MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA STATE COMMITTEE OF SCIENCE

ARMENIA: PARTICIPATION IN H2020

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Workshop for Programme Committee members from Associated EaP countries

20-21 March 2018, Kiev

Key Players

POLICY

State Committee of Science (2007):

To address the fragmented character of policy-making,
To improve policy-making and coordination,
Responsible for implementation of RTD programmes,
Responsible for state budget on R&D.

Government resolution (2015):

State Committee of Science was recognized as authorized body responsible for development and implementation of policy in the field of scientific and technological expertise.

PERFORMERS

National Academy of Sciences:

Main R&D Performer,
35 Research Institutes,
Official scientific consultant to the highest governing bodies.

Branch Research Organizations – 22
Higher Education Institutions – 17
Other Organizations Involved in Topic Funding Scheme (2017) – 13

R&D Sector: Action Plan on Development of Science for 2017-2010

Action Plan on the Development of Science for 2017-2020

Approved by the Government on August 17, 2017

- **Improving the S&T management system**
- **Measures on increasing the number of young specialist involved in RTD**
- **Promoting fundamental and applied research, including knowledge used in economy, upgrading of research infrastructure**
- **Creating adequate conditions for the development of integrated science, technology and innovation system**
- **Promoting research in Armenology**
- **Developing international cooperation in RTD, ensuring smart specialisation platform in ERA**

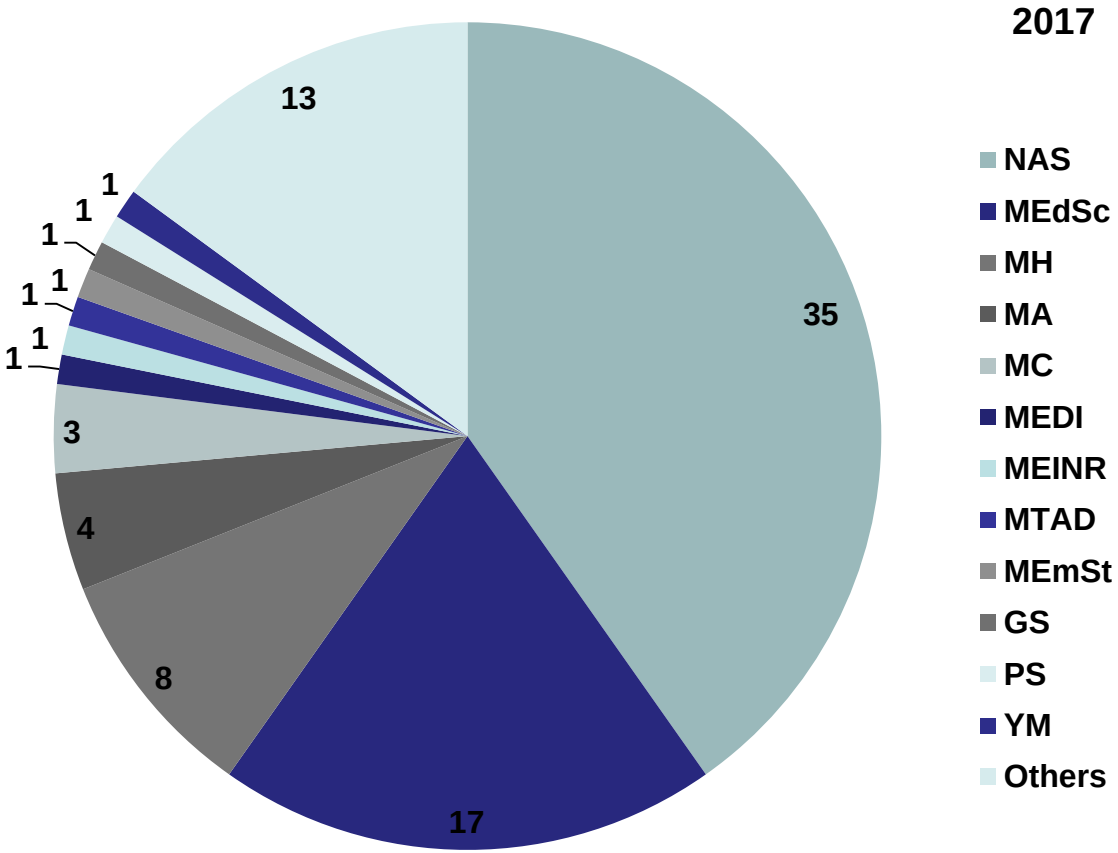
R&D Sector: Priorities

Science and Technology Development Priorities for 2015-2019.
Approved by the Government on December 25, 2014

1. **Armenian Studies**
2. **Life Sciences**
3. **Secure and Efficient Energy**
4. **Key Enabling Technologies, Information and Communication Technologies**
5. **Space, Earth Sciences, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
6. **Basic Researches for Key Problems of Scientific and Socio-Economic Development**

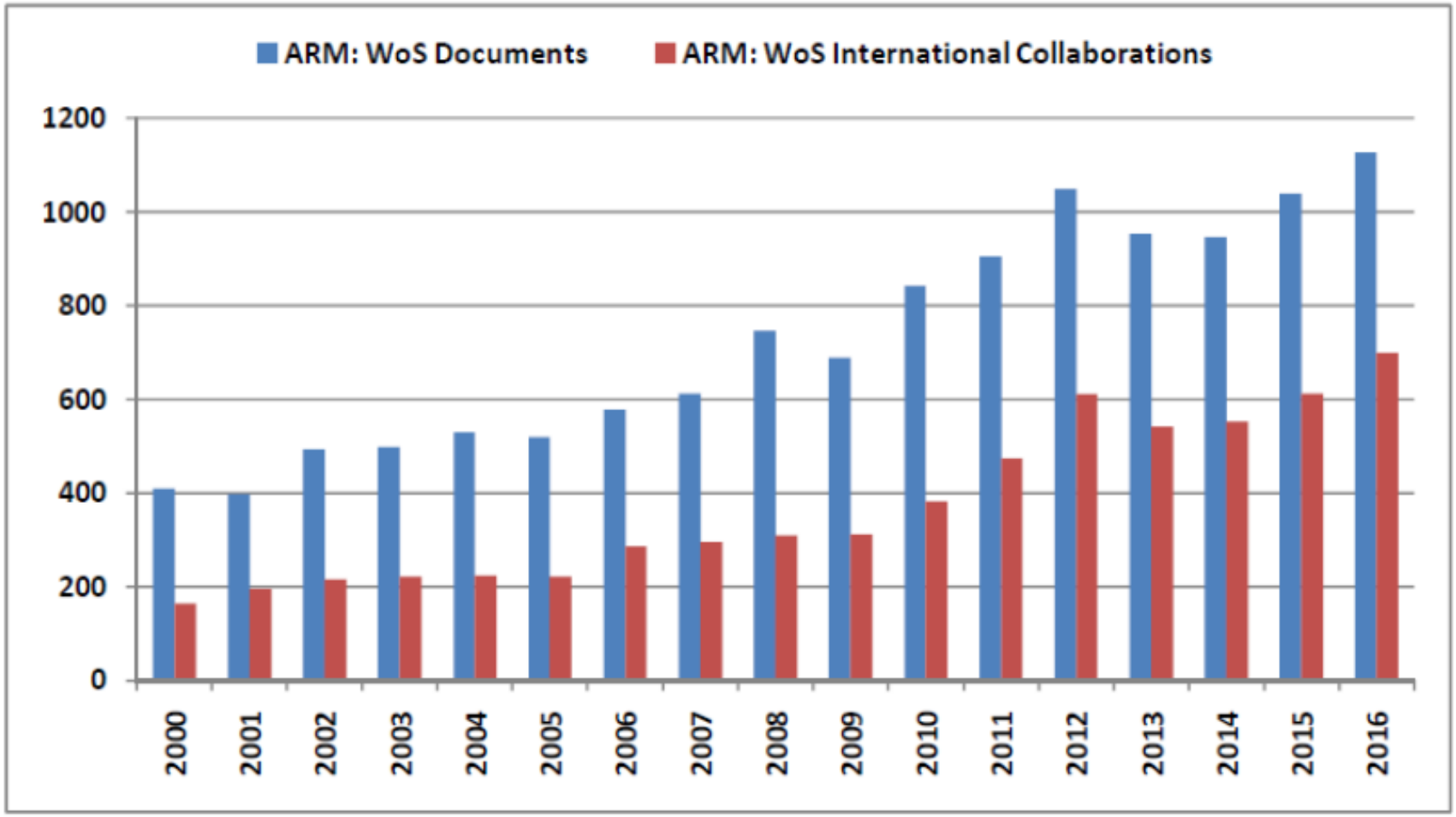
R&D Sector: Structure

Total number of organizations financed by state budget on R&D: 87 (2017)



NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES			
2016	Total	Researchers, total	Researchers, 65 and above
	6092	3782 (62.1% of Total)	1108 (29.3% of Researchers)
Source: http://www.scs.am			

R&D Sector: Publications in WoS



Includes Web of Science content indexed through Dec 31, 2017. Export Date: Feb 22, 2018

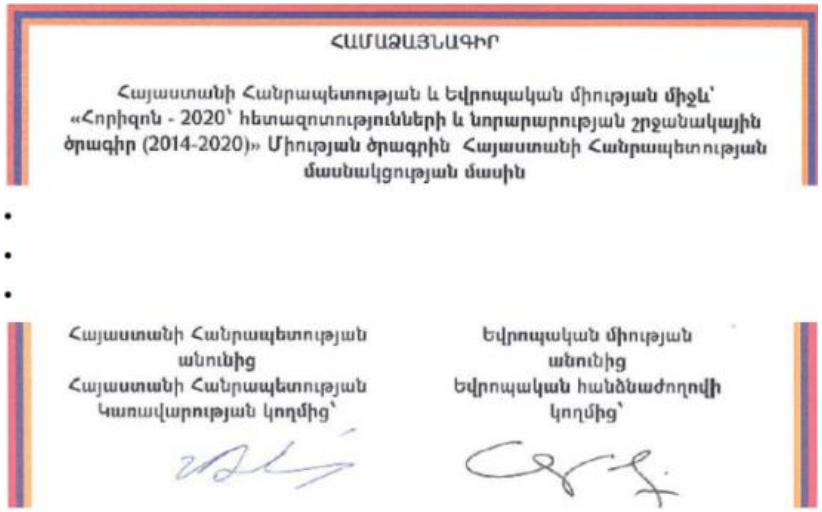
R&D Sector: International Cooperation

International RTD Policies

- All national policy documents prioritise international cooperation and integration into ERA
- Strategy of STI Development 2011-2020 and Action Plan for 2017-2020 set ambitious targets for R&D sector: to support the development of knowledge-based economy in AM and be competitive in ERA through smart specialization
- Promoting joint collaborative programmes, creation joint labs and research centres as precondition for networking towards EU programmes
- National project based funding scheme was opened for international partnership (funding of foreign experts travel to AM)

Steps towards Association

- **Official Application for Association – August, 2013**
- **First Round of Negotiations – February 10, 2015**
- **Approval Agreement by Government of RA – October 29, 2015**
- **Second round of Negotiations – October 30, 2015**
- **Third round of Negotiations – November 13, 2015**
- **Signature of Agreement – Mary 19, 2016**
- **Approval by National Assembly of RA– October 19, 2016**
- **Entry Into Force – November 07, 2016**



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Հայաստանի Հանրապետության և Եվրոպական միության միջև՝ «Հորիզոն - 2020՝ հետազոտությունների և նորարարության շրջանակային ծրագիր (2014-2020)» Միության ծրագրին Հայաստանի Հանրապետության մասնակցության մասին

Հայաստանի Հանրապետության անունից
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Եվրոպական հանձնաժողովի կողմից՝

Participation in H2020

Anticipations from Association

- Possibility of wider internationalisation of the RTD and being part of ERA and world-level research
- Access to state-of-the-art research facilities in EU
- Regional networking (joint activities with other ACs) to tackle regional problems
- Support to improving design & implementation of R&I policies via Policy Support Facility
- Additional funding for RTD activities

Participation in H2020

FIGURE 6: Number of Horizon 2020 applications per Associated Country, 2014-2016

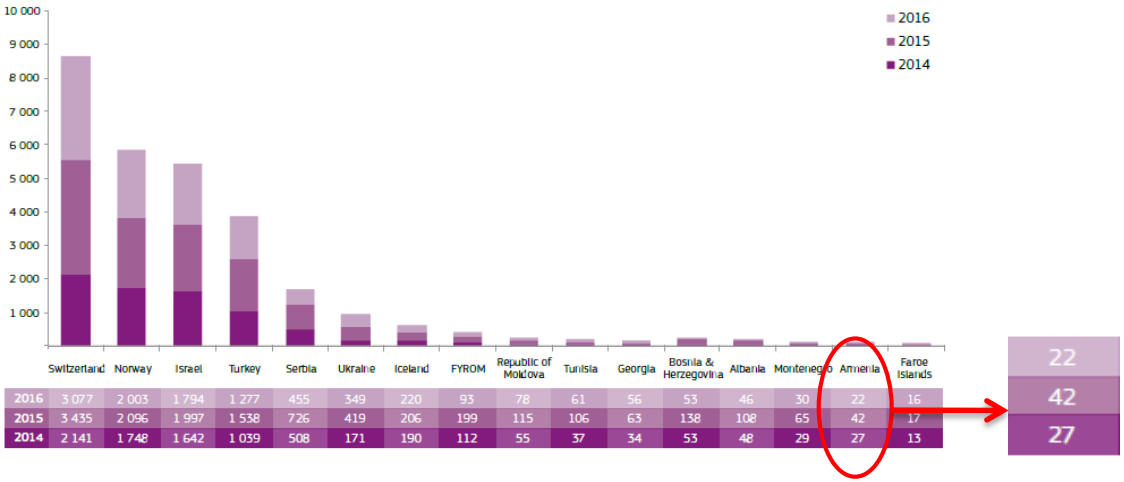
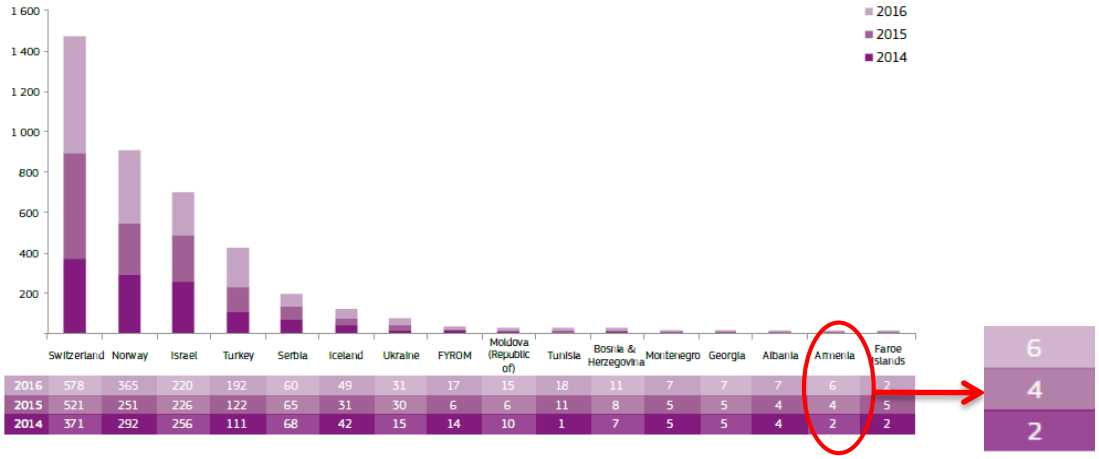


FIGURE 19: Number of participations in Horizon 2020 per Associated Country, 2014-2016



Armenia: 2014-2016				
	2014	2015	2016	Total
Applications	22	42	27	91
Participations	2	4	6	12

National Measures Towards H2020

Structures created to assist H2020 application procedure

Two structures operating under national authorities and state organizations:

1. **"Scientific Programmes Integration Assistance Center" foundation – established by the RA Government (Decree N 1304-N from 24.08.2017)**
2. **International S&T Programs Department – established by the RA National Academy of Sciences in 2008**

One structure created by Non-Governmental Organization:

1. **H2020 Assistance Department – established by Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE)**

National Measures Towards H2020 (2)

Special National Bonus programme introduced

H2020 BONUS-AM programme is implemented by State Committee of Science from December 2017

Aim: To stimulate the participation of Armenian groups in H2020

Tools:

1. **Providing financial support in the order of national grants for the groups included in winning consortia (two years' grants with up to EUR 25,000.00 per project)**
2. **Providing financial support in the order of national grants with additional bonus for group leaders for the leading groups in winning consortia (two years' grants with up to EUR 30,000.00 per project)**
3. **Co-funding mechanisms set to support travel of NCPs & PC members to the events in Brussels (SCS, NAS RA)**

National NCP Network

- Network of National Contact Points (NCPs) of Armenia enlarged on January 2017
- 24 NCPs nominated covering the whole spectrum of H2020 priorities
- National coordinating council with the involvement of representatives of SCS and NAS, as well as national NCP coordinator formed on May 2017

Recent H2020 Support Activities:

- NCP Training Academies (NAS/GIZ, 2016, 2017)
- Targeted support to Twinning proposals (Widening infoday, Sept 2017, 5 proposals submitted for 2017 call)
- EURATOM NCP Training & Infoday (Jan 2018)
- SPIRE Infoday (NAS, Nov 2017)
- H2020 Summer School on SSH (NAS, July 2017)
- Marie-Sklodovska Curie Infoday (NAS, March 2017)

National Network of PC Members

- Programme Committee Members nominated on January 2017, and two representatives nominated for each Committee (24 PCM/14), JRC Board
- Committee Members are mostly from Researchers Organizations or Universities
- Mostly 2 persons nominated representing different organizations
- AM PC members attended PC meetings in Brussels (Strategic configuration, Space, Transport, Security, Food, etc.)
- National coordinating council with the involvement of representatives of SCS and NAS is formed on May 2017

National Action Plan For Effective Participation in H2020

Challenges/obstacles:

1. **Low Level of Competitiveness of Research Organizations or Universities from Associated countries (AC) in comparison with corresponding organizations from EU member states (is common for all the ACs)**
2. **Low level of National Coordination**

For effective participation in Horizon 2020 the following measures will be continued or implemented on the national level:

1. **H2020 BONUS-AM programme**
2. **Establishment of special structures in large Research Organizations or Universities**
3. **Organization of Special Infodays and Workshops**
4. **Targeted activities towards developing adequate RTD potential, creating centers of excellence**

National Action Plan For Effective Participation in H2020 (2)

- Targeted activities for more active involvement in Joint Programming Initiatives, Technology Platforms, COST actions
- More active involvement of PC members in outlining FP9: suggestion - to create informal platform/group of PC members from regional & other ACs to agree on common positions towards FP9

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!