

<p>Civic Activism as a Novel Component of Armenian Civil Society: New Energy and Tension</p>	<p>Countries involved: Armenia</p>
	<p>Institutions involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis at AUA http://tcpa.aua.am/
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<p>Short Description:</p> <p>Armenian civil society has undergone some development since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The NGO sector of civil society is consolidated and fairly well developed. It is, however, detached from the broader society. An entirely new development is the rise of civic activism of a novel type: case-focused, largely spontaneous, mostly driven by youth, and powered by social media. There is both cooperation and tensions between the “old” NGO sector and the “new” civic activism.</p> <p>The proposed research project intends to examine patterns of interaction and mutual perceptions of NGOs and civic activists, placing these two actors into a broader perspective of Armenian political culture of participation and (mis)trust. The study will pay special attention to the gender aspect of civic activism and the use of social media. The key tasks of the project are to map NGOs’ and activists’ mutual perceptions, identify successful cooperation strategies, as well as sources of tension, explore the overall political culture of participation and (mis)trust of the broader public and how that affects civil society. The proposed methodology consists of secondary data analysis, case studies of social mobilisation, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews.</p>	
<p>Main Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map NGOs’ and activists’ mutual perceptions (positive, negative, stereotypes, etc.); Identify successful cooperation strategies (both real life examples and hypothetical scenarios); Identify sources of tension (misunderstanding, conflict of goals, conflict of values); Explore the overall political culture and how it affects NGOs and civic activists (public perceptions, values, trust, social participation, political participation, use of social media); Explore the gender dimension of civic activism in Armenia, and public reaction to that. 	
<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A monograph in English; At least one paper in a peer reviewed journal; At least three conference papers; Two to four blog posts highlighting most interesting results; A poster summarising the findings. 	
<p>Duration: 24 months (November 2014 – October 2016)</p>	<p>Value: 49'950 CHF</p>