



❖ The team led by Alexandre Virabyan, responsible for selecting the candidates for scholarships in Yerevan.

Armenian Communities Department

The Department's activities aim to support the development and spread of the Armenian culture and language. To this end, the Department lends its support mainly to Armenian communities across the world, working particularly in areas linked to education.

	Amounts in euros
Personnel costs	626 927
Operating costs	109 638
Subsidies and grants	2 629 653
Departmental activities	9 187
Total	3 375 405
Receipts	2 216

The main areas of intervention within this framework are as follows.

Education and training

This is far and away the Department's most important area of intervention, with its activities being concentrated mainly on providing support in the following areas:

- › Support at school level for all of its components: study grants, textbooks, multimedia educational applications, computers, school furniture and the building and maintenance of academic establishments.
- › Support at higher education level, by awarding grants to university students and teachers and short-term grants for training courses for periods shorter than one year, as well as grants for internships and for participation in international conferences.

Research

Funding numerous publication projects for essential works in terms of preserving and disseminating the Armenian language, as well as preserving the history and identity of the Armenian people.

Included in this area is support for projects for the conservation of the architectural heritage of Armenia, as well as a nuclear research project at CERN (Geneva, Switzerland).

Dissemination

Support was given for the publication of works on Armenian culture, as well as to high-quality technical and scientific reviews in the field of Armenian culture.

One of the Department's specific aspects is the fact that its activities are conducted at some distance from their beneficiaries, which involves numerous difficulties in terms

of communication, following up matters and their financing. Thus, with the aim of rationalising its resources, the Department has found it necessary to create support teams in some of the countries where the beneficiaries live.

Grants

This is the most important field of the Department's activities, as it covers practically all levels of education from primary school to university. The main objective is to provide the means that will enable students from disadvantaged backgrounds to have access to educational institutions. However, selection criteria vary according to the level of education in question and the specific conditions in the country where the institutions operate.

The awarding of school grants focuses primarily on supporting pupils who do not have sufficient means to attend Armenian schools, and on supporting the schools themselves, so as to make it easier for pupils to attend. The criteria adopted for the award of university grants combine assessing the applicant's financial status with considering the student's educational record, as the objective is to encourage the students that have the best academic performance.

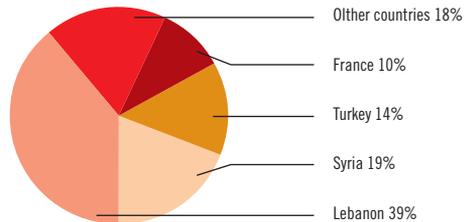
School and seminary grants

[€716 801]

Study grants represent the largest single item within the Department's budget. They are awarded to children attending educational establishments of the Armenian diaspora, ranging from nursery schools through to secondary schools, as well as to students attending the two main Armenian seminaries. This amounted to a total of 72 institutions located across 15 countries in Europe, the Middle East, America, Africa and Australia.

In 2009, under this programme, 2,986 grants totalling € 716,801 were awarded.

School and seminary grants

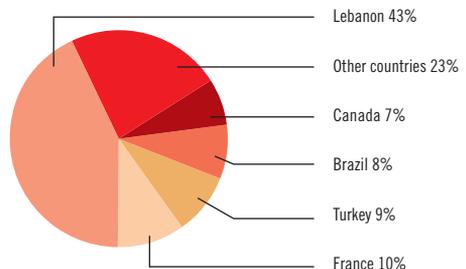


University grants

[€621 919]

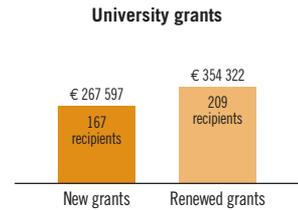
Under this programme, 376 students of Armenian origin received financial support amounting to € 621 919 in total. The grants sector was undoubtedly the one that most benefited from the improved computerisation of processes. Applications, which are now presented online, are processed by computer with the support of an interactive method, allowing

University grants



candidates to monitor the progress of their applications and to immediately correct any mistakes. This system is constantly being improved and has introduced significant benefits for its users, including:

- › access to digital archives;
- › more efficient control of data by both parties;
- › faster and improved responses by the Department;
- › saving in terms of time and postal charges.



Pedagogical grants

[€198 690]

In 2009, 77 pedagogical grants totalling € 198,690 were awarded.

It should again be pointed out that the objective of these pedagogical grants is to stimulate Armenian researchers in the field of education, particularly those working on the publication of new textbooks, as well as the development of new pedagogical media (software applications for teaching purposes and lexicological and lexicographical databases, etc.). Given the shortage of Armenian teachers in the diaspora schools, and some gaps in their academic and pedagogical training, these grants also aim to encourage the organisation of and participation in training courses that are vital in order to guarantee high standards in transmitting knowledge to pupils.

Another goal is to motivate academic research by providing support for participation in seminars, conferences, internships, etc. Finally the Armenian Communities Department provides support to some institutions within the National Science Academy and the Yerevan State University in Armenia. In general terms the objective is to improve the living conditions of these teachers and scientists and guarantee their active participation in the international scientific community.

Short-term grants for higher education

[€27 342]

Under the agreement established with the Yerevan State University (Armenia), a programme has been in operation since 2008 for graduates and teachers at this institution to support their participation in international academic conferences and congresses or in training courses at universities abroad. In 2009, 27 grants totalling € 27,342 were awarded.

Charity grants

[€2 052]

A charity grant was awarded to a beneficiary in Syria for medical treatment.

Subsidies

This section covers various activities from all of the Department's established areas. Naturally, education is the main priority, followed by charity, science and art.

Education subsidies are concentrated in the following activities: building and repairing schools; supplying IT equipment and furniture for schools; publishing school textbooks and CD-ROM with multimedia applications; and providing direct assistance for the authors of these textbooks and other books in the educational field.

Besides giving individual support on particular occasions, the charity subsidies cover work for the maintenance or purchase of equipment for social or cultural institutions.

The science subsidies generally give priority to the purchase of equipment for Armenian science centres, as well as support for certain scientific publications.

Finally, the arts subsidies, whose values are normally relatively low, complete the Department's activities.

Reconstruction work, education equipment and operating costs

[€469 157]

This section covers financing the reconstruction and upgrading of schools and cultural buildings in the Armenian diaspora and is designed to support essential improvements in the teaching conditions and recreational facilities of these institutions. This is part of a concerted, global approach that particularly targets schools located in Middle Eastern countries. In 2009, grants totalling € 105 488 were awarded to four schools and one cultural association for reconstruction work.

Besides the support that it gave towards the costs of building work, the Department also supported educational and cultural institutions in their purchases of books, computer equipment and furniture. Four subsidies totalling € 62,620 were awarded for this purpose in 2009.

This section also supports educational institutions that, despite providing essential services at the heart of the communities, have low incomes and need financial support from other sources in order to continue their activities. In 2009, 16 subsidies totalling € 233,715 were awarded to support the operating costs of these institutions. The institutions that benefited from these subsidies included orphanages, schools for the disabled, associations devoted to teaching the Armenian language, and other similar institutions.

Completing the list of beneficiaries under this section are four institutions that presented various projects in the education area and were awarded subsidies totalling € 67,334. Among these, attention is drawn to a project started in 2008 and continued in 2009 with the aim of creating a chair for the study of Armenian language and culture at the prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London.



✚ Yuzbachian Gulbenkian School in Amman (Jordan).

Publications and assistance

[€278 250]

The Armenian Communities Department's publishing programme, a relatively modest part of its overall budget, is both unique and highly appreciated by specialists from Armenia and the diaspora. It should be stressed that the aim of this programme is not commercial, being designed to provide support for the publication of academic works, as well as the re-edition of ancient manuscripts that are part of the Armenian cultural heritage and are at risk of being lost forever. The Department also supports the publication of a wide range of magazines dedicated to the Armenian culture and language.

The support provided by the Department not only covers funding, but also editing and editorial support. Currently, the Department's publication programme relies on two publishers: one belonging to the Yerevan State University (Armenia) and the other to the Catholicosate of Cilicia (Lebanon). These two institutions are responsible for the preparation and publication of most of the editions funded by the Department. Another publisher enjoying close ties of cooperation with the Department is Cilicia Publishing House, in Aleppo (Syria).

The following illustrate some of the publication projects to receive support in 2009:

- › multimedia dvd dedicated to Giacomina Ciamician Comitato Nazionale, *La Storia dell'Energia Solare*, Italy (€ 3,420);
- › school textbook of the Armenian language, by Garabed Arakelian, Lebanon (€ 2736);
- › manual: *East Armenian Course*, by Gagik Stepan-Sarkissian, Armenian Institute, United Kingdom (€ 3,720);
- › book: *Who Are the Armenians?*, Armenian Institute, United Kingdom (€ 8,325);
- › works by Robert Haddadjan Marmara, Turkey (€ 2,736);
- › book : *Les ordres religieux-militaires en Arménie*, by Marie-Anna Chevalier, Librairie Orientaliste, Paul Geuthner, France (€ 2,860);
- › book: *Les Massacres des Arméniens d'Adana*, by Hratchia Simonian, Yerevan State University, Armenia (€ 5,615);
- › book: *West of Eden, East of the Chessboard*, by Ruben Shugarian, Gomidas Institute, United Kingdom (€ 6,868);
- › book: *Merveilles d'Arménie*, Sigest, France (€ 4,000);
- › publication of literary supplement in the *AZG Daily Newspaper*, Armenia (€ 10,259);
- › book : *Feuilleton – Aurore-Ballade en l'honneur de l'Arménie*, by Nazareth Topalian, Imprimerie Poreba, France (€ 11,739);
- › publication of Archives of His Holiness Vazgen I, Moughni Publishing House, Armenia (€ 12,515);
- › publication of vol. xii of the Matenagir Hayots collection, Yerevan State University, Armenia (€ 14,516);
- › books: *Almanach de Theotig, Dictionnaire franco-arménien and Le cavalier blanc*, Cilicia Publishing House, Syria (€ 25,099);
- › publications by the Sargis Khachents Publishing House, Armenia (€ 18,465);
- › publications by the Yerevan State University, Armenia (€ 55,375);
- › publications by the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, Lebanon (€ 58,183).

Support for the publication of various reviews devoted to Armenian history and culture:

- › *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Haigazian University, Lebanon (€ 3,420);
- › *Bazmavep*, Mekhitarista Congregation, Italy (€ 4,787);
- › *Handes Amsoreay*, Mekhitarista Congregation, Austria (€ 6,839);
- › *Gamar*, Armenian General Benevolent Union, Lebanon (€ 6,839);
- › *Turkuaz*, Turkuaz Association, Turkey (€ 6,839).

Research support

[€37 956]

Two particularly important projects are included in this section:

- › Support for a team of 12 researchers from Armenia, working under the auspices of the CERN research programmes in Geneva (€ 24,278).
- › Support for the research dedicated to Armenian architecture. The “RAA” (Research on Armenian Architecture) association is undertaking a project for the restoration of monuments situated outside the present-day borders of Armenia. The aim is to contribute to the preservation of the historical heritage, which will serve as a basis for other academic research and for the publication of works about the region’s history (€ 13,678).

Individual assistance

[€2 000]

A subsidy was awarded in association with Pharmacie Agoudjian (France) to a patient suffering from a serious chronic illness, for the purchase of medicine.

Reconstruction and improvement work

[€187 115]

Four initiatives were undertaken under this section:

- › Surp Pirgiç Armenian National Hospital, Turkey, building of a nursery (€ 105,047);
- › Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul, Turkey, equipment for the Patriarchate Library (€ 27,356);
- › Union Nationale de l’Église Apostolique Arménienne de Lyon, France, remodelling of the multi-purpose room (€ 34,195);
- › Regional Hospital of Chouchi, Armenia, reconstruction of the hospital building (€ 20,517).

Support for artistic projects

[€20 666]

Grants were awarded to the following projects under this section:

- › Le Théâtre Etonné, Gérard Torikian, France – organisation of the show *Le concert arménien ou le proverbe turc* (€ 3,420);
- › Tate Modern Museum, United Kingdom – exhibition of the works of Arshile Gorky (€ 10,406);

- › Armenia Music Ensemble, Austria – recording of the musical album Flarmenia (€ 3,420);
- › Underconstruction Eingetragener Verein, Italy – “Krossing” exhibition, Venice (€ 3,420).

Organisation of meetings and conferences

[€67 706]

Three initiatives were undertaken with the Department’s support:

- › Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Calouste Gulbenkian Library – “The Armenian Mediterranean” conference (€ 12,994);
- › Catholicossat Arménien de Cilicie – conference and exhibition dedicated to the Adana massacres (€ 34,195);
- › The International Hrant Dink Foundation – international conference on the relationship between Turkey and Armenia (€ 20,517).