EU, the EBRD, PTB, UNIDO, WIPO, ITC, USAID, the IMF, the ADB and the World Customs Organization contributed to both legal approximation and the development of practical capacities, creating a more predictable, transparent and competitive trade and economic environment for Armenia.





# **EU FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

*Transparent support and partnership*



## EU Financial Assistance in 2025

With the support of the European Union, work aimed at advancing the reforms of the Government of Armenia, enhancing resilience and modernising the economy continued in 2025, building on the progress achieved in the previous period.

During the reporting period, negotiations with the EU on the financing agreement for the Multi-Sector Budget Support were initiated and concluded. The agreement is intended to be implemented under the second funding allocation announced by the EU in September 2025 under the EU Resilience and Growth Plan for Armenia. It is designed to support both the implementation of reforms stemming from CEPA and the short-term priorities set out in the Strategic Agenda for the Armenia-EU Partnership adopted during the reporting year.



The total volume of EU funding under the agreement amounts to €143 million, of which €90 million is allocated as direct budget support for the period 2026–2028, and €53 million as technical assistance to support the development and strengthening of Armenia’s institutional capacities. Budget support will be directed towards public financial management and internal control systems, export diversification, the visa liberalisation dialogue and the rule of law, as well as employment, skills and social inclusion.

The projected financial resources will be provided to Armenia exclusively as grants, meaning that the implementation of the reforms will therefore not create any additional public debt obligations for the State budget. The agreement, which was developed jointly by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister M. Grigoryan, the European Commission and the relevant sectoral ministries, is fully in line with the Government’s 2021–2026 programme and is expected to be signed with the EU in the first quarter of 2026.

At the same time, with regard to ongoing budget support programmes, it should be noted that in 2025 Armenia received €5.5 million in budget support<sup>1</sup> under the framework of “Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia: Phase II” programme. In addition, with a view to the disbursement of a total of approximately €34 million under the ongoing “EU Support to Education in Armenia” and “State and Resilience Building Contract for the Republic of Armenia” programmes, the Armenian side prepared and submitted to the EU self-assessment reports and supporting documentation on compliance with the relevant conditions for the financing agreements during the reporting year.

In 2025, a €5 million financing agreement for technical assistance “Strengthening Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection in Armenia” was also signed, aimed at enhancing the level of nuclear safety and strengthening Armenia’s regulatory and technical capacities in this field.

## Cooperation with European Financial Institutions

A number of important financial agreements were also signed with European financial institutions during the reporting year. On 28 October 2025, a €100 million loan agreement was concluded between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Central Bank of Armenia to support the implementation of the second phase of the “Armenia Economic Resilience” programme, aimed at promoting SMEs, green investments, women’s entrepreneurship and regional investment<sup>2</sup>. The loan programme will be implemented by the German-Armenian Fund through partner financial institutions.

€39 million in loans and a €6 million grant were signed with the EBRD for the establishment of the Yerevan Customs and Logistics Centre, which will enable the provision of high-quality customs and logistics services based on the one-stop-shop principle<sup>3</sup>.

In addition, on 16 July 2025, during Deputy Prime Minister Grigoryan’s visit to Luxembourg, the Republic of Armenia and the EIB signed a €50 million financial agreement entitled “Armenia: Resilient Syunik”, which will support the development of education, healthcare and drinking water infrastructure in the Syunik region as of 2026.

<sup>1</sup> The disbursement of €5.5 million by the EU to the State budget of the Republic of Armenia was made possible by the full implementation of the “Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia: Phase II” programme, <https://www.moj.am/article/4488>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20250342>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ebrd.com/home/work-with-us/projects/psd/54835.html>



Under CEPA, Armenia and the European Union have agreed to create a new framework for the development of economic relations, in particular trade and investment, by promoting competition, which is of key importance for the transformation and modernisation of the Armenian economy. In this context, the EU Economic and Investment Plan for Armenia, launched in 2021, is of particular importance, as investments involving European partners contribute to the introduction of international best standards and the strengthening of sound corporate governance and public administration practices in Armenia, thereby creating new opportunities for sustainable development.



Under the Economic and Investment Plan for 2021–2025, the total value of projects implemented with the public sector, as well as those signed, approved and expected to be launched in the near future, amounted to approximately €900 million. These projects are aimed at fostering a sustainable, innovative and competitive economy, the construction of the North–South road corridor, progress in digital transformation and technology, strengthening the resilience of the southern regions of the country, and the implementation of smart and green investments in Yerevan. Furthermore, by the end of 2025, loan agreements worth more than €1 billion had been signed with financial institutions in Armenia.

The fourth meeting of the Armenia-EU Investment Coordination Platform<sup>4</sup> was held on 29 October 2025 to review progress under the Economic and Investment Plan and, more broadly, the investment programmes under the Global Gateway.

### Resilient Syunik Team Europe Initiative

As of the fourth quarter of 2025, the Resilient Syunik Team Europe Initiative had mobilised a financing package of approximately €200 million, comprising €65 million in grants and €135 million in loans<sup>5</sup>. The initiative is implemented by the EU, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and a number of EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden), as well as Switzerland, and aims to support the sustainable socio-economic and institutional development of the Syunik region. It encompasses budget support as well as grant, loan, technical assistance and community development programmes. The main priorities include the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurship, the promotion of employment and skills development, improved access to education, social and healthcare services, the development of green and sustainable infrastructure, the strengthening of local self-government and participatory governance capacities, and the sustainable management of agriculture, natural resources and the environment. The initiative is a flexible mechanism that can be expanded and is open to EU Member States to join and implement new initiatives aimed at the development of the Syunik region<sup>6</sup>.

### Support for Persons Displaced from Karabakh

From 2023 through December of the reporting year, the European Union had provided more than €78 million in support to address the urgent needs and long-term socio-economic integration of displaced Karabakh Armenians. The support includes €21.5 million in humanitarian assistance through the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), aimed at addressing basic needs, health, social protection and legal assistance; €40 million in budget support to the Government of Armenia to finance social, health, housing and livelihood measures for displaced persons; €9 million for support programmes implemented through civil society organizations; and €8 million under the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) Refugee Response Window for Armenia (RRWA), aimed at expanding employment and integration opportunities for displaced persons<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.am/am/news/item/16215/>

<sup>5</sup> The financing package includes both committed and planned financing, and the overall budget of the Resilient Syunik Team Europe Initiative may be further increased.

<sup>6</sup> <https://eu4armenia.eu/resilient-syunik-team-europe/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://eu4armenia.eu/eu-support-for-displaced-karabakh-armenians/>



# CONCLUSION

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The year 2025 marked an important stage in the implementation of CEPA, characterized by the deepening of the Armenia–EU partnership, the expansion of the reform agenda, and the strengthening of institutional capacities. The developments during the reporting period demonstrate that the Agreement continues to serve as a primary framework for advancing Armenia’s European agenda, legal approximation, institutional development, and the modernization of the public governance system.

In 2025, Armenia–EU relations entered a deeper and more multifaceted phase of cooperation. The intensification of political dialogue, the continuation of strategic and sectoral discussions, and the development of new areas of cooperation indicate a transition to a qualitatively new phase of the partnership. These developments are important not only for ensuring continuity in external relations, but also for supporting domestic reforms, as they help shape a clearer and more practical reform agenda aligned with European standards and best practices. In this context, the process of updating the CEPA roadmap is of particular importance, taking into account the evolving nature of EU legislation, the dynamics of Armenia’s internal reforms, and the emerging Strategic Agenda for the Armenia–EU Partnership.

Overall, results for 2025 demonstrate that CEPA remains a key pillar of Armenia’s reforms, aimed at modernisation of public governance, strengthening the rule of law, increasing the competitiveness of the economy, improving the quality of public services, and thereby contributing to a closer and more predictable partnership with the EU.

CEPA has continued to serve as an overarching framework for reforms, providing more targeted public policy guidance, supporting continued approximation to EU standards, and offering a solid basis for further deepening the partnership between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union.

