

EaP | Eastern Partnership



STRONGER WOMEN — STRONGER ARMENIA

#strongertogether



For sixty years, the European Union has worked tirelessly to defend women's rights and to empower them to realise their full potential. Gender equality is at the heart of the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative. It is vital to the individual lives of women as well as men, and essential for long-term democratic development. In its cooperation with Armenia, the EU is driving real change by strengthening women in business, providing opportunities for quality education and promoting a fair society.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

- **GENDER ACTION PLANS**
Taking account of gender issues across public policies, and generating statistics based on gender
- **NEW AND IMPROVED LEGISLATION**
Adopting and applying anti-discrimination and domestic violence laws
- **MORE WOMEN IN BUSINESS**
Making loans via local banks available for women-led enterprises
- **NEW STUDY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**
Offering a wide range of exchange programmes across Europe with Erasmus+
- **YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS**
Enhancing the active participation of young women through the EU4Youth programme

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

The EU supports women entrepreneurs in Armenia through the **Women in Business programme**, which is implemented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Support provided by the programme includes **business advice, training** and **mentoring** to women-led companies.

Vardanush Petrossian, received a **grant from the EU** to develop a new website for her café in Yerevan. Now, her 'Ingredient Café' has **80% more customers** and **employs 12 people**.

Find out how you can take part:
www.ebrdwomeninbusiness.com



«We took the course for women entrepreneurs. Once we had completed it, we created our brand, our first catalogue, and professional photo album with co-financing under the programme, and our sales increased.»

Inga Manukyan, designer and founder of LOOM weaving.

Women entrepreneurs in Armenia also have access to a range of other funding and advisory services provided under the EU4Business initiative.

Find out more:
www.eu4business.eu/armenia

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Through its **Erasmus+** programme, the EU offers young women and men in Armenia a huge range of exchange opportunities across Europe.



«Erasmus broadens your mind, teaches you to value diversity, enriches your life with new friends and travels.»

Irena Grigoryan received an Erasmus scholarship for a European Master's in Migration and Intercultural Relations in Germany, Norway and Slovenia.

- **Armenia** was provided with more than **€6.5 million in funding for student and staff exchanges** under Erasmus+ in 2015-17, with **1,323 students and staff** from Armenia benefiting from exchanges to EU universities
- The EU has set a **75% target to support young women** under the **EU4Youth** programme that runs until 2020.

ERASMUS+ OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Scholarships to study in Europe
- Student exchanges
- Youth exchanges
- European Voluntary Service
- Opportunities for youth workers
- Youth involvement in reform dialogue

Find out more:

Erasmus+ website www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus
Erasmus+ national office Armenia www.erasmusplus.am
Erasmus+ youth info centre in Armenia www.yic.am/erasmus-youth
EU4Youth www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/eu-in-action/projects/eu4youth

A FAIR SOCIETY

A new EU-funded project – **EU4Women: Economic Empowerment through Social Enterprise** – supports Civil Society Organisations in Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik, Lori and Syunik Marzes to develop social enterprises that will benefit over 600 women in their communities (particularly survivors of gender-based violence).

THE PROJECT FOLLOWS A SIMILAR EU-FUNDED ACTION ON 'ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE RIGHTS OF SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE', UNDER WHICH:

- **237 women** survivors of gender-based violence were provided with skills that enhanced their **income-generating opportunities**
- **70 women** received **vocational training**
- **127 women** launched small businesses with **cash grant support**
- **52 women found jobs** in the labour market



«This programme helped me to become confident enough to start this venture and gain my financial independence.»

Hasmik Khachatryan,
owner Hasmik's bakery.

Find out more:

www.neareast.org/where-we-work/armenia/

