

EU SUPPORT TO EARLY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN ARMENIA 2021



#strongertogether

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On 20 June 2021, voters in Armenia will go to the polls. Support to elections is a key democratisation component in the EU's bilateral support to Armenia and regional support to the Eastern Partnership. The EU has been the leading donor for election support in Armenia since 2016, and will continue to be the primary partner of Armenia in the coming elections, with close to **€ 1 million** in organisational and monitoring support made available.

Capitalising on earlier investments in democratic elections

Capitalising on earlier investments, the EU will provide financial support to the organisation of the elections through the **UNDP Elections Basket Fund**, while also supporting **civil society activities** to ensure more direct civic engagement through domestic observation and solid outreach to citizens.

After the Velvet Revolution, the EU supported the December 2018 snap elections with some **€1.5 million** of investment into better public information and communications, and more transparent electoral management systems (notably cameras and voter identification devices). These were key for enhancing public trust in elections and the overall integrity and transparency of the electoral cycle, and will continue to be used in the 2021 elections.

Support via the UNDP Elections Basket Fund



€400,000 with additional Team Europe support from Netherlands, Germany and Sweden

- ✓ **Further consolidation of inclusiveness, integrity and transparency** of electoral operations
- ✓ **Strengthen the outreach and communications capacities of the Central Election Commission** (especially to women and under-represented groups)
- ✓ **Ensure the observation of COVID-19 safety protocols** in polling stations and counting centres

Support to independent domestic observer groups



€82,000 to Transparency Armenia

€400,000 to a CSO coalition

Domestic civil society and independent media play a crucial role in the electoral cycle, and particularly in voter education, information and empowerment initiatives. Building on previous support during the 2018 elections, the EU will fund a coalition of civil society organisations as well as a Transparency International Armenia initiative to:

- ✓ **Improve the quality and access to impartial voter information** especially first-time voters, women, and persons with disabilities
- ✓ **Monitor respect for international electoral standards and COVID-19 safety protocols**
- ✓ **Provide training and an advice hotline for established journalists** on electoral procedures
- ✓ **Monitor media reporting**
- ✓ Provide short term and long term **domestic observers**

This support will also cover the October 2021 municipal elections.

Independent advice by the Council of Europe Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR

The EU supports the provision of high level independent advice on electoral reform by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR through the EU-Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance programme. In April 2021, international experts provided recommendations on how to bring the Electoral Code and related legal framework into line with European standards.

EU core support for international election observation missions

In addition to project funding, the EU is providing core support to international election observation missions, including:

- ✓ **OSCE/ODIHR:** 11 OSCE Core Team experts, 24 long-term observers and 250 short-term observers (including from EU member states and diplomatic personnel from the EU Delegation)
- ✓ **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:** Election Day observation

