



Annual Report 2019

Armenian Communities

The Armenian Communities aim at contributing to create a viable future for the Armenian people in which their culture and language are preserved and valued. To this end, the activities are essentially part of the Foundation's strategic priorities: Sustainability, Cohesion and Social Integration. More specifically, the sustainability of the diaspora – in particular, its language and its education – is at the heart of the activities of the Armenian Communities.

In the course of the implementation of the first five years of the 2019-2023 plan, our primary programming continues, which focuses particularly on support for the Armenian language and the award of scholarships. Our Armenian-Turkish relations programme has been adapted to better suit the new political environment in Turkey. Our programme in Armenia has been refocused, taking into account the changes generated by the revolution, focusing first on supporting academic research, publications and conferences, and on supporting civil society.

The sustainability of the diaspora remains at the heart of our agenda, with social cohesion being one of the most important elements of our activities in Turkey and Armenia.

GROSS OPERATING COSTS

3,526 K€



70
GRANTS
AWARDED



568
SCHOLARSHIPS
GRANTED



1
TEMPORARY
EXHIBITION



4
CONCERTS
1,265
PARTICIPANTS



5
PUBLICATIONS
4,000
COPIES



5
CONFERENCES
AND MEETINGS
2,060
ATTENDEES



38
EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES
598
PARTICIPANTS

Key Achievements

The impact of several of our initiatives to revitalise the Western Armenian language in the year 2019, which have begun to bring forth positive effects in Armenia, is worth noting; and we should point out that our work in this field is finally receiving due recognition and attracting new partners in the Republic of Armenia. For example, *CivilNet*, a well-known means of communication and information in the country, sought our support to create a programme in Western Armenia, as happened with the Armenian Public Radio. Several publishers have started publishing books in Western Armenian, and several websites are being developed in this language.

In the IT sector, an important software (treebank), which is required for the development of language tools, is being created in Armenia by a team of experts. Several language programs, such as online dictionaries, spell checkers and other computer programs using artificial intelligence, divide sentences

and words into specific components: nouns, verbs, conjugations, root words, auxiliary words, etc. Each of these components is described, verified in a *corpus* and reconstructed for use by the machine. For instance, in order for the Google translation programme to work between two languages, one team of experts describes language A in all of its components, and another team does the same with language B. In the millisecond after pressing the Enter key, the two language descriptions combine to produce the translation, while also using a *corpus* as a means to improve accuracy.

Eastern Armenian has 2,500 phrases annotated in the treebank that allow the translation to be done in Google. However, there are no annotated sentences in Western Armenian. This project, executed by experts in Armenia, will develop the same number of sentences for Western Armenian and Eastern Armenian.



Exhibition *Shared Sacred Sites*, in Istanbul. © Anadolu Kultur

Activities and Projects

Revitalisation of the Language and Culture of the Armenian Diaspora

A total of 14 grants were awarded for projects to create and develop educational tools and materials in the Armenian language, including children's books, cartoon series, educational websites, etc. Support was given to the education of children with special needs by funding two important organisations in this field in Lebanon. Three grants were awarded to universities in the USA, France and the Czech Republic to support the Western Armenian language and Armenian studies in teaching and scientific research. Implementation of information technology initiatives in support of the Armenian language (such as a spell checker programme) and support for the study of the Diaspora continued.



First publication of the Zartiss Collection children's book series. © CGF

Academic Support and Scholarships for Higher Education

In total, 275 grants were awarded to students and teachers of higher education in 24 countries and in various fields, especially in the area of Armenian studies. Scholarships were granted in the following categories:

- 94 Short-term Scholarships (Armenia);
- 64 Short-term Armenian Studies Scholarships;
- 28 Scholarships on Armenian Subjects (PhD);
- 83 University Scholarships (developing countries);
- 6 University Scholarships (PhD), in the category of Global Excellence (at the phasing out stage).

We also co-funded 400 Scholarships for Humanitarian Crisis Situations (refugees from the Middle East who are studying at higher education institutions in the Republic of Armenia), together with the Government of Armenia and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

Support to Civil Society and Democratization in Armenia

Our activities in Armenia have translated into a combination of support for civil society, academic support and funding of several publications. However, unlike in previous years, our efforts have focused mainly on academic research and publications, providing financial support for the publication of books in Western Armenian. The spectrum of our initiatives has broadened, providing support for public radio broadcasts and the creation of online news in Western Armenian. Our support to civil society also included a seminar on the empowerment of young women, a short narrative film on domestic violence, several projects in the area of civic education for young people and environmental education. Finally, support was given to an international conference on post-revolutionary Armenia organised by the American University of Armenia.

Support for the Armenian Community and Culture in Turkey

Continued support for dialogue and academic research initiatives in Turkey that value the Armenian presence in the country. A Fellowship in Armenian History was established at Bogazici University in Istanbul, an objective long sought after. A grant was awarded to the NGO Houshamadyan to continue the project of translating its website dedicated to the Armenian heritage of the Ottoman Empire into Turkish. Support was given to the Hrant Dink Foundation for organising courses in Armenian and for holding an international conference on the impact of the Armenian presence in the country. Anadolu Kultur organised an itinerant exhibition on the ancient city of Ani, which, after passing through several cities, settled permanently in the city of Kars. An initiative for exchange and dialogue between young people from Armenia and Turkey was supported, as well as a short film on Armenian monuments in the Van region of Turkey.



Zarmanazan – An educational summer camp carried out in the Armenian language. © Samuel Buton

Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian's 150th Anniversary

23.03

Awarding of prizes to the winners of the "Who is Calouste?" contest

This contest challenged young people aged 15-25, to answer the question "Who is Calouste?" through music, visual arts, text or films.

Concert by the Collective Medz Bazar

The Collectif Medz Bazar, a group of eight musicians from very different backgrounds, performed at the "Who is Calouste?" competition awards ceremony and they performed on stage with original arrangements of traditional Middle Eastern music.

Issuance of a Mail Stamp in Honour of Calouste Gulbenkian

The Portuguese Postal Service (CTT – Correios de Portugal), in collaboration with the Armenian Post Office, launched a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, the global man who was born in 1869 near Istanbul and died in 1955, in the city of Lisbon.

Round-table Discussion: Being a Citizen of the World Today

Calouste Gulbenkian knew how to make the synthesis between East and West in all his achievements. One hundred and fifty years after his birth, a group of young Portuguese individuals with international projection in



Calouste Gulbenkian caricature. © André Carrilho

different areas, discussed what it means, in the 21st century, to be "a citizen of the world".

Concert by the Coro and Orquestra Gulbenkian

For the anniversary concert, the Coro and Orquestra Gulbenkian, accompanied by some members of the Generation Orchestra and the voices of Carla Caramujo (soprano), Cátia Moreso (mezzo-soprano), Marco Alves dos Santos (tenor) and Luís Rodrigues (bass), took the stage, under the direction of conductor Nuno Coelho, to interpret the last movement of Beethoven's *9th Symphony*.

Opening of the Exhibition Calouste: A Life, Not an Exhibition

In this exhibition, curated by Paulo Pires do Vale, the spectator had to follow the traces left by Gulbenkian and take an active role in building his life, through a path progressing from front to back, from the closest to the oldest, as if travelling, in a maze, across the world that separates Lisbon from Istanbul.

Requiem of Mansurian, by the Coro and Orquestra Gulbenkian

05.04

Considered the most important composer of contemporary Armenia, Tigran Mansurian composed *Requiem* in memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1917. The play became a key milestone in his work, having been described by the *Los Angeles Times* as a song "where deep cultural pain is soothed through unsettling tranquillity and devastating beauty".

Conversation Between Tigran Mansurian and Miguel Sobral Cid about Armenian Music and Concert by Dellalian Trio and the Lisbon Chamber Ensemble

06.04

Following a brief conversation between Armenian composer Tigran Mansurian and Deputy Director of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Music Service, Miguel Sobral Cid, the Lisbon Chamber Ensemble string quartet, composed of musicians from the Orquestra Gulbenkian and accompanied by clarinetist Esther Georgie, member of the same Orchestra, joins the Dellalian Trio to play some pieces of Mansurian chamber music.

Conversation Cycle about Armenia: In Paradise There Was Tobacco – The Calouste Gulbenkian Library Books

21.05 / 25.06 / 15.10

The flora of ancient Armenia and its neighbouring countries, discovered through

reading the book *La Transcaucasie et la Péninsule d'Apchéron: souvenirs de voyage*, written by Calouste Gulbenkian in 1891, and some other famous travel accounts from the 19th century, belonging to his private library, were the subject of three conversations about Armenia organised by the Art Library.

The Man of a Thousand Abodes activity for families

29 and 30.06 / 06 and 07.07 / 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30 and 31.10

Aimed at the youngest in school groups or in family, *The Man of a Thousand Abodes* is a theatrical event that uncovers Calouste Gulbenkian's life course and some of the adventures while setting up his Art Collection. A narrative by the voice of a cross-sectional character, using different scenic objects and devices, which took place in the galleries of the Founder's Collection.

Opening of the The Rise of Islamic Art exhibition

12.07

Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian has lived throughout his life with all kinds of cultures from East to West, with the Middle East taking a central place in his personal and professional career. *The Rise of Islamic Art* analyses the core of the collection from this region, not only through the history of his life, but also in light of the geopolitical situation of the time: the decline of the Ottoman Empire, colonialism and the two World Wars.

Commemoration of Calouste Gulbenkian Day

19.07

Launch of the Book *The Education of the Dauphin. Letters from Calouste Gulbenkian to his Grandson*

The Gulbenkian Archives hold an extensive series of personal correspondence exchanged during the Second World War between Calouste Gulbenkian and his grandson, Mikaël Essayan, who he considered to be his *dauphin*. Some of these letters, selected and published in a small volume, reveal the more personal side of Calouste Gulbenkian, his thoughts, values and principles, and they a rare source that allows us to glimpse his personality.



Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa presents the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize to Amin Maalouf. © CGF / Márcia Lessa

Award Ceremony of the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize and the Gulbenkian Prizes for Cohesion, Knowledge and Sustainability and concert with the Orquestra Gulbenkian and the Generation Orchestra

This year, the Calouste Gulbenkian Human Rights Prize was presented to the Lebanese French writer Amin Maalouf, while the Gulbenkian Cohesion, Knowledge and Sustainability Prizes were awarded to APAV – Portuguese Association for Victim Support, to the “90 Seconds of Science” programme and to the Metaphora Theatre, respectively. The award ceremony, chaired by the President of the Portuguese Republic, was followed by a concert with the Orquestra Gulbenkian and the Generation Orchestra.

International Conference on New Trends in Philanthropy

05.09

The commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Calouste Gulbenkian was also a moment of reflection on philanthropy and on the positioning of the Foundation, which was created 63 years ago, in a continuously changing future. In this context, the main philanthropists from Europe and the United States of America were invited to discuss the latest trends in the world of philanthropy in Lisbon.



Isabel Mota (centre) between António Feijó (left) and Rien Van Gendt (right) © CGF / Márcia Lessa

The Concerts by Gurdjieff Ensemble & Hewar, Lusine Grigoryan and Tigran Mamasyan

21.09 / 18.11

The Armenian musical ensemble created in honour of the philosopher, writer and composer Georges Ivanovich Gurdjieff and the fusion jazz of the Syrian group Hewar (which combines jazz, scat, traditional Arab and classical music) performed in Lisbon with a music programme from the Caucasus. This was followed by a concert by the internationally renowned Armenian pianist, Lusine Grigoryan, who brought to the Foundation the music of a fellow countryman, who was a priest, musicologist, singer and songwriter and who was simply known by the name of Komitas. Finally, Armenian-born young pianist and composer Tigran Hamasyan sat at the piano to play his music, accompanied by the sounds of Norayr Kardashian (*duduk, blul, zourna, pku*, percussion) and the Coro Gulbenkian.

Opening of the Exhibition *Art on Display*

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, some projects that influenced its exhibition design were shown, as well as some examples that followed another course. Between 1949 and 1969, some of the most creative architects of that time developed new ways to look at art. The *Art on Display* exhibition recreated classic exhibition designs from Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Brazil, offering a new variety of exhibition solutions, from contemplation to immersion, from private to public venues. The exhibition, which is the result of an associated project of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale 2019, will also be presented at the Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam, in April 2020.

André Cepeda's book launch and Conference on the 50th anniversary of the Gulbenkian Buildings and Garden

10.12

Portuguese photographer André Cepeda, who has held exhibitions around the world over the years – from the Chiado Museum in Lisbon and the Faulconer Gallery in Iowa, to the Delegation of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in France – pointed his camera lens to the Gulbenkian Buildings and Garden, which this year celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The result, published in a book by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in conjunction with the publisher Monade, was presented on the same day that a conference was held, curated by Gonçalo Byrne, seeking to understand and explain this work that is still a symbol of modernity in architecture in Portugal.



Visit of students at the Art Museum of São Paulo, 1983. © Collection of the MASP Research Centre