



# Annual Report 2021

SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT OF FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

# Armenian Communities

- Revitalising the Language and Culture of the Armenian Diaspora
- Armenia – Civil Society and Democratisation
- Turkey – Armenian Dialogue and Culture
- Scholarships for Higher Education Students

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's mission includes the creation of a viable future for the Armenian people in which their culture and language are preserved and valued. To this end, the Foundation awards grants and scholarships to individuals and organisations connected to Armenian culture in over 20 countries.

The strategy is structured around four priorities:

- Revitalising and promoting Armenian language and culture in the diaspora;
- Providing academic support to university students and researchers in Armenian Studies and promoting research in this field;
- Supporting civil society and intellectual creativity in Armenia in order to consolidate a democratic culture;
- Assisting cultural and educational institutions in Istanbul and in other places that valorise the Armenian presence in Turkey.



GROSS OPERATIONAL COSTS

€3.1 million

## Revitalising the Language and Culture of the Armenian Diaspora



### Tools and Initiatives for Learning the Armenian Language

In 2021, many of the educational and language-related programmes continued to be delivered online. The *Zarmanazan* summer programme in Western Armenian was once again realised through a web-based platform, connecting over 80 children, young adults and facilitators from 11 countries for a month in July and August.

A new initiative emerged from the virtual experience: *Yertik.com*, a fun and educational year-long children's programme (composed of videos) that can be watched anytime online. Two episodes are being produced per week, for two different age groups, entirely in Western Armenian. *Yertik.com* is the first of its kind programme in the Armenian Diaspora. It already has a loyal following of hundreds of children and parents from around the globe. It is being used by many teachers in diasporan schools.

*Zndoog*, the pedagogic tools and materials website for Western Armenian, was finally launched to rave reviews. Some 220 educators attended the online presentation of the site in October. *Zndoog.com* opened with 170 tools, and it will be constantly updated. Schools from Argentina to Montreal, Istanbul to Athens and Paris, are benefiting from it.

After two years of preparation, the Armenian Universal Dependencies Treebank was released in May. This tool analyses and describes the structure of the language, identifying its different components so that it can be used in computer programmes.

In addition to the above initiatives, the Foundation also supports teacher training programmes, fosters the availability of digital publications in Armenian and awards scholarships in the field of Armenian studies.

## Armenia – Civil Society and Democratisation



### Armenian Diaspora Survey

The Armenian diaspora survey is an important research project carried out by a team of experts under the auspices of the Armenian Institute in London. It restarted after being suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. Surveys were undertaken in four cities in Europe: London, Paris, Brussels and Rostov-on-Don. Approximately 2,300 individuals were surveyed.



### Civil Society and Democratisation in Armenia

The consequences of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war continued to be felt in 2021, particularly in the domains of housing and psycho-social support to families displaced due to the conflict. The Foundation provided assistance via the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative Charitable Foundation, which matched the amount sent. The funds were used for buying tires for ambulances at the most micro level, to reconstruction of damaged schools, repair of hospital equipment, job creation opportunities and cluster munitions clearance.

In addition, assistance to the Jinishian Memorial Foundation restarted, in support of two projects: *IT Skill Enrichment for Regional Employment and Youth Business Armenia*, both of which focus on youth employment. Once again, the partner organisation matched the funds provided by the Foundation.

Projects were also supported to strengthen independent media in Armenia (*CivilNet* and *Hetq*). The translation programme to make available seminal social science texts in Armenian produced its first four books: Giorgio Agamben, Michel Foucault, Alain Badiou and Jurgen Habermas. Six more are forthcoming in 2022, including, Edward Said, Antonio Gramsci, Hannah Arendt and Simone de Beauvoir.



### Supporting Armenians Affected by Crises

Direct support was provided to diasporan schools in severe crisis. Sixteen schools benefitted from such support in the face of dire economic circumstances. Whereas in 2020 priority was given to providing equipment to schools and students to transition to online teaching, the emphasis this year was on supporting the human resource expenses of these schools. Assistance was also sent to the Howard Karagheusian social services centre for its programme to support Armenian children with Special Education needs and learning difficulties.

## Turkey – Armenian Dialogue and Culture



### Support for Armenian-Turkish Dialogue

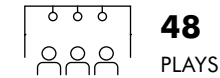
After a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Armenian History Fellowship restarted with Bogazici University in Istanbul, with a new Fellow teaching courses on Armenian history in the Ottoman Empire.

Hrant Dink Foundation's KarDes app that maps Armenian and other minority places in Istanbul expanded to include other cities such as Ankara and Izmir.



The Foundation also continued its support to the *Houshamadyan* website, devoted to highlighting Armenian cultural presence in the Ottoman Empire.

Two new initiatives were launched during the year. The first, with Cambridge University, encourages original research projects on issues pertaining to Armenian-Turkish relations. It supports seven early-career fellows, including a mentorship component for them. The second initiative is a grant to a progressive theatre company in Istanbul to stage 48 plays on the life of Father Gomidas (or Komitas), the greatest Armenian composer and musicologist, who systematically collected, annotated and saved Armenian folk music in the Ottoman Empire.



**48**  
PLAYS

## Scholarships for Higher Education Students



### Scholarships to Armenian Students and Studies

In 2021, the university scholarship programme for the Armenian community focused on awarding grants to students and researchers in the areas of Armenian studies at the graduate and post-graduate levels. University grants were also awarded to Armenian students in countries where there is no state support for higher education.

Short-term grants were also awarded to students and young researchers who want to undertake specific projects – be it in Armenian studies or other areas of specialisation – as well as to students specialising in the field of education.