

<p><b>Representation and Participation in the Political Parties and Political Initiatives in Armenia: Gender Analyses</b></p>	<p><b>Countries involved:</b> Armenia</p>
	<p><b>Institutions involved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Resource Center Armenia <a href="http://www.womenofarmenia.org/en/">http://www.womenofarmenia.org/en/</a></li> </ul>
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<p><b>Short Description:</b></p> <p>Participation of women in the political life is determined by different factors, ranging from structural and institutional to cultural and social-psychological. The institutional design of the political organizations and groups, transparency and decision making process within political institutions play a significant role in promoting/limiting women's political career. Different surveys conducted in Armenia show that the factors preventing women's political involvement are: 1) family responsibilities; 2) gender stereotypes and gender roles; 3) economic dependence of women; 4) unfavourable political culture; 5) lack of social capital among women; 6) low self-esteem of women. One of the main factors that influence the advancement of women in political life and in society in general is an institutional design of a political party or political initiative. Nonetheless, formal representation of women in politics remains very low in Armenia for past decades after independence. At the same time, women became more involved and active in civic and political initiatives that are less institutionalized, structured and have more transparent procedures of decision-making and resource distribution.</p> <p>The goal of the proposed research is to study obstacles and opportunities for women's advancement in the political parties and political initiatives in Armenia. Based on several surveys on women's political advancement conducted in Armenia we can conclude that the way political parties function is not very favorable for women. Especially, because politics is often based on non-formal male-dominated connections and networks in Armenia, women are finding themselves marginalized and excluded from those networks.</p>	
<p><b>Main Objectives:</b></p> <p>The main objectives of the proposed project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To study the institutional design of political parties and political initiatives in Armenia.</li> <li>To study the gender structure of political parties and political initiatives in Armenia, including available gender sensitive approaches and procedures within parties.</li> <li>To find obstacles and challenges women encounter when trying to establish a political career in Armenia</li> <li>To compare opportunities for women in formal political parties and less formal civic and political initiatives.</li> <li>To study the impact of cultural variables on women's active participation in the political life of Armenia (stereotypes, attitudes toward the role of men and women in society, perception of female leaders).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Expected Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published monograph in Armenian and English.</li> <li>Presentations at the conferences.</li> <li>Presentation of factsheets and main finding online through websites of Women's Resource Center and YSU Center for Gender and Leadership Studies.</li> <li>Presentation of research results to the political parties and political initiatives in Armenia.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Duration:</b> 30 months (1 March 2014 – 31 August 2016)</p>	<p><b>Value:</b> 48'240 CHF</p>