



## REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

### SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR 2024

# ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CONDITIONS OF THE "EU SUPPORT TO EDUCATION IN ARMENIA" FINANCING AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (OPSYS ref.: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/ACT-61467, CRIS number NDICI-GEO- NEAR/2023/448-501)

## THIRD fixed and variable tranches

### ➤ 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education is a priority for the Armenian government and remains a focal point of continuous attention. In recent years, significant reforms have been implemented in the education sector, aimed at enhancing the quality of education, improving infrastructure, and increasing access and affordability.

In 2023, to implement reforms more systematically and achieve the goals of the education sector, an action plan was approved based on the law "On Approving the Education Development Programme of the Republic of Armenia until 2030" This plan establishes a timeline and sets clear targets for state policy across all levels of education, aligned with sustainable development goals. Building on existing challenges and achievements, the law outlines the ultimate goal of creating an effective and internationally competitive educational system rooted in national and universal values to support Armenia's development. This will ensure that everyone, at every stage of life, can access quality education tailored to their needs and abilities, promoting education as a public good. The law also aims to provide competitive professional training, foster active citizenship, and strengthen public solidarity based on participatory democracy. To achieve the program's ultimate goal, the strategic directions set until 2030 include creating a universally inclusive, learner-centered, and

participatory educational environment; enhancing the effectiveness of education; and internationalizing and exporting educational services and products. These goals will be pursued by mitigating and gradually eliminating barriers to equal access to quality education for all, diversifying educational services, increasing targeted funding, building public solidarity, and other possible means.

***Satisfactory progress in the implementation of "The Action Plan based on the law "On Approving the Education Development Programme of the Republic of Armenia 2030" approved by the decision N-351-L of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 16 March, 2023***

**Public policy**

By decision N-351-L<sup>1</sup> of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on March 16, 2023, the action plan based on the law 'On Approving the Education Development Programme of the Republic of Armenia until 2030' was approved. This plan outlines a timeline and sets clear targets for public policy across all levels of education.<sup>2</sup>

**Pre-school Education**

The following reforms were implemented in preschool education sector.

- On May 30, 2024, by order No 46-N<sup>3</sup> of the RA Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, "The list of documents to be used for the organization of the educational process in preschool educational institutions, their forms and the procedure for managing them" was approved.
- On July 1, 2024, in order to effectively organize the implementation of the state educational standard for preschool education, the lists of mentor preschool educational institutions<sup>4</sup> (23) and institutions selected for the introduction of basic preschool educational programs (352)<sup>5</sup> for training of the implementation of the state educational standard of preschool education in the 2024-2025 academic year, were approved by the orders of the RA Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

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<sup>1</sup> 2024 report

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mi4Z0YqxiKbHO7IHj84xD6Oqj5L1skr7/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true>

<sup>2</sup> N 351-L <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docID=175541>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=193487>

<sup>4</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1APIk8k30n8voJIYcgFAhF1a6y1agYLYt/edit>

<sup>5</sup>[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-mBTPC5\\_PkO8ePhYT3KGxRjDRzZ7h8M2/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-mBTPC5_PkO8ePhYT3KGxRjDRzZ7h8M2/edit)

- From May to August 2024, approximately 2,500 pedagogical workers were trained by about 70 mentors who had been selected and trained by the National Center for Education Development and Innovations Foundation. <sup>1</sup>
- In 2024, as a result of efforts to enhance the professional development of pedagogical workers and improve payment mechanisms, 19 preschool educational workers were awarded a new qualification category. <sup>2</sup>
- In the first semester of 2024, 204 candidates were awarded the certificate for principals of preschool educational institutions. As of July 2024, 80% of preschool educational institutions have a certified principal. <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qhsNR-czd\\_OUHUWzJ4pAongKohY9ZSwI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qhsNR-czd_OUHUWzJ4pAongKohY9ZSwI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)  
[https://escs.am/am/news/22793?fbclid=IwY2xjawEoJ3BleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHeNVnqay\\_xhlksyfiPTTQXV0naZkib9notOwwIDHk6GhEukDi5qYWJ7tWw\\_aem\\_jZAAIHBmlKER80r3mku6Hw](https://escs.am/am/news/22793?fbclid=IwY2xjawEoJ3BleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHeNVnqay_xhlksyfiPTTQXV0naZkib9notOwwIDHk6GhEukDi5qYWJ7tWw_aem_jZAAIHBmlKER80r3mku6Hw)

<sup>2</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12frXJ1e7co53h7aI04JHxgWbTEU8Jxmj/view>

<sup>3</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/14396>  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UHNn7v\\_XkUJFqRtQfV5a2IKMPDl-vKxF/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UHNn7v_XkUJFqRtQfV5a2IKMPDl-vKxF/view?usp=sharing)

## **General Education**

Ensuring the quality of General Education is a central focus of the ongoing education reforms. These efforts include substantial changes in the curriculum, enhancing the professional qualifications of teachers, ensuring fair compensation, and improving the overall educational environment. The updates to the content of general education are reflected in the state education standards and several related components.

- New subject standards and curricula were approved in May 2024, as well as a legal framework for textbook development was formulated to promote flexibility and competition while improving the copyright environment. The goal was to introduce the new education standard in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> grades in the 2024-2025 Academic year, and in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the 2025-2026 Academic year.
- On May 7, 2024, the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia issued orders No. 27-N to No. 43-N<sup>1</sup>, approving the subject programs for 1st, 4th, 9th, and 12th grades in public educational institutions. On June 20, 2024, the Minister issued order No. 50-N<sup>2</sup>, approving the 'World History' subject programs for 9th and 12th grades in public educational institutions. Additionally, a new set of textbooks was authorized for use in public educational institutions by orders No. 1008-A/2 dated June 10, 2024, and No. 1055-A/2 dated June 12, 2024<sup>3</sup>.
- In the context of significant reforms in General Education, it is essential to equip teachers with the necessary tools, provide appropriate training based on need, and create opportunities for salary increases to ensure progress. To support this, all school principals, deputy principals, and teachers underwent training between January and June 2024<sup>4</sup>:
- In the framework of the implementation of the new state standard of General Education and the significant reforms, in the direction of training based on the identified professional needs of teachers, the decision of the Government of the Republic of

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<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eDQLcqiTcRE9yb\\_J3QpKYl6QvZW7ZPaP/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eDQLcqiTcRE9yb_J3QpKYl6QvZW7ZPaP/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>2</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H\\_bzH07QZ5idJMGKghZ52-yaBH1bgX3\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H_bzH07QZ5idJMGKghZ52-yaBH1bgX3_/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>3</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1889HvSZcNwOcpM-6dAxHsT3HjZluwiya/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>4</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qhsNR-czd\\_OUHUWzJ4pAongKohY9ZSwI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qhsNR-czd_OUHUWzJ4pAongKohY9ZSwI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Armenia "On Amendments and Additions to the Resolution No. 1667-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of December 27, 2012" was adopted<sup>1</sup>. In connection with this, on June 14, 2024, the Armenian Government approved Decision No. 864-N, which introduced amendments and additions to Government Decision No. 167-N, dated February 9, 2023<sup>2</sup>.

- As part of the efforts to fill teaching positions in remote areas and to create equal opportunities for seconded professionals, the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia issued Order No. 51-N<sup>3</sup> on June 24, 2024. This order amended point 13, allowing all seconded professionals (including those nominated by legal entities) to receive an additional payment equivalent to 30 percent of their salary.
- In 2024, a program was introduced in the Republic of Armenia to provide additional pay for all teachers in rural schools with fewer than 100 students. This program offers up to half-time pay for teachers working fewer hours than a full-time position. As of June, 3,249 teachers have benefited from this program<sup>4</sup>. The second program, which began in September 2023, is aimed at teachers of science and information technology subjects across the country, with a 25 percent salary increase. In small rural schools where science teaching positions remain unfilled, teachers of these subjects can benefit from both programs simultaneously. On July 15, 2024, Orders No. 55-N and No. 56-N<sup>5</sup> from the RA Minister of Education Science, Culture and Sports introduced changes to these programs. Under the previous regulations, if a new beneficiary was added after the first working day of the third week of January or September, the additional pay would begin the following month. The updated regulation now allows for the additional pay to start immediately upon becoming a beneficiary. As of August 2024, the number of program beneficiaries has increased to 8,765<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.e-gov.am/gov-decrees/item/43279/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=125942>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=194325>

<sup>4</sup> The personal data of teachers is protected under the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection," enacted on May 18, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx/Res/DocumentView.aspx?docid=195291>

<https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=195290>

<sup>6</sup> The personal data of teachers is protected under the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection," enacted on May 18, 2015.

- In 2024, the process of voluntary teacher certification continued to support professional advancement. A state support program was developed for professionals without Higher Education who did not meet the minimum threshold during voluntary certification and were dismissed as a result. This program, approved by Government Decision No. 621-L<sup>1</sup> on May 2, 2024, allows them to pursue Higher Education, continue working through voluntary certification, or participate in both initiatives. In March 2024, 271 teachers without Higher Education took part in an additional round of voluntary certification, and 73 of them met the required threshold<sup>2</sup>.
- The process of awarding qualification categories to teachers continued. As of June 2024, 1,539 teachers received a category, including 148 who were awarded a qualification category under the new format introduced in 2023. This process follows the "Formation and Activity of the State Committee for Awarding Teacher Qualification Categories in Public Educational Institutions and Providing Extra Pay to Teachers Who Receive a Category" order as approved by Government Decision No. 1509-N<sup>3</sup> on September 29, 2022. Thus, 27 teachers received the 4th-degree category. The number of teachers awarded qualification categories in 2023 and 2024 is as follows: 1st degree: 45, 2nd degree: 41, 3rd degree: 35, and 4th degree: 27<sup>4</sup>.
- As of June 2024, 67 students received 1st-class diplomas, 93 received 2nd-class diplomas, and 199 received 3rd-class diplomas in the final stages of the Republican Olympiads. All of these students were awarded scholarships. Additionally, by June 2024, 29 prize winners from the final stages of other international Olympiads also received scholarships.<sup>5</sup>
- On June 1, 2024, a teacher's conference titled "Education - A Pillar of the State" was held. The conference aimed to share best practices for implementing the state standard of general education, bring together the intellectual resources of the teaching

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.e-gov.am/u\\_files/file/decrees/kar/GV7B-54F6-4672-8E5D/621.1.pdf](https://www.e-gov.am/u_files/file/decrees/kar/GV7B-54F6-4672-8E5D/621.1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The personal data of teachers is protected under the RA Law "On Personal Data Protection," enacted on May 18, 2015.

<https://escs.am/am/news/22029>

<sup>3</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/14067>

<sup>4</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/11FsfawqoE\\_6kSLkV2CopOIKZp7S65or/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11FsfawqoE_6kSLkV2CopOIKZp7S65or/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>5</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XjmgvTIZaUqSSBVaScdvCMkUhs0QwEnB/view?usp=sharing>

profession, and promote professional development. Approximately 700 teachers from Yerevan and various regions of the Republic of Armenia attended the event. <sup>1</sup>

- To foster a career path in artificial intelligence, the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, in collaboration with the Armenian Science and Technology Foundation (FAST), has launched the "AI Generation" school program. Aimed at students in grades 10-12, this program provides opportunities to learn advanced mathematics, programming (Python), and the basics of artificial intelligence, as well as to work on practical projects in the field. Within this framework, the "Artificial Intelligence" course was introduced in 16 public educational institutions of RA<sup>2</sup>.
- According to the RA government's action plan for 2021-2026, modern science and engineering laboratories are set to be established in all educational institutions across the Republic of Armenia by 2026. This initiative aims to significantly enhance the effective teaching of science subjects. To support this effort, a memorandum of understanding<sup>3</sup> was signed in November 2023 with the "FabLab Armenia" educational foundation and the Danish company "Labster," which provides virtual laboratories. Under this agreement, mentor schools<sup>4</sup> affiliated with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports will have access to "Labster" online laboratories until May 2025. The program includes organizing remote and in-person training sessions using Labster's catalog of over 100 virtual labs. Currently, 38 mentor schools, 76 teachers, and approximately 10,000 students are utilizing the "Labster" online laboratories<sup>5</sup>.
- The RA Government places special emphasis on the program to build, renovate, or reconstruct 300 schools and 500 kindergartens by 2026, a key target of its five-year plan. For this program, 107.0 billion drams were allocated in the 2024 budget. On November 30, 2023, a roadmap for the 300 schools and 500 kindergartens project was developed<sup>6</sup>, detailing the design, ongoing, and completed construction works for these institutions by year. Schools and kindergartens that are built, renovated, or

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<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PzxT2uXWTO6kYLM0knHbmMuyTnmKwjOD/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>2</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/17585>

<sup>3</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/21567>

<sup>4</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/15247>

<sup>5</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-TGgOzDySHWVO3XX6trwSFaouT6YQjc/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=188045>

overhauled will be equipped with the necessary furniture and equipment. Additionally, a cluster/educational complex approach will be implemented in some rural settlements to enhance the quality of education and improve management efficiency. These clusters or educational complexes will consist of various educational institutions offering different programs and may serve as community centers when needed.

As of July 2024, construction has been completed at 34 schools<sup>1</sup> as part of the project to build, reconstruct, and overhaul 300 schools.

The project to construct, reconstruct, and overhaul 500 kindergartens is progressing in collaboration with other agencies. This program covers both standalone kindergartens and preschools within educational complexes. As of June 2024, construction had been completed at 144 institutions, including 51 preschools and 93 kindergartens. As of September 2024, construction is completed at an additional 43 institutions<sup>2</sup>.

- As a result of Azerbaijani aggression, nearly all the children forcibly displaced from the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023 are now enrolled in the public education system. As of September 2024, the total number of displaced students is approximately 14,000<sup>3</sup>.

In order to support the process of employment of the teachers forcibly displaced from the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh in RA school, the platform <https://kadrer.emis.am/> was launched on October 16, 2023. This initiative is part of the RA government's decision No. 1756-L<sup>4</sup>, dated October 12, 2023, titled "On Approving the Support Program for Forcibly Displaced Teachers from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023." Forcibly displaced teachers from the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh can use this platform to enter their personal information and register in the system. The system provides detailed information about teaching vacancies,

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<sup>1</sup><https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZqBbhJ7oKiXLgGc03QcfU4P9TeaUiuwB/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true>

<sup>2</sup>[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ycCxkw\\_YeD5DXUf1IZwt0tr5I3QLD4U1/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ycCxkw_YeD5DXUf1IZwt0tr5I3QLD4U1/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

<sup>3</sup><https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18CxOlm-LfmIEceLu6haPbczxd-o88x0a/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true>

<sup>4</sup><https://escs.am/am/news/18622>

organized by region, settlement, and subject. Beneficiaries can find job openings in their field of expertise at locations convenient to them and receive a 30% bonus for up to two years. Additionally, teachers in institutions located in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Chambarak, Vardenis (Gegharkunik marz), and Noyemberyan, Ijevan, and Berd (Tavush marz) will receive an extra fixed allowance of 50,000 drams. Through this program, over 380 teachers are currently employed in these regions. Although the program was initially scheduled to run for six months, it has been extended until December 31, 2024<sup>1</sup>. At present, more than 530 forcibly displaced teachers from Nagorno-Karabakh are engaged in the General Education system. Some of these teachers work in schools in Yerevan or have secured positions through regular recruitment processes, while others benefit from the support program mentioned above.

On March 27, 2024, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the "Teach for Armenia" educational foundation. This agreement aims to support the adaptation of children and teenagers within the next three years, who have been psychologically traumatized as a result of the September 2023 conflict, into Armenian educational institutions. The initiative is funded by the World Bank under the "Mental Health and Socio-Psychological Support in Armenian Schools" project<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/18622>

<sup>2</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/21447>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j4yKq8nsvc\\_vO-2Ot-QzIT\\_T2bXzeIWG/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j4yKq8nsvc_vO-2Ot-QzIT_T2bXzeIWG/view?usp=sharing)

### **Extracurricular Education**

According to Article 20 of the RA Law "On Education,"<sup>1</sup> the purpose of Extracurricular Education is to enhance children's social, self-care, and intellectual skills. It aims to shape and develop their value system as citizens, build multi-functional abilities and soft skills, and contribute to their acquisition of spiritual, aesthetic, physical, military-patriotic, technical, environmental knowledge, and pre-professional orientation. This process supports the development of human capital. In the Republic of Armenia, Extracurricular Education in state entities is provided through music, art, and dance schools, as well as children's and youth creative centers and sports schools. The beneficiaries of Extracurricular Education are schoolchildren aged 6-18. According to statistics for the 2023-2024 Academic year, approximately 5,237 teachers are

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docID=68299>

instructing about 50,000 children in music, art, fine arts, and dance schools, as well as youth creative centers. Additionally, 2,125<sup>1</sup> coaches and educators are training around 43,000 children<sup>2</sup> in youth sports schools.

- From July 1 to July 20, 2024, and again from July 20 to August 8, 2024, a summer vacation program was organized for 3,200 schoolchildren aged 7-13. These children come from families with multiple children, as well as those who have lost their parents, have disabled servicemen in the family, or are otherwise in need. The program took place at the "Lusabats" camp in the Tsaghkadzor community, Kotayk region, RA, and included the "Hasmik," "Aragats," "Fairytale Canyon," and "LAVA Aghbyur" camps.<sup>3</sup>
- The Government of the Republic of Armenia emphasizes the importance of increasing the efficiency of the existing infrastructure of "Armath" engineering laboratories in public educational institutions and enhancing its connection with the general school curriculum. Funded by the RA state budget, approximately 1,044 group leaders of engineering workshops and about 35 leaders of drone engineering groups associated with these workshops are financed and organized. Additionally, around 26 regional (territorial) coordinators are funded to oversee the work of engineering workshop groups, and about 35 groups of drone engineering educational programs linked to engineering workshops receive financial support for their coordinators' salaries. As of 2024, 650 "Armath" engineering workshops are operating in eight countries worldwide, involving around 17,500 children<sup>4</sup>. Of these, 637 laboratories are located in the Republic of Armenia, 284 of which were established with funding from the RA state budget. These workshops provide approximately 16,000 children aged 10-18 with opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through interactive extracurricular courses, exciting competitions, and innovation camps.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ay\\_RoMpW1EK95loe4XOmkp62H8kgSqHb/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ay_RoMpW1EK95loe4XOmkp62H8kgSqHb/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

<sup>2</sup> [https://armstat.am/file/article/soc\\_sit\\_2022\\_25.pdf](https://armstat.am/file/article/soc_sit_2022_25.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AqtvbOI\\_dovs-3AD4UF8X84WIQNMU1fM/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AqtvbOI_dovs-3AD4UF8X84WIQNMU1fM/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

<sup>4</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vs7nUFoNURbUr5Ji2NUSL7fdSdMSJdIJ/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>5</sup> <https://armath.am/hy>

- During the 2023-2024 Academic year, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in collaboration with the "Children of Armenia" Charitable Foundation (COAF), implemented several programs<sup>1</sup>, including.
- "Health Promotion in Schools" initiative. This program was conducted in educational institutions in the Armavir and Aragatsotn regions of Armenia and benefited 5,300 students from 1st to 11th grade, 1,868 parents, and 310 teachers.
  - The extracurricular English language learning program "Access" was implemented in 25 groups, reaching 347 students from 30 settlements in the Lori region, as well as in groups of 150 students from 7 settlements in the Aragatsotn, Armavir, and Shirak regions of Armenia. In addition to English language instruction, the program included various educational events, summer camps, visits to historical and cultural sites, and more.
  - The "Strengthening of Student Councils" program was implemented in educational institutions in the Armavir region of Armenia. The program aims to enhance the abilities of student council members through courses and project work, while also increasing the role and importance of student councils in school management and community development.
  - The Armenian-Georgian International Summer Educational and Cultural Program 2024, which took place from July 29 to August 4, bringing together 28 Armenian and 28 Georgian youth aged 17-24. The program aimed to foster communication between Armenian and Georgian youth and to create intercultural connections.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2024, several reforms were implemented in the field, including the following:
- On May 1, 2024, the format and final outcomes of the extracurricular program were approved, according to the guidelines for ensuring extracurricular programs presented by various organizations and centers.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I5kECJ8rbIGuEqUzS2C9JJt9FhnmOWUA/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>2</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/23604>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=186819>

- In September 2024, a legal act titled "The List of Positions of Pedagogical Workers in Organizations and Centers Implementing Extracurricular Programs and Their Descriptions<sup>1</sup>" was drafted, put up for public discussion, and circulated.
- In September 2024, the principles and methodology for financing the programs of state and community extracurricular organizations and centers under the state budget were defined, drafted, and put up for public discussion. Additionally, the model statutes for state extracurricular organizations and centers were revised and approved in a new edition.<sup>2</sup>

### **Craftsmanship and Secondary Vocational Education**

- On February 7, 2024, Order No. 07-N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia "On the Formation of Certification Commissions for Pedagogical Workers of Educational Institutions Implementing Craftsmanship and Secondary Vocational Educational Programs, Their Activities, and the Approval of the Procedure for Training and Certification of Pedagogical Workers Subject to Certification" was approved.<sup>3</sup> On April 15, 2024, by Order No. 520-A/2 of the RA Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, the guidelines for the 2024 training course and certification of pedagogical workers in state educational institutions implementing primary (craftsmanship) and secondary vocational educational programs were approved. As of September 2024, the application process for the certification

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.e-draft.am/projects/6199>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.e-draft.am/projects/6201>

<sup>3</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/23392>

and training of pedagogical workers in primary (craftsmanship) and secondary vocational educational institutions is ongoing. In July 2024, the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia issued orders approving the individual members of the 2024 certification commissions for pedagogical workers in primary (craftsmanship) and secondary vocational educational institutions.<sup>1</sup>

- On June 24, 2024, the RA Law "On Vocational Education and Training"<sup>2</sup> came into force. In the near future, a draft decision by the RA Prime Minister will be developed to address the creation of sub-legislative acts required by the law. These acts will include incentive mechanisms to encourage private sector professionals to participate in practical teaching.
- Efforts were made to improve the building conditions of Primary, (craftsmanship) and Secondary vocational educational institutions. As of September 2024, work is underway at six educational institutions: one is under construction, one is undergoing reconstruction, one is receiving major repairs, and three are undergoing partial repairs. Improvement work has been completed at two institutions. Currently, building conditions of 14.5% of primary and secondary vocational educational institutions are being improved.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://escs.am/am/static/vocational-education?s=edu>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=193918>

<sup>3</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JwJJedHNzrlg-VNraF-kmI-aJKeLxuKU/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

### **Higher Education**

- The Higher Education and Science Committee was established based on the Science Committee, the Higher Qualification Committee and the Department of Higher and Postgraduate Education of the MoESCS to ensure a unified policy in the field of higher education and science.<sup>1</sup>
- The adoption of the Law on Higher and Post-Graduate Professional Education is planned by the end of 2024.
- In 2024, the processes of the enlargement of universities will be accelerated.
- According to the Law "On Approving the Education Development Programme 2030", it is planned to establish an "Academic City" as a group of campus clusters providing a contemporary educational environment for quality higher education and research, which

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<sup>1</sup> N 28-L order of the RA Minister of ESCS dated July 12, 2023

<https://escs.am/am/news/17805>

HO 155-N <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=178449>

will ensure the solution of a number of target issues, in particular, having at least four universities in the top 500 international rankings and at least double the number of foreign students, increasing the international reputation of the Higher Education system. The Academic City will be located in the area adjacent to the 17th district of Yerevan and around the "Hayfilm" movie studio named after Hamo Beknazaryan with a total area of about 700 hectares. Within the "Academic City" project, the concept of the "Academic City" project<sup>1</sup> was approved by the RA Government decision N 1802-L dated October 19, 2023 "On the Approval of the Concept of the "ACADEMIC CITY" Project".

On 30 January 2024, the "gmp International GmbH" presented the Master plan of the "Academic City" project, and discussions were held with the participation of all beneficiaries. The implementation of the "Academic City" project will be accompanied by the process of consolidation of the Higher Education Institutions and Research Institutions. To that end, the Higher Education and Science Committee requested all the universities and institutions to present their comments and recommendations regarding the structure of the mergers.

Since 2023, the Higher Education and Science Committee has been negotiating with advanced technical centers and universities across Europe with the aim of establishing cooperation in the framework of the "Academic City" project.

For the development of the Arts cluster the "Memorandum of Understanding between the University of the Arts London and the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia" was signed on 7 November 2023<sup>2</sup>.

For the designing and construction of the Technological cluster the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia and TUM International GmbH, Germany" was signed on 11 January 2024<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> N 1802-L <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=184227>

<sup>2</sup> [http://hesc.am/files/university\\_oftheart\\_london\\_agreement\\_12.23.pdf](http://hesc.am/files/university_oftheart_london_agreement_12.23.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://hesc.am/files/arm-munich.pdf>

Multifaceted activities are also underway to increase the efficiency of sectoral management and the degree of digitalization.

### **Non-Formal Education**

- To raise awareness of the Non-formal Education sector (which is included in the state plan for education development in the Republic of Armenia until 2030), a conference titled "Marrakech 2022 - Yerevan 2023/2024: Global and Local Trends in Adult Learning and Education"<sup>1</sup> was organized on March 22, 2024, with the support of the Armenian office of "DVV International"<sup>2</sup>. The main objective of the conference was to promote the Marrakesh Framework for Action among professionals in adult learning and education, students, and Non-formal Education institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.yasu.am/events/54780>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.yasu.am/events/54780>

- On July 10, 2024, the "KrtabATS Aparan"<sup>1</sup> adult learning and education center officially opened. The center, operating under the "Aparan Community Social Center" CNPO, will be funded by the Armenian office of "DVV International," with additional support from the Aparan Community Hall. The center offers a variety of professional skills-building courses, as well as discussions, public hearings, and other community initiatives aimed at enhancing the political participation of residents and their engagement in community life. The center is open to all community residents aged 18 and over. In its first year, all services will be offered free of charge. From 2025 onwards, a modest payment system will be introduced to ensure that the center remains accessible to beneficiaries from all social groups.
- The Government of the Republic of Armenia is also focused on creating a non-formal education environment in the marzes of Armenia. As part of this effort, the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) will prepare to build two non-formal education centers, or "Smart centers," in the enlarged communities of Kapan and Goris in the Syunik marz. These centers will work in conjunction with formal education to create a unified learning environment. They will be located at the Goris city stadium and the former "Electron" youth camp in Kapan<sup>2</sup>. There are also plans to build three Smart Centers in the Armavir and Syunik marzes of Armenia. "Children of Armenia" charitable foundation /COAF/ has been implementing the "Scholarships and Career Development" program for several years. In the academic year of 2023-2024, the program had 315 young beneficiaries from Armavir, Aragatsotn, Shirak, Tavush and Lori marzes of RA. The program has 5 components: scholarship provision, community development programs, employability skills training, and thematic clubs for scholarship recipients. implementation of volunteering/internship by the scholarship holder in the foundation or outside the foundation, organization of mentoring<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/23379>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.e-gov.am/u\\_files/file/decrees/kar/GVA2-F8A8-9869-A5DE/676.pdf](https://www.e-gov.am/u_files/file/decrees/kar/GVA2-F8A8-9869-A5DE/676.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.coaf.org/hy/krtutyun/%D6%84%D5%B8%D5%A1%D6%86-%D5%B7%D6%80%D5%BB%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%BE%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%AB-%D5%AE%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%A5%D6%80/>

**Education Sector Statistics** is provided below<sup>1</sup>.

In the 2023-2024 Academic year, the total number of educational institutions in Armenia offering General Education programs

Marz	Educational institutions based on the primary general education programs they offer								
	General		Specialized		Special		Total		
	State	Non-state	State	Non-state	State	Non-state	State	Non-state	Total
Yerevn	198	41	6		6		210	41	251
Aragatsotn	121						121		121
Ararat	112						112		112
Armavir	116	2	1				117	2	119
Gegharkunik	124						124		124
Lori	160	1	1				161	1	162
Kotayk	100		1				101		101
Shirak	159	2	1				160	2	162
Syunik	116				1		117		117
Vayots Dzor	48						48		48
Tavush	80	1	1				81	1	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>1334</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1399</b>

**Reports on Education sector of Budget Performance 2024 of the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports as od September 1, 2024<sup>2</sup>**

1. Craftsmanship and Secondary Vocational Education –85.6 %
2. Higher and Post-Graduate Professional Education –81.0 %
3. General Education –96.8 %

<sup>1</sup> <https://armstat.am/am/?nid=81&id=2591>

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RsSK2ULw0PheaPcyLMXIBQyYZZwd98Yu/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

<sup>2</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z5kq6id6YdYmCtGNWwWezvBVzuMCqoJA/view?usp=sharing>  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HFv4j9CB\\_DytPCpTAMsFEFXwoslf6oFy/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtfpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HFv4j9CB_DytPCpTAMsFEFXwoslf6oFy/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtfpof=true&sd=true)

4. Extracurricular Education – 88.7%
5. Improving the quality of Education –77.2 %
6. Inclusive education – 98.1%

It is expected to perform at least 90 % by the end of the year for all the sectors.

***All processes of the aforementioned reforms are performed in accordance with pre-approved schedules, all the activities have been implemented without any delay up to day<sup>1</sup>.***

**Conclusion: Based on the data and developments recorded during the reporting period, we can conclude that a credible and relevant educational reform policy has been maintained in due course.**

### ➤ 3. MACROECONOMIC STABILITY

**Economic growth:** *As a result of the decrease in the role of favorable external economic conditions for the RA economy in 2022, the rate of economic growth slowed down in 2023, but continued to remain high under the influence of new factors.* In particular, the high rate of economic growth was influenced by capital expenditures from the state budget and high increases in ongoing housing construction, the economic effects of Armenians forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia from the end of September, as well as the impact of the sharp increase in the production of jewelry products in November-December. As a result, real GDP growth of 8.3% was recorded in 2023. Economic growth was caused mainly by the growth of services (contribution: 6.2 pps). In particular, the growth of services was mainly contributed by the growth of the trade and information and communication sectors. Other sectors of the economy (except industry) also grew, contributing to economic growth (construction: 1.1, agriculture: 0.3 pps). From the point of view of total demand, the growth was caused mainly by increases in domestic demand: consumption (contribution:

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<sup>1</sup> N 351-L <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docID=175541>

Annual report of the RA MoESCS

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xVZSkDuGK->

[kqyyQFuGRBSr09qo7ZaqG/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xVZSkDuGK-kqyyQFuGRBSr09qo7ZaqG/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

7.1 pps) and private investments (contribution: 1.3 pps), as well as exports (contribution: 15.4 pps) due to increases in disposable income, lending (consumer, mortgage and construction) and tourism to Armenia, as well as given the restrictions on imports from other countries to the Russian Federation, the increase in the volume of exports from Armenia to the Russian Federation and the export of gold from Armenia.

*In the first half of 2024, the high rates of economic growth continued, due mainly to the growth of services, bearing the effects of the sharp increase in the processing of jewelry products and the economic activity of Armenians forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. As a result, in the first half of 2024, a 6.5% economic growth was recorded compared to the same period last year. Economic growth was mainly due to the growth of services and industry (contributions: 4.7 and 1.0 pps, respectively). Growth in the construction and agricultural sectors also contributed to economic growth.*

In July-August, 2024 the economic activity slowed down to some extent, mainly due to the slowdown in the growth rates of industry and trade (in August services sector as well) but the high rate of economic activity continued to be maintained. As a result, an 9.0% increase was recorded in January-August, 2024. The growth of economic activity was mainly contributed by the growth of trade (2.8pps), services (2.7 pps) and industry (2.5 pps). Construction also increased, contributing to economic activity (1.2 pps).

**Foreign Trade: Exports and Imports.** Current account: *In 2023, the current account deficit worsened compared to the previous year, reaching 2.3% of GDP.* The deterioration of the current account is mainly caused by the decrease in remittances (especially from the Russian Federation), as well as the deterioration of the trade balance. The negative balance of goods and services in USD terms was 0.8% of GDP, worsened by 0.1 pps compared to the previous year, which is mainly due to the deterioration of the balance of goods by 0.9 percentage points of GDP. Net remittances flowing into the economy decreased by about 32% in 2023, due to both a decrease in inflow (especially from the Russian Federation) and an increase in outflow to other countries.

*In 2023, foreign trade registered a significant increase: export of goods increased by 55.3%, and import by 40.2%.*

*In January-August, 2024, foreign trade continues the trends of the previous year, registering a double-digit growth: the export of goods increased by 2.2 times, and the import by 70.9%.*

**Inflation and monetary policy.** *In 2023, the average inflation in December was 2%, and the 12-month inflation in December was -0.6 %.* Responding to these developments, the Central Bank of Armenia lowered the refinancing rate by 1.5 pps to 9.25% in January-December.

In January-August 2024, average inflation was -0.1%, and the 12-month inflation was 1.3%. The refinancing rate was 7.5% in September 2024.

**State budget, debt and fiscal policy.** *In 2023, the revenues of the RA state budget continued to grow at a high rate, mainly due to the expansion of taxation bases in the conditions of high economic growth, as well as the efforts of the tax administration.* According to the results of 2023, the total revenues of the RA state budget amounted to AMD 2,410.7 billion, increasing by 14.8% compared to the previous year, the revenues in relation to the GDP amounted to 25.5%, compared to 24.7% of the previous year, and *taxes and duties amounted to AMD 2,273.9 billion, increasing by 15.9% compared to last year.* The increase in tax revenues is mainly due to the increase in tax bases (mainly last year's profits, imports, consumption and wages), as well as the efforts of the tax administration. At the same time, the increase in tax revenues was counteracted by the decrease in the income tax rate and the increase in the volume of refunds<sup>1</sup>, as well as the suspension of the export duty on metallic minerals (from September 1, 2022). Under these conditions, taxes and fees made up 24.1% of GDP, improving by 1.0 pps compared to the previous year .

*In 2023, an increase in state budget expenditures was recorded.* In 2023, state budget expenditures amounted to AMD 2,599.6 billion, increasing by 14.1% compared to the previous year. Moreover, the current expenses amounted to AMD 2,127.0 billion, increasing by 12.0% compared to the previous year. The weight of state budget expenses in GDP increased by 0.7 pps in comparison to 2022, making 27.5%, in which the weight of current expenses decreased by 0.17 pps, making 22.5%.

Operations with non-financial assets amounted to 472.6 billion drams, in which *expenses on non-financial assets (capital expenditures) amounted to AMD 494.4 billion, increasing by 27% compared to the previous year.* The weight of operations with non-financial assets in GDP increased by 0.5 pps, making up 5.0%, and expenditures on non-financial assets increased by 0.65 pps, making up 5.2% of GDP. Not included in operations with non-financial assets, the costs of capital subsidies given to communities amounted to AMD 31.8 billion, which increased by 63% compared to the previous year (in addition, their volume exceeded the planned budget index by 32.2%).

In 2023, the volume of the interstate loan provided to Nagorno-Karabakh from the RA state budget was AMD 150.99 billion. In 2023, the total amount of providing support for the housing affordability for families forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, compensation for costs provided to the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as for the organizations that provided accommodation to the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh in Armenia as a result of the blocking of the Lachin Corridor and, after that, forced displacement from Nagorno-Karabakh, amounted to AMD 38.4 billion.

*As a result of the above developments, a deficit state budget was formed.* In 2023, the state budget deficit was AMD 188.9 billion, compared to AMD 179.5 billion of the previous year, and the state budget deficit/GDP

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<sup>1</sup> From January 2024, according to official statistics, income tax refunds for mortgage interest payments are included in budget revenues and expenses, which means that in the future, the latter cannot be a factor affecting income tax collections.

indicator was 2.0%, decreasing by 0.1 pps compared to the previous year. The Government debt/GDP ratio was 48.4%, increasing by 1.7 pps compared to the previous year, which is mainly due to by net lending from the state budget and the application of the debt collection mechanism of the Nagorno-Karabakh Government.

*In the first eight months of 2024, the growth rate of the revenues of the RA state budget was in line with the tax bases, which are effected by the convergence of economic growth to its potential-showing some decline compared to 2023 <sup>1</sup>. In the 8 months of 2024, state budget revenues amounted to AMD 1,624.0 billion, increasing by 5.5% compared to the same period last year, and taxes and duties amounted to AMD 1,548.2 billion, increasing by 6.0% compared to the same period last year.*

*In January-August 2024, a high growth rate of state budget expenditures was recorded. State budget expenditures amounted to AMD 1,708.6 billion, increasing by 16.4% compared to the same period last year. In the same period, current expenses amounted to AMD 1,462.9 billion, increasing by 14.4% compared to the same period last year. Operations with non-financial assets amounted to AMD 245.7 billion, in which expenditures on non-financial assets (capital expenditures) amounted to AMD 256.0 billion, increasing by 31.7% compared to the same period last year.*

*As a result of developments in January- August 2024, a deficit the state budget was formed. A state budget deficit of AMD 84.6 billion was formed in January- August 2024, compared to a surplus of AMD 71.6 billion surplus in the same period last year.*

***Conclusion:*** *Based on the data and developments recorded during the reporting period, we can conclude that a credible and relevant stability-oriented macroeconomic policy has been maintained in due course.*

#### ➤ 4. PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

During the last 15 years, the priorities, main tasks and final results of the field of Public Finance Management (PFM) of the Republic of Armenia have been defined and summarized in the number of 3 strategies of PFM reforms. The last of them, the Strategy for the Public Finance Management System Reforms (PFMSR) for 2019-2023 was approved by the RA Government in 2019 and covered the period until December 2023. After the end of each semester, a report was published on the website of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia regarding the implementation of about 90 measures defined by the strategy. The progress report of the PFMSR 2019-2023 strategy implementation is also available on the Ministry of Finance [website](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Tax revenues and state budget expenditures include income tax refunds for mortgage interest payments, both for reporting and comparative periods.

In 2023, after a 10-year break, the RA PFM system was subjected to a regular assessment of Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA), in which, in addition to the Ministry of Finance, a number of state bodies participated, including major ministries, the Audit Chamber, SRC, etc.: The results of the assessment were summarized within the framework of the PEFA Assessment [Report](#) for Armenia 2023.

Taking into account the results of the PEFA Assessment, as well as the latest PFM strategy, it is planned to specify the main priorities of the PFM sectors in the near future, after which the goals and tasks, measures and final results arising from them will be more tangible.

**Conclusion:** *Based on the information provided in reports mentioned above, we can conclude that the GoA has ensured the continuous improvement of PFM in line with existing Strategy and Action Plan.*

## ➤ 5.BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

Taking into account the Articles 3 and 4 of the RA Law “On Normative Legal Acts”, Article 26.a of the RA Law “On Budgetary System of the Republic of Armenia”, the Section 12 of the RA Government Decree N 1164 “On Defining the Order of Organizing and Conducting Public Discussions and Declaring the Decree N 296-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, dated March 25, 2010 null and void”, dated March 25, 2018 (the “Decree”) and the schedules approved by the RA Prime Minister's decisions on starting the budget process for each year (the “Schedules”), the RA Ministry of Finance publishes the draft RA laws on state budget for each year on its website and the unified website for the publication of legal acts (available [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

In addition, since 2019, the public authorities, including the RA Ministry of Finance, are obliged to publish on their official websites the drafts of the MTEF (including the state budget) applications of the given year, as well as the cost calculations-justifications based on the applications, in order to hold public discussions with the participation of CSOs. The 2024-2026 MTEF application for budgetary financing (including budget expenditures for 2024) of the RA Ministry of Finance is available [here](#).

After the approval, the MTEF is published in the RA official bulletins and on the websites of the RA Ministry of Finance and <https://arlis.am>. At the same time, after approval by the RA National Assembly, the state budget of each year is published in the RA official bulletins and on the websites of the RA National Assembly, RA Ministry of Finance and <https://arlis.am>.

The draft report on the execution of the budget of the previous year, information on the progress of the budget on a monthly basis and quarterly reports on the execution of the budget are published on the website of the RA Ministry of Finance.

Since 2018, a brief version of the next year's budget (the Citizen Budget) and simplified reports on the execution of the previous year's budget are published on the website of the RA Ministry of Finance (available [here](#) and [here](#)).

The actual execution of the annual budget structure, programs and budget spending directions is available online on the website of the Ministry of Finance and the [website](#) of the RA e-governance.

**Conclusion:** *Based on the information above, we state that public availability of accessible, timely, comprehensive and sound budgetary information is in place.*

**General condition:**

**Based on the self-assessment report of requirements we consider that all the Indicators were compliant and the contribution should be requested to be paid.**

## VARIABLE TRANCH

### THE LIST OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKS CARRIED OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF INDICATORS APPROVED WITH THE AGREEMENT IS PROVIDED BELOW.

<b>1. Secondary school network optimization</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<b>Status:</b> Full Compliance  <b>2024 target:</b> Secondary school network optimization - Procurement process for construction/renovation work started in at least 7 schools as a part of the Kapan and Goris region optimisation pilot <sup>1</sup>  <b>Progress made:</b>  As of September 2024, construction has begun at the Hartashen educational complex and Khndzoresk school in the Goris enlarged community <sup>2</sup> , as well as at the Syunik, Artsvanik, Achanan, and Tsavi <sup>3</sup> educational complexes and	100% (€ 1 M)
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<sup>1</sup> By the decision of the RA Prime Minister No. 790-L of July 26, 2021 the experimental program for provision of educational services in enlarged communities of Kapan was approved. Then the program was implemented in the entire Syunik marz in 2021. by decision 1250-L of November 4. 2021. Later, it was decided to implement the program in the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia, which was fixed in the 2021-2026 plan of the RA government. In the program of the RA government.

<https://www.e-gov.am/decrees/item/24047/>

<https://www.gov.am/files/docs/4586.pdf>

<https://www.e-gov.am/decrees/item/23642/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19eN3SEU7dnSLbw-Dqb9Zk25gKhs4PMwp/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>3</sup> Previously introduced Geghanush educational complex was removed from the list of educational complexes by RA Government Decree N 1373 of August 29, 2024, due to the discovery of a tomb in the area

				primary school No. 6 in the Kapan enlarged community <sup>1</sup> ,		
2.	<b>Strengthened school governance</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<p><b>Status:</b> Full compliance</p> <p><b>2024 target:</b> 40% of the total number of school principals are appointed following recommendations by the professional Council<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p><b>Progress made:</b></p> <p>During 2023-2024, 437 schools adopted the new management system, accounting for over 33%<sup>3</sup> of the 1,351 state schools in the RA. The number of appointed principals is 115. At the same time, in all the state public educational institutions under the authority of the Ministry of ESCS, the regional governorates of RA /Marzpetaran/ and Yerevan Municipality, that have passed the new management system all temporary</p>	<p><b>Problems:</b></p> <p>Currently, there is a need to provide capacity-building and skill development courses for principals in schools that have adopted the new management system.</p> <p><b>Next Steps:</b></p> <p>Currently, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in collaboration with the "Ayb" Educational Foundation, is conducting training sessions to build the capacities of managers in educational institutions that have adopted the new management</p>	100% (€ 1 M)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/19cz7X31hj9JaB\\_5yeE-uZs2PN6reIFUB/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19cz7X31hj9JaB_5yeE-uZs2PN6reIFUB/view?usp=sharing)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fQY1O4Pwgy8R19dh7\\_L-kTAXo\\_5W0GL/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fQY1O4Pwgy8R19dh7_L-kTAXo_5W0GL/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ca8j6Apy8qOy\\_vjP6wnAouqC44ssHcI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ca8j6Apy8qOy_vjP6wnAouqC44ssHcI/view?usp=sharing)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ybecxW8U6nujnx903yKqvmAxxqtTIHoZ/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>2</sup> N 181-N Government Decree dated February 9, 2023 ‘About the announcement of the vacancy for the position of the director of the state public educational institution, its holding, formation of the professional committee, approval of the procedure for the appointment of the director’

<https://escs.am/am/news/15296>

<sup>3</sup> [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18MPPr5yXG74Ghy\\_fSNRwZAKhQ3OD3KkfK/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18MPPr5yXG74Ghy_fSNRwZAKhQ3OD3KkfK/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

administrators and acting directors as well as the administrative coordinators were appointed as a result of the interview with the professional committee created for the vacant position.<sup>1</sup>

**Supporting argumentation and evidence:**

A draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law on General Education" is currently being circulated<sup>2</sup>. The proposed amendments are based on the validity period of the certificate issued to candidates for the position of institution principal, clarifying related regulations, and promoting the professional development of teachers through regular and voluntary certification processes, as specified by government decisions. They also address the need to differentiate cases of non-compliance with the position and to revise certain concepts, wording, and provisions in the law. The proposed changes aim to clarify existing legal relations in the field and regulate the conditions under which a principal's certificate may be suspended.

system.<sup>3</sup>: The training sessions are being conducted as part of the technical assistance provided by UNICEF under this Agreement.

<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xiz2HZ1MJ8JhxAeG5O-ODdPatc5\\_hD4c/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xiz2HZ1MJ8JhxAeG5O-ODdPatc5_hD4c/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.e-draft.am/projects/6953>

<sup>3</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/23918>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UGcjZGsDnpHg\\_KhaeP\\_sDsTvfiTm5U5c/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UGcjZGsDnpHg_KhaeP_sDsTvfiTm5U5c/view?usp=sharing)

3. <b>Multi-age classes teaching</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<p><b>Status:</b> Full compliance</p> <p><b>2024 target:</b> Pilot multi-age classes in all secondary schools of Syunik marz are operational.</p> <p><b>Progress made:</b> As of September 2024, there are 117 public educational institutions operating in RA Syunik Marz: Pilot multi-age classes in all secondary schools of Syunik marz are operational from the beginning of the new 2024-2025 Academic year<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Supporting argumentation and evidence:</b> This issue is regulated by the The RA Government Decision N 1484-N<sup>2</sup> of August 31, 2023 "On Making Amendments to RA Government Decision N 954-N of August 30, 2018" stipulates that the maximum number of learners in each class of 1st and 2nd levels (elementary and general) in public educational institutions applying the main educational curricula of the Republic of Armenia is 35, and 30 in the 3rd level of education (secondary).</p>	100% (€ 0.5 M)
4 <b>STEM labs</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i> <i>September 2024</i>	<p><b>Status:</b> Full compliance</p> <p><b>2024 target:</b> Procurement procedures for STEM labs equipment in all functional</p>	100% (€ 1 M)

<sup>1</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_0JmyDIYL5MrB\\_7xa4\\_IOrW64ew64fZ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_0JmyDIYL5MrB_7xa4_IOrW64ew64fZ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

<sup>2</sup> N 1484-N <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=182088>

schools of Ararat, Kotayk and Gegharkunik regions are launched.

**Progress made:** Procurement procedures are launched for the purchase of modern scientific and engineering laboratory equipment, furnishings, and necessary computer equipment for all functional schools /almost 300/ in the Gegharkunik, Kotayk, and Ararat marzes of the RA.<sup>1</sup>

**Supporting argumentation and evidence:**

By December 2024, 158 primary and secondary schools in the Ararat, Kotayk, and Gegharkunik regions of the RA including 52 in Ararat, 53 in Kotayk, and 53 in Gegharkunik will receive laboratory equipment, supplies, and appropriate furniture for the subjects of "Informatics," "Physics," "Geography," and "Chemistry-Biology."<sup>2</sup>

5	<b>STEM teachers</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<b>Status:</b> Full compliance <b>2024 target:</b> 90% of STEM teachers in grades 5, 7 and 10 have undergone training in line with the new Standard for	100% (€ 0.7 M)
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<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ak5jGAmnFjZqw0HuhFltEkMHu1sjR0bF/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ak5jGAmnFjZqw0HuhFltEkMHu1sjR0bF/view?usp=drive_link)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UHkw0p8UUetX7yugr7fZ8EaVZp4agZRz/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>2</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_UCLtVJb22Cs3MB-MtlZNqER5DWMOMeB/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_UCLtVJb22Cs3MB-MtlZNqER5DWMOMeB/view?usp=sharing)

				<p>Teachers Training.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Full compliance</p> <p><b>Progress made:</b> 99% of STEM teachers in grades 5, 7 and 10 have undergone training with the New Standard for Teachers Training.</p> <p><b>Supporting argumentation and evidence:</b> During 2024, about 99% of STEM teachers (about 8,000 teachers) were trained according to the new standard of General Education.<sup>1</sup> Around 12,000 STEM teachers participated in training courses on topics such as "Outcomes and Characteristics," "Assessment of Independent Learning Abilities," "Evaluation Criteria," "Lesson Planning, Forms of Lesson Organization, Practical Work, and Intersecting Concepts," and "Application of Assessment." Some teachers attended more than one program.</p>	
6	<b>Enhanced professional orientation in schools</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<p><b>Status:</b> Full compliance</p> <p><b>2024 target:</b> 95 % of all functioning schools have operational professional orientation clubs in Grades 8 and 10</p> <p><b>Progress made:</b> Starting from the 2024-2025 Academic year, expanded professional</p>	100% (€ 0.3 M)

<sup>1</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rl3cGTRzEfCzzXmdm\\_jB-OQu96GwA1G/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rl3cGTRzEfCzzXmdm_jB-OQu96GwA1G/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IQIhGhBCzh\\_qh8pgdH\\_w9ormZYSRBP7k/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IQIhGhBCzh_qh8pgdH_w9ormZYSRBP7k/view?usp=sharing)

				<p>orientation groups are operating in the 8th and 10th grades of all educational institutions in the RA.</p> <p><b>Supporting argumentation and evidence:</b> On top of this since the 2023-2024 Academic year, expanded professional orientation groups have been operating in the 8th through 11th grades of all schools in the Tavush region of the RA. Additionally, since 2023, all schools have participated in training sessions organized by the "National Center for Education Development and Innovations" foundation.<sup>1</sup></p>	
7	<b>Green economy and Climate change projects</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<p><b>Status:</b> Full compliance</p> <p><b>2024 target:</b> 30% of school projects in Grades 7 and 10 all over the country are in green economy and climate change issues</p> <p><b>Progress made:</b> Over 25% of school projects /1,500 out of 6,000/ in Grades 7 and 10 all over the country are in green economy and</p>	100% (€ 0.6 M)

<sup>1</sup> An example of a curriculum outline from the Education Management Information System

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eX1pMyRksb\\_QcrCAvrCqe3bmHSwPWbMz/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eX1pMyRksb_QcrCAvrCqe3bmHSwPWbMz/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Order N 1602-A/2 of the RA Minister of ESCS of September 24, 2021 “On Approval of the Pilot Standards and Curriculum for the “Professional Orientation” Course,.

<https://escs.am/files/files/2022-01-27/d85952a5b57ae15804ee62ea07076a55.pdf>

2024 semiannual report

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mi4Z0YqxiKbHO7IHj84xD6Oqj5L1skr7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true>

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cd7ZHn5qInqJwBqVm3ftkESaXnm\\_PhW9/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cd7ZHn5qInqJwBqVm3ftkESaXnm_PhW9/edit?usp=share_link&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

climate change.<sup>1</sup>

**Supporting argumentation and evidence:**

The following activities were completed in 2024<sup>2</sup>

- 242 teachers were trained on the topic of "Educational projects", and 145 of the projects implemented were on the topics of green economy and climate change.
- "The Planet Needs Your Help and Mine" national educational project that involved 171 teachers.
- A variety of educational projects on school websites and on the blog of the "National Center for Education Development and Innovation" foundation, including on the topics of green economy and climate change.
- The project began on February 5, 2024, followed by a series of consulting seminars for teachers on topics such as "What is Project-Based Learning" and "How to Choose and Implement Educational Projects".

<b>8</b>	<b>Learning assessment</b>	<i>RA Ministry of ESCS</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<b>Status:</b> Full compliance	100% (€ 1.4 M)
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<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jkjYYZiEXG6OuwNPEV0XLM0xYeB\\_0\\_aS/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jkjYYZiEXG6OuwNPEV0XLM0xYeB_0_aS/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>2</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10itZ7i7uFQPr\\_9rbEXhRiA3tYW36lZfK/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10itZ7i7uFQPr_9rbEXhRiA3tYW36lZfK/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111423456670042809339&rtpof=true&sd=true)

## system

**2024 target:** The new assessment system is operational in 90% of all schools of the country for Grades 7 and 10.

**Progress made:**

The new assessment system is operational in over 90 % of all country for Grades 7 and 10 from the beginning of the new Academic year<sup>1</sup>.

**Supporting argumentation and evidence:**

According to Order No. 11-N dated February 24, 2023, "On Establishing Evaluation Criteria for Students in State Public Educational Institutions," the purpose is to assess the development of students' abilities based on the knowledge, skills, and competencies acquired in accordance with the defined standards and program outcomes of educational subjects, as well as the degree of value formation.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19Tt\\_sG6iKfKII199aq4FS4CBBYvKfmak/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19Tt_sG6iKfKII199aq4FS4CBBYvKfmak/view?usp=sharing)

According to the Order N 101-N of the Minister of ESCS dated August 3, 2023, the state standard of General Education is implemented in the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th grades of all schools, The new Education standard was implemented in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th grades from the beginning of 2024-2025 Academic year, and from September 1 2024, all the mentioned grades passed the new assessment system. The number of schools with 7th grade is 1245, of which 876 also have 10th grade, which is about 90 % of the total number of schools /1400/..

<https://escs.am/am/search?q=101-%D5%86>

<sup>2</sup> 11-N <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=174760>

50-A/2 <https://escs.am/am/news/20159>

***Conclusion: Based on the information above, we state that apart of € 5 mln of the fixed tranche, the conditions number 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 of the variable tranche for total sum of € 6.5 mln are fully implemented.***

***Final conclusion:***

- ***The fixed tranche in total sum of € 5 mln is eligible and will be requested for payment***
- ***The variable tranche Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for total sum of € 6.5 mln are eligible and will be requested for payment.***

***The total amount to be requested is equal to € 11.5 mln for fixed and variable tranches.***

## ➤ 6. RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

This part is to confirm that In the process of implementing the Indicators of the Agreement the RA MoESCS has met for all the conditions environmental mitigation, construction related environmental mitigation proves will be provided after the start of construction works of the educational complexes

## ➤ 7. CONCLUSION

Based on the information above, we state that all variable Indicators of the Agreement were fully implemented

- **Indicator 1- Secondary school network optimization** - Procurement process for construction/renovation work started in 7 schools as a part of the Kapan and Goris region optimisation pilot.
- **Indicator 2 - Strengthened school governance** - 33% /over 80% of the Indicator/ of the total number of state schools have switched to new management system, all the new principals are appointed following recommendations by the professional Council.
- **Indicator 3 - Multi-age classes teaching** - Pilot multi-age classes in all secondary schools of Syunik marz are operational.
- **Indicator 4 - STEM labs** - Procurement procedures for STEM labs equipment in all functional schools of Ararat, Kotayk and Gegharkunik regions are launched.
- **Indicator 5 - STEM teachers** - 99% of STEM teachers in grades 5, 7 and 10 have undergone training in line with the new Standard for Teachers Training.
- **Indicator 6 – Enhanced professional orientation in schools** - 95 % of all functioning schools have operational professional orientation clubs in Grades 8 and 10
- **Indicator 7 – Green economy and Climate change projects** - 25% /Over 80% of the Indicator/ of school projects in Grades 7 and 10 all over the country are in green economy and climate change issues
- **Indicator 8 - Learning assessment system** - The new assessment system is operational in 90% of all schools of the country for Grades 7 and 10.