

# ARMENIA: ASSOCIATION TO H2020



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***“EU-EAP STI COOPERATION: BEYOND 2020”***  
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# R&D: International Cooperation

## International RTD Policies

- ❑ All national policy documents prioritise international cooperation and integration into ERA
- ❑ Strategy of STI Development for 2011-20 and Action Plan for 2017-20 set ambitious targets for R&D sector: to support the development of knowledge-based economy in AM and be competitive in ERA through smart specialisation
- ❑ 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)

# R&D: Bilateral Programmes

## □ Bilateral Joint Programmes

**Science Committee  
(SC, Armenia)**

**Centre National de la Recherche  
Scientifique (CNRS, France)**

From 2009: 2 Joint Labs, 1  
Joint Group, 20 Ann. Grants

**Foundation for Fundamental  
Research (FFR, Belarus)**

From 2011: 30-34 Two Years  
Grants

**Russian Foundation for  
Humanities (RFH, Russia)**

From 2011: 10-12 Two Years  
Grants

**Russian Foundation for  
Basic Research (RFBR, Russia)**

From 2013: 40-42 Two Years  
Grants

**Federal Ministry of Education  
and Research (BMBF, Germany)**

From 2013: 10 Two Years  
Grants

**State Science and Technology  
Committee (SSTC, Belarus)**

From 2015: 4 Two Years  
Grants

**National Science Fund  
(BNSF, Bulgaria)**

From 2020:

**National Research Council  
(CNR, Italy)**

From 2020:

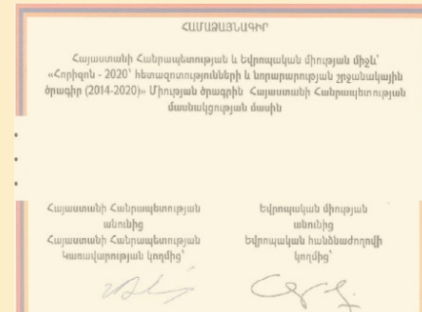
2017:  
2 Joint Laboratories and 1 Group  
with CNRS  
1 Joint Laboratory with BMBF  
Int. Center ICRArNet-Armenia  
ICTP Affiliated Center

2019:  
1 Joint Laboratory with CNRS (under  
discussion)  
1 Joint Laboratory with BMBF  
Int. Center ICRArNet-Armenia  
ICTP Affiliated Center

# R&D: Association to H2020

## □ Steps to Association

Armenia: Horizon 2020 Association Agreement	
Official Application	August, 2013
First Round of Negotiations	February 10, 2015
Creation of Working Group by Prime Minister	February 12, 2015
Approval by Government	October 29, 2015
Second Round of Negotiations	October 30, 2015
Third Round of Negotiations	November 13, 2015
Signature of Agreement	May 19, 2016
Approval by Constitutional Court	September 13, 2016
Ratification by National Assembly	October 19, 2016
Enter Into Force	November 07, 2016



# R&D: Benefits of the Association to H2020

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## Anticipations from the Association:

- ❑ Possibility of wider internationalisation of the RTD
- ❑ Participation in world-level research project
- ❑ Access to state-of-the-art research facilities in EU
- ❑ Integration into ERA
- ❑ 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

# National Measures Towards H2020

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Two structures created to assist H2020 application procedure:

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

One structure created by Non-Governmental Organization:

- ❑ H2020 Assistance Department – established by Union of Information Technology Enterprises

# National Measures Towards H2020(2)

Special National Bonus programme is implemented by Science Committee from December 2017:

**Aim:** To stimulate the participation of Armenian groups in H2020

**Tools:**

- ❑ Providing financial support in the order of national grants for the groups in winning consortia (two years' grants with up to EUR 25,000.00 per project)
- ❑ 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)
- ❑ Co-funding mechanisms set to support travel of NCPs & PC members to the events in Brussels (SC, NAS RA)

# National NCP Network

Network of National Contact Points (NCPs) of Armenia enlarged on January 2017:

- ❑ 24 NCPs and national NCP coordinator nominated covering the whole spectrum of H2020 priorities
- ❑ National coordinating council with the involvement of representatives of SC and NAS formed on May 2017

Recent H2020 Support Activities:

- ❑ NCP Training Academies
- ❑ Targeted support to Twinning proposals
- ❑ EURATOM NCP Training & Infoday
- ❑ SPIRE Infodays
- ❑ H2020 Summer School on SSH
- ❑ Marie-Sklodovska Curie Infodays
- ❑ Regional infodays in Gyumri and Vanadzor Technology Centers



# National Network of PC Members

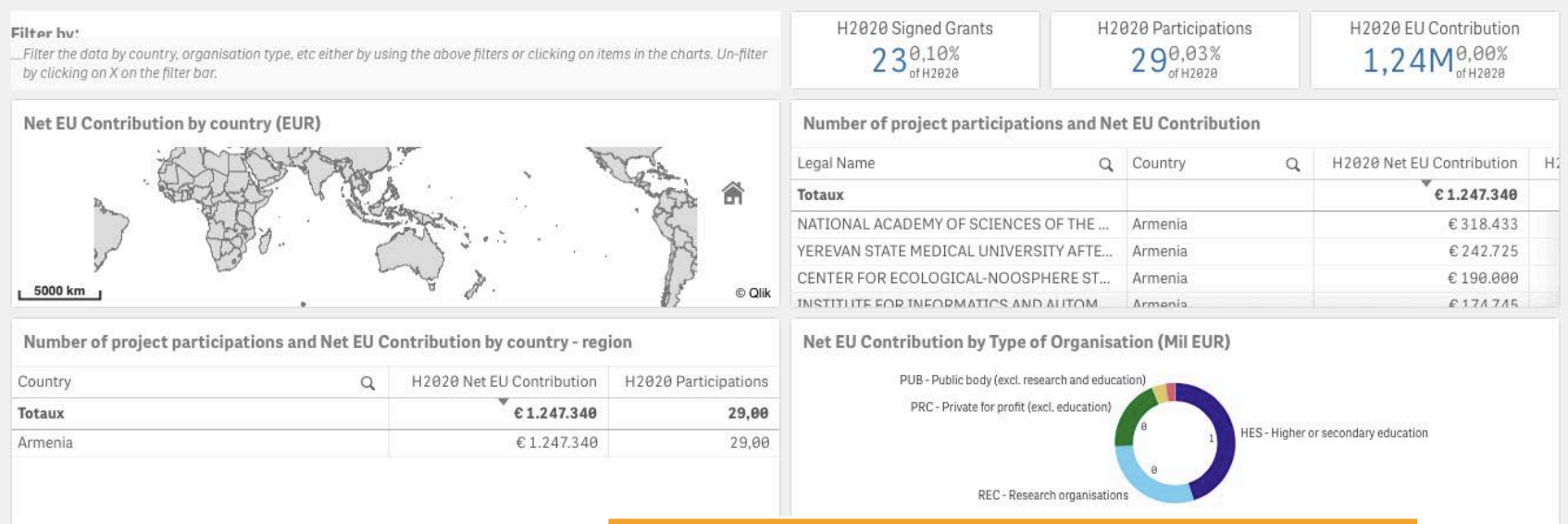
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Programme Committee Members nominated on January 2017, and two representatives nominated for each Committee (24 PCM/14), JRC Board

- ❑ Committee Members are mostly from Researchers Organizations or Universities/NCPs
- ❑ 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 SC and NAS is formed on May 2017

# R&D: Participation in H2020

## AM: H2020 Proposals and Funded Projects



### ARMENIA: H2020

Country	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	Applications	Success Rate
<b>Armenia</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>14.21%</b>

+2 Twinning

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>

# National Action Plan For Effective Participation in H2020

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

- ❑ H2020 BONUS-AM programme
  - ❑ Establishment of special structures in large Research Organizations or Universities
  - ❑ Organization of Special Infodays and Workshops
  - ❑ Targeted activities towards developing adequate RTD potential, creating centers of excellence
  - ❑ Targeted activities for more active involvement in Joint Programming Initiatives, Technology Platforms, COST actions
  - ❑ Training for Programme Committee Members
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# Challenges of the Association to H2020

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## Challenges of the Association:

- ❑ 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)
- ❑ Outdated National Research Infrastructure
- ❑ R&D Disconnection from the Business Sphere
- ❑ Low Level of Regional and EaP ACs Coordination
- ❑ Non-optimal Use of the Scientific Diaspora
- ❑ Need for Better National Coordination
- ❑ Need for more Active Participation in the Programme Committees

# R&D: Next Steps

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Measures which should be implemented in 2019-20:

- ✓ **Program on Creation of Network of Research Organizations & Universities**
  - ✓ **Young Researchers Support Program and Action Plan**
  - ✓ **Evaluation of Research Organizations**
  - ✓ **Implementation of Performance Based Funding Scheme**
  - ✓ **Development of Roadmap for Armenia's Integration into ERA: ERA-AM**
  - ✓ **Association to Horizon Europe (importance of EU support scheme to newly associated EaP countries)**
  - ✓ **Targeted support to NCP Network (bonus scheme)**
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## R&D: Next Steps (2)

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- ✓ **Development of Roadmap for National Research Infrastructures: extension of infrastructure upgrading national grant scheme**
- ✓ **Harmonization of R&D Statistics with International Standards**
- ✓ **Targeted support to applications for Widening schemes (Twinning, Teaming, ERA Chairs) + creation of Centers of Excellence**
- ✓ **Importance of EaP PLUS and previous similar projects in supporting the integration processes, policy dialogue and concrete actions for enhanced participation in EU programmes: need for similar scheme in Horizon Europe**
- ✓ ...

# Science Committee



Thank you for your attention!

For more information: [www.scs.am](http://www.scs.am)