

AN ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH CAPACITIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES IN ARMENIA

A report to the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN)

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Table of contents

Introduction.....	4
i. Objectives of the Report.....	4
ii. Selection of Disciplines.....	4
iii. Research Methodology.....	5
iv. The development of social sciences and humanities in Armenia: brief overview	6
v. Education and awarding of degrees in Armenia: basics	8
Chapter 1. Institutional and Policy Framework	11
a. Laws Regulating Research in Armenia.....	11
b. State Policy and Key Players.....	12
c. The Funding System.....	15
Chapter 2. Research in Social Sciences and Humanities: Institutional Actors.....	21
a. State Universities.....	21
i. Yerevan State University	21
ii. Brusov Linguistic University	23
iii. Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University.....	25
iv. Armenian Pedagogical University	27
v. The Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts.....	28
b. Institutes Affiliated with the Academy of Sciences of Armenia.....	28
i. Institute of Oriental Studies.....	28
ii. Institute of History.....	29
iii. Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law	31
iv. Institute of Archeology and Ethnography.....	32
v. Atcharian Institute of Language.....	33
vi. Museum-Institute of the Armenian Genocide.....	34
c. Think-tanks, NGO and private companies.....	34
i. Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS).....	34
ii. International Human Development Center (IHD).....	35
iii. Caucasus Institute (CI).....	36
iv. Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia.....	37
v. Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC)	38
vi. Civilitas Foundation.....	39
vii. Civil Society Institute (CSI).....	40
viii. Institute for Civil Society and Regional Development (ICSRD).....	41
ix. Noravank Foundation.....	41
x. Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC)	42
xi. Yerevan Press Club	43
xii. Eurasian Research Institute – Armenia Branch.....	44
xiii. “Region” Research Center	45
xiv. ARMACAD (Armenian Association for Academic Partnership and Support).....	45
xv. Sociometr.....	46
d. Donors.....	47
i. Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Armenia (OSIAFA).....	47
ii. European Commission Delegation to Armenia	48

iii. USAID Armenia.....	49
iv. German Foundations	50
v. National TEMPUS Office in Armenia.....	52
vi. United Nations Development Program Armenia.....	53
vii. Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Representative Office in Armenia	54

Chapter 3. The Overall Situation with Research in the Sphere of Social Sciences and Humanities in Armenia.....	55
a. Overview	55
b. Universities	61
c. State research bodies.....	63
d. Non-state bodies.....	65
e. Recommendations.....	66

Introduction

i. Objectives of the Report

The aim of the project is to assess existing research capacities in the fields of social sciences and humanities in Armenia. The report reviews the overall scope of research being carried out in Armenia, available human resources and existing funding priorities. It aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the research environment in Armenia in the field of humanities and social sciences, and look at the methodologies used for research, typical research strategies and typical skills/profiles of researchers. It also aims to identify existing gaps in research, the prevalence or scarcity of particular topics and directions, and evaluate the quality of research carried out by various institutions. For each finding, the study identifies its underlying causes and proposes remedies.

Chapter 1 of the report presents the institutional and policy framework for research in Armenia, including the laws regulating it. This chapter analyses government policies with regard to humanities and social sciences in Armenia, and the hierarchy of public bodies regulating and coordinating research in this area. It also identifies main stakeholders and funding sources.

Chapter 2 assesses the main institutional actors in the sphere of social sciences and humanities, including bodies engaging in research and donor agencies.

Chapter 3 analyses the overall situation with research in the sphere of humanities and social sciences in Armenia, its strengths and weaknesses, overall quality and development trends.

Based on the assessment, Chapter 4 of the report contains a set of recommendations concerning the capacity-building needs of Armenia in this field and the priority areas for assistance and cooperation.

ii. Selection of Disciplines

For the purposes of this study, based on the research goal and the situation on the ground in Armenia, the disciplines listed below were categorized under “humanities and social sciences”. The division into humanities and social sciences is not made by Armenian legislation; usually they are broken up as follows:

Humanities

Anthropology

Archeology

Armenian Studies

Cultural Studies

Ethnography

History

Linguistics/Languages

Literature Studies

Oriental Studies

Philosophy

Religion Studies

Social Sciences

International Relations

Political Science

Public Administration
Sociology
Social Work

Armenian Studies include research on the history, language and culture of the Armenian nation and Armenian Diaspora communities, the history of the Armenian Church etc.

Some disciplines traditionally included under humanities (such as theater and cinema studies, psychology etc) are not on the list as they were not the focus of this study.

iii. Research Methodology

The basic research methods were desk research, in-depth interviews, field research and comparative studies.

The aim of desk research will be to identify and analyze existing hardcopy and online sources on the state of social sciences and humanities in Armenia. The desk research also assessed the quality of research produced in various areas, a ranking of institutions based on research quality and the reasons for better/lower quality of research and publications.

In-depth interviews were conducted with the staff of state agencies, research institutions, donor agencies and experts from the sphere of humanities and social sciences.

Field research and comparative studies were used to assess the overall situation in the field of social sciences and humanities using the data collected during interviews and desk research. They are the basis for the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

The sample was based on the following criteria: legal status (especially in the case of state universities and institutes affiliated with the Academy), efficiency, institutional history, number of staff, quantity and quality of publications and research projects. Based on this criteria, the sample includes the following groups of actors:

- State bodies regulating or coordinating research activities;
- State and interstate universities
- Private and international universities
- Research institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences
- NGO and think-tanks
- Commercial research organizations
- Donor agencies, including foundations and international organizations

The sample only includes institutions engaging in research in the disciplines on our list (see ii above); we did not include state bodies whose functioning is

bureaucratic/closed to the research community, such as the Drastamat Kananyan Institute of National Strategic Studies affiliated with the Ministry of Defense, The Institute of Policy Studies affiliated with the Presidential Staff etc. Some organizations we planned to include in the sample proved to be no longer functional or no longer engaging in research in the areas of our concern (such as AIPRG and AEPLAC).

A number of donor agencies were included in the sample but their representatives in Armenia did not consent to an interview on the grounds that they have political agendas (as was the case with the offices of the Friedrich Ebert and Konrad Adenauer Foundations in Armenia) or that research is not on their agenda and is purely auxiliary to their work (as in the case of the OSCE office in Armenia). Consequently, data on these organizations is based on desk research only.

A special type of stakeholder interviewed for this study was the Armacad (the Armenian Association for Academic Partnership and Support), an online network of over 3800 scholars from Armenia and Armenian Diaspora engaging in research in various fields including social sciences and humanities. Armacad does not directly engage in or organize research but plays a role in networking between scholars, especially young people wishing to be in touch with colleagues abroad.

At the end of the study, we conducted three interviews with prominent scholars in the sphere of HSS, asking them to share their perceptions of the overall situation and development trends existing in this sphere in Armenia.

iv. The development of social sciences and humanities in Armenia: brief overview

At the time Armenia became an independent state in 1991, its institutional framework for research was standard for a post-Soviet country, heavily overregulated by state and communist party bodies and entirely permeated by Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Given the ideological focus, two disciplines – Philosophy and Modern History – were the pillars of humanities and social sciences in the USSR, almost entirely reduced to propaganda tools. The role of philosophy was to ensure the dominance of historical materialism in science and education, whereas modern history was a tool for tampering with perceptions of the past and justifying the existence of the Soviet system. A number of other humanities and social sciences were also heavily ideological: economics was entirely based on Marxist economic theory, art and literature studies used “socialist realism” as the sole measure of artistic merit, and religion studies were reduced to propaganda of atheism. Some disciplines including political science and theory of international relations were simply nonexistent.

The disciplines that did not lend themselves very well to propaganda – such as archeology, ethnography, geography, linguistics/language studies and oriental studies – were privileged in that ideological pressure was relatively low and some development was possible. In the domain of history, ancient history and the history of the Middle Ages were significantly less politicized. In Armenia, this created an opening for rather intensive research on Armenian history, with a focus on ancient and medieval times.

Traditionally strong in Armenia since pre-Soviet times, historical research ended up playing a special role in Soviet Armenia; in fact, Armenian history as a discipline had the tendency to usurp the resources of other humanities. Even now, historians continue to dominate in the humanities and social sciences of post-Soviet Armenia, with historical methods being applied to other, newly emerging fields of study, such as political science and sociology, in fact calling for entirely different approaches.

The structure of Soviet science also continues to impact the development of research in modern Armenia. Until the fall of the USSR, only state-regulated research bodies were allowed to exist in Armenia. These included various departments of universities/educational institutes (mostly focused on education and having few resources for research), and research institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences in which most of the research was done: the Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, the Institutes of History, Ethnography and Archeology, Oriental Studies etc. These institutes had a stronger local reputation and some had international purport (such as the Matenadaran).

At universities/educational institutes, each faculty had bodies regulating research activities, called chairs. The Faculty of History at Yerevan State University thus had Chairs of Armenian History, World History etc. Yerevan State was the largest university in Soviet Armenia – in general and specifically in the sphere of humanities. It had Departments of History, Philosophy, Psychology, Law, Journalism and Philology (with sub-departments of Russian, Armenian and Romance/Germanic Studies). The Faculty of Oriental Studies at Yerevan State, subdivided into Turkish, Arabic and Iranian Studies, had a strong reputation in the former USSR; its students did not just learn the languages and cultures but also the histories and religions of the countries they focused on.

Some research in the sphere of humanities was also done at the Pedagogical Institutes of Yerevan and of the two major cities of Armenia, Gyumri and Vanadzor (called respectively Leninakan and Kirovakan in the Soviet times), however, the research done in those universities is mostly about methodology of teaching humanities (chiefly history) and does not involve original studies in humanities or social sciences.

With the fall of the Soviet system, new private and international universities were established in Armenia. At the same time, new departments were opened at existing state universities, including departments of disciplines banned in the USSR, such as Political Science and International Relations. Moreover, independent research bodies began to appear, including think-tanks, commercial organizations and some activity-based NGO which also engage in research to some extent. International actors, including universities, research institutes and think-tanks began to engage with Armenia, and so did international donors, ranging from embassies and international organizations to Armenian Diaspora foundations.

Several typical post-Soviet trends are affecting the development of research in Armenia. First, research in the sphere of humanities and social sciences is no longer subject to ideological restrictions; the sparse and discrete texture of Soviet Armenian science is gradually filling in and becoming more consistent. However, there is a distortion the opposite way, with issues and areas banned in the USSR attracting exaggerated interest.

Second, although the old system of institutes affiliated with the Academy survived, its meager state funding is now barely enough for subsistence. Non-state funding has become increasingly important for the survival of independent research institutions and individual scholars, most of whom have underpaid jobs with state-supported bodies. In this aspect, some disciplines are doing better than others.

Third, some disciplines, including ones for which there is special demand from external donors and the local market, were nonexistent just 20 years ago, and have to develop from scratch, with newly established departments too often staffed with former professors of Marxist disciplines who are in fact not scholars but propaganda workers by background.

In the sphere of state-funded research, an important post-Soviet development was the institutionalization of Armenian Studies - a bunch of disciplines studying the history, culture and language of Armenians and Armenian Diaspora communities. Research in these areas was quite active in the Soviet era yet subject to ideological restrictions; with independence, Armenian Studies got a new impulse. In fact, it became privileged among humanities in Armenia in terms of state funding, getting a substantial share of budgets allocated to humanities and to scholarly research in general. A new research body, the Institute of the Armenian Genocide, was even established by the Academy in 1995.

In terms of non-state funding, sociology is one of the most successful disciplines in Armenia in the sphere of humanities and social sciences, because there is a market in Armenia for applied sociological studies (business, marketing etc.) As a result, sociologists make a decent income, and sociology as a discipline is also doing well, including in terms of education and internships for students. Political science and sociology, given their political significance, get a relatively larger amount of grants from international donors.

v. *Education and awarding of degrees in social sciences and humanities in Armenia: basics*

The structure of universities in Armenia dates back to Soviet times. A university is subdivided into faculties (*fakultet* in Armenian) on thematic basis (Faculty of History, Faculty of Sociology etc) which administrate the educational process. The students of most faculties are subdivided into departments (*bazhin* in Armenian, *otdelenie* in Russian): for example, the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Yerevan State has three departments: Iranian Studies, Turkish Studies and Arabic Studies. Students choose a department when they apply to a university.

The teaching staff of universities is organized into chairs (*ambion* in Armenian) which are responsible for both teaching and research. Some chairs are affiliated with the university as a whole, such as Chairs of Armenian History, Chairs of English and Chairs of Philosophy, because their staff teaches subjects that the students of every faculty of a university have to take.

Most chairs are specialized and only teach the students of one or several departments of a particular faculty. Since teaching staff is organized into chairs and students are organized into departments, the number of departments and chairs in a particular faculty does not always coincide. For example, the Faculty of International Relations has four chairs – International Relations and Diplomacy, Political Institutions and Processes, History and Theory of Political Science, and State Administration – but only three departments: International Relations, State Administration and Political Science.

The system of tuition fees differs a lot from European countries and is typically post-Soviet. At all levels, from BA to doctorate, state universities have “free” and “paid” places; the free places are distributed amongst applicants with the highest exam grades, and redistributed each year. The rest pay a fee. The opportunity to study for free does not correlate with the financial situation of a student; as a result, young people from well-to-do families have better chances to become non-paying students because their parents can afford better schools and tutors. The number of free places varies from specialization to specialization, and is determined by the Ministry of Science and Education.

In the Soviet system, education at universities took five years in most sciences; graduates received diplomas not degrees. Now Armenia is in transition to the European system, and most state universities award BA degrees after four years of study, and MA degrees after another two. However, some private universities and the Russian-Armenian University (in some disciplines) still use the old Soviet system; their graduates’ diplomas are so far considered equivalent to MA degrees.

In humanities and social sciences, a student can sign up for an MA course even though their BA degree was in a different area; for example, holders of BA degrees in languages often get MA degrees in international relations.

An important point that affects the quality of BA and MA degree holders is that students at most universities are not required to do research as part of their coursework; in most universities and specializations, a student is allowed to take additional exams instead of research papers (including degree papers). As a result, many students graduate with a BA or MA degree without ever having done any independent research.

Holders of MA degrees can apply to doctorate courses (“aspirantura”) which last three years (or four if it is a part-time course); successful graduates can receive the degree of “candidate of sciences”. About a third of all graduates get this degree; for example, in 2008, 423 students graduated from doctorate courses in all specializations (not limited to social sciences and humanities); of them, 149 were awarded “candidate” degrees. Although being a student of a doctorate course is not obligatory for becoming a “candidate,” it is the most common procedure. Free places at doctorate courses are few, most students have to work and pay for their education. Doctorate students get no significant support from universities or Academy institutes; only a few manage to get study grants from international organizations or participate in international student exchange programs.

The degree of “candidate of sciences” is close but not fully equivalent to a PhD, although the holders of these degrees describe themselves as PhDs when working outside Armenia. The procedure for the awarding of “candidate of sciences” degrees in Armenia is rather cumbersome and bureaucratic due to the persistent Soviet legacy in

this sphere. The awarding of these degrees is regulated by a national Supreme Attestation Commission (SAC) which has the status of a state agency affiliated with the Ministry of Education and Science. In order to become a “candidate of sciences”, one needs to fulfill the following requirements:

- Pass three “candidate exams”: philosophy, a foreign language and the chosen field of study, plus a test for computer literacy;
- Have two scientific papers published in scientific journals accredited by the SAC, or in international journals;
- Write a thesis (dissertation); in social sciences and humanities it is usually 120-150 pages;
- Present (defend) this dissertation in front of a Specialized Science Board, usually at an institute affiliated with the Academy or at a university chair.

The applicant must have a scientific supervisor and two opponents who review and criticize the dissertation. Even after a successful defense, the awarding of the degree must be approved by the SAC which sometimes does not give its approval based on bureaucratic or technical arguments. At any rate, the scientific merit of a dissertation is by no means the main criterion for the awarding of a degree. In fact, in very many if not in the majority of cases, a dissertation is not a piece of independent research but rather, a review paper based on existing sources, mostly books in Armenian or Russian. Most dissertations do not contain any original findings and are not even expected to. The use of varied sources, including interviewing and online resources, is unusual and not a criterion of excellence.

Apart from the “candidate of sciences,” there is another, higher degree, called “doctor of sciences”, a Soviet legacy surviving in a number of post-Soviet countries. To become a “doctor”, one needs a larger number of publications (including abroad) and a longer dissertation; the procedure is similar to the one for becoming a “candidate” except that it does not involve taking an additional study course.

The SAC also awards titles to educators: “docent” (roughly equivalent to reader or assistant professor or associate professor) and “professor.” To become a docent, one must teach at a particular university for at least three years, have a doctorate degree (“candidate” or “doctor”) and a certain number of publications. The procedure for becoming a professor is different for “candidates” and “doctors”. A “doctor” needs 5 years’ teaching experience at a particular university and at least 5 publications. “Candidates” wishing to become professors must have at least 30 years’ teaching experience with the last 5 at a particular university, and at least 5 publications. There are a number of other requirements too.

In 2009, there were altogether 22 state universities and over 60 private universities in Armenia. The Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia is currently reviewing the registration of private universities, and it is hard to say how many will lose accreditation. The overall number is certain to decrease. However, this will hardly affect the situation with social sciences and humanities in Armenia, as the role of private universities in this sphere is quite small.

Of the state universities, only three award BA and MA degrees in social sciences and humanities: Yerevan State, Brusov Linguistic University and Russian-Armenian

University. Three other state universities, the Pedagogical University and the Universities of Gyumri and Vanadzor, award BA and MA degrees not in the sciences proper, but in the teaching of particular humanities (chiefly languages and history), i.e. the degree certificate says “teacher of history”, “teacher of Armenian” etc.

BA degrees in some humanities (mostly languages and history) are awarded by a number of private universities which is difficult to determine as they are currently under revision by the Ministry.

Some institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences have started their own MA courses (history at the Institute of History, oriental studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies, political science at the Chair of Political Science of the Academy).

Two international universities, the French University (UFAR, Université Française en Arménie) and the American University of Armenia (AUA) offer MA degrees in social sciences (political science at AUA, law and management at AUA and UFAR). Amongst private universities, the Caucasus Institute (CI) awards MA degrees in political science, albeit to just several people a year. At other private universities, courses in social sciences and humanities are few, except for international relations, a fashionable new specialization the teaching of which at most private universities is below standard.

Doctorate courses in social sciences and humanities are taught at Yerevan State, Brusov Linguistic University and Russian-Armenian University, and at institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences.

Chapter 1. Institutional and Policy Framework

a. Laws Regulating Research in Armenia

The main law regulating research in Armenia is the Armenian *Law on Scientific and Technical Activities* adopted in 2000 and last amended in 2010.

Since some research is carried out by bodies (such as think tanks) registered in the form of NGO or foundations, two other laws are relevant to this sphere: the 2002 *Law on Foundations*, last amended in 2008, and the 2001 *Law on Public Organizations*.

According to the *Law on Scientific and Technical Activities*, research bodies can have any legal form, including that of a state body, public organization, foundation or commercial organization. This law prescribes the functions of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, which chiefly consist in “uniting the research bodies affiliated with it” and “coordinating fundamental research conducted in Armenia”. The Academy also has preferential status with regard to strategic planning of research and its implementation, and is linked to the Prime Minister. This law also defines the legal status of institutions affiliated with the Academy.

Some bodies which engage in research or support research in Armenia are registered as NGO, which in Armenia can have two legal forms: that of public organizations or foundations. Their activities are regulated by the *Law on Foundations* and the *Law on Public Organizations*. Public organizations have membership and membership fees; they engage in various societal activities, including human rights,

environment etc. Most watchdog NGO are registered as public organizations. Foundations do not have membership and rely on donations or grants; their activities are defined as education, research, cultural activities etc. NGO registered as foundations include think tanks and educational institutes. The Armenian NGO community is currently negotiating the adoption of an Endowment Law that would enable NGO to establish endowments which will be allowed to generate incomes and thus ensure the financial sustainability of NGO.

Other laws relevant to the sphere in hand are the 1999 *Law on Education* and the 2004 *Law on Higher and Post-University Professional Education*. Under the latter, all state and private universities are subject to state licensing.

The rights of researchers are regulated by Part 2 of the *Civic Code* of Armenia and the 2006 *Law on Copyright*.

State funding of research is subject to the 2006 *Law on State Support of Innovative Activities*.

The Standing Parliamentary Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is currently discussing a draft *Law on the Academy of Sciences*, which will be submitted to the Parliament in late September 2010.

b. State Policy and Key Players

The structure of state bodies engaging in and regulating research in Armenia is still part of its Soviet legacy. This structure is defined by the rulings of the president and government of Armenia as well as laws and by-laws.

The government defines state policies and funding strategies in the sphere of research via the State Committee on Science affiliated with the Ministry of Education and Science. In fact, the division of labor and responsibility between the State Committee on Science and the Ministry of Education and Science is not clearly defined. While technically being part of the Ministry, the Committee has the status of a state body which defines government policies in the area, an arrangement which creates many grey areas in this sphere.

The Armenian Parliament has a Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport responsible for drafting and processing laws and state budget allocations in the area of its competence. The Standing Committee is also in charge of parliamentary supervision of science and education in Armenia; on the suggestion of the government, or on its own initiative, the Standing Committee can convene parliamentary sessions on particular issues and commission expert assessments.

All higher educational institutions (universities and educational institutes) and the Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts report to the Ministry of Education and Science.

All other state bodies engaging in research in the sphere of humanities and social sciences report to the Academy of Sciences – the primary body that conducts research and coordinates activities in the fields of science and social sciences in Armenia.

Founded in 1943, the Academy of Sciences is based in Yerevan and has branches in five other cities: Gyumri, Sevan, Goris, Vanadzor and Ghapan. Overall, the Academy employs 3700 people, including 323 holders of the degree of “doctor of sciences” and 1006 “candidates of sciences.” The Academy consists of a Presidium and 36 affiliated research bodies. The Presidium of the Academy has five divisions that supervise the research bodies affiliated with the Academy:

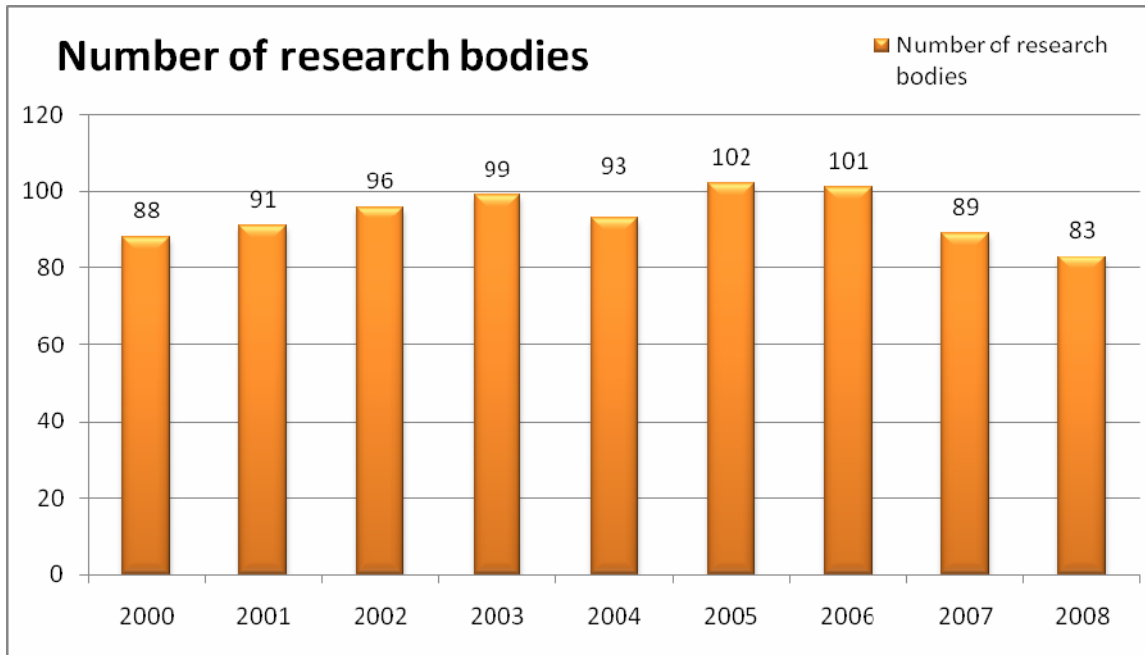
- Mathematical and Technical Sciences: 3 institutes
- Physics and Astrophysics: 4 institutes and 1 center
- Natural Sciences: 5 institutes and 5 centers
- Chemistry and Earth Sciences: 6 institutes and 2 centers
- Armenian Studies and Social Sciences: 9 institutes and 1 center. It is these ten bodies that engage in social sciences and humanities within the Academy:
 - the Institute of History,
 - the Institute of Philosophy and Law,
 - the Kotanyan Institute of Economics,
 - the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography,
 - the Institute of Oriental Studies,
 - the Acharyan Institute of Language,
 - the Abeghyan Institute of Literature,
 - the Institute of Art,
 - the Museum-Institute of Genocide,
 - the Shirak Armenology Research Center.

The Presidium of the Academy also includes a Fundamental Scientific Library, Scientific Information Center, International Scientific Educational Center and two publishing houses, *Gitutyun* (Armenian for “science”) and *Armenian Encyclopedia*.

The Academy has a membership system dating back to the Soviet times. It currently has 87 full members (“academicians”) and 18 “corresponding members”; together with the directors of all affiliated institutes, they form the General Assembly which is the main decision-making body of the Academy. In between Assemblies, the Academy is managed by its Presidium of 9 persons.

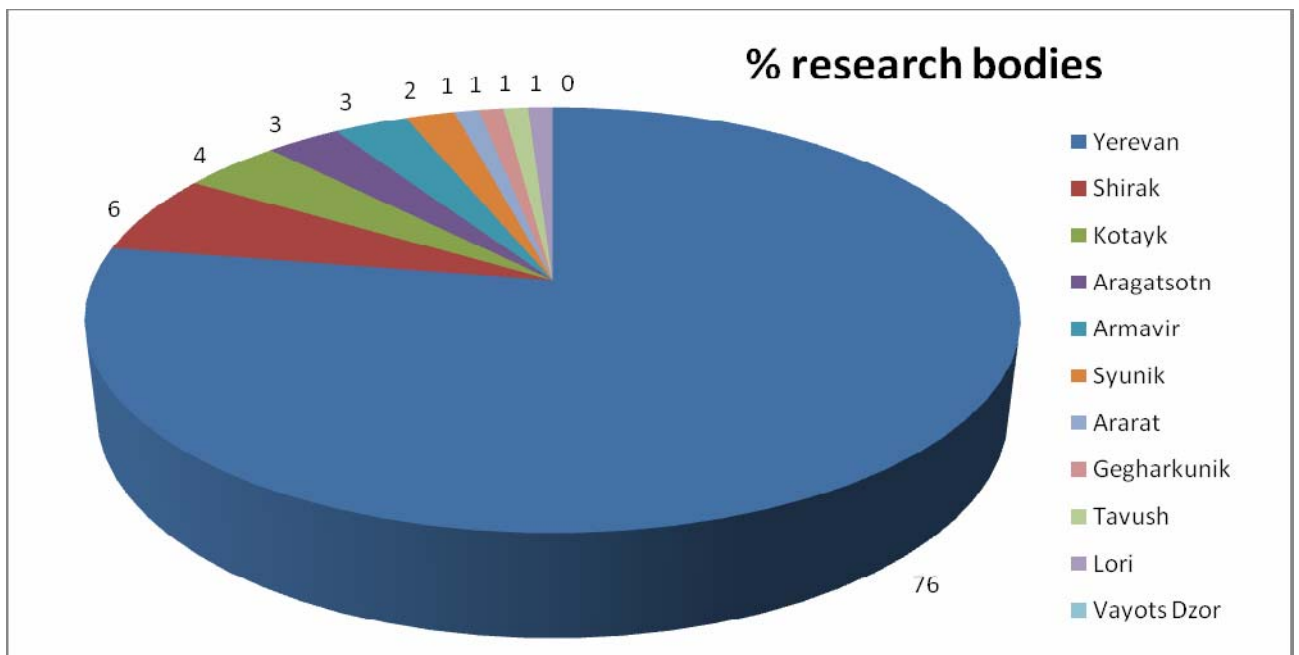
According to the State Committee on Science, most research bodies in Armenia are located in Yerevan (78%); 65% are state-funded bodies, including research institutes and university chairs. The latter are quite inefficient in terms of research since their staff is too busy teaching: a standard full-time contract is for 700 contact hours a year, amounting to about 25 contact hours a week not counting exams, tests and review of student papers; with preparation, this adds up to a full-time teaching job leaving no time for research.

The number of research bodies in Armenia, 2000-2008



Source: Statistical Yearbooks 2002, 2005, 2009

Research bodies per region in 2008



Statistical Yearbook 2009; the total figure is 98, including branches and affiliates

The leading universities in Armenia that engage in research in the sphere of social sciences and humanities are Yerevan State University, the Pedagogical Institute of Yerevan (as we learnt from interviewing, the Pedagogical Institutes in Gyumri and Vanadzor do not engage in any research in the sphere of HSS) and the Brusov Linguistic University.

Of the international universities, some research in social sciences and humanities is done at the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University. At the American University of Armenia (AUA), most research is conducted in the spheres of economics and management. The AUA has a number of research centers, two of them active in the areas of concern to this report: the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis which conducts surveys on behalf of USAID, UNISEF, UNDPD etc, and the Center for Research and Development in Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching (webpage is down). At the European University of Armenia and the French University of Armenia, no research is done.

Private universities scarcely do any research in HSS. Many of the private universities in Armenia are businesses which award degrees and offer little education. Even at those private universities that teach a sound curriculum, the management is not motivated to invest in research.

Non-state bodies have been playing an increasingly important role in HSS in Armenia in recent years. Only a few of these bodies are think-tanks; for most, research is not the focus of their activity, as they are chiefly watchdog bodies. The organizations which are closest to being think tanks are the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS), the International Human Development Center (IHD), the Caucasus Institute (CI), the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC), and a few others (see next chapter).

A special case is the Noravank Center, a think tank registered as a foundation, largely funded by the government and affiliated with the Prime Minister. However, it also receives grants from Armenian and international donors to conduct research projects.

Several think tanks are affiliated with political parties or groups. The oldest think tank in Armenia, the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) was founded in the early nineties by the former Foreign Minister of Armenia Raffi Hovannisian who became one of the opposition leaders. As Mr Hovannisian is an American Armenian by background, ACNIS is supported by the Armenian Diaspora and some American bodies. Another former Foreign Minister of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian, has recently founded a think tank called Civilitas, which is now becoming actively involved in advocacy and research.

c. The Funding System

The first decade of independence was tough for science, with meager budget funds allocated to research institutions at a time of war, crisis and total upheaval. Funding from Moscow stopped, the new state was poor, businesses were only starting to develop, and international and Diaspora donors were too busy helping the poor, refugees and war victims.

By the late nineties, international donors began to develop an interest in post-Soviet research bodies. However, most projects they supported had societal or political

focus and only indirect relevance to HSS such as sociology, political science or anthropology. As a result, most NGO established locally at that time had political focus.

Scholarly research in the field of humanities and social sciences was scarcely financed in Armenia until 2000 when state financing of science began to grow. The *Law on Scientific and Technical Activity* passed in 2000 prescribed the allocation of at least 3% of the state budget expenditures to science starting from 2002. Yet the funding of research never reached that amount in reality. In 2001, the relevant chapter of the law (Chapter 23.2) was edited to say that the state funding of science must be increased each year in proportion to the growth of state revenues.

With economic growth in the last decade, state financing of research has increased; for HSS, this has meant more funds for Armenian studies, including history, anthropology, archeology, language and culture studies. The 2006 amendments to the *Law on Scientific and Technical Activity* also place special attention on Armenian studies. In 2005-2007, Armenian studies were financed much more than “social sciences” (which include humanities) or “education studies” (also including humanities).

However, starting 2008, “Science” stopped being a separate budget item, and the “Science and Education” section was renamed “Education”. Budget allocations to research are spread over various sections of the budget and difficult to follow. In September 2010, the President of the National Academy of Science in an interview to the media said that current financing of science amounted to 0.2% of the GDP.

Financing of research in % of GDP, planned and actual, in mln Armenian dram

	1996	2000	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Planned budget expenditures for science	1802.5	2629.4	2730.1	2961.5	3321.6	4102.6	5193.1	5835.2
Total budget expenditures	127158	252780	247232	334239	317039	394600	482194	558677
% of budget expenditures	1.42%	1.04%	1.1%	0.89%	1.05%	1.04%	1.08%	1.04%
Actual expenditures, based on reports of research bodies		1519.1	1797	1896.3	2096.6	2593.2	3062.2	3341.2
% of budget expenditures		0.578	0.658	0.640	0.631	0.632	0.590	0.573

Sources: parliament.am (planned budgets); Armstat (statistics) and edu.am (actual budgets)

State funding of science in Armenia has three formats:

- basic financing of state research institutions and infrastructure for fundamental and applied research;
- tender-based financing of projects which have priority for the state;

- thematic financing of projects proposed by scholars or research teams, selected based on a competition (a quasi-grants system).

The proportions in which state funding is allocated to the three formats is prescribed by the law on the state budget. In reality, the first type, basic financing, is just sufficient to sustain an infrastructure and staff for research on a very meager level. As to the second type, in the area of humanities and social sciences, the only projects which have “priority” for the state and get state financing lie in the field of Armenian studies. Finally, the third type of financing implies the awarding of state grants for specific projects.

As can be seen from the table below, thematic funding of Armenian Studies was over four times that of Social Sciences in 2005-2007, and still three times that of Social Sciences in 2008; most of it was spent on the salaries of project staff.

Thematic (Quasi Grants) Funding

	No of full-time positions		Funding, USD		% of salaries	
	2005-2007	2008	2005-2007	2008	2005-2007	2008
Armenian Studies	259 (9.9%)	265.6 (11.3%)	111.5 (10.8%)	151.5 (10.6%)	76.1%	92.3%
Social sciences	68 (2.6%)	89.5 (3.8%)	26 (2.5%)	50 (3.5%)	85.6%	95.8%
Total	2609.5	2352	1028	1429	83.1%	93.1%

Source: State Committee on Science of Armenia

Meanwhile the number of post-graduate students and candidate of sciences degrees in social sciences has been much greater than in Armenian studies:

Table 6. Candidate degrees awarded in 2007 by area

Area	number	%
Maths, mechanics, IT	30	6.3
Physics	24	5.1
Technical sciences	45	9.5
Chemistry	13	2.7
Biology	26	5.5
Geology, geography	3	0.6
Armenian Studies	89	18.7
Social Sciences	148	31.2
Education Studies	32	6.7
Architecture	6	1.3
Medicine	49	10.3
Agriculture	10	2.1
	475	

Source: State Committee on Science of Armenia

The official from the Ministry of Education and Science interviewed for this study stated that the current system of state financing of science, in which salaries account for up to 90% of all funds, does not permit good quality research. In 2010-2012, it is planned to augment the volume of grants for projects, and to increase the percentage of

funds for infrastructure and direct costs, reducing the percentage of salaries to 55-60%. Starting 2011, it is also planned to create science boards in various areas that will assess projects and decide on priorities.

Apart from state funds, international grants and international cooperation projects play an important role in the development of research in Armenia. Direct international funding of research bodies has gone down in recent years in favor of joint projects. Armenian research bodies frequently implement parts of large-scale projects carried out by international universities or research centers.

International bodies that support research in Armenia fall into several categories.

The first category includes local or regional bureaus of international or European organizations for which support to research is not a priority. These include the UNDP, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO, the World Bank, EBRD, IMF etc. For a number of years, the EU financed the TACIS program which supported post-Soviet development, including in science and education, and has now been closed down.

These organizations award grants to local NGO; the amount of support going towards research varies depending on the agenda of the organization and focus of its projects. For example, in the case of UNDP it amounts to 1-3% of the total expenditure in Armenia.

There is an office in Armenia of the TEMPUS program, the main EU tool for educational exchange and cooperation. However, most projects submitted by Armenian educational institutions to TEMPUS in the last decade have been in the field of IT, business management and administration, and natural sciences (physics, biology etc). The last time a project in the sphere of humanities was funded by TEMPUS was in the late nineties, when the Yerevan State University Faculty of Sociology was actively modernizing its curriculum and research activities through European cooperation and exchange. The project was very successful; now the faculty sustains its international ties using its own resources, implements a wide variety of projects and no longer needs TEMPUS support.

The second category includes foreign embassies to Armenia. The embassies of the US, UK, France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland and Greece to Armenia award grants for projects, chiefly small ones (average 5,000 – 10,000 USD) that can involve research, publications, translation of books, student and teacher exchange, organization of conferences and roundtables, study trips etc. The embassies of course have certain political agendas, and their grants programs are often sporadic.

The third category includes development agencies (USAID, SDC, DFID GTZ, SIDA etc) and cultural organizations (British Council, American Council etc). These bodies do not prioritize research; however, the grants they award are often large-scale, long-term and involving support to and creation of infrastructures. They support research as part of projects focusing on human rights, civil society development, conflict resolution, rural development etc. These projects promote the capacity building of social sciences and humanities, expert and student exchange, and scholarships for young scholars.

For example, in recent years USAID has supported many projects promoting Armenia-Turkey relations and thus benefited the development of political science, conflict resolution and Turkish studies in Armenia.

In recent years, development agencies have decreased support to NGO in Armenia due to the global recession and some degree of donor fatigue. For example, in 2006, the goals of the SDC in the region were reviewed, and good governance was taken off the agenda. Ever since, the SDC has only supported projects in the sphere of rural development and humanitarian aid in Armenia. The only project in the sphere of humanities and social sciences supported by SDC in Armenia has been the Caucasus Institute, support of which ends in 2010.

The fourth category includes thematic organizations such as International IDEA, the International Organization on Migration, World Vision Armenia, NDI, IREX, Environmental Public Advocacy Center (EPAC), Open Society Institute etc. Most of them have been active in Armenia since the mid- or late nineties. Of these, the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation of Armenia (OSIAFA) has been the most active. OSIAFA supports media projects, education and exchange, NGO development, cooperation with European institutions, legal and judiciary reform. According to the head of OSIAFA, it does not finance purely scholarly projects. The OSI Think Tank Fund based in Budapest has recently awarded some support to think tanks in Armenia.

The fifth category includes German political foundations: the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Heinrich Boell Foundation etc. Due to their special status and funding system (in proportion to the number of seats each party has in the German parliament), their activity is focused on politics and society. In Armenia, they fund conferences, training for political party activists, electoral reform and activities, monitoring etc. With the exception of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundations which have offices in Armenia, the other German foundations operate regionally from offices in Tbilisi¹. The Heinrich Boell Foundation plays a special role in the development of social sciences in Armenia as it has a regional (South Caucasus) scholarship program for young scholars in the field of social sciences, in which several Armenian scholars participate every year.

The sixth category is special for Armenia: it includes Armenian Diaspora organizations and donors supported by traditional Armenian political parties which have branches in the Diaspora (for example, the Dashnaksutyun Party has an affiliated charity body called the Armenian Assistance Fund). This category includes AGBU (Armenian General Benevolent Union), the Union of Armenians of Russia, the Tekeyan Foundation and some others. Some of these bodies support education and science. For example, the American University of Armenia is supported to a large extent by AGBU.

Diaspora bodies support chiefly Armenian studies, history and religion studies. They have funded archeological excavations, Medieval studies projects at the Matenadaran (interview with AGBU still due) and some studies by individuals. Their role is important in two ways. First, they do not usually support specific projects but rather, infrastructure, equipment and construction, as has been the case for the construction of

¹ The staff of two German foundations with offices in Armenia told our researchers that their foundations did not fund any research. However, they have in fact financed the production of research papers in the sphere of social sciences and humanities; information on their activity in this report has been obtained from their websites.

a new building of Matenadaran, the renovation of the Genocide Museum, libraries and university halls. Second, the areas they fund are the ones that get little support from other donors. In the sphere of Armenian studies and religion studies, Diaspora donors are the main sources of funding apart from state funds.

Chapter 2. Research in Social Sciences and Humanities: Institutional Actors

a. State Universities

Most state universities are located in the capital, Yerevan. Two regional universities – the Pedagogical Institutes of Gyumri and Vanadzor, Armenia's second and third largest cities – conduct educational activities in the sphere of humanities and social sciences, training teachers in a variety of disciplines, chiefly Armenian language and Armenian studies, history and literature studies. However, these institutes have very limited funds and resources for research. In the sphere of humanities and social sciences, they have not had any significant research projects in the last two decades.

Apart from Armenian state universities, there are several interstate universities in Armenia which award both Armenian and international degrees and are registered both in Armenia and the countries of origin: the French University (UFAR, Université Française en Arménie), the American University of Armenia (AUA), the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University (RAU) and the European Regional Academy. Of these, research in the sphere of social sciences and humanities is only conducted at RAU, discussed in detail below. The French University does not engage in research; AUA does research in the spheres of management, economics and law but not in the disciplines focused by this study. The European Academy only conducts research in economics, IT, criminal procedure and forensic expertise.

i. Yerevan State University

Address: Alec Manukyan 1, Yerevan 0025

Website: <http://www.y-su.am/>

Email: info@y-su.am

Telephone: +37410 555240

Rector: A Simonyan , tel. +37410 55 4629

Professional staff: 1200, including 200 doctors of sciences, 500 candidates of sciences and about 30 full members of the Academy.

Number of students: 10 450

Founded in 1919

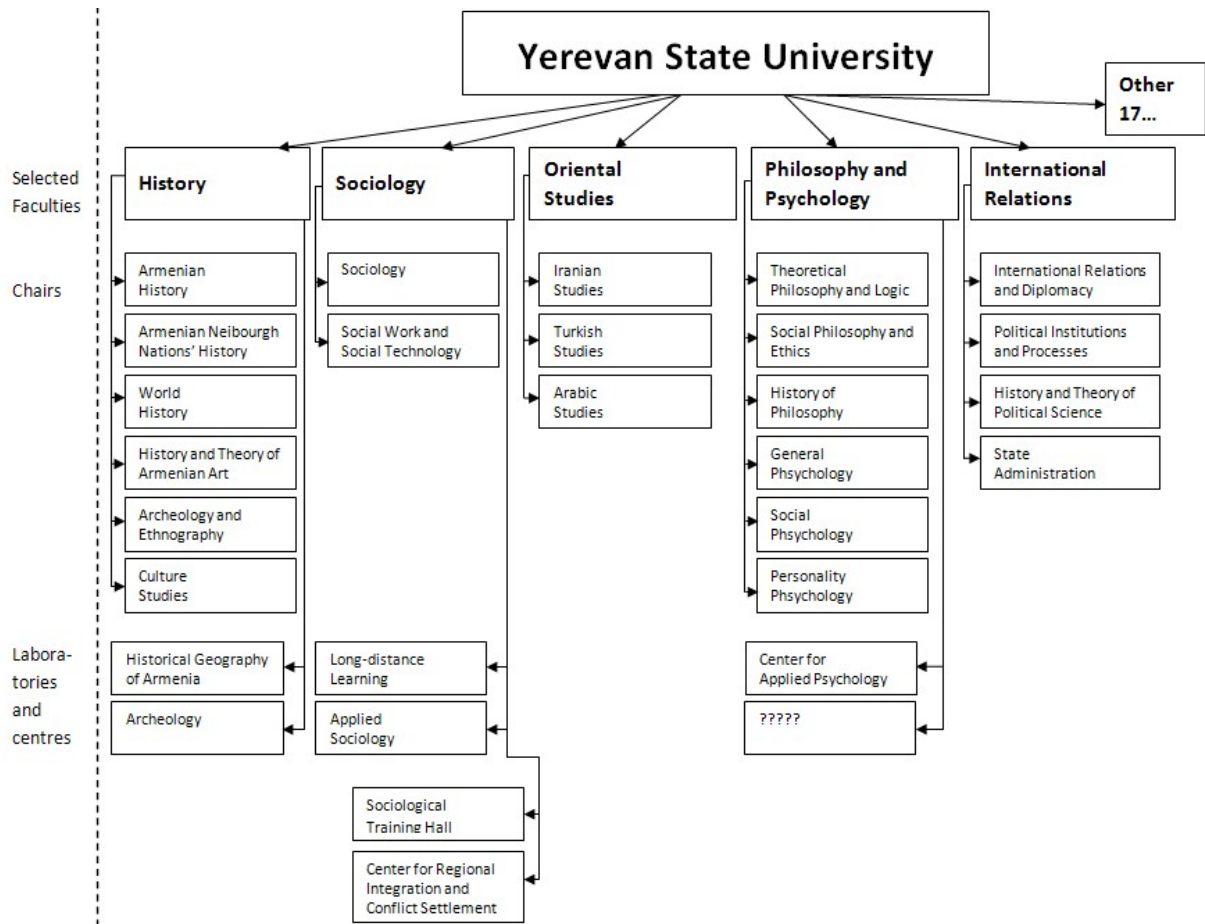
Yerevan State University was founded in 1919, originally in Gyumri city in the north of Armenia. It is the largest university of Armenia. The annual budget of YSU reaches 28 million dollars, of which about 23% comes from state funds and about 70%, from student fees. The rest are state funds for research, donor funds and donations (mostly for education not research).

The YSU has 22 faculties including 12 in the field of humanities and social sciences: History, Armenian philology, Economics, Law, Russian Philology, Oriental Studies, Journalism, Philosophy and Psychology, Sociology, Romance-Germanic Philology, International Relations, and Religion Studies.

It also has five research centers in the sphere of humanities: the Institute of Armenian Studies, the Armenian Center for Egyptology, the Center of Hellenic Studies,

the Center of European Law and Integration and the Center of Civilization and Culture Studies.

Most of its specialized chairs correspond to departments, e.g. the chair of World History does research and teaches students studying at the department of World History. This can vary across disciplines; in some there are more chairs than departments.



With full-time teaching contracts requiring at least 700 hours of contact classes per annum (not counting tests, reviewing papers, preparing for lectures, writing syllabi etc), staff has little time for research. The YSU website contains no reference to research projects and no publications.

Once in 4 months, YSU publishes its *Review* in Armenian with some of the papers in Russian. The Review is not available online. Some departments and research centers also publish books (exact number not known).

Overall, the quantity and quality of research in social sciences and humanities conducted at YSU is higher than at most other Armenian universities. Quality varies a lot across faculties; the faculties of Sociology and Oriental Studies have higher standards of research than most other faculties in HSS. They cooperate more with

international bodies, publish abroad and conduct more field research and applied studies.

The YSU has the biggest library next to the National Library and to the Fundamental Library of the National Academy. The YSU has a network of contacts with international universities and science centers, mostly via its staff. Internet access is available at many faculties of the YSU.

ii. Brusov Linguistic University

Address: 42 Tumanyan St., Yerevan 0002

Website <http://www.brusov.am/>

Email yslu@brusov.am

Telephone +37410 530552

Rector: Suren Zolyan

Number of students: 4700 full-time

Founded in 1935

The BLU is originally a language school; traditionally it has been doing some research on European studies and American Studies, including by country; they also have experts teaching and researching language philosophy and hermeneutics. In recent years, BLU has started doing research and education in the sphere of political science, regional studies and Caucasus studies. The BLU has three faculties: Foreign Languages; Linguistics and Intercultural Communication; Russian Language, Literature and Foreign Languages. It also has a number of specialized centers and laboratories.

As in other state universities, its staff admittedly has almost no time for research and does it on personal initiative. Most of the research produced by BLU is in the form of BA, MA or PhD dissertations. However, some scholars produce and publish monographs.

Currently, the main areas of research at BLU are compiling textbooks and manuals for schools and universities, compiling dictionaries, and research on education and methods of teaching languages. BLU also produces research in the field of linguistics, including

- General, comparative and applied linguistics, chiefly with focus on languages belonging to the Romance and Germanic groups
- Linguistic policy
- Translation theory and practice
- Literature Studies, chiefly with focus on European and American Literature
- Armenian language

Apart from linguistics, some research is done at BLU in the following areas:

- Area Studies
- Armenian literature, history, and history of Armenian art

- Transition studies
- History of philosophy
- History of religion
- Culture studies
- Psychology

The Brusov faculty of interest to this project is the Faculty of Linguistics and Intercultural Communication. It has three chairs:

- UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Democracy and European Studies
- Chair of Linguistics and Theory of Communication
- Anthropology and Area Studies

It also has two centers for research and education: a Center for International Tourism and a Center for International Journalism.

The faculty awards two types of BA degrees: “translation studies/philology” and “linguistics and intercultural communication.” BA degrees in translation studies are of two types: Armenian-Russian and Armenian-Russian-English.

BA degrees in “linguistics and intercultural communication” break down into six specializations:

- language (such as English, French, German, Italian etc.),
- area studies,
- political science,
- psychology,
- international journalism
- international tourism

However, since Brusov is first and foremost a language school, all students specialize in “linguistics and something”, i.e. “linguistics and international journalism,” “linguistics and political science” etc.

The BLU has its own publishing house, called Lingva, which produces student manuals (mainly on linguistics), studies on methodology of language teaching, some research on literature and history, biographical studies etc, in Armenian, English and Russian.

New study topics in the field of linguistics include communication theory and corpus linguistics. In cooperation with the Russian and Armenian Academies of Sciences and several Russian institutes and universities, the BLU has created the first corpus of the Armenian language www.eanc.net New studies are being done in the field of style, pragma and discourse analysis. Some areas are very poorly developed, such as computational and forensic linguistics.

On the whole, research at BLU is limited to the personal endeavors of its staff (including the rector who is a renowned expert in semiotics and political studies) and degree papers or dissertations written by the students.

Staff has access to publications and journals on linguistics. The BLU is subscribed to EPSCO and is a member of the Armenian Library Association. Provided they wish to, the staff keeps abreast of current developments in linguistics. In other areas, such as political science, the overall level is much lower.

The Brusov website is trilingual (Armenian, English, Russian). Research is not described but some publications are available for download from the website.

The Brusov University gets less than 10% of its funds from the state; research is not a priority and is financed whenever funds remain, or on the personal initiative of its faculty. The BLU sometimes gets grants for its projects but usually researchers operate in cooperation with NGO who get and manage the grants, and BLU staff implement some of the activities.

Most staff have command of two foreign languages and all have access to the Internet. The university has a library, electronic databases and computers for students.

iii. Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University

Address: 123 Hovsep Emin St., Yerevan 0051

Website <http://www.rau.am/>

Rector: Armen Darbinyan

Email rectorat@rau.am

Number of students: 1600

Founded in 1997

Yearly budget: approximately 4 million USD, most of it coming from the state budgets of Russia and Armenia.

The Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University was founded in 1997 by an agreement between the governments of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia. RAU is a higher education institution that is regulated by two ministries: the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia. Graduates get two diplomas: one Russian and one Armenian, recognized in respective countries.

Teaching is in Russian, which is increasingly a challenge, as Russian language proficiency is decreasing among school graduates; more and more often, RAU has to accept students whose Russian fluency is not sufficient for full-time study. Teaching staff is local, with visiting professors from Russia only giving occasional master-classes. As local teaching staff has to be selected amongst fluent Russian speakers, this limits the selection and sometimes impairs the quality of teaching.

The RAU uses the European degree system in some of its faculties, and the old Soviet (and current Russian) five-year system in others. Its diplomas are recognized in

both Russia and Armenia as state university diplomas, making graduates eligible for doctorate studies.

The university has 6 faculties in social sciences and humanities:

- Faculty of Philology
- Faculty of Journalism
- Faculty of Political Science
- Faculty of Foreign Languages and Regional Studies
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Law

In the sphere of research, the RAU cooperates with 4 departments of the National Academy. Some of the research is implemented jointly with international research structures (such as the Swiss Business School).

The priorities of research in social sciences and humanities are as follows:

- Transformation issues in societies with economy in transition;
- Study of governmental regulation of the financial sector in countries with economy in transition;
- Shaping of policy in countries going through a political transition;
- Modern philology and linguistics;
- Educational reforms in Armenia.

The faculty doing most of the research and teaching in HSS at RAU is the Faculty of Political Science. It has two departments: Political Science and International Relations; three chairs: Political Theory; Political Processes and Technologies; World Politics and International Relations. It also has a Room of Iranian Studies and the Nansen Room.

The faculty has about 30 teaching staff, most of them holding doctorate degrees (candidate or doctor) in philology, economics, history or philosophy. It is just in recent years that several graduates of RAU have been awarded the degree of “candidate of sciences” in political science. As a result, political science is chiefly taught by historians and philosophers. Research at the faculty is about political theory and its teaching methodology, the history of Armenia and neighboring countries, political developments in the region, and Armenia-Russia relations. The faculty has doctorate departments in 5 specializations:

- Theory of Politics;
- History and Methodology of Political Science;
- Political Institutions, Processes and Technologies;
- Political Problems of International Relations and Regional Development;
- Theory and History of Political Science

Unlike most other universities in Armenia, the RAU has strong ties to Russian universities and research bodies.

The university's library, with its 23,500 books listed in an electronic catalogue, is a member of the Consortium of Electronic Libraries of Armenia. It is subscribed to over 100 magazines and to most newspapers published in Armenia. The university's computer database of publications weighs 4 GB.

The university has a publishing house, which has so far published over 60 books. 8 books in the area of social sciences and humanities were published by the university since 2006, including a four-volume history of political science and the Russian translation of a university manual on Armenian history produced by the Armenian Academy.

The university publishes two science quarterlies: *the RAU Herald (social sciences and humanities)* and *the RAU Herald (mathematics and physics)*.

iv. Armenian Pedagogical University

Address: 13a Khanjan St., Yerevan 0025

Website www.aspu.am

Email armped@netsys.am, tel. +37410 585566

Director Artush Ghukasyan, email rector.armped@nt.am tel. +37410 526401

Number of students: 12 598, including 8153 full-time

Founded in 1922

Founded in 1922 as the Pedagogical Faculty of Yerevan State University, it was then converted into an institute and later into a university. Its focus is on training teachers for schools in 47 professions, including 30 in which MA degrees are awarded. A new and growing dimension is training teachers for Armenian Diaspora.

It has a faculty of 400, over half of it with PhD degrees. However, the average age of its faculty is about 60. Although the staff is expected to engage in research, it is not a priority for the APU. In the sphere of humanities, its strongest sides are Armenian studies, history, languages and education methodology. Publication of research is centralized via the Science Board and is poorly financed. Scholars sometimes publish at own expense especially if they need a minimum number of publications for their degree.

The university website is currently down; according to the vice-rector, there are plans to re-design it. There is a library which is updated more or less regularly; departments and administration have a minimum number of computers.

Few of the staff know any foreign languages but Russian. The university has contacts with several Western universities in the area of education methodology; it sometimes organizes conferences to which foreign scholars, including from the Diaspora, are invited. ASPU produces periodicals in Armenian Studies and Education Studies, which are not posted online.

State funding accounts for 25% of the budget, the rest comes from student fees. In recent years the university got several grants from international organizations for educational programs. Research is chiefly financed using state funds.

v. The Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts

www.matenadaran.am

Email friends@matenadaran.am

Director: Hrachya Tamrazyan

Curator: Gevork Ter-Vartanyan

Address: 53, Mashtots St., Yerevan 0009

Telephone: +37410 520420

Staff: 178

The Matenadaran has special status: it is not affiliated with the Academy of Sciences and reports to the Ministry of Education and Science. It was founded in 1959 and given collections of ancient manuscripts stored in the archives of the Armenian Church and various private collections. At present, it has about 14,000 medieval manuscripts in a variety of languages.

Its focus is on medieval studies, from history to language. The Matenadaran has postgraduate courses and awards PhD degrees. A new building is now being erected for it, with the old building in central Yerevan planned to function solely as a museum and exhibition hall. Its archives are regularly updated using state funds, sponsorship and donations; in the last three years, according to its Director, the Matenadaran has acquired over 120 manuscripts and thousands of historical documents.

Its staff of 178 includes over 60 scholars, more than in the Soviet times; there are plans to hire yet more. Apart from state funding, the Matenadaran gets support from sponsors and donations, and some revenue from selling tickets to its exhibitions and from advertising. It implements joint projects with Western university that involve some technical aid and financial support. Some state funding goes towards the publication of a many-volume catalogue of Armenian manuscripts.

On its website, the Matenadaran posts some of its collection and publications in several languages. Many of its staff speak foreign languages and attend conferences abroad. The Matenadaran organizes its own conferences to which it invites international scholars. In terms of integration into the international community, the Matenadaran is doing better than most research bodies in Armenia; it has an international reputation and professional ties abroad. It is subscribed to several international journals and databases.

b. Institutes Affiliated with the Academy of Sciences of Armenia

i. Institute of Oriental Studies

<http://orient.sci.am>

Email: info@orient.sci.am , nhovanes@sci.am

Director: Ruben Safrastyan

Address: 24 Baghramyan St., Yerevan 0019

Phone: +37410 583382

Staff: 65

The IOS was founded in 1971 based on the sector of Oriental Studies which had existed since 1958 at the Institute of History.

The website of IOS contains a list of recent publications and some downloadable versions. The IOS management says that it plans to start putting all publications online.

All funding comes from the state. As all other academic institutes, the IOS has the status of a non-commercial government organization and has no right to sell its books or generate any other type of income.

The areas of study are the Near and Middle East, the Caucasus and East Asia, including their history, politics, international and regional relations, societies, cultures, religion and ethnic issues. The IOS has the following departments:

1. Ancient East
2. Christian East
3. Arabic Countries
4. Turkey
5. Iran
6. East Asia

There is also a research group on Kurdish Studies.

The IOS has access to publications in its sphere, including online publications and databases. Its own hardcopy library is quite large by Armenian standards. All researchers have command of at least one Oriental language; most also speak and write fluent Russian and English.

Oriental Studies are not a discipline in which doctorate degrees can be awarded in Armenia; students of Oriental Studies can get their degrees in History at the IOS, which has a Science Board awarding candidate degrees in World History, or in Philology at the YSU Department of Oriental Studies.

The IOS organizes joint conferences and workshops with other institutions; its staff takes part in international events and has many contacts to counterparts in the countries of study.

All its publications are produced hardcopy, some of them in foreign languages, and actively disseminated outside Armenia.

ii. Institute of History

<http://www.academhistory.am>

Email: history@sci.am

Director: Ashot Melkonyan

Address: 24 Baghramyan St., Yerevan 0019

Telephone: + 37410 529263

Staff: 130

Founded in 1943

The IH studies the history of Armenia and the Armenians. Its priority research topics are

- The forming of the Armenian nation in the Armenian Plateau
- The history of Armenian statehood and the Armenian Church
- Medieval Armenian history
- Armenian national liberation movements in the 19th and early 20th century
- The Armenian Question and the Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire
- Demographic changes in Armenia in the 19th and early 20th century
- The history of Armenian political parties starting from in the late 19th - early 20th century
- The History of the 1918-1920 First Republic of Armenia
- The history of 1920-1991 Soviet Armenia
- The history of modern Armenia
- The history of the Armenian Diaspora
- The history of the movement for self-determination of Nagorno-Karabakh
- The history of Armenian press

The Institute has a staff of 130 including about 100 researchers, up to 60% of them aged 50 and older. They work at seven departments:

- Department of Ancient History
- Department of Medieval History
- Department of New Ages
- Department of Modern History
- Department of Armenian Question and Armenian Genocide
- Department of Armenian Diaspora and Communities
- Department of Armenian Periodicals and Public Mind

There is also a research center at the IH which studies the life and oeuvre of Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian.

The IH has its own publishing house funded from Armenian Diaspora charity funds. Every year it publishes an average of 20 volumes, including collections of papers. Researchers also publish papers in various external journals and publications. In recent years, the IH has started producing a many-volume study on Armenian history which is funded from the state budget under the program for supporting thematic

studies. Once a year, the IH publishes a collection of papers called *Issues of Armenian History*.

Most of the funds come from the state (just over 220 000 USD per annum). The IH also gets project-based support from sponsors, chiefly from the Armenian Diaspora. The institute does not get grants from international organizations, and runs no joint projects with foreign universities or research bodies. The Institute of History is a member of the International Association of the Institutes of History of the CIS Countries founded in Moscow in December 2005. The Association organizes board meetings and summer schools, and publishes a journal in Russian called *The Historical Space*.

The IH has a Science Board on History which awards PhD and DA degrees.

The IH has its own library, used by its staff but also open to visitors. It subscribes to all the periodicals it can afford; however, budget funds are insufficient for buying enough new books and subscriptions. Although many of the staff can use computers, and internet access is provided at IH, the overall shortage of funds restricts researchers' access to online databases and international sources.

The IH website is trilingual; it contains brief reviews of its publications but no downloadable books. Most publications are in Armenian; a few are in Russian. Books are disseminated abroad albeit irregularly.

Most researchers have command of Russian, and only some, of English or German. Many lecture at Armenian universities, a few also teach courses abroad. The staff regularly attends conferences in Armenia, and sometimes also abroad.

iii. Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law

www.ipsol.sci.am

Email: gevork@sci.am

Director: Gevork Poghosyan

Address: 44 Arami St., Yerevan 0010

Telephone: +37410 530571

Founded in 1969

The Institute of Philosophy and Law was founded in 1969 based on the Sector of Philosophy at the Academy of Sciences. In 2002, it was renamed the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law.

The IPSL now has 25 researchers; their average monthly salary is under 100 Euro. They conduct research in five spheres: Philosophy, Sociology, Political Science, Law and Psychology.

In the sphere of philosophy, main research areas are the history of Armenian philosophy and aesthetics, the philosophy of science, and the historical and philosophical analysis of national culture.

Research on sociology and political science covers societal transition in Armenia, migrations, societal cohesion, the settlement of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, and the clash of civilizations.

Law studies at the IPSL focus on the theory and history of Armenian law, the constitutional law of Armenia, and legal practices in the area of criminal law.

Psychology studies at IPSL are focused on the psychological adaptation of individuals to societal and political transition.

Among its achievements, the IPSL lists studies of the Armenian philosophical heritage, including the publication of the first volume of *The History of Armenian Philosophy*. Some of the studies have been published by the IPSL.

The IPSL has a Science Board which awards PhD and DA degrees, and a postgraduate study course for PhD students.

Apart from the basic funding, the state sometimes commissions the IPSL to conduct expert assessments or studies. Some additional funds are awarded by the Academy on project basis. The IPSL also gets grants from donors.

The IPSL has a library and subscribes to periodicals. It has internet access for its staff.

The IPSL website is trilingual. The publications of the IPSL are listed on its website in *Publications*; only a few are downloadable in pdf format from the homepage. The IPSL publishes an average of 10 volumes per year; its staff also contributes papers to various external publications. All staff are fluent in Russian, some in English, and attend conferences at home and abroad.

The institute cooperates with various Armenian and foreign bodies; some of its publications are disseminated abroad.

iv. Institute of Archeology and Ethnography

The institute has no website, just a page on the website of the Academy
<http://www.sci.am/resorgs.php?oid=32&langid=3>

Email: pavetisyan@sci.am

Director: Pavel Avetisyan

Address: 15 Charents St., Yerevan 0025

Telephone: +37410 556896

Staff: total 134, professional under 100

Founded in 1998

The IAE was established in 1998 based on a sector which existed at the Institute of History since 1959.

Funding from the state in 2009 amounted to about 630,000 USD, of which about 260,000 were basic funds (mostly salaries), and the rest were intended for sustaining monuments, archeological sites, excavation, and training of younger staff abroad.

The IAE does research on archeology and ethnography of Armenia, plus studies on anthropology, ethno-sociology etc. which have some relevance to archeology and ethnic studies. The IAE teaches its own doctorate courses and has some facilities and equipment for archeological excavations, including means of transport, storage etc.

Under Armenian law, should historical or archeological sites be discovered during construction work or mining, the agency (whether a private company or government body) implementing the work has to fully fund an archeological investigation of the site.

This opens financial opportunities for the IAE; according to its director, should this law be duly applied, the IAE would be fully sustainable and have no need for state funding. However, in practice this law is only applied sporadically. In 2009, the IAE was thus hired to conduct archeological excavations at the Tehut copper mines for a fee of about 270,000 USD. It also had smaller contracts with the Ministry of Culture and other bodies. In 2010, the IAE received a grant from a French research foundation for a joint study.

The IAE produces its own publications, albeit, due to short funds, the number of copies is usually very small (300 to 500) and there are problems with dissemination, despite the IAE's active contacts to colleagues abroad. The IAE buys or is given the most recent international publications in its area and uses every opportunity to disseminate its own.

The staff of IAE have low skills in using electronic databases; internet connections at the IAE are few. The IAE has plans to launch a website; its director told us the website was ready and would be online shortly, with downloadable publications, bibliographies and a bilingual Armenian-English newsletter on archeology.

Younger staff and doctorate students have command of English and Russian, whereas most older scholars have Russian as their only foreign language. The IAE does joint research with scholars from European countries, the U.S., Georgia, Iran and Turkey. It sometimes holds joint conferences; some of its staff publish papers abroad, e.g. at Oxford and at Chicago University.

v. Atcharian Institute of Language

No website, just a page on the website of the Academy of Sciences
<http://www.sci.am/resorgs.php?oid=34&langid=3>

Email: roberturutyan@rambler.ru

Director: Lavrenty Oganessian

Address: 15 Grigor Lusavorich, Yerevan 0015

Telephone: +37410 565337

Staff: total 68, professional 56

Founded in 1943

State funding in 2009 amounted to 100,000 USD; no other funds.

The AIL does research on Armenian language, its history and comparative grammar, the differences and potential convergence of Eastern and Western Armenian, teaching methodology and lexicography, including the compilation of dictionaries. It has plans to compile a dictionary of Armenian dialects, a historical dictionary and a large online dictionary of Armenian.

The AIL infrastructure is in very bad shape. Finances are short; all of them come from the state budget. The AIL buys little or no new books. The knowledge of foreign languages amongst its staff is very poor; in fact, staff have access to the internet but most of them do not use it. AIL publications are mostly in Armenian.

The AIL has no international ties except to the Diaspora, and no publications abroad. Old Soviet ties have disintegrated and are not being revived. The AIL holds

conferences chiefly for local scholars. Very few of its staff ever participate in international conferences or publish in international journals.

vi. Museum-Institute of the Armenian Genocide

Address: Tsitsernakaberd Memorial, Yerevan 0028

Website: www.genocide-museum.am

Email: director@genocide-museum.am

Director: Hayk Demoyan

Telephone: +37410 390981

Staff: total 60, professional 20

Established in 1995.

Annual budget: about 150,000 USD from the state (part basic, part thematic (quasi-grants)), plus donor funds, donations etc.

The MIAG conducts research on the 1915 Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Its goals include the study, storage and public display of historical and material evidence of the Genocide, from media reports to witness accounts to official documents. Some of its research lies in the sphere of comparative genocide studies and theoretical research on ethnic crime and ethnic hate.

The MIAG has the most functional website of all state institutes which contains lists of publications and many downloadable documents.

Since 1995, it has already published over 150 books; it also produces periodicals. It holds regular events in various formats, such as roundtables, conferences, exhibitions etc to which it invites international experts. Its staff goes abroad a lot, to international conferences and seminars. The MIAG has access to a wide array of databases and publications.

It gets basic and some thematic funding from the states and significant support from donors in the Armenian Diaspora.

c. Think–tanks, NGO and private companies

i. Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS)

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Yerznkian str, 75. 0033

Website: <http://www.acnis.am/>

E-mail: root@acnis.am

Tel: +37410 528780

Director: Richard Giragosian

Founder: Raffi Hovhannisian

Founded: 1994

The Armenian Center for National and International Studies, an independent strategic research center in Yerevan, is the institutional initiative of Raffi K. Hovannisian, Armenia's first Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was founded 15 years ago. It focuses its

research on a comprehensive agenda of foreign and public policy issues, which are articulated analytically in political and academic arenas around the world.

Some of its areas of focus are the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian economics and politics, Armenian-Turkish relations, and the Genocide. Planned issues include mentoring the youth, military analysis and gender studies.

The ACNIS does not have formal political affiliation although it has worked for 15 years with Raffi Hovhannisyán, currently with the Heritage Party.

ACNIS sees its goals as contributing to public policy thinking and working with the government and the opposition.

ACNIS is special in terms of its financing. Apart from donor-supported projects (EU, OSCE) and Diaspora donors, ACNIS has 1500 supporters who every year donate financial contributions to the cooperation of the center in the Diaspora and Armenia.

The ACNIS uses modern strategy and methodology; according to its director, it does not use Armenian-specific approaches; its standards of publications are higher than average. The center cooperates with other think-tanks and other international organizations, in terms of providing briefings, roundtables and seminars. Methodology also includes Western-style field research; the center often has guest scholars from Europe and the USA.

ACNIS maintains a hardcopy library that is open to scholars, and many actually come here to do research. It regularly releases reports and publishes a yearbook. ACNIS prepares reports commissioned by embassies, international organizations, and the Ministry of Defense.

In 2009, ACNIS produced a 500-page Yearbook and 27 reports, plus a monthly newsletter. Every publication, except for newsletter, is in 3 languages: Armenian, Russian and English. The newsletters are in English and Armenian.

The Director of the ACNIS is an American scholar; in 2009, his staff published articles in over 50 journals abroad, and participated in 23 conferences, 17 of them international conferences outside of Armenia, plus 20 smaller conferences in Yerevan.

ACNIS has partnerships with a number of think-tanks in the USA; in Armenia, it works with the Caucasus Institute and Eurasia Partnership Foundation; it also partners with think-tanks and civil society bodies in Turkey.

ii. International Human Development Center (IHD)

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Sayat-Nova ave, 19. 0001

Website: <http://www.ichd.org/>

E-mail: mail@ichd.org

Tel: +37410 582638, 528321

Executive director: Tevan Poghosyan

Founded: 2000

Budget: about a million USD per annum.

The International Center for Human Development (IHD) was established in 2000. It is a think-tank; according to its director, it is not an academic research body as

it is focused on applied studies. However, it uses a wide gamut of methods typical for both academic and applied research, including desk research, analysis, media monitoring, focus groups etc.

In the last 10 years, ICHD has conducted over 100 projects, including studies and educational projects, over 10 international conferences on various topics and dozens of roundtables attended by local and international experts. It has published over a hundred policy papers in two formats: Policy Briefs and Viewpoints.

The main study fields of ICHD are home and foreign policy, Armenia-Turkey and Armenia-Diaspora relations, anti-corruption strategies, migrations. ICHD is promoting the development of civil society in Armenia and its involvement in political decision-making.

In recent years, ICHD has drafted several strategy papers: A Concept for the Development of Armenia-Diaspora Relations; a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and a Strategy for Managing Migration in Armenia. The first two were endorsed by the Armenian government.

A 2009 study on behalf of the UN rated ICHD 20th amongst think tanks in Eastern Europe. Its advocacy capacity is rather high; its recommendations are often endorsed or taken into consideration.

ICHD is chiefly funded by external donors, such as the EU. Decisions, including in the area of finance, are made by the ICHD Board.

ICHD has access to publications, periodicals, archives, libraries, databases and online sources. It has a functional website from which most of its publications can be downloaded. Most of its products are available in English online and are disseminated by email.

ICHD staff is fluent in foreign and regional languages, take part in most regional and many international conferences. ICHD holds a yearly conference to which it invites international experts.

ICHD cooperates with a wide range of think tanks worldwide, including Altair Asesors (Spain), American University Center for Global Peace (USA), AREAT Center (Azerbaijan), Atos Origin (UK), Atlantic Treaty Association, Conflict Management Group (USA) etc. It has joint projects with foreign partners and is involved in international consortiums.

ICHD is now lobbying for a *Law on Endowments* that would promote its sustainability and allow it to function as a classical think-tank.

iii. Caucasus Institute (CI)

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Eznik Koghbatsi str, 39. 0010

Website: <http://caucasusinstitute.org/>

E-mail: contact@caucasusinstitute.org

Tel: +37410 540631/2

Director: Alexander Iskandaryan

Founded: 2002

Number of students a year: 20

Staff: 10 full-time, including 5 researchers, another 20 researchers engaged part-time on project basis
Annual budget: 300,000 USD

The CI is a post-graduate school and think tank; it has the legal status of a foundation. It is licensed to award MA degrees in Political Science and Journalism (average 5 and 15 a year, respectively).

Its areas of study are various aspects of politics and economics in the Northern and Southern Caucasus, including ethnopolitical conflicts, post-Communist transition, state- and nationbuilding, emergence and development of political institutions, regional politics and security, media and civil society. The CI holds international conferences, including a Yearly Conference every spring and monthly roundtables in various formats.

Since 2002, the CI has published 17 books (including 6 Caucasus Yearbooks) in many languages and a series of policy briefs/policy papers; most publications are downloadable from its website. It has some joint publications, e.g. two reports on Armenia-Turkey relations produced in English jointly with TESEV, a Turkish think tank.

The CI has a library of over 3000 volumes which is special in that it contains recent publications in English and Russian on political science, area studies and conflict settlement. It serves as a resource center for students and scholars.

A special feature of the CI comes from its close ties to the news media; it works a lot on public and media discourses in Armenia, popularizing the results of academic research with the goal of making an impact on the public opinion as well as decision-makers. It is promoting a culture of open pluralistic debates and trying to enhance ties between the scholarly community, the media and the policy makers.

CI staff is fluent in foreign languages, including but not limited to English and Russian. CI researchers attend international conferences and publish in international journals.

CI funds come from international donors, such as the EU, UNDP etc. Own incomes (tuition fees, consultancy fees, book sales) account for under 3% of the budget.

iv. Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Zarobyan str., 56. 0009

Website: <http://epfound.am/>

E-mail: info@epfound.am

Tel: +37410 586095

Regional Director: Gevork Ter-Gabrielyan

Founded: 2007

Budget (including CRRC): up to 3 million USD per annum awarded by the Carnegie Corporation, plus project funds from OSI, USAID etc.

EPF was established in 1992 in the U.S. with the goal of supporting post-Soviet countries. Its Armenia branch was opened in 2007.

EPF Armenia has a mixed format: both donor foundation and project implementing agency. It outsources most of its research to the CRRC (see below). However, EPF Armenia also runs its own research programs such as policy studies, sociological surveys etc.

The priorities for studies carried out by EPF Armenia are (1) evidence-based research and (2) solved leadership. Its main areas of study are media development, electoral mechanisms, anti-corruption efforts, civil society development, and cross-border dialogue (EPF is creating a format for Armenian-Turkish and Armenian-Azerbaijani dialogue, and currently beginning to work in the area of Armenia-Georgia relations). Its first research projects were in the area of promoting democracy through economics; now it is focusing less on economics and more on democracy and human rights.

EPF Armenia has access to publications and electronic sources, mainly via CRRC. All EPF research is published on its website and on the website of CRRC. Some publications are also produced hardcopy.

Staff have command of foreign languages; education abroad is a requirement (staff get this opportunity while working at EPF). EPF researchers participate in conferences and forums in Armenia and abroad. EPF Armenia has joint projects with international research bodies and partner organizations.

v. Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC)

Address: 52 Abovian str., 3rd floor, rooms 305, 307, 309, 312, Yerevan 0025

Website: www.crrc.am

E-mail: crrc@crrc.am

Tel: +37410 581330, 581450

Branch director: Heghine Manasian

Founded: 2003

Annual budget: 200,000 USD from Carnegie via Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia and about 100,000 USD from other projects.

CRRC Armenia is a regional project of the Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia; similar projects are active in Georgia and Azerbaijan. Its goal is to provide resources for local civil society and researchers. It conducts trainings and workshops, but also research, data collection, and the creation of databases.

Two thirds of CRRC funds come from Carnegie via Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia. However, CRRC Armenia is trying to become a think tank per se, doing policy-oriented applied research; it gets funds for research from a variety of donors.

Currently its main research projects are a study of corruption supported by USAID – MAAC, and a desk study of Social protection & social inclusion conducted jointly with experts from Georgia and Azerbaijan. The data of the study will be processed by a German think tank, GWG, with support from GTZ.

Priorities in the sphere of research are economics, sociology and political science. Its special areas of focus are corruption and educational reform.

Methodologically used for research is both quantitative and qualitative, including interviewing, analysis, desk research, monitoring etc.

As a resource center, CRRC has access to publications, periodicals, archives, libraries and databases of electronic information. CRRC has access to electronic libraries (Electronic Library Consortium of Armenia (eLCA)) and has its own electronic database.

CRRC publications are posted on its website. Most of them are published in three languages (Armenian, English, Russian). Publications include a monthly e-bulletin, studies, monographs and collections of conference papers.

CRRC researchers are fluent in foreign languages; their main foreign language is English. Since CRRC is a regional project, its main partners abroad are CRRC Georgia and CRRC Azerbaijan. CRRC Armenia cooperates with many European research centers. Its researchers participate in international conferences abroad, whereas foreign scientists participate in the scientific activities of CRRC.

vi. Civilitas Foundation

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Northern ave, 1, room 30. 0010

Website: <http://www.civilitasfoundation.org/>

E-mail: info@civilitasfoundation.org

Tel: +37410 500119, 800754

Director: Salpi Ghazarian

Founder: Vardan Oskanian, former Foreign Minister of Armenia

Founded: 2008

2009 budget: about 450,000 USD, mostly from embassies and foreign ministries

Staff: 10 full-time

Civilitas was founded in 2008 by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Vardan Oskanian. Its main objectives are the development of civil society and media, increasing public participation in decision-making, improving foreign policy objectives etc. Civilitas is aiming to become a classical Western-type think tank; however, so far it engages more in activities (conferences, seminars and public debates) than in research. Due to its board of trustees and the presence of Mr Oskanian, Civilitas is perceived as a body with a political agenda rather than a neutral think tank.

The funding comes from donors in Armenia and abroad, with embassies playing a key role.

Of its 10 employees, 2 or 3 are analysts. Civilitas has two main subdivisions: a Council on International Relations engaged in publications, research, organizing events, and a section of Democracy and Development, focused on media, economic facilitation and civil society. Under Democracy and Development, Civilitas is compiling a guide to Armenian NGO which will be posted on a special website.

Civilitas publications are chiefly based on applied policy studies (such as reviews of home and foreign policy); they are produced in Armenian and English, are downloadable from the Civilitas website and disseminated by email.

All Civilitas staff has command of foreign languages and has access to hardcopy and online sources. Civilitas has strong ties to international think tanks.

vii. Civil Society Institute (CSI)

Website: <http://www.csi.am>

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, 11 Aygestan str, 43.

Website: <http://www.csi.am/> <One of the Institute's projects: <http://hra.am/> >

E-mail: csi@csi.am

Tel: +37410 574317

President: Arman Danielyan

Chairman of the Board: Artak Kirakosyan

Founded: 1998

The CSI is registered as a public organization. Its goal is to promote freedom and democracy in Armenia. It is a member of the FIDH (Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme). It works on a wide range of civil society programs.

Research done at FIDH is of a practical nature; priority areas are human rights and conflict prevention. Studies are based on monitoring the situation on the ground and describing the legal base; then experts assess the situation against international standards, and come up with recommendations concerning the improvement of the legal base or practices.

The achievements of FIDH in the protection of human rights include the adoption of the Law on Freedom of Information in 2003 by the Armenian Parliament; FIDH worked on the draft for 3 years and, ultimately, it was approved and adopted.

The 2009 budget of FIDH amounted to over 170,000 USD. Financial sources and donors varied. In general, the funds came from international donors and embassies (UK, U.S.), governments (Norway, Sweden), and foundations (Open Society Institute etc).

FIDH has access to publications, including periodicals, and to archives, libraries and databases. FIDH staff actively use the Internet.

All FIDH publications are downloadable from its website in Armenian and Russian.

The FIDH also has a human rights website, www.hra.am, which contains detailed information on the situation with human rights in Armenia, including all publications in this field since 2001.

Most FIDH staff are fluent in foreign languages. The FIDH does not have partnerships with universities or researchers abroad. It cooperates with experts on project basis; the experts mostly come from a practical rather than academic background.

viii. Institute for Civil Society and Regional Development (ICSRD)

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Vardanyan back., 8, 4th floor. 0010

Web-site: <http://www.icsrd.am/> (currently down)

E-mail: aghavni@netsys.am ; coord@post.com

Tel: +37410 541134

Director: Aghavni Karakhanyan

Coordinator: Shushan Khatlamajyan

Founded: 2001

Staff: 5

ICSRD is a think tank registered as a public organization. Its first project was supported by the NATO (a conference on regional security in Armenia attended by a Turkish delegate). Then ICSRD implemented a regional 6-year project called the Caucasus Network of Business and Development, and then an economic study published as a collection of papers called *From War Economy to Peace Economy*.

Currently ICSRD is implementing a project supported by USAID which consists in helping Armenian think tanks to cooperate with European and American think tanks; activities in the project include scholar exchange and joint research.

The main donors of the ICSRD have been the NATO, UNDP, USAID, Open Society Institute and the governments of the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.

The main dimensions of ICSRD research are

- Civil society development;
- Domestic politics;
- Regional development;
- Security and conflict settlement;
- Regional cooperation;
- Sustainable development.

Research methods include cross-cultural analysis, strategic research, comparative studies and monitoring.

ICSRD has access to publications and online databases depending on its current financial situation. Its website is currently down for financial reasons. All staff have command of at least 2 foreign languages and actively participate in conferences in Armenia and abroad.

ICSRD has publications in Russian and English on regional security, cooperation and conflict settlement.

ix. Noravank Foundation

Address: Garegin Njdeh str. 23/1, Yerevan 0026

Web-site: <http://www.noravank.am>

E-mail: office@noravank.am

Tel: +37410 443846

Director: Gagik Haroutyunyan

Founded in 2001, active since 2002

Staff: 40, of these 20 researchers and 10 people working in the publishing center.

Funding from the state: about 250,000 USD per annum, plus some donor funds and incomes from selling books

Noravank was established by a ruling of the Armenian government in 2001; the government is its founder and main donor. However, Noravank has some flexibility in terms of selecting partners and receiving donor support apart from government funds, and is trying to function as a “classical” think tank to the extent that its mandate permits it. It is the largest think tank in Armenia. Since 2002, it has produced over 250 publications, including books and periodicals. It also organizes trainings and workshops.

Of its staff of 40, 20 are researchers and 10 work at its publishing center. Noravank consists of four subdivisions, called centers:

- Center for Armenian Studies
- Center for Information Studies
- Center for Policy Studies
- Publishing Center

Noravank has a Board of Experts and a Publishing Board which decide which studies to carry out and what to publish. According to its management, Noravank tries to ensure the cooperation of scholars active in various fields (Armenian Studies, Political Science, Communication and Information Studies) on every project that it implements.

Noravank has a library, subscribes to journals and buys books in Armenian and foreign languages. Its library is open to the public. Noravank staff has access to databases and to the internet.

The Noravank website is trilingual (Armenian, English, and Russian). All staff has command of a foreign language (Russian or English); many speak 3-4 languages.

Noravank publishes a journal on political science and security, called *21st Century*, in three languages: 6 issues a year in Armenian, 4 in Russian and 2 in English.

It also publishes *Globe*, an analytical review: 6 issues a year on National Security and 6 issues a year on Energy and Regional Security. Most articles in *Globe* are in Armenian, a few are in Russian. Most are available online. Most publications produced by Noravank are disseminated in Armenia; there are just several subscribers abroad.

Noravank cooperates with about 10 research organizations in Armenia and abroad. Every year its staff participates in dozens of conferences and other events, many of them abroad.

x. Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC)

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Halabian str. 22b, apt. 42. 0036

Web-site: <http://www.acgrc.am/> , <http://acgrc.blogspot.com/>
E-mail: acgrc@acgrc.am , grigoryanstepan@yahoo.com
Tel: +37410 357026
Director: Stepan Grigoryan
Founded in 2002, active since 2004
Staff: 5, plus 2-3 more on project basis.
Budget in 2009: about 100,000 Euro

ACGRC is registered as a public organization. It conducts various types of practical studies in the following areas:

- Regional cooperation
- European integration
- Armenia-Turkey relations
- Armenia-Azerbaijan relations

ACGRC also runs educational programs and activities for youth. Its main donors are embassies and foreign ministries, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, USAID, and German foundations (Konrad Adenauer, Robert Bosch, Friedrich Naumann and Friedrich Ebert).

ACGRC has access to archives, libraries and electronic databases. Its publications are downloadable from its website; some of them are in foreign languages. All staff have command of English and Russian, and participate in events in Armenia and abroad.

xi. Yerevan Press Club

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Ghazar Parpetsi str., 9b. 0002
Web-site: <http://www.ypc.am/>
E-mail: pressclub@ypc.am
Tel: +37410 530067, 533541, 537662
President: Boris Navasardyan
Vice-president: Avet Demuryan
Executive director: Mikhail Diloyan
Founded: 1995
Staff 10-11, plus up to 10 more on project basis.
Budget: 300-350,000 USD per annum, of these 80% from grants and the rest from membership fees and donations.

The YPC is a public organization. Currently its management is lobbying for amendments to the *Law on Public Organizations* which would allow them to generate incomes and thus achieve sustainability.

Studies conducted by the YPC are of a practical nature; they all concern the media and journalism, and to some extent also regional relations, regional and European integration and conflict resolution.

The YPC is active in the sphere of legal regulation of the media; it has developed a general concept in this area and submitted it to the Government, the National Assembly and the public. YPC experts have prepared five Draft Laws: *On the Media*, *On Television and Radio Broadcasting*, *On the Right to Information*, *On Amendments to the Law on Advertising*, and *On Additions to the Code on Administrative Law Infringements*.

The YPC also drafted a *Law on Grants* which was submitted for the consideration of the Parliament. YPC prepared a document on the legal regulation of Internet and projects of the de-nationalization of enterprises associated with media, on legal regulation of media activities during pre-election campaigns, and on the definition of the status of non-commercial activities.

The main donors of YPC are the Open Society Institute, the Friedrich Naumann and Friedrich Ebert Foundations, the OSCE Office on Media Freedom, the EU, Eurasia Partnership Foundation and the USAID.

Research methodology includes monitoring, content-analysis and desk research. YPC is subscribed to periodicals and buys books in its area of expertise. It sustains a database of Armenian media publications starting from 1999.

YPC publications are available online; some of them are in foreign languages. All staff has command of Russian, 7-8 people have command of English; some are fluent in German and French.

YPC cooperates with local and foreign experts; its researchers attend conferences in Armenia and abroad. YPC organizes its own conferences, workshops and roundtables. Some of its projects are local and some regional (South Caucasus, Armenia-Turkey and Armenia-EU).

xii. Eurasian Research Institute – Armenia Branch

<http://www.ea-studies.ru>

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Toumanian str., 29, 3. 0002

Tel: +37410 582324, 516324

Director of Armenia branch: Zara Martirosyan

Founded: 2008

Staff: 5

The Armenia branch of ERI is registered in Armenia as a public organization. Its goals consist in strengthening Russia-Armenia relations including in the sphere of education and policy research. ERI holds conferences, workshops and trainings.

The funding comes from the head office in Russia. Research topics include Armenia-Russia relations, regional security and the relations between Armenia and the CIS states.

ERI Armenia has a website where its main publications are available for download. Staff have command of foreign languages and cooperate with foreign, chiefly Russian, scholars on individual basis. There are no joint projects at the moment.

xiii. “Region” Research Center

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Buzand str., 1/3, 8th floor

Web-site: <http://www.regioncenter.org/>

E-mail: region@arminco.com

Tel: +37410 563363

Director: Laura Baghdasaryan

Founded: 2001, registered in 2008

Staff: 5, including 4 researchers

Budget in 2008-2009: 180,000 USD

The Region Center was established by the Armenian Association of Investigative Journalists in 2001 but only registered in 2008 as a public organization. It brings together journalists and political scientists working in the Caucasus. It has implemented overall over 15 projects, most of them regional, in cooperation with various media organizations and research bodies.

Currently the Region Center has no projects; its last project was supported by the EU and implemented jointly with CIPDD Georgia; it ended in March 2009. The main donors of the Region Center have been the EU, International Alert, OSCE, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and the Armenian government.

The Region Center does research in two areas only: media studies and policy research. It has conducted studies of Armenian, Georgian and Azerbaijani media, conflict discourses, societal transformations and European integration prospects. Methodology includes polling, interviewing and monitoring. Region Center has produced some analytical articles which were published in Armenian print media and online.

The website is in Russian, articles (3 in number, all written by the director) are available online; two books have been produced hardcopy and are described on the website.

Most staff speak foreign languages; external cooperation is mainly regional (Georgia and Azerbaijan). The Region Center has contacts to the Armenian Diaspora and some foreign experts. Most joint conferences of the center are conducted online.

xiv. ARMACAD (Armenian Association for Academic Partnership and Support)

Address: Sayat-Nova ave, 35, flat. 4, Yerevan 0025

Web-site: <http://armacad.info/>

feedback: <http://armacad.info/about>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ARMACAD>

Yahoo Groups: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Armenian-Academic-Association-ARMACAD/>

Blog: <http://armacad.blogspot.com/>

Founded: 2007

Director: Khachig Gevorgyan

Network members: 3800 (estimation 2010)

This group aims to unite young scholars in Armenia and abroad studying or working in the sphere of humanities and social sciences, and provide necessary mechanisms for collaboration. The ARMACAD network provides information on academic institutions in the area of social sciences, conferences, workshops, MA and postgraduate scholarships, trainings, lectures, events, grants etc. The network functions via its bilingual website (Armenian and English). Registration on the website is easy and open; everyone who registers gets access to all ARMACAD resources right away.

ARMACAD has not yet received any donor funding; most of the work is done on voluntary basis. Members pay small membership fees which are just enough to cover current costs.

ARMACAD has strong ties to the Armenian Diaspora. Whenever Armenian scholars from abroad visit Armenia and give a lecture, training etc, they inform ARMACAD and subscribers get invitations to the event.

Most members have a background in history, anthropology, sociology, economics, literature studies and media studies.

The network does not have statistics on how many people go abroad using its resources, how many stay and how many come back. As far as the director is informed, all ARMACAD members who have returned to Armenia after studies abroad have been successful in finding jobs in Armenia.

xv. Sociometr

Address: Armenia, Yerevan, Yervand Kochar str., 5, ground floor. 0070

Web-site: <http://www.sociometr.am/>

E-mail: mail@sociometr.am

Tel: +37410 300745

Director: Aharon Adibekyan

Founded: 1991

Staff: 10 permanent, plus up to 150 project-based.

Sociometr was registered as an individual company in 1991 and as an LLC, in 2001. In fact, its key staff of 10 have been working as a team since 1981. They are project managers who verify and analyze data. The company employs up to 150 people to conduct opinion polls, interviews etc during large projects.

Its avenues of activity include political and electoral sociology (polling concerning electoral preferences and the popularity of political leaders and parties), research of education levels and the labor market, studies of the optimization of human resources etc. However, in terms of income generation the main activities of Sociometr are various types of sociological studies (polls, interviews, focus groups etc) and market research commissioned by commercial companies.

Sociometr uses scientific methods in its work but the production of academic studies is not its main goal. All research is contracted by clients, some of which are international organizations or government bodies but most are commercial enterprises. The size of contracts varies from 15,000 to 200,000 USD depending on the content and scope of the project.

All staff has access to the Internet and professional dabatases. Core staff have command of at least two foreign languages. Some of them attend academic events once in a while.

Sociometr produces very few academic publications (there are one or two as of now); all its products have the form of reports in digital format.

d. Donors

The group of donors proved the most difficult to describe. Many donors contacted for this study, including all offices of German foundations located in Armenia and all Diaspora organizations, said that they did not finance research per se. However, judging from the data supplied by research institutions and NGO, they do support research to some extent as part of larger activity-based projects. The list of donor foundations given below is by no means comprehensive; it provides general guidelines on the kind of assistance which is given to research in Armenia.

i. Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Armenia (OSIAFA)

Address: Toumanyanyan str. 2 back., 7/2, Yerevan 0002

Web-site: <http://www.osi.am/>

E-mail: info@osi.am

Tel: +37410 53386

Executive director: Larissa Minasyan

Staff: 21

Founded: 1997

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to support the rule of law, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI works to build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as combating corruption and rights abuses.

The Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Armenia (OSIAFA) has been supporting numerous projects and activities in the field of civil society, law, education, mass media, information, including publishing, electronic communication, support for libraries, public health, women's rights, arts and culture.

In Armenia, OSIAFA is the leading agency supporting scholarly and educational exchange in humanities and social sciences. It also supports a number of other programs that promote education, research and reform in Armenia. Its programs include:

- The OSI External Education Programs that promote the development of social sciences and humanities in Armenia. They provide Armenian citizens with opportunities for better access to information, exposure to a Western-style educational system, as well as offer possibilities for establishing ties with their

colleagues from other countries that lead to cooperation and exchange of experience. The programs involve fellowships, study and research scholarships and curriculum development opportunities at Cambridge, CEU, the Universities of Sussex, Oxford and York etc. This is the largest such program in social sciences and humanities operating in Armenia; details are available at http://www.osi.am/external_education.asp

- The Higher Education Support Program, which involves, amongst other things, assistance to the implementation of the Bologna process in Armenia, developing ECTS as a national credit system, and curricula development. Under this program, OSIAFA supported curricula development and production of teaching resources (print and online manuals and software) in social sciences and humanities, including
 - *A Course on Socio-Linguistic at the Institute of Linguistics*, National Academy of Sciences;
 - *Education Administration: Current Approaches and Techniques* at the Russian-Armenian University;
 - *Linguistics and Intercultural Communication: New Concept for Higher Professional Education Standardization and Internationalization* at Brusov University
 - *Basics of Information Technology in Linguistics* at the Department of Philology, Yerevan State University;
- The Academic Fellowship Program (AFP), designed to contribute to higher education reforms and to help build academic networks by focusing on both partner university departments and individual scholars. In 2008/09, AFP cooperated with two partner departments at Yerevan State University - Department of European and International Law and Applied Psychology.

A number of Armenian NGOs are long-term implementing partners of the Foundation, including the Yerevan Press Club (OSIAFA Media Program), the Library Consortium of Armenia (Information Program), the Trust Social Work and Sociological Research Center (Women's Program), and YSU (Law Program).

ii. European Commission Delegation to Armenia

Address: Frik str., 21, Yerevan 0002

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/>

E-mail: delegation-armenia@ec.europa.eu

Tel: +374 10 546494

Director: Ambassador Raul de Luzenberger

EU activities in Armenia are varied; some are implemented via the EU Delegation to Armenia and some, directly from Brussels or via partners in European or other countries. Given the complexity of the EU structure, it is difficult to assess the overall scope of support it gives to social sciences and humanities in Armenia.

In the last decade, the EU has given direct support to research and education via a wide variety of its bodies and structures. For example, in 2008 the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission co-funded the Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) project which tried to bridge the digital divide between the South Caucasus and Europe by establishing a regional research and education network in the South Caucasus and connecting it to GÉANT. The Armenian partner of the BSI was the National Academy of Sciences.

The main representative body of the EU in Armenia – the European Commission Delegation to Armenia – does not directly sponsor academic research; however, it issues grants to many projects in the sphere of democracy, human rights, human development, infrastructure and communication, conflict prevention etc. implemented by Armenian partners; some of these projects involve research, debates and publications, and the EC usually welcomes this as a component of projects. EU-supported projects include technical aid to the Ministry of Education and Science and support to the Center for European Law and Integration to establish and develop academic links to European academic and research institutions.

Apart from grants to local bodies, the EC Delegation to Armenia contracts research under Framework Contracts, signed by the EC in Brussels every year based on a tender. Primarily European contractors are eligible for Framework Contracts; however, the contractors are often consortiums some of which include individuals or companies from Armenia. Typically, a needs assessment mission from Europe visits Armenia and identifies areas in which specific studies need to be conducted. The EC Delegation to Armenia then announces a tender for the studies within the relevant lot of Framework Contracts. For example, under the Professional Education program of the EC, studies of the labor market and educational field in Armenia were conducted by a consortium in which Armenian experts were involved.

The EC Delegation does not keep a separate record of research, whether contracted or implemented within an EC-supported project, although it owns the copyright for the results. The results of particular studies can be obtained from the EC Delegation or from its implementing partners. There is no database of such research; yet it is estimated that over the last decade, the EC has contracted and sponsored many original studies in the field of social sciences (opinion polls, focus groups, market research, policy studies, human rights reviews etc).

iii. USAID Armenia

Address: 1 American Avenue, Yerevan 0082, Armenia

Website <http://armenia.usaid.gov/>

Telephone: +37410 46 47 00

Email

Mission Director: Jatinder K. Cheema

USAID has been active in Armenia since 1992. It is a leading donor agency in Armenia, managing approximately two-thirds of the total U.S. assistance program. Over this time, USAID/Armenia's programs have evolved from humanitarian assistance towards promotion of long-term economic development, sound social policies and democratic reform. USAID's goal is to assist Armenia in achieving sustainable

development through increased competitiveness, higher quality social services and a more empowered civil society. The strategic approach to realizing this vision is based on the principles of empowering agents of change, increasing Armenian society's access to information and networks, and maximizing opportunities for alliances with development partners.

Its 30 plus programs are implemented by grantees and contractors, and are designed and managed by USAID/Armenia's technical offices of Democracy & Governance, Social Reform and Economic Growth.

None of its programs focus on research per se; however, research activities and debates are supported as components of activities. In the framework of various programs, USAID supports conferences, roundtables, study tours, training, surveys and studies. E.g. it supports the Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia for activities including social science research; it also gives civil society groups support for strengthening their capacity for policy advice and funds research on corruption.

iv. German Foundations

German foundations operate in the South Caucasus via regional offices in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Friedrich Ebert and Konrad Adenauer Foundations also have liaison offices in Armenia; the Heinrich Boell and Friedrich Naumann Foundations operate in Armenia via partner organizations. The Heinrich Boell Foundation is the one giving direct support to social sciences and humanities in Armenia via its scholarship program described below. The other three support various projects, such as trainings, workshops, meetings and publications geared at young politicians and media, promoting political reforms, democracy and human rights, some of them involving research to various degrees.

Heinrich Boell Foundation South Caucasus Regional Office

Address: 38, Zovreti st., Tbilisi 0160, Georgia

Tel.: +995 32 38 04 67/68

+995 32 91 37 39

Fax: +995 32 91 28 97

E-mail: info@boell.ge

Web-site: www.boell.ge

The Heinrich Böll Foundation is affiliated with the Green Party of Germany. The regional office in the South Caucasus was opened in 2003. Its main objective is to contribute to the forming of free, fair and tolerant societies in the region. HBF encourages critical public debate to make processes of decision-making democratic and transparent.

HBF does not have an office in Armenia and operates via its Tbilisi bureau and local partners (currently the Caucasus Institute). It supports a wide variety of projects in the South Caucasus (including Armenia) involving policy debate, research and publications, implemented by various NGO. It also produces a policy newsletter with policy briefs commissioned from local and international scholars, and conducts its own events and activities (debates, dialogues, conferences etc.).

In the sphere of social sciences and humanities, HBF South Caucasus plays a special role as starting in 2005, it has been conducting a regional yearly scholarship program for young scholars in the fields of modern history, political science and sociology. Under this program, several scholars a year from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia each get support for one-year research projects and additional training at summer and winter schools. The research projects are supervised by scholars coming from the region and abroad (Germany, Russia etc.). The resulting papers are published as hardcopy collections of papers in Russian. Four such volumes have already been produced.

HBF South Caucasus has also published books on democracy and development that include papers about Armenia, and a joint cross-border study implemented by sociologists and ethnologists in Armenia and Azerbaijan (a village exchange during the Karabakh conflict). The publications are listed on the HBF website and can be obtained from the HBF office.

Konrad Adenauer Foundation Liaison Office in Armenia

Director: Katja Christina Plate

Address: Mashtots Ave., 39/12, Apt. 37, Yerevan 0009

Telephone +374-10-545115 , +374-77-367541 (mobile)

Liaison office in Armenia opened in 2009

<http://www.kas.de/armenien>

The KAS is a political foundation close to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Worldwide, works with state institutions, political parties, civil society organizations and elites to promote democracy, rule of law and social market economy. KAS supports foreign and security policy dialogue and exchange between cultures and religions.

The KAS Regional Office in the South Caucasus is located in Tbilisi, Georgia, with liaison offices in Yerevan and Baku.

Activities in Armenia include various types of trainings for political party members (both coalition and opposition) and journalists. Some activities specifically target parties and activists close in ideology to the Christian Democrats. KAS has funded publications analyzing issues with democracy, civil society and freedom of speech in Armenia.

Friedrich Ebert Foundation Office in Armenia

Address: Nalbandian str. 21, flat 6, Yerevan

Director: Naira Gevorgyan

Tel: +37410 582390

Website of the South Caucasus Cooperation Office www.fes.ge

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is a non-profit German political foundation committed to the values of social democracy. The Tbilisi-based South Caucasus Cooperation Office coordinates FES activities in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In all three countries, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung aims at fostering democracy, peace and social justice through political dialogue, education and research. Its partners include

NGOs, academics and experts, journalists, parliaments, ministries and political decision-makers.

FES priority areas in Armenia include improving relations between Armenia and Turkey through bilateral dialog and cross-border civil society initiatives; supporting independent media; supporting watchdog NGO in reforming Armenia's governance institutions and enhancing integration with Europe, and promoting peaceful conflict-resolution in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Activities relevant to social sciences include regular conferences held jointly with the Concord Centre for Political and Legal Studies, a group led by a member of the leadership of an Armenian opposition party (the Armenian National Congress). FES also supports conferences and activities implemented by ICHD and ACGRC on European integration and specifically the EU's Eastern Partnership program.

In 2010, FES funded a study of the status of labor and social rights in Armenia conducted jointly with the Ombudsman's Office.

FES-supported publications include reviews of Armenian foreign policy, Armenia-Turkey relations, media coverage of elections, European integration, settlement of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, etc.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Peace Project Office Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Address: Chovelidze str. 10 0108 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel./Fax: +995 (32) 250 594

E-mail: wolfgang.john@fnst.org

Page on the website of the Foundation:

http://www.freiheit.org/webcom/show_article.php/ c-219/i.html

Project manager: Dr. Wolfgang John

Activities in Armenia started in 2002

The main goal of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in the Caucasus and Central Asia is to promote democracy, rule of law, pluralism and market economy. Priority is given to market economy and rule of law, conflict management and conflict resolution, and cooperation of the South Caucasus states with the European and Euro-Atlantic structures. Activities include political education, policy advice and policy dialogue, in the form of conferences, seminars, training manuals etc.

The foundation's partner in Armenia is the oppositional Armenian National Congress.

v. National TEMPUS Office in Armenia

Address: Baghramyan ave, 50, Yerevan 0019

Website: <http://www.tempus.am>

E-mail: sctemp@arminco.com

Tel: +374 10 274590

Mob: +374 91 216258

Director: Lana Karlova

Founded: 1995

TEMPUS funds joint projects implemented by Armenian and European universities. Most projects submitted to TEMPUS in the last decade have been in the field of IT, business management, architecture, environment, biology and other natural sciences.

Very few projects in the sphere of humanities in Armenia were funded by TEMPUS in the last decade. In 2009, TEMPUS funded a project on Higher Education System Development for Social Partnership Improvement and Humanity Sciences Competitiveness, involving the modernization of education in the field of humanities and co-operation in area of humanities between Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and European Union (exchange, training, elaboration of new courses, implementation of ECTS protocols etc).

In 2008, TEMPUS supported a project to open a Masters Program on Library and Archive Studies in Armenia, and in 2004, to digitalize the library of YSU.

In 1995-1996, Social Work was introduced as a discipline to university curriculum in Armenia with support from TEMPUS. In the mid-nineties, TEMPUS support was given to Brusov University and the YSU Faculty of Philology in improving language teaching methodology via practice abroad and exchange of training staff.

About a dozen Armenian students every year go to Europe to study in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus program. Most of them do MBA or similar degrees; students in the sphere of humanities and social sciences are very few.

vi. United Nations Development Program Armenia

Address: Petros Adamian str. 14, Yerevan 0010

Website: <http://www.undp.am/>

E-mail: registry.am@undp.org

Resident Coordinator: Ms Dafina Gercheva

Tel: +374 10 566073

Active in Armenia: since 1992

The United Nations established its office in Armenia in December 1992 "with a view to supporting and supplementing the national efforts in solving the most important problems of economic development and promoting social progress and a better standard of life". A number of UN agencies are present in Armenia, including UN DPI, the UN Population Fund, UNHCR, UNICEF etc. In the field of social sciences, the most active donor in Armenia is UNDP.

Research per se is not one of the goals of the UNDP. However, the corporate goals of the UN call for certain research activities, and UNDP Armenia has commissioned research in the framework of some of its projects when relevant data was not available.

For example, in the preparation of the UNDP National Human Development Report, the UNDP outsourced research to a team of consultants. Outsourcing was also done in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals project for an assessment

of the impact on the financial crisis on the economics and society of Armenia. Some outsourcing was also done for media surveys and research on environment and corruption.

The UNDP has tried to outsource to local institutions whenever possible, in order to rely more on local sources and at the same time support the building of local capacities for research.

Overall, research-related activities in recent years have accounted for between 1 and 4 percent of UNDP expenditures in Armenia.

Currently UNDP Armenia is funding a sociological survey on social cohesion which will be implemented by the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis affiliated with the AUA, in consultation with ICHD, CRRC and CI.

vii. Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Representative Office in Armenia

Address: Alex Manukyan 9, Yerevan 0070

Telephone: + 37410 51 22 50 / 51

Director of Yerevan Representative Office: Ashot Kazaryan

Website www.agbu.am

Email: agbuarm@agbu.am

Office in Armenia opened in 1990

Support to Armenia: over 8 million USD per year starting 1990 (over 165 million spent since 1990)

The AGBU was founded in 1906, in Cairo, Egypt, with the goal to assist the Armenian people, the future of which, as a minority in the Ottoman Empire, was endangered. Today, AGBU has 120 branches and 27 cultural centers with 22,000 members in 80 cities of 22 countries of the world (USA, Europe, Near East, South America, Australia). AGBU has 20 schools (6600 students) and finances more than 16 educational establishments. In Paris and New York the AGBU has two libraries.

AGBU activities in Armenia focus on education, culture, church, healthcare, social welfare and reconstruction. In the sphere of education, AGBU gives large-scale support to the AUA (American University in Armenia). It also offers some support to the French University in Armenia (covering the tuition fees of the university's 22 best students and financing the summer intern program of the university's three best students in France).

AGBU also conducts educational activities geared at Armenians from the Diaspora: a Virtual College teaching Armenian language, history and culture online in six languages (Eastern & Western Armenian, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), summer schools and summer intern programs in Armenia.

Apart from its main projects, AGBU awards special grants for activities. In the sphere of this study, AGBU-funded projects include support for the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (in the form of scholarships to students of humanities, funds for equipment, conferences and publications), the renovation of the three-storey Fundamental Library of Armenia's National Academy of Sciences, donations of

equipment to the Genocide Museum, support for book publishing given to the Matenadaran and other bodies and individuals.

In 1995 AGBU founded a Young Professionals organization. More than 500 graduates of US, Canadian and European universities are members of this organization. Today, there are 17 YP groups in 11 countries of the world, including the Yerevan group established in 2007.

Chapter 3. The Overall Situation with Research in the Sphere of Social Sciences and Humanities in Armenia

a. Overview

Many issues are common for all actors in the sphere of humanities and social sciences in Armenia; these include problems with funding, including funding for publications, professional standards and quality, and the poor development of those social sciences and humanities that did not exist in Armenia in the Soviet years.

Since the crisis of the 1990s, state support to research has improved in some spheres. Although budget funds are low, they are sufficient to sustain minimal salaries and an impoverished infrastructure; as a result, in some better-developed areas, such as medieval history or archeology, Armenian research bodies are now capable of doing regular quality work and can cooperate with European partners in joint projects. Funding from international donors, on the other hand, is chiefly awarded on project basis and does not enable infrastructure. Diaspora donors are different as they support infrastructure rather than salaries or projects.

An important problem affecting the quality of education, publications and research is that full-time male students are not drafted into the army until graduation (Armenia is formally still at war with Azerbaijan and has universal draft for males from 18 to 27). Should an MA student graduate and go on directly to full-time post-graduate studies, they will not be drafted until the end of the three-year post-graduate program; should they be awarded a “candidate of sciences” degree by the end of the three years, they are freed from army service altogether. As a result, full-time post-graduate study has become a tool for avoiding army service; the entire institution of post-graduate study has become corrupt and lost its focus on scientific achievement. This is the main reason for the high number of low quality candidate theses produced and defended every year. As can be seen from the table below, 93% of full-time postgraduate students are males, as compared to just over 35% of part-time students (who study for four years and are not exempt from army service):

Postgraduate students by gender in 2007 in Armenia

	Full-time			Part-time				
	Male	Female	Total	Free		paid		
	Male	Female	Total	male	female	male	female	total
1 st year	155	14	169	51	97	43	32	381
2 nd year	184	13	197	59	108	22	52	423
3 rd year	239	14	253	46	112	16	40	370
4 th year				39	77	16	26	266
Total	578	41	619	317	643	191	289	1440

%	93%	7%	1238	33%	67%	40%	60%	2880
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The overall situation with publications is unsatisfactory, especially where science periodicals are concerned. Amongst periodicals, the most prominent ones are the *Journal of History and Philology* and the *Social Sciences Review* published by of the Academy of Sciences, the *Review of Yerevan State University*, and yearly collections of papers published by institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences. However, traditionally the best work is published in the form of monographs. Armenia does not have a journal with a strong reputation in the field of social sciences and humanities; existing ones are mostly used by doctorate students to publish the necessary number of articles required for a degree. Due to the large number of candidate degrees awarded every year, one journal, called *Kantekh*, exists for this purpose only: for a fee, a student can publish anything there, without any scholarly supervision or quality control.

Journals in the area of social sciences and humanities published by institutions affiliated with the Academy of Sciences are poorly financed, have ageing staff, see light irregularly and, as can be seen from the table below, are very often not peer reviewed. Most periodicals are published in Armenian, some in Russian, almost none in English. Periodicals and collections of papers produced by universities suffer from another problem: the fact that science at universities is secondary to teaching and no time is allocated for it in the contracts of staff. Many university professors publish the same paper in an international journal and then reprint it many times in Armenian ones. Overall, the number of publications by Armenian scholars in international journals remains low, as seen from this table:

Papers published in periodicals and collections of papers in 2005-2007

	Total no of articles	Of these, peer reviewed	Percent of articles published in international periodicals
2005			
Armenia	5613	3228	12,5
CIS	1208	739	
International	1384	1024	
Total	8205	4991	
2006			
Armenia	5678	3107	12,6
CIS	1486	821	
International	1230	1058	
Total	8394	4986	
2007			
Armenia	6227	3643	11,9
CIS	1333	837	
International	1528	1089	
Total	9088	5569	

Source: Statistical Yearbook 2008

The only periodical regularly publishing papers on political science, history, sociology, international relations and regional security is the *21st Century* journal published by Noravank Foundation. It is usually produced in Armenian but sometimes also in English or Russian; it has an electronic version and its quality is overall better than that of most publications by state research bodies. There is also the *Caucasus Yearbook* published every year since 2004 by the Caucasus Institute; however, it is not a journal but a collection of papers produced in Russian with a regional focus (there are plans to produce an English version funding permitting). Its quality is overall high, with international scholars contributing papers to every issue. Think tanks and NGO, including ICHD and Eurasia Partnership Foundation, publish ad hoc collections of papers on specific issues which are usually of a practical nature but can involve some sound research.

Another issue that concerns publications has to do with poor quality of printing, small print runs and poor dissemination of publications. The tables below reflect the overall situation in the publishing sphere:

Books published per year

	Number of books	Number of copies, 1000
1940		2700
1981		8100
1995	376	?
1996	396	?
1997	429	?
1998	535	392
2000	672	464
2001	915	970
2002	1011	389
2003	1578	927
2004	1591	699
2005	1341	945
2006	1326	822
2007	1771	2163
2008	1835	2249

Sources: Book Chamber 2008, 2009. Statistical Yearbooks 2000, 1999, Soviet statistics 1982

Books per area (figures in parentheses stand for percentage of books in the Armenian language)

	Number		Number of copies, 1000	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Social sciences, total	461 (81%)	495 (80%)	429.2 (92%)	155.9 (83%)
... General	20	25	8.8	10.5
... Philosophy	35 (63%)	17 (71%)	9.2 (74%)	2.8 (n/a)
... Psychology	7	15	4.0	4.3
... Religion	42 (90.5%)	37 (92%)	26.2 (88%)	17.2 (96%)
... Sociology and statistics	13	23	4.6	6.0
... Politics	57 (72%)	44 (64%)	273.7 (98%)	16.3 (69%)
... Economics and trade	77 (95%)	102 (88%)	19.3 (98%)	21.5 (89%)
... Management	6	9	1.5	1.7
... Law	79 (80%)	84 (84.5%)	41.1 (76%)	33.0 (88.5%)
... Military	12	22	6.3	7.9
... History	86 (83%)	94 (83%)	26.4 (84%)	31.0 (80%)
... Ethnography, Armenian studies	5	3	1.7	0.5
Natural sciences	149	133	29.9	23.6
... Ecology	20 (80%)	18 (83%)	3.7 (86.5%)	3.2 (87.5%)
... Geology, geography	14	24	3.0	3.6
Technical sciences	92	61	11.3	9.3
Industry	11	32	1.4	5.1
Transport, communication	18	16	16.6	5.1
Computers	33	75	4.7	9.8

Construction, architecture	6	9	0.7	1.2
Agriculture	44	41	9.3	7.1
Healthcare, medicine	43	49	11.6	6.7
Sport	28	26	6.5	23.0
Philology	154	175	44.2	45.3
... Literature studies	63	69	16.6	18.0
... Linguistics	91 (42%)	106 (33%)	27.6 (39%)	27.3 (48%)
Art	49	43	16.6	11.9
... Culture monuments	10	13	4.3	4.2
... Music, theatre, cinema	29	24	8.3	5.7
... Fine arts	10	6	4.0	2.0
Culture	6	13	1.4	3.0
Media, journalism	8	13	1.8	3.3
Education	140	179	995.8	848.3
... Schoolbooks	56 (80%)	96 (80%)	919.1 (90%)	737.6 (77%)
... Manuals	84	83	76.7	110.7
Fiction	266	246	100.0	72.8
Children's books	70	98	92.0	85.2
General	9	14	2.9	13.3
..... Total	1587 (80%)	1718 (80%)	1775.9 (89%)	1329.9 (82%)

Sources: Book Chamber, 2008, 2009.

Books per type

	Number of books		Number of copies, 1000	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Politics	46	49	255.6	17.8
Science	255	250	88.0	63.3
Science popularizing	93	102	37.1	30.7
Official	57	40	31.0	19.4
Manuals for universities	301	284	75.1	83.2
Manuals for practical or laboratory classes	225	273	28.9	34.8
Manuals for schools	56	96	919.1	737.6
Education theory, methodology	49	75	53.7	108.1
Manuals for professional schools	18	6	6.7	1.0
Specialized manuals	22	34	17.4	8.6
Encyclopedias	3	6	2.5	8.8
Dictionaries	21	20	8.2	6.8
Reference books	28	10	20.2	11.2
Bibliographies	14	17	2.8	2.4
Fiction	266	246	100.0	72.8
Children's books	70	98	92.0	85.2
Religion	28	27	17.8	14.1
Popular	54	85	22.6	24.1
... Total	1587	1718	1775.9	1329.9

Sources: Book Chamber 2008, 2009.

Clearly many of the issues mentioned above stem from shortage of funds and the fact that at universities, research is low priority compared to education.

Another serious problem is poor access to publications, including periodicals, especially recent publications produced in the West, and the poor state of libraries and resource centers.

Besides, even where access is possible, foreign language proficiency is often lacking; with the exception of the students of the American and French Universities, some YSU and Brusov students, many graduate and postgraduate students in Armenia do not have sufficient command of English or another European language to read let alone contribute to international science publications. Russian which used to be a second mother tongue and the main language of education in Soviet Armenia is also on the decline. Contacts with Russian education and research are down (except at RAU, partly at YSU and Brusov), and school graduates have less command of Russian every year.

Another issue concerns the polarization and politicization of science discourses in Armenia, especially in the sphere of social sciences and particularly in history and political science. An overall standard for “patriotism” often interferes with the objectivity and quality of research. Scholars sometimes become the target for nationalistic groups and actors, including ones active within the scholarly community. There were cases when nationalist-minded activists (some of them holding doctorate degrees) sabotaged the presentation of dissertations on Armenian history on the grounds that the scholar was insufficiently “patriotic.” The work of renowned Armenian and international scholars of Armenian descent (including Ronald Suny and Richard Hovhannisian) has been condemned for making the Armenian nation look less ancient, less grand or less widely spread. Vulgarization and non-professional discourses in the media make the problem worse; as a result, many scholars, especially young ones, are wary of expressing original ideas or digging into controversial issues.

One approach to dealing with many of these problems would be to intensify contacts with European universities, research centers and donors. There have been a variety of initiatives to connect the Armenian scholarly community to European and international networks. However, these projects have yet to make an impact on the sphere of social sciences and humanities. Back in 1994, an Academic Scientific Research Computer Network of Armenia (ASNET-AM) was established, bringing together the National Academy of Sciences and research bodies affiliated with it, several Armenian state universities and the American University of Armenia. The idea was to enable exchange of information, wireless and fiber optic connections, and access to databases. The Presidium of the Academy is responsible for administration and the development of this network. Based on the infrastructure provided by ASNET-AM, the Armenian National Grid (<http://www.grid.am>) is connecting Armenia to GÉANT, the pan-European data network in the area of education and science. However, so far the Armenian Grid only has user communities in natural sciences, IT and environmental protection, and none in humanities or social sciences. An Armenian e-Science Foundation (<http://www.escience.am>) was established in 2002. The main goal of ArmeSFo is introduction, development and dissemination of e-science technologies in the Armenian scientific and educational institutions. Once again, humanities and social sciences have not so far been actively embraced by its activities.

Apart from general trends, many strengths and weaknesses are specific for particular groups of actors considered below.

b. Universities

In terms of research, Yerevan State is doing best of all universities in Armenia. Its most advanced areas are Armenian studies, history, sociology and languages; it also does some research in the areas of philosophy, sociology, political science and international relations. Together with the Institute of Oriental Studies, it does research in the area of Oriental Studies which is of better than average quality for Armenia. It is also doing better than most in terms of international ties.

The Brusov Linguistic University follows Yerevan State in terms of quality; one of the reasons is that its staff has better command of foreign languages and more ties to the rest of the world. Its focus is on language, literature studies, communication studies and to some extent also political studies and philosophy.

The Pedagogical University follows where humanities and education studies are concerned. Its focus is on Armenian studies and history (chiefly Armenian history). It has few international contacts and little knowledge of modern methods. We have ranked it third based on its publications in Armenian in the area of Armenian studies.

The Russian-Armenian University can be ranked fourth. It does some research on language, history, political philosophy and political science; its special focus is on Armenian-Russian relations. Many members of its faculty also teach at Yerevan State or Brusov; the Russian-Armenian University offers them more opportunity to publish their work or conduct additional research.

Other state and private universities do little or no research in those fields of social sciences and humanities that are the focus of this report. Most private universities in Armenia do no research at all and focus on education solely. The American University of Armenia does some research, chiefly in the areas of business, management and law; the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis at the AUA conducts surveys on behalf of international organizations (USAID, UNDP etc.).

As to the overall capacity of Armenian state universities to conduct research, they are very limited, and the product is rather low-quality and often not original. The key problem has to do with the working hours of the staff. The faculty of state universities are employed full-time as trainers; there are no contracts for research. According to their contracts, they have to teach an average of 720 hours of contact classes per year (a little less for holders of Doctor of Science degrees, the next degree after PhD which is a legacy of the Soviet system). At some universities, some professors work 125 or even 150 per cent. With the winter and summer vacations, a full-time teaching job amounts to two contact hours every weekday, plus time needed to prepare for classes, check homework (sometimes over 100 students per class), supervise several research papers per student per semester and degree theses by BA and MA students. Each month all students take written tests in every subject which also need to be given and checked. Teaching involves a lot of paperwork; a head of faculty has huge additional reporting and planning to do. The syllabus for each course has to be about 50 pages long, most professors teach many courses and have to write up the syllabi. As a result, a professor can only work on research during vacations or after hours. Research is not

stipulated by contracts as a separate activity and no time is allocated for it. Therefore, state universities are not in the position to ask its staff to do research.

Scholarly contacts and cooperation with universities abroad are also limited. Scientific ties are sporadic, due to a range of factors, including poor proficiency in foreign languages, lack of experience and ties (even ties inside the former USSR have disintegrated during the first post-Soviet decade of chaos and crisis), poor awareness (including by managers of science) of the need for and potential of international cooperation, and lack of funds. Scientific contacts with Russia have been on the decline since the disintegration of the USSR in the early nineties. The only entities in Armenia to have regular contacts with Russian research organizations are the Russian-Armenian University and the departments of Russian philology at Brusov and Yerevan State.

Some of the staff of Yerevan State University and Brusov University is doing much better than the average scholar in terms of international contacts. As a result, international cooperation mostly happens on personal basis; some of the faculty of state universities are scholars with international ties and reputations who travel to conferences abroad, publish their work in international magazines etc. However, their work is not supervised or reviewed by their universities, and is usually commissioned and supported by international partners on individual basis.

When the time comes to publish university newsletters or collections of papers, the heads of departments ask their staff to bring whatever research papers they have written, either for external projects or just on their own initiative. The head of faculty cannot ask a staff member to do research or write a paper on a particular topic, nor can they choose the best papers. They just take whatever their staff have handy. As a result, the collections of papers are not structured thematically and are very uneven in terms of quality, varying from good to useless.

As part of their Soviet legacy, every university has a Science Board which decides on which topics should be research and what must be published. The departments submit proposals and the Board reviews them. However, even if a book is on the publishing plan of the University, in many universities (in Yerevan State less often than in the others) the finance department tells the author that he or she can only get their work published provided they handle the sales themselves, and bring the revenues back to the University. The author is thus in charge of their own marketing, very often leading to a corrupt practice when a professor makes his/her students buy copies of their book as a requirement for a particular course.

The universities organize conferences, chiefly on ad hoc basis in cooperation with international partners or using funding from other universities. For example, at Brusov the UNESCO Faculty does not do its own fundraising or have its own international cooperation projects as this would be too complicated to get through the bureaucracy. They prefer to cooperate with NGO when it comes to international projects. NGO are more flexible and less bureaucratic in terms of funding. The NGO organizes an event, or research project, or publication, and the staff of the faculty cooperate on individual basis; however, the involvement can be semi-institutional, with events conducted in Brusov halls and with participation of Brusov students. Sometimes other departments have projects funded by external donors, and then the staff who take part in the research, teaching or events organized under those projects get additional

pay on project basis (not recalculated by input) while also getting their full-time salary at the university.

An important deterrent to overall quality of teaching and research is the dependence of universities on student fees for survival. Over 90% of the income of state universities comes from student fees, which also account for the staff salaries. Although fees are not high by international standards, they are as high as the students can pay in a country with Armenia's living standards; the resulting amounts are insufficient for good quality activities, especially given the bulky bureaucracies and messy procedures inherited from Soviet universities. The universities compensate by having more students, leading to a situation where the universities cannot afford to expel poor students. For example, according to heads of departments at Brusov University, of its over 3000 students, only about 30 a year get expelled; in fact, if we look at the quality of their work, about 30% should be expelled but that would leave the teachers penniless, as salaries are quite low anyway, just about \$400 for a Head of Faculty with a PhD employed full-time but actually having to work extra hours in order to complete their duties.

c. State research bodies

State research institutes (including those affiliated with the Academy and the Matenadaran which has special status) have decades of experience and traditions in research. Some, as the Institute of Oriental Studies, have strong international ties, due to the fact that in Soviet times this institute was commissioned by Moscow to conduct research on Turkish, Iranian and Arabic studies. Others, like the Institute of History, are international reference centers for Armenian studies but have very narrow focus. Caucasus studies or regional studies are scarce: for example, Georgian studies scarcely exist at all in Armenia despite the obvious need for such.

The Genocide Museum has recently been successful in fundraising from Diaspora and individual donors, and is improving its staff and scientific standards. Due to the political purport of the Genocide issue, it has the attention of the Armenian government and international bodies. As a result, the Genocide Museum conducts more conferences than other institutes, produces more books, and buys new documents for its archives. It has the most functional website of all state research bodies.

Institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences suffer from a lame legal base for their functioning in issues such as subordination to and relationship with the Academy, its Presidium and its Division of Armenian Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities. Budgeting is also an issue. One of the reasons is that the Academy has technically the same status as the institutes affiliated with it – that of a non-commercial state organization. This status, amongst other things, prevents the institutes from engaging in any income-generating activities, even selling their books, and opens bleak prospects for financial sustainability.

This situation calls for amendments to the *Law on Scientific and Technical Activity* and careful elaboration of the *Law on the Academy of Sciences* which is being drafted at the moment.

Shortage of funds is a chronic concern of all state institutions. The most direct consequence is the ageing of their staff, since young people are not motivated to work for ridiculously low wages. The result is vividly reflected in the following statistics:

Average age of scholars in Armenia in 2007 (DSc/PhD)

Under 30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Over 70	Average age
0/311	24/484	90/513	249/733	259/580	199/301	61.5/51.0

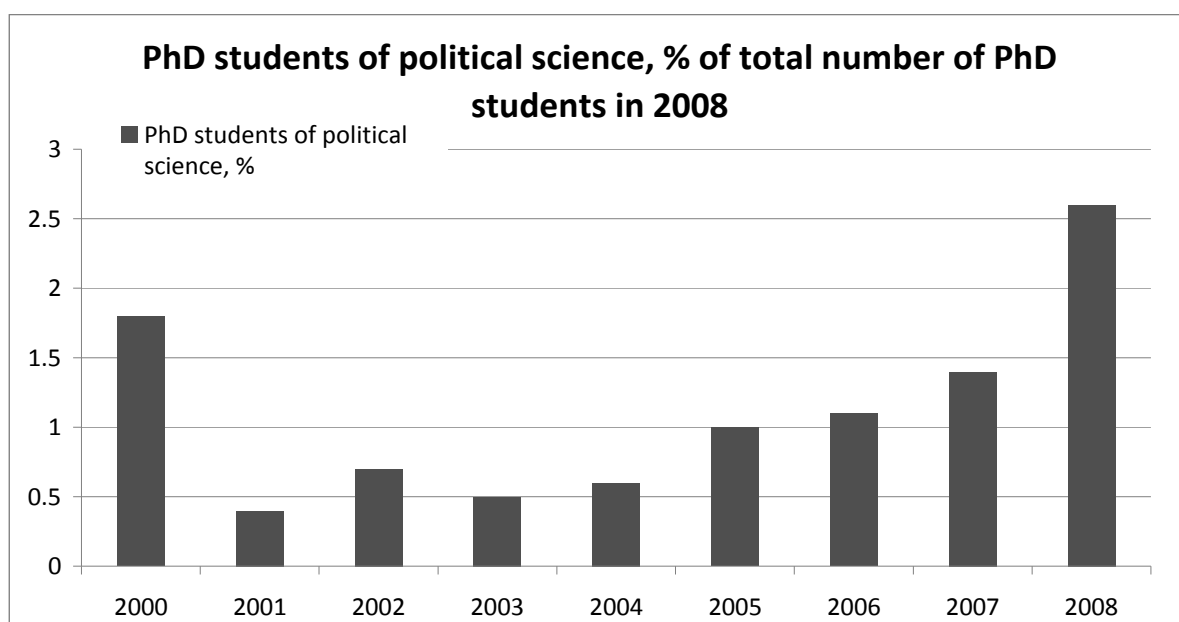
Source: Statistical Yearbook 2008

Apart from being advanced in years, the elderly scholars are more likely to rely on very outdated Soviet methodology, be unaware of modern approaches and simply unable to come to grips with modern equipment and technology, even basic things like emails. For social reasons, institutes cannot fire elderly scholars; for contractual reasons, they cannot hire one promising young scientist for the wages of ten old ones. In many cases, institutes with a staff of 100-130 researchers (such as the Institute of History) produce as many or fewer publications than a think tank with just several research staff.

The Genocide Institute, the Institute of Oriental Studies and the Matenadaran are good exceptions. The Matenadaran trains its own young scholars, has sources of non-state financing (including Diaspora bodies such as the Gulbenkian Foundation) and ties to international research centers. Its donors have even sponsored the ongoing construction of a new expensive building for the Matenadaran, estimated to cost dozens of millions USD.

Other institutes specialize in Armenian studies and have few ties to the world except via the Diaspora and individual scholars conducting Armenian studies in universities abroad.

Problems common to all these bodies include outdated methodologies, inability to conduct cross-disciplinary research, excessive academism and lack of opportunity for practical applications of their work. Post-Soviet disproportions are also an issue. Armenian studies get the bulk of state financing whereas the development of fields that did not exist in the USSR, such as political science, is going in the direction of quantity rather than quality, with former Marxist philosophers and communist party historians teaching it and large numbers of below-standard PhD theses produced every year:



d. Non-state bodies

NGO, including think tanks, have only existed in Armenia since the mid-nineties and started to play an important role in society in the first decade of the 21st century. They are dramatically different from state research bodies in that they are much less academic and learned in theories, very project-oriented and focused on practical application of their work. Reports by NGO get much more social resonance than anything produced by state research bodies.

Due to their practical focus, NGO do not engage in fundamental research and work in a limited number of areas. Most studies they conduct are in the field of political science (including transition and democracy studies), political sociology (with emphasis on electoral behavior and institutions), conflict studies (with focus on regional conflicts and integration), international relations, European studies, economics and environment. Some studies assess compliance with EU and other standards in the areas of human rights, media development, education etc. NGO are not usually active in other humanities and social sciences, such as history, languages etc.

Strong dependence on donors affects the scope and format of research conducted by NGO while also providing financial means incomparably greater than those of state-funded bodies, and freedom from bureaucracy. International and regional ties amongst NGO are strong; they use modern methodology and technology, have access to Western publications, do not suffer from Soviet stereotypes on a par with state institutions, have much younger, better motivated and better educated staff, including graduates of Western universities.

The sustainability of NGO and their capacity to conduct thematic research rather than focus on donor-funded projects is constrained by the lack of a Law on

Endowments that would enable NGO to conduct income-generating activities and become financially independent.

However, to some extent NGO also suffer from Soviet legacies. Thus, international agencies working with local NGO often complain that the language of their reports is not in line with international standards. The reports are very often politicized, sharply critical of individuals and institutions (to the point of abuse), biased and generally intolerant. Besides, their general approach is often marred by isolationism and an overall lack of openness to the rest of the world. The reports are often focused on the uniqueness of Armenia and its problems, lacking a comparative aspect or global perspective. Technical skills, such as the ability to produce graphs or draft scenarios, though much better at NGO than at state institutes, can still fall below the standard of international partners. Sometimes the results of their work need to be revised with the help of international consultants. For instance, the UNDP office in Armenia has decided that should it outsource research to local institutions in Armenia in the future, it will combine local and international outsourcing, i.e. create teams in which local and international researchers will work side by side and coordinate their work.

Commercial bodies engaged in research are very new in the Armenian market. Of these, the most advanced are sociological firms, which have a good market for their services (of these, Sociometer was included in this survey). New commercial bodies are now being established in the sphere of political technologies, development and media consulting, media audience research etc.

e. Recommendations

- *Reforming and decentralizing the management of the Academy and institutes affiliated with it*; enabling the independent and competitive activity of research bodies; redirecting state funding to projects and activities not bureaucratic entities.
- *Legal reforms and amendments*, including changes to the *Law on Scientific and Technical Activities*, adoption of an adequate *Law of the Academy of Sciences* and a *Law on Endowments*. The reforms need to ensure the independence and openness of research bodies, the transparency of state funding, access to sources of financial sustainability (such as endowments), a minimum of bureaucratic procedures, involvement in the international scholarly community, and clear criteria of quality of research.
- *Reforming the system of doctorate degrees in line with European standards*: introducing the European system of doctorate degrees, getting rid of Soviet legacies in this area, including the degrees of “candidate” and “doctor”; simplifying bureaucratic procedures, placing emphasis on quality of research and introducing criteria of academic quality in the process of degree awarding, reforming or ideally disbanding the Supreme Attestation Commission.

- *Annulling the connection between doctorate degrees and army service*, thus getting rid of corruption in the system of awarding doctorate degrees and creating an environment in which only students with ambitions to become scholars will seek doctorate degrees.
- *Boosting skills*: There is an acute need to improve technical skills, including the use of computer software and the Internet, the use of databases and visuals (power point, graphs etc). Language proficiency should be increased, especially where the staff of state research bodies (academic institutes and university departments) is concerned. This should involve a variety of training formats targeting mid-career professionals as well as students and young scholars.
- *Combating Soviet and post-Soviet stereotypes*. This is relevant for both thinking patterns and research methodology, and concerns all type of research bodies, state and private. The most efficient stratagem would rely on contacts with European institutions and study trips to European centers for Armenian researchers.
- *Dealing with politicized content and style*. This issue is especially acute for NGO, including think tanks, but concerns state institutions too. Solutions would involve greater exposure to European publications, more intensive contacts and joint projects.
- *Developing a culture of scholarly debates and neutral professional discourses in the sphere of social sciences and humanities*. This requires international cooperation and legal regulation, support for independent research bodies, and more active circulation of information on current trends in humanities and social sciences in Europe and worldwide.
- *A reform of the framework of research at universities*, including the contractual base (allocation of time for teaching and research), a system that would allow a change of generations, and procedures for evaluating quality. Universities need to have staff which can focus primarily or only on research rather than administration or teaching
- *Development of those spheres in which Armenia does not have established traditions* (such as political science or international relations) in cooperation with Western universities and local and international donors

- *Changes in financing procedures:* state financing must move more actively from basic (infrastructural) financing towards project-based or thematic financing, whereas international and local donors need to make focus on infrastructure as well as projects
- *Improving quality and raising quantity of publications,* in foreign languages as well as Armenian, with special emphasis on periodicals; the focus should be on establishing authoritative journals with efficient peer-review and an international board which would be also published in English and disseminated electronically

List of interviews

1. Ara Avetisyan, Vice Minister for Education and Science of Armenia
2. Artak Davtyan, Head of Standing Parliament Commission on Culture, Education, Sport and Youth
3. Hayk Demoyan, Director of the Genocide Institute
4. Hrachyan Tamrazyan, Director of the Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts
5. Hakop Muradyan, Science Secretary of the Institute of History affiliated with the Academy of Science
6. Emil Ordukhanyan, Science Secretary of the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law affiliated with the Academy of Science
7. Pavel Avetisyan, Director of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography affiliated with the Academy of Science
8. Robert Ghazaryan, Science Secretary of the Institute of Oriental Studies affiliated with the Academy of Science
9. Lavrenty Oganesyanyan, Director of the Acharyan Institute of Language affiliated with the Academy of Science
10. Alexander Markarov, Head of the Faculty of International Cooperation of Yerevan State University, Professor of Political Science
11. Parkev Avetisyan, Vice Rector for Science of the Russian-Armenian University
12. Robert Ayvazyan, Vice Rector of Armenian Pedagogical University
13. Vahan Ter Gevondyan, Head of UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Democracy and European Studies at the Faculty for Linguistics and Intercultural Communication at Brusov Linguistic University
14. Gayaneh Hovhannisyan, Head of Chair of English and Communication at the Faculty for Linguistics and Intercultural Communication at the Brusov Linguistic University
15. Alexander Iskandaryan, Director of the Caucasus Institute
16. Tevan Poghosyan, Executive Director of the International Center for Human Development (ICHHD)
17. Artak Kirakosyan, Chairman of the Board of the Civil Society Institute
18. Stepan Grigoryan, Executive Director of the Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation
19. Boris Navasardyan, President of Yerevan Press Club
20. Zara Martirosyan, Director of the Armenian Branch of the Institute of Eurasian Studies
21. Anna Sagabalyan, Communications Coordinator of Civilitas Foundation

22. Richard Giragosian, Director of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS)
23. Heggineh Manasyan, Executive Director of the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC)
24. Gevorg Ter-Gabrielian, Director of Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia
25. Larisa Minasyan, Director of Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Armenia
26. Ahavni Karakhanyan, Director of Institute for Civil Society and Regional Development (ICSRD)
27. Gagik Harutunyan, Director of Noravank Science and Education Foundation
28. Laura Baghdasaryan, Director of Region Center
29. Aharon Adibekyan, Director of the Sociometer Sociological Center
30. Lana Karlova, Head of Tempus Office in Armenia
31. Lianna Haramanyan, Program Officer, Swiss Program Office Yerevan
32. Dirk Boberg, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Armenia
33. Monica Papyan, Project Manager, EC Delegation to Armenia