



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ ARMENIA



1-5 May 2014 • Yerevan, Armenia

Call for Participants

Dear Participants,

It is our great pleasure to inform you that the **1st International EYP Forum in Armenia (IEFA)** on “*Democratic Citizenship: obtaining, developing, empowering*” (*DECODE*) will take place on **1-5th May, 2014 in Yerevan, Armenia**. Around 200 delegates from more than 20 countries will come together for this five-day program to discuss the specified topic in 10 different committees.

The session will be hosted by one of the best and well-equipped universities in Yerevan, American University of Armenia. In the scope of the 1st International EYP Forum in Armenia, the delegation will also be chosen based on the Independent Jury’s assessment and the voting of the 200 delegates to represent Armenia at the **76th International Session of European Youth Parliament in Barcelona, Spain in summer of 2014**. International Sessions of the European Youth Parliament are held 3 times a year and involve more than 300 delegates, 41 countries, high officials from the EU commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, etc.

The Delegates will be allocated in the 10 committees to discuss the following topics in the scope of “Democratic citizenship: obtaining, decoding, empowering” broad topic:

1. Foreign Affairs

Since Yanukovych refused to sign an Association Agreement with the EU, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have taken to the streets of Kyiv and other cities calling for the current government to resign. What policy should the EU adopt towards Ukraine in the given circumstances, after a refusal for a deeper EU-UA economic integration?

2. Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

In the recent years one of the most disputable topics in the EU has become the burqa ban law. Many European countries have adopted the laws banning wearing clothes that constitute an ostensible religious symbol in the public places, mainly referring to the hijab, veil, and the burqa. The supporters of the law justify it as a measure to ensure the secularism and religious neutrality of the state, while the opponents highly criticize it emphasizing the violation of basic

human rights and civil liberties. Should the burqa ban law take a more pan-European level or should be reconsidered given the high rate of Muslim population in the EU?

3. Economic and Monetary Affairs

Since the start of the financial crisis the EU has been facing growing competitiveness gaps within the region and become a more fragile bloc. Countries have received international monetary assistance, bailouts and other rescues mechanisms with the string of “austerity” attached. What should the EU stance be for the governments to build support for reforms aimed at reducing debt and fostering competitiveness?

4. Environment, Food Security and Public Health

Air pollution is a local, pan-European and hemispheric issue. Air pollutants released in one country may be transported in the atmosphere, contributing to or resulting in poor air quality elsewhere. In Europe, emissions of many air pollutants have decreased substantially over the past decades, however, air pollutant concentrations are still too high, and air quality problems persist. What new mechanisms or non-tariff barriers should the EU apply to reduce the air pollution?

5. Employment and Social Affairs

With budgets still tight and austerity measures in place, Europe's youth unemployment rate stands at 23.5 percent, with every 4th young European being unemployed. Taking into account, that the youth employment is the backbone of the competitive economy and failure to ensure the latter may result in a social tensions, the above-mentioned issues has become very urgent in the recent years for the EU and EaP. Thus, what should be the main pillars of the program to reverse the rising joblessness for the under 25's in the EU and EaP countries?

6. Security and Defence

Since the political violence escalation in Egypt (summer of 2013), the EU Foreign Affairs Council has declared the actions of the Egyptian security forces disproportionate, hence, suspended the export to Egypt of any equipment which might be used for internal repression. At this stage of the EU-Egypt cooperation, in which way the EU should reassess its export of military equipment and review its security assistance to Egypt?

7. Women's rights and Gender Equality

A gender imbalance in the three states of the South Caucasus has always been issue from the very beginning of their independence from the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, the biggest issue in

these terms remain the gender based abortion and is of utmost urgency given its potential consequences and because it perpetuates a culture of gender inequality. In which way should the EU use its levers to impose the change in the national legislation to combat gender based abortions in those countries?

8. Industry, Research and Energy

The EU aims to get 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 to enable cutting greenhouse emissions and make it less dependent on imported energy. But on the other hand the stability of Europe’s electricity generation is at risk from the warped market structure caused by skyrocketing renewable energy subsidies which have led to unacceptably high utility bills for the residences and businesses , and even risk causing continent-wide blackouts. What trade-off the EU should come up with to address the current issue?

9. Constitutional Affairs

The negotiations on the EU membership with the EU member candidate countries like Turkey and Serbia have revived in the recent years. Nevertheless, taking into account the existing territorial dispute between Serbia and Kosovo, closed Turkish-Armenian border, what institutional reforms are required to deal with the current political situation?

10. Human rights

The law that bans Holocaust denial has been adopted in most of the EU countries and has been in force already for a decade. In the recent years, the Armenian Genocide denial law has been brought on the agenda of several European superpowers and since then become a very disputable issue. Its supporters are underlining the importance of preventing the hate speech, while its opponents bring forward the limitation to the freedom of speech. What should the EU’s stance be on the matter, given its strong ties with Turkey?

The EYP Armenia team will be also organizing a range of evening activities to create platform for non-formal and cultural communication as a supplement to the academic aspect of the conference (refer to the conference schedule). The organizing team will do its best to ensure high quality of the forum and unforgettable experience for all the delegates. We are working hard to make the upcoming conference outstanding and provide an insight about the urgent issues of Europe to our delegates. We look forward to meeting you in Yerevan, at the 1st International EYP Forum in Armenia.

WELCOME TO YEREVAN

The history of Armenia can be traced back to the establishment of the Armenian Kingdom in the 6th century BC which reached its height under Tigranes the Great, becoming one of the most powerful kingdoms of its time within the region. In 4th century AD, Armenia becomes the 1st country in the world to adopt Christianity as its state religion, thus pivoting a new era of cultural prosperity.



Armenia lies in the highlands surrounding the Biblical mountains of Ararat, upon which Noah’s Ark is said to have come to rest after the flood. Yerevan, the capital and largest city of Armenia, lies on the edge of the Ararat plain. According to the legend, after the Deluge, Noah saw a land from the Mount Ararat and cried “Yerevats, Yerevats!”(I see the land), which is believed to be the origin for the city’s name.

Being on the crossroads of West and East it has harmoniously combined the best of the two. The city is now proud to introduce its architectural jewels like the Republic Square, the Opera House, the Cascades, as well as numerous galleries, museums and parks.



Entertainment, recreation, night walks along the Singing Fountains together with the hospitable company of the residents assures one’s entire enjoyment of the flamboyant city life. Thus, 2795 years old Yerevan is pleased to whole-heartedly welcome all the delegates!

The European Youth Parliament



The European Youth Parliament (EYP, www.eyp.org) is a non-partisan and independent educational project which is tailored specifically to the needs of the young European citizen. The EYP encourages independent thinking and socio-political initiative in young people and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. Since its inauguration, in 1987, **many tens of thousands of young people** have taken part in regional, national and international sessions, formed friendship, ponder over urgent issues of Europe, proposed solutions, made international contact across and beyond borders. Today the EYP is one of the largest European platforms for political educational work and the exchange of ideas among young people in Europe and has been granted patronage from Thorbjorn Jagland (Secretary General of the Council of Europe), Martin Schulz (President of the European Parliament), Jose Manuel Barroso (President of the European Commission), and many other outstanding figures in the European Politics. The EYP consists of a network of more than 41 European associations and organisations in which targets to empower the young people through the involvement in the decision-making process. The entire network organises about 200 events every year.

More information can be found here: www.eyp.org

EYP Armenia

The EYP Armenia has been established and recognized as a full member of the European Youth Parliament network in **December of 2012**. Since then our delegates have taken part in numerous of regional sessions, international forums, and got involved in various projects with the most recent being 2nd National Selection Conference, EYP AmAr 2013 and the

1st National Selection Conference and EYP BuS. Overall, EYP Armenia has implemented 12 projects which involved around 2500 young people, hosted 65 foreign students from Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, France, Germany, Poland, Georgia, Montenegro, USA, Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Kazakhstan, 45 volunteers from Armenia, Georgia, Sweden, Romania.

The EYP Business Simulation (EYP BuS) Conference organized by European Youth Parliament – Armenia in cooperation with the EU Centre took place on February 15 in Yerevan and gathered around 30 participants, 4 jury members from Sweden, Hungary, Czech Republic and Romania. The 4 working groups formed presented to the jury the development potential of business

environments in the countries of Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia and Georgia. After many round table debates, direct responses, exciting speeches the team representing Moldova took the gold, thus ensuring the places for its members at the International EYP Forum, May 1-5. While by the voting of the participants the best team was recognized to be Ukraine which got the “People’s Choice Award”.





The **2nd National Selection Conference** of the EYP Armenia on “The EU and Eastern Partnership: on the way to a deeper cooperation” took place November 1-4, in

Yerevan and was hosted by the American University of Armenia under the motto “I.D.E.A.: Initiate, Debate, Empower, Advocate”. 135 students, chairs and journalists from 15 countries were allocated to the 7 committees to discuss the respective subtopics. Based on the voting results of the jury and delegates, Armenian Delegation comprising 3 people was chosen to represent Armenia at the upcoming 75th International European Youth Parliament Session in Riga in March of 2014.



1st National Selection Conference took place in Yerevan, on June 28-30, 2013 and gathered 100 young people from 8 countries to debate on "Challenging the crisis: foster innovative approaches" in the format of the

European Parliament in the predetermined 6 committees. Based on the voting results of the jury and delegates, Armenian Delegation comprising 6 people was chosen to represent Armenia at the upcoming 74th International European Youth Parliament Session in Tbilisi in October of 2013.

EYP Ambassadors of Armenia (EYP AmAr 2013) Simulation Conference was organized by European Youth Parliament - Armenia in cooperation with Ministry of Economy (Tourism Department) on August 17, 2013. Each working group comprised of 3 participants who represented the tourism potential of the assigned region to the potentials investors. The main projects generated were: Wine University from Vayots Dzor,



ExpLORI ecotourism project from Lori, Middle Ages Revival Village from Tavush, potential of hosting Olympic games from Kotayk, etc. The EYP AmAr Simulation Conference on tourism development was recognized one of the best youth projects of 2013 by the Ministry of Economy.

More information can be found here: www.eyparmenia.org

EYP Forum Methodology

EYP Forum follows a similar programme and is based on the same methodology of teambuilding, committee work and General Assembly (GA) synthesized with the evening activities.

Teambuilding. Young people coming from very different background and having never met before will gather committees. They need to function as a close-knit team pulling together and respecting each other by the end of the event. The preparation for this challenge is the aim of the teambuilding activities. In conjunction with



the committee chairperson, the delegates in committees engage in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Some of these are physical, others creative or problem solving but all of them are designed to get the group of people working as a team, creating the basis for an open, productive and fair political discussion in an atmosphere of trust among the participants.



Committee Work. Committee work is the central part of any session of the European Youth Parliament. The delegates of committee come together after the teambuilding to work on the particular topic allocated in the scope of the general topic which will result in a

resolution. Resolution itself includes introductory and operative clauses: identification of the existing problems and the ways to solve them. The principle of consensus is central to the EYP method and it can be a huge challenge for the group to reach a compromise in the end. Chair is facilitating the group discussion and gives the insight into the specifics of the discussed topic.

The General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly reunites all the participants of the session in order to consider the results of the committee work. Each committee presents a resolution, which furthermore is defended, attacked, debated and, ultimately, voted on based solely on the personal conscience of each delegate.



The Resolution is successfully passed if more than half of delegates voted in favor. In the end of the GA, 3 to 5 delegates are chosen to represent EYP Armenia at the International European Youth Parliament Session based on the voting of the jury and the delegates themselves.

Euroconcert and Eurovillage. The idea of the Eurovillage event is for all the delegations from all the countries to put together their own stall to present local products and culture. The presentation tables usually include a variety of local food and drinks, brochures, small gifts and other products. Quite often the delegation even wears their respective national costumes to make the event a colorful celebration of the different nations. Every delegation will be asked to bring their national food and products.



The talents of EYPers are various, and in recognition of the many musically gifted among the participants, this event is a chance for these musicians to show their abilities, playing a variety



of instruments, singing and dancing. Euroconcert is yet again a possibility to explore and share the diversity of more than 20 different cultures. EYP Armenia will also be preparing a special dance performance and give an unforgettable presentation of Armenia.

Intercultural theatre and Carpet knitting. All kinds of cultural exchanges regulate our daily life and any artistic adventure goes back to the most varied sources and audiences. Intercultural theatre, also known as cross-cultural theatre, will be another way of mixing and matching cultures or subcultures for the participants of the Forum. The delegates will be watching a theatrical performance by juniors of EYP Armenia and then will have to make an improvisation of the acts, and through this present the specifics of their cultures, as well.



The art of the Armenian carpet and rug weaving has its roots in ancient times. The complex history of Armenian weaving and needlework was acted out in the Near East, a vast and ethnically diverse region. However, due to the fragile nature of carpets very few examples have survived from the Pre-Christian periods, while most of the carpets in the various museums are from the early medieval period. In the scope of the Forum, the participants will get a chance to learn from the professionals how to knit a carpet using the mechanisms of Middle Ages.

The art of the Armenian carpet and rug weaving has its roots in ancient times. The complex history of Armenian weaving and needlework was acted out in the Near East, a vast and ethnically diverse region. However, due to the fragile nature of carpets very few examples have survived from the Pre-Christian periods, while most of the carpets in the various museums are from the early medieval period. In the scope of the Forum, the participants will get a chance to learn from the professionals how to knit a carpet using the mechanisms of Middle Ages.

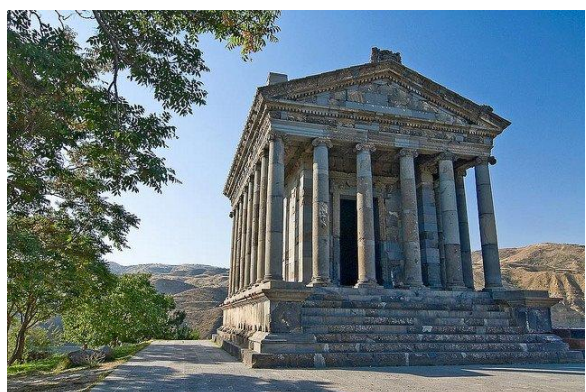


Visit to Zvartnots, Garni and Geghard.

In the scope of the forum, there will be organized a tour to Zvartnots Cathedral, a 7th-century Armenian cathedral built by the order of Catholicos Nerses the Builder from 643-652 A.D. Some sources claim that the Zvartnots cathedral is depicted upon Mount Ararat in a relief in Sainte-Chapelle in Paris.



Together with churches in Echmiadzin, Zvartnots was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000. Other UNESCO World Heritage sights in Armenia are Garni temple and Geghard Monastery. The Temple of Garni is a first century Hellenic temple and, factually, the only pagan temple left in Armenia after that the Christianization of the country in 301 AD. The peristyle temple is situated at the edge of the existing cliffs and was most likely dedicated to the



God Mihr. The pretext for its construction would be the declaration of Armenia as a Roman province and the temple would have housed the imperial effigy of Trajan. The monastery of Geghard is another unique architectural construction of 4th century, which partially carved out of the adjacent mountain and surrounded by cliffs. The monastery was famous because of the relics that it housed. The

most celebrated of these was the spear which had wounded Christ on the Cross, allegedly brought there by the Apostle Thaddeus, from which comes its present name, Geghardavank ("the Monastery of the Spear"), first recorded in a document of 1250. The site is also famous for a spring arising in a cave which had been sacred in pre-Christian times, hence one of the names by which it was known, Ayrivank (the Monastery of the Cave).



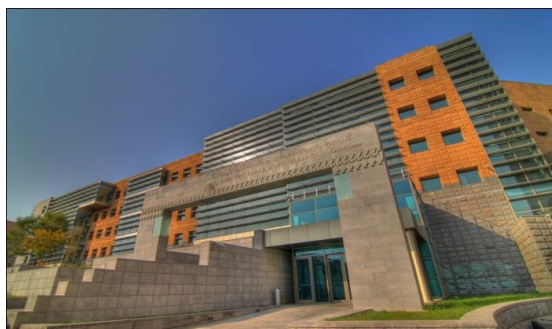
Conference Preliminary Agenda

May 1		May 2	
09:00 – 13:00	Arrival of international delegates	10:00 – 14:00	Committee Work (1)
13:00 – 13:30	Opening Ceremony	14:00 – 15:00	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:00	Press conference and coffee break	15:05 – 17:00	Committee Work (2)
14:00 – 16:30	Free time in Yerevan	17:05 – 17:15	Coffee Break
17:00 – 19:00	Teambuilding activities	17:20 – 19:00	Preparation of the draft resolutions
19:30 – 23:00	Eurovillage and Welcome Party	19:30 – 00:00	Walking tour in Yerevan, Sightseeing

May 3		May 4	
10:00 – 12:00	Opening of the General Assembly (GA), Committees 1, 2	10:00 – 13:00	GA, Committees 5, 6, 7
12:05 – 12:45	Fourchet and Coffee Break	13:00 – 13:40	Fourchet and Coffee Break
13:00 – 14:00	GA, Committees 3, 4	14:00 – 17:00	GA, Committees 8, 9, 10
14:00 – 15:00	Free time, Preparing for Trip to Zvartnots Cathedral	17:05 – 17:45	Voting on the Best Delegates
15:30 – 17:00	Tour to Zvartnots Cathedral	17:45 – 18:30	Closing Ceremony
17:30 – 21:00	Intercultural Theatre and Armenian Carpet Knitting	19:00 – 20:00	Euroconcert
		20:00 – 02:00	Farewell Party

May 5	
11:00 – 15:00	Trip to Garni and Geghard
15:30 – 22:00	Seeing off International Delegates

Venue



The session is going to take place in American University of Armenia (AUA). The university will be hosting 1st IEFA and all the academic activities planned during five days. AUA was established in 1991 and is affiliated with University of California. By various rankings, AUA is considered the best university of Armenia and is also one of the most

modern and well-developed universities in Yerevan. The University is equipped with all the necessary facilities which will make the work more comfortable for participants.



Accommodation

All the international delegates will be accommodated at “JR’s House” Guest House. It is comfortably situated in the centre of Yerevan on prestigious Baghramyan Avenue, next to RA President Palace with 5 minutes walking distance to the Cascades and Opera Square, 2 minutes’ walk to the venue of the conference of the conference. It is located within a walking distance from the bus and metro stations. The Guest House has a *garden, a barbecue place, table tennis, free wi-fi*, etc. Each floor also has a balcony overlooking the beautiful Mount Ararat. In the morning, a breakfast will be served for the international delegates.



How to participate?

It is our greatest pleasure to announce the open call for participants. Participation fee for Armenian Delegates (including journalists) is **€5**, covering lunch, coffee breaks and conference materials. *The Members of EYP Armenia in case of being selected will not be charged the participation fee.* Participation fee for international delegates (including journalists) covering accommodation in the Guest House is **€40**; without accommodation: **€5**. Yet, there is no participation fee for the chairs. International delegates should take care of their own travel costs to and from Yerevan.

Application deadline for **international** delegates is **March 16, 23:59 CET**, for the **Armenian** delegates – **March 25, 23:59 CET**.

Online application form for Armenian and International Delegates:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W-Y17ON1ZbWmugIEJJMiHxZJzoUN3fWHPKD1caG_os4/viewform

If you have any question, do not hesitate to contact us: info@eyparmenia.org

Travel Information

VISA: Entry visa to Armenia is not required for a year-long stay for the nationals of the following countries: **the European Union Member States, Andorra, Iceland, Norway, Georgia, Belarus, Russia, Moldova, San Marino, Switzerland, Ukraine, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania.** Citizens of states not mentioned above will be required to obtain visa either in the Armenian consulates in their home countries or once they arrive at Zvartnots International Airport in Yerevan.

MONEY AND PRICES: Armenian currency is called dram (AMD), 1 euro = 540 AMD. The daily exchange rate of Armenian dram can be found at www.cba.am. Currency can be easily changed in the banks, supermarkets, special check points and there is no quantity limit. Credit & debit cards are accepted in the shops, stores, hotels, cafes, pubs, etc.

In comparison with Central and Western Europe, the prices for most of the goods and services are 3, 4 times cheaper. Here are some hints:

- Beer – € 0.5 - 2
- Sandwich – € 0.7 – 1.5
- 1 km, taxi cab – € 0.2
- A bottle of water (0.33 l.) – € 0.2
- A bottle of wine (0.75 l.) – € 4
- Mobile card – € 1
- Tariff for the mobile cards – € 0.02/min for both local and international calls

HOW TO REACH ARMENIA: There are two ways you can use to reach Yerevan, the roadway and airway. Find the detailed information below.

AIR WAYS: Flights from Central and Western Europe takes from 2,5 to 4 hours; regular flights to Yerevan (<http://www.zvartnots.am/en/>) are from Vienna, London, Paris, Minsk, Moscow, Prague, Warsaw, Riga, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Berlin, etc. The airlines performing flights to Yerevan include Austrian Airlines, Czech Airlines, AirFrance, Aeroflot, Air Baltic, Aerosvit, etc. For the Polish, Ukranian, Belarusian and Slovak participants the cheap

way to get to Yerevan is taking Wizz Air budget airlines (<http://wizzair.com/>). The latter performs flights from Poland and Ukraine to Kutaisi (a city in Georgia, 5 hour ride to Yerevan) at the rate of € 80-130 for round-trip ticket. Please also check out the Pegasus low cost airlines (<http://www.flypgs.com/en/default.aspx>) that perform flights to Tbilisi (Georgia) with average price of round-trip ticket ranging from € 100-200, the bus from Tbilisi to Yerevan (the venue of the conference) takes 3 hours and costs € 8.

ROAD WAYS: Buses to Yerevan depart from Thessaloniki, Istanbul, Trabzon with prices ranging from € 30 to € 70 for one way ticket. Buses leave for Yerevan from Tbilisi on the daily basis with the price range € 8-11 for one way ticket, the International railway connection is also available from Georgia ((€ 12 - 20 one way).

All the International Delegates arriving at the airport or railway station will be met by the Organizing Team and transferred to the Guest House.