

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
MINISTRY OF DIASPORA OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

HANDBOOK FOR ARMENIANS ABROAD

YEREVAN – 2012

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Handbook for Armenians Abroad

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The first publication of the handbook was prepared by GeorgiKutoyan, Doctor of Law. The second edition was revised, with changes and additions by ArtyomSedrakyan, Doctor of Law, with the cooperation of LusineGalajyan from the RA Ministry of Diaspora, and GeorgiKutoyan.

The revised edition includes a new section on “Doing Business in the RA”. All amendments made as of 1 January 2012 have been based on adopted laws and information provided by the beneficiaries. The views expressed in the handbook do not necessarily represent those of the ILO, EU or DfID.

While all efforts have been taken by the author to provide up-to-date and accurate information, wherever inconsistencies occur between information in the handbook and corresponding legal acts and official documents, the latter take priority.

This is the updated version of “The Handbook for Armenians Abroad”.

The handbook was revised and edited due to the adoption of new RA laws and Government decisions, as well as amendments in RA legislation during 2010-2011.

We revised the handbook, incorporating recent RA legislative changes, and submit it here for your approval.

The revised part of the handbook refers to economic and social legislation, as well as to entry and exit policies, dual citizenship and legal status.

The internal and external 21st century challenges facing the Armenian statehood and Armenians living all over the world requires greater attention to the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation and its development potential.

The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia aims to develop and strengthen Armenia-Diaspora relations, preserve the Armenian identity, develop projects encouraging the repatriation of Armenians from all over the world, and take steps to inspire and deepen the strength of the Armenian national identity among Armenians of different language and religious backgrounds. This handbook serves as an important step towards the implementation of those goals and can be used as a guidebook both by Armenian citizens living abroad and indeed by everyone of Armenian origin.

The handbook analyses selected sections of Armenian legislation and projects relating to Armenia and Diaspora. It also discusses projects covering the return and reintegration of Armenians, as well as the legal status of foreign citizens of Armenian origin living in Armenia and that of Armenian citizens permanently residing abroad.

The handbook outlines the issues related to entering and exiting, living and residing, and acquiring citizenship of Armenia, and covers the issue of Armenian military service. The handbook also provides information on educational, cultural, labour, property and social rights, and gives answers to various questions on working opportunities and on investing in Armenia.

I hope that this handbook will help Armenian citizens living abroad and foreign citizens of Armenian origin to become better informed. It includes answers to frequently asked questions, and instructions on how to apply to state and local Government bodies for responses to any further queries.

The staff of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia is ready to support you in case of any problems, with advice, information and help.

Hranoush Hakobyan
Minister of the Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	1
<u>PART 1 GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	2
<u>PART 2 ARMENIA-DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP</u>	9
<u>PART 3 PROGRAMMES OF RETURN, VISIT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR INDIVIDUALS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN</u>	14
<u>PART 4 LEGAL STATUS OF RA CITIZENS RESIDING IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	21
A.....	
<u>RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>	22
B.....	
<u>RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	24
C.	
<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</u>	26
<u>PART 5 ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	28
A.....	
<u>RECOGNITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	29
B.....	T
<u>THE ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA BY INDIVIDUALS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN</u>	29
C.	
<u>DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	30
D.	
<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</u>	34

<u>PART 6 MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	36
A.	
<u>REGULATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	37
B.	
<u>ALTERNATIVE MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	44
C.	
<u>CONDITIONS AND THE PROCEDURE FOR EXEMPTING CITIZENS NOT HAVING DONE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE</u>	44
D.	
<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....</u>	49
<u>PART 7 ENTERING, STAYING, RESIDING IN AND EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....</u>	52
A.	
<u>ENTERING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.....</u>	53
B. <u>STAYING AND RESIDING IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	56
C.	
<u>EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	59
D.	
<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....</u>	60
<u>PART 8 EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	62
A.	
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION.....</u>	63
B.	
<u>GENERAL EDUCATION.....</u>	64
C.	
<u>VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.....</u>	66
D.	
<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....</u>	71
<u>PART 9 EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	74

A.....	<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>	75
B.....	<u>EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS</u>	76
C.....	<u>INTERGOVERNMENTAL TREATIES ON REGULATING LABOUR MIGRATION</u>	77
<u>PART 10 ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>		78
A.	<u>ACCESS TO STATE PENSION AND SOCIAL BENEFITS</u>	79
B.	<u>ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICE</u>	82
C.....	<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</u>	83
<u>PART 11 PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>		84
A.....	<u>PROPERTY RIGHTS</u>	85
B.....	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY AUTHORISED BODIES OF FOREIGN STATES</u>	85
C.....	<u>CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>	86
D.....	<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</u>	87
<u>PART 12 FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA</u>		89
A.	<u>REGULATIONS OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE RA</u>	90
B.....	<u>ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISES WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS</u>	91

C. <u>USEFUL INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS</u>	95
PART 13 DOING BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA	98
A.....	
<u>POSSIBILITIES OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</u>	99
B. <u>LEGAL REGULATION OF BUSINESS BY FOREIGNERS</u>	104
C.....	
<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</u>	106
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	107
APPENDIX 1: Holidays and Commemoration days (according to the RA law on Holidays and Commemorative Days	110
APPENDIX 2: DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA	112
APPENDIX 3: Questionnaire for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia	131
APPENDIX 4: Procedure on checking the knowledge of the Armenian language and Constitution of individuals applying for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia	134
APPENDIX 5: Decree of the RA Government on defining the procedure of notifying the authorized body of the RA government of acceptance or acquisition of the citizenship of another country	139
APPENDIX 6: Republic of Armenia Entry Visa State Fees	141
APPENDIX 7: Application-questionnaire for receiving (extending) residence permit in the Republic of Armenia	142
APPENDIX 8: Fees for residence permits	143
APPENDIX 9: list of laws relevant for ARMENIAN citizens living abroad, for dual citizens and foreigners	144

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide knowledge and information for Armenians living abroad, to enable them to participate and contribute to development of their homeland, and to facilitate interaction with their country of origin. Armenians abroad can be broadly classified into three categories: Armenian nationals working abroad (migrant workers and their family members), the Diaspora (foreign nationals of Armenian origin), and Armenians with dual citizenship (citizens of foreign states, who also have Armenian citizenship).

Despite Armenian emigration falling sharply since its peak during 1992-1994, it still remains high. According to the “Study of Returned Migration to Armenia in 2002-2008” conducted by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Advanced Social Technologies of Armenia, the number of emigrants from Armenia between 2002 and 2007 is estimated at 460,000, compared with 760,000 between 1991 and 1998. 90% of all migrants are labour migrants or Armenian citizens working abroad. The majority of labour migrants work in Russia.

There are about ten million Armenians all over the world: seven million of them live in the Diaspora and three million in Armenia. The Armenian Diaspora and Diaspora-related organisations are important factors for the country's development and flow of migration. Both the Armenian Diaspora and the Armenian state authorities acknowledge that the partnership between Diaspora Armenians and Armenians residing in the RA can impact positively on the development of the Republic.

Since 1 October 2008, a new Ministry of Diaspora has been established within the Armenian Government. The Ministry plays an important role in the context of actively cooperating with the Diaspora. Since it formed, various new projects have been developed and implemented by the Ministry aimed at strengthening the Diaspora-homeland partnership.

Every Diaspora is rich with various resources – skills, expertise, contacts, ideas and endless potential. While consciously strengthening relations with the Diaspora, it felt important to develop a handbook for Armenians living abroad, to be used as an easy reference tool for building a relationship with the homeland.

PART 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT

THE REPUBLIC OF

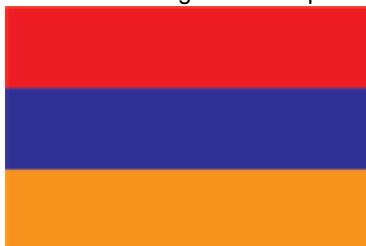
ARMENIA

*“The Republic of Armenia is a sovereign, democratic,
social State governed by the rule of
law”
(The RA Constitution, Article 1)*

Official name:	The Republic of Armenia (RA)
Capital:	Yerevan
Population:	3.2 million
Armenians in foreign countries:	10 million (approx.)
Territory:	29,800 square kilometres
Administrative territorial division:	10 marzes (provinces) and the city of Yerevan
Declaration of Independence:	21 September, 1991
Religion:	Christianity
Language:	Armenian
National currency:	Armenian dram (AMD)

THE FLAG OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The Flag of the Republic of Armenia is tricoloured, with red, blue and orange horizontal equal stripes from top to bottom. The red colour symbolises the Armenian highland, and the constant fight of the Armenian people for longevity, the Christian religion, and the independence and freedom of Armenia. The blue colour symbolises the will of the Armenian people to live peacefully under a blue sky. The orange colour symbolizes the creative talent and diligence of the Armenian people. The ratio of the width and length of the flag is 1:2.



THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The Armenian coat of arms has a shield at its centre. On the shield are depicted Ararat Mount together with Noah's Ark and the coats of arms of the four kingdoms of historical Armenia; top-left the Bagratuni, top-right the Arshakuni, bottom-left the Artashisyan and bottom-right the Rubinyans. The shield is held by an eagle to the left and a lion to the right. Above the shield are a sword, a branch, a bundle of wheat, a chain and a ribbon. The main colour of the Armenian coat of arms is gold. The colours of the kingdoms of historical Armenia are red on the top-left and bottom-right, and blue on the bottom-left and top right. The mount, depicted at the centre of the shield, is orange. These colours symbolise the flag of Armenia.



THE ANTHEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

(The author of the lyrics is poet Mikael Nalbandian
and the composer is BarseghKanachyan)

Our Fatherland, free, independent,
That has lived for centuries,
Is now summoning its sons
To the free, independent Armenia.

Death is the same everywhere,
A man dies but once,
Blessed is the one that dies
For the freedom of his nation

THE STATEHOOD OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The fundamental principles of Armenian statehood are based on the RA constitution, which was adopted on 5 July 1995 by a referendum. The constitutional amendments were adopted on 27 November 2005, also by a referendum, to establish stronger bases for the statehood.

Armenian state power is based on a balanced separation between legislative, executive and judicial powers.

The President of the Republic of Armenia is the head of state and the guarantor of independence, territorial integrity and the security of Armenia. The Armenian President ensures the natural functioning of legislative, executive and judicial powers.

In Armenia, **legislative power** is exercised by the National Assembly. The National Assembly is elected by citizens for a five-year term. It is single-chamber and is comprised of 131 members of parliament.

Executive power in the RA is exercised by the Government, which is comprised of the Prime Minister and other ministers. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President in consultation with the groups within the National Assembly. The ministers are appointed by the President under the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

In Armenia **judicial power** is exercised by the courts. Justice shall be administered only by these courts. The highest judicial power within Armenia is the Court of Cassation. There is also a Constitutional Court, which carries the highest judicial power regarding matters of constitutional justice. The Constitutional Court consists of nine members appointed by the President and the National Assembly.

THE ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

There has been steady economic growth in Armenia since 1998. GDP

growth of 6.8% was recorded in 2008. After ten years of steady economic growth, an economic decline of 14.2% was recorded in 2009, due to world economic crises. However, since 2010 economic recovery was observed. Based on first-term data, 6.2% of economic growth was recorded. The same was observed for 2011.

Rapid economic recovery and steady growth has mostly been stimulated by internal consumption, services and construction, as well as remittances generated by labour emigrants. Armenia is attractive for foreign investment due to several factors, including an educated labour force who are used to low pay, as well as highly developed human resources and information technologies.

In 2011 Armenia was added to the list of countries with a high level of economic freedom. According to the result of the Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation's annual studies, Armenia outpaced France and took the 36th place in the list.

THE ARMENIAN ARMY

The RA army is one of the most efficient armies within the region. It maintains the security of the country. It is recorded in the National Security Strategy Paper and the Strategic Doctrine.

Participation in the defence of the country is a constitutional obligation within Armenia, and every citizen is obliged to serve in the army (see Chapter 6).

The army guarantees the security, defence and territorial integrity of the republic as well as the immunity of its borders.

In political issues the army remains neutral and stays under civilian control.

THE POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

According to the 2001 census the population of Armenia is 3,210,000 people (3,260,000 according to the 2010 annual report). Armenians comprise 96% of the population. The national minorities are Russians, Yezidis, Kurds, Assyrians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Jews, Polish people and others.

The vast majority of Armenians are Orthodox Christians, and the religion has been established since 301. In Armenia the church is separate from the state and it guarantees freedom for all religious organisations. According to the Constitution the state recognises the Armenia Apostolic

Holy Church as the national church and prioritises its unique role within the spiritual life of the Armenian people, as well as the development of its national culture and the preservation of the Armenian identity. Historically the role of the church was vital for the unity of the Armenian people and it continues to strengthen Armenia-Diaspora relations to this day.

DATA AND INFORMATION ABOUT ARMENIA

GDP (2010)	9.3 milliard USD*
GDP per capita (2010)	3.090 USD
Foreign trade turnover (2011)	525.3 million USD
- Export	- 142,9 million USD
- Import	- 382,4 million USD
Main trade partners (2008-2011)	Exporting countries: Belgium, Georgia, Germany, the Netherlands, Israel, Switzerland, USA Importing countries: Russia, China, Ukraine, Germany, Turkey
Inflation (2010)	9.4%
Average monthly nominal wage (2011)	316 USD (114463,0 AMD)
Level of unemployment	7%
Workforce (2011)	64,6 %
Average duration of life	74,1 (men-70,6, women-77,2)
Level of education (2011)	98,6 %

- Average rate:
In 2010: 1 USD = 373.7 AMD
In 2011: January-September 1 USD = 361.7 USD

Sources:

<http://www.president.am>
<http://parliament.am>
<http://www.gov.am>
<http://www.concourt.am>
<http://www.court.am>

<http://www.academy.am>

<http://www.etchmiadzin.com>

<http://armstat.am/am>

<http://www.cba.am>

<http://www.ada.am>

<http://data.worldbank.org>

PART 2

ARMENIA-DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP

"The Republic of Armenia supports the strengthening of its relationship with the Armenian Diaspora"
(RA Constitution, Article 11(2))

The term “Armenian Diaspora” currently refers to Armenian communities that have settled outside Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh (NK). Since the 1920s the Armenian population in countries outside of Armenia has been referred to as “Haykakan Spyurk” (the Armenian Diaspora). More than ten million Armenians reside in different countries around the world, while just over three million live in Armenia and the NK. The largest Armenian communities are in Russia (more than two million), the United States (around 1.5 million) and France (half a million). Significantly large Armenian communities live in Georgia, Iran, Ukraine, Poland, Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, Argentina and Canada. There are smaller Armenian communities in India, New Zealand, Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan and the Philippines.

The priority of the Armenian Diaspora has always been (and continues to be) the preservation of the Armenian identity under the political, economic, and cultural influences of other states. The Armenian Apostolic Holy Church, together with its Diocesan Churches, has historically played a vital role in supporting Diaspora Armenians by helping preserve their national identity and acquiring various rights. Other key players have been pan-Armenian institutions such as the Armenian Revolutionary Federation “Dashnaksutyun”, the Liberal Party “Ramkavar Azatakan”, the Social Democratic “Hunchakyan” Party (SDHP), as well as the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

The multiple challenges faced by Armenia and the Armenians in the 21st century require an improvement in the quality, form and content of the Armenia-Diaspora relationship. The policy for Armenia-Diaspora partnership development, officially launched in 2008, adopted various approaches and solutions aimed at satisfying the needs of various sections of the Armenian population and the communities in different regions. Another goal of the policy was to help Armenians realise their potential within corresponding programmes.

Since the 1991 declaration of Armenian independence, Armenia-Diaspora relations have advanced significantly. The Armenia-Diaspora partnership has developed in various different spheres, notably within Armenia-Diaspora contacts, official diplomacy, Armenian churches, all-Armenian organisations, as well as individuals and organisations in the Diaspora. Armenian churches have been built and reconstructed in

various Armenian communities, thus establishing new dioceses. The creation of the “All-Armenian” Fund was the first step towards improving cooperation between Armenia and the Diaspora. The “Armenia-Diaspora” conferences provided opportunities to discuss the achievements of the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, to evaluate new challenges and to identify new possibilities for the advancement of the Armenian people. Numerous programmes and events were organised and carried out in the spheres of education, culture, science, business and youth affairs.

Since the declaration of Armenian independence, the involvement of Diaspora in the economic life of Armenia has increased alongside the growth of foreign investments in the country. Between 1991 and 2007 the volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Armenia has been USD 3.5bn, of which more than USD 2.9bn was invested after 2000. In 2007 there was an influx of USD 845.4m worth of foreign investments (a growth of 34.6% as compared with 2006). The gross ratio of the FDI to the GDP was 27.2% as of 1 January 2008. Since this date, 3,698 enterprises have been established in Armenia with the participation of foreign capital. Almost 70% of foreign investors that have commenced business activities in Armenia are of Armenian origin, or of other nationalities that have business relations with them. The share of Armenians from the Diaspora within total investments is around 30%. Three countries lead the list in terms of foreign direct investment in Armenia: Russia, the USA and Iran. These are followed by France, Syria and Lebanon. In 2008, due to the world economic and financial crises, the flow of foreign investments initially decreased, but was promptly restored in 2010, thus providing reassurance regarding the country's financial situation.

The investment activities of the Armenian Diaspora have hugely developed the Armenian economy in a wide variety of industries. These include construction, financial services, information technologies, jewellery and diamond cutting, tourism/hotel services, healthcare, agricultural processing and food production, light industry, retail and wholesale trade, recreation and entertainment, industrial manufacturing, machine-tool building, public transport, publishing/print services, legal and consulting services, as well as various small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Ministry of Diaspora has been part of the RA Government since October 1 2008, with the purpose of overseeing the comprehensive and effective implementation of state policy on developing the Armenia-Diaspora partnership, sustaining its continuous improvement, and coordinating it with the activities of other state bodies.

The Ministry of Diaspora is an executive body which, under the jurisdiction of the Armenian President, develops and implements Government policy in various ways. These include strengthening and developing links between Armenia and its Diaspora, revealing the potential of the Diaspora, supporting repatriation, cooperating with the state and non-governmental organisations, and accomplishing activities in other spheres as per its legal obligations. The Ministry also cooperates with diplomatic agencies in promoting Armenia-Diaspora relations.

The purpose of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership is to protect fundamental rights and liberties, including those relating to language, culture, religion, education, the free movement of any Armenian (whether an Armenian citizen or from the Diaspora) within the framework of international law, to preserve the national identity of Armenians and to reinforce links between the homeland and the Diaspora.

The main tasks of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership are:

- a) Strengthening and sustaining Armenian national identity;
- b) Supporting and utilising potential among Diaspora professionals to develop both Armenia and the Diaspora;
- c) Supporting the integration of Armenians in public, political, cultural and economic positions within their places of residence or citizenship, consistent with their Armenian identity;
- d) Sustaining Armenian national identity among Armenians speaking other languages and belonging to other cultures, thus providing a form of repatriation for these individuals;
- e) Developing strategic regional programmes observing each region's own individual needs;
- f) Supporting the formation and development of an all-Armenian media and information network;
- g) Developing programmes that encourage national reunification and repatriation, and supporting the reinforcement of Armenian statehood;
- h) Supporting the consolidation of Armenian communities;
- i) Supporting the development of Armenian educational establishments;
- j) Supporting Armenian research centres and departments in different universities around the world and developing independent programmes of Armenian studies.

For more detailed information see the “Concept on Armenia-Diaspora Partnership Development”, developed by the RA Government and the Ministry of Diaspora, at <http://www.mindiaspora.am/>

The principles behind the development of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership have been formulated in the political programme of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan:

<http://www.president.am/library/program/arm> The main idea is that the combined potential of all Armenians is seen as a competitive advantage for Armenia within today's globalised society.

PART 3

PROGRAMMES OF RETURN, VISIT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR INDIVIDUALS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN

"The Republic of Armenia shall ...contribute to the preservation of Armenian historical and cultural values located in other states, and to the development of the Armenian educational and cultural life"
(RA Constitution, Article 11)

THE “COME HOME” PROGRAMME FOR ORGANISING VISITS OF YOUNG ARMENIAN PEOPLE TO ARMENIA

The “Come Home” programme for organising periodic visits of young Diaspora Armenians to Armenia is one of the top policy priorities within the Ministry of Diaspora. It is an ongoing programme which aims to preserve Armenianness. The programme has been implemented since 2009.

The main goals of the programme are:

- to introduce expatriate Armenian youth to Armenia as their ethnic homeland;
- to support the formation of a sense of homeland among expatriate Armenian youth;
- to enhance national values, build awareness of national identity, and to familiarize Diaspora youth with Armenian traditions, family, and the spirit of the Armenian people;
- to support moral, psychological, educational and cultural discourse between Armenia and the Diaspora.

For a fortnight, Diaspora youth aged 13 to 20 are hosted by Armenian families and spend four additional days in a camp (this camping component was added to the programme in 2011). Visits to historic and cultural institutions, sightseeing places, exhibitions, galleries, museums, higher educational and other scholastic institutions, military units and pan-Armenian organisations are all organised for the youngsters, as well as participation in Armenian youth events, concerts, theatre performances, festivals, meetings and receptions in Yerevan and all over the country. The camp programme includes several educational events, such as homeland studies, national songs and dances, art classes, meetings with famous cultural figures, watching and discussing historical films, as well as several entertainment-based events.

Groups of Diaspora youth are formed and sent to Armenia with the support of diplomatic representations of the RA, in collaboration with communities, schools, all-Armenian organisations and individuals within the Diaspora.

Participants cover their travel costs themselves, or by means of community non-governmental or other organisations and structures, as well as through other funding. Within the framework of the program the RA Ministry of Diaspora, thanks to the state budget, guarantees the participants' arrival and departure, programme event implementation, participants' transportation, meals, photography and videos of events, as well as the supply of various accessories featuring the programme logo, and any other printed and electronic materials.

The “Come Home” programme has been successfully implemented for three years and has already become an established state programme. Its influence spread and it was enthusiastically received throughout the Diaspora. The number of participants increases each year and the area of coverage also expands.

In 2009 the program had 307 participants from 14 countries hosted by families in Armenia. In 2010 there were about 600 participants from 26 countries, and in 2011 there were about 800 participants from 30 countries. This innovative program is still going strong.

**To participate in the programme,
for an application form
and other information please apply to:
the RA Ministry of Diaspora**
Address: 26/1, V. Sargsyan Street, Yerevan, RA
Tel: (+37410) 585601/117/
Fax: (+37410) 589157
E-mail: allarmenian@mindiadspora.am
Web address: <http://www.armeniadiaspura.com/>

PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY “THE ARMENIAN VOLUNTEERS CORPS”

The Armenian Volunteers Corps (AVC) was established in 2000.

The main purpose of this organisation is to utilise the potential of Diaspora Armenians for the development of Armenia.

Through the organisation's various programmes, Diaspora Armenians have the opportunity to live and work in Armenia for a period between one month and a year.

Those who are willing to volunteer can apply to the AVC, for which there are no age restrictions.

The volunteers work in non-governmental organisations, ministries and other institutions where their support is needed.

Different events and educational courses including lessons in the Armenian language, sightseeing tours and so on, are organised for the volunteers.

In Armenia the volunteers are hosted by local Armenian families, where they receive accommodation and food for a small fee.

**To participate in the programme,
for an application form**

and other information apply to:

the “Union of Armenian Volunteers”

Address: 108, build. 62, Hanrapetutyen Street, Yerevan, RA

Tel: (+34710) 540037

E-mail: info@avc.am

Web address: http://www.armenianvolunteer.org/

PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE “DEPI HAYK” ORGANIZATION

The “DepiHayk” benevolent foundation was created in 2004. The main mission of the organization is:

- to familiarize the Armenian Diaspora youth with the Homeland, Armenia;
- to strengthen ties between the youth of the Diaspora and Armenia.

Within the framework of the organisation’s programmes, young Armenians aged between 20 and 32 volunteer for at least two months up to a year, in more than 150 private, state and non-governmental organisations. The young people choose the sphere of activities within which they prefer to be engaged.

In the course of the whole project the participants not only get acquainted with their historic homeland but also acquire professional experience in their chosen field.

The foundation organises different events for the volunteers, including workshops, Armenian language courses, meetings with local youngsters and sightseeing tours.

All costs, including transportation, are covered by the foundation. During the entire programme the volunteers are hosted by Armenian families.

**For programme participation,
application forms and other information apply to:**

“Birthright Armenia” (in the USA)

Address: 333 E. Lancaster Ave #330

Wynnewood, PA 19096-9981

Tel.: 6106426633

E-mail: info@birthrightarmenia.org

Web address: <http://www.birthrightarmenia.org/>

“DepiHayk” (in Armenia)

Address: 37 HanrapetoutyanSt., Yerevan, RA

Tel: (+34710) 540037

E-mail: info@birthrightarmenia.am

Web address: <http://www.birthrightarmenia.org/>

THE “TOKTEN” PROGRAMME

The “Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals” (TOKTEN) is carried out by the United Nations Development Programme in Armenia (UNDP) within the framework of “Global Armenia” initiatives.

The purpose of the programme is to support the social and economic development of Armenia through compatriots living in foreign countries.

Thanks to the programme, experienced Diaspora Armenians have the opportunity to provide technical expertise, policy advice and research services to central and local governmental authorities, public and private companies, universities and research centres, in such industries as environment, education, science, health, public administration, enterprise management and information technologies.

The travel costs and living expenses for programme participants are covered by the UNDP.

Armenian professionals, who have permanent residency or citizenship of a foreign country, can participate in the programme.

**For participation, the application form
and other information apply to:**

Sara Sangoy

Responsible for the UN Volunteer programme

UNDP, Armenia

Tel.: (+34710) 566073 (+ 224)

E-mail: sara.sangoi@undp.org

HovhannesSarajyan

Responsible for Public Relations

UNDP, Armenia

Tel.: (+34710) 566073 (+ 128)

E-mail: hovhannes.sarajyan@undp.org

THE “INCREASING THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ENHANCING THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS” PROJECT

This project has been implemented by the International Labour Organization in the Russian Federation, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia between 2010 and 2012. The project is funded by the European Union. The overall objective of this programme is to increase the protection of migrant workers in the Russian Federation, promote well-managed labour migration in the region and enhance the impact of migration in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To ensure that migrant workers in target areas and sectors in Russia and in countries of origin have access to information on admission rules and procedures, rights and access to trade union services and participation.
- To increase awareness of employers in target areas and sectors in Russia, facilitate recruitment of migrant workers in shortage areas, and improve employment and working conditions of migrants in construction.
- To increase the capacity of governments in both countries of origin and destination (Russia) to effectively govern labour migration and increase cooperation.
- To build the Migration and Development strategy in countries of South Caucasus and to create/strengthen mechanisms for migrants, Diaspora and returnees to contribute to development of their country of origin.
- This handbook has been developed within the framework of this project.

**For additional information, contact:
NuneHovhannisyan**

ILO National Coordinator in Armenia
Tel: (+374 10) 543 972
E-mail: hovhannisyan@ilo.org

THE “SUPPORT MIGRATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RELEVANT CAPACITY BUILDING IN ARMENIA” PROJECT (“TUNDARDZ”)

The programme has been implemented since 2007 through the partnership of the Yerevan office of the British Council in Armenia (<http://britishcouncil.org/arm.htm>), the Migration Agency of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration (<http://smsmta.am>) and the International Centre for Human Development (www.ichd.org) with the support of the European Union.

The programme pursues the following goals:

- preventing illegal migration;
- increasing the efficiency of the return and repatriation processes;
- harmonising the migration policy and legislation in line with the standards and principles of international law.

The website www.backtoarmenia.com has been created within the framework of this programme, enabling Armenians from foreign countries to obtain valuable information on the return and repatriation processes and to receive answers to any related questions via the internet.

**For additional information please refer to
the “Support to Migration Policy Development
and Relevant Capacity Building in Armenia”
Programme manager: Narek Tovmasyan
E-mail: narek.tovmasyan@britishcouncil.am
Web address:
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/armenia-science-society-migration.htm>**

PART 4

LEGAL STATUS OF RA CITIZENS RESIDING IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“Each citizen... has the right to return to the Republic of Armenia.”
(RA Constitution, Article 25 (3))

A. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

All Armenian citizens are equal in their legal status whether they are permanently residing outside or within the territory of the RA. They have the same rights, liabilities and responsibilities as any other citizens of the RA.

1. Restrictions upon election rights (the elective franchise), being elected, and participating in national referenda

According to the new Electoral Law adopted in May 2011, elections are only held in the territory of the RA. Therefore Armenian citizens permanently or temporarily residing in foreign countries do not participate in the elections, unless they fall into these categories:

- RA citizens residing outside of Armenia who are on diplomatic service on the day of elections, as well as members of their families who have the right to vote;
- Legal persons registered in the RA (irrespective of the form of ownership), as well as representatives overseas and any family members residing with them abroad having the right to vote.

The above-mentioned individuals may participate in national elections by voting electronically. The electronic voting procedure is overseen by the Central Electoral Commission.¹ The Central Electoral Committee must guarantee the free expression of the will of voters and the confidentiality of electronic voting.

An Armenian citizen can only nominate a candidate for an elective office if the nominee permanently resides in the RA.

According to the Armenian Referendum law, the rights of citizens residing outside the RA to participate in the Referendum are restricted.

IMPORTANT NOTE

For additional information, please refer to the official website of the RA

¹The procedure is not yet prescribed by the RA Central Electoral Committee.

Central Electoral Committee www.elections.am

2. Registration in foreign countries

According to the State Registration of Population law, any Armenian citizen who leaves the RA for more than six months, or an RA citizen who resides in a foreign country for a period of more than six months, must inform the corresponding consular service or diplomatic representation of the RA in writing. (For a list of these diplomatic missions and consular services, see Appendix 2.)

An RA citizen who has changed their permanent residence has to apply to the diplomatic representation or consul service for registration with the following documents:

- Application for consular registration,
- Questionnaire on consular registration,
- Passport,
- One photo (35×45mm);
- Document proving permanent resident status in the foreign country.

The corresponding diplomatic mission or consular service may post a note in the Armenian citizen's passport about their permanent residence status in a foreign country.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Information regarding application forms, registration fees and so on may be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website (www.mfa.am) as well as on the official website of the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police (<http://www.passportvisa.am>).

3. The obligation to participate in the defence of the Republic of Armenia

Regardless of their place of permanent residence, RA citizens must participate in the defence of the homeland, in accordance with the law (see Part 6 of this handbook).

4. The obligation to have an Armenian passport

All citizens of the RA older than 16 must carry an Armenian passport, regardless of place of residence.

In foreign states RA passports are distributed by Armenian diplomatic representations or consular services .

5. Penalties for avoiding participation in the defence of the homeland, for violating the rules of registration, and for residing without a passport

According to the RA Criminal Code it is illegal to avoid military or alternative service, the sequential call-ups, call-ups for training or manoeuvres, and such avoidance may result in detention. The grounds for exemption from these duties are in accordance with legislation of the RA (see Part 6 of this handbook).

Administrative penalties are prescribed in accordance with the RA Code on Administrative Violations:

- for residing without a passport or without a registration,
- for not informing the RA corresponding diplomatic representation or consular service about his/her permanent address when an Armenian citizen leaves the territory of the RA for a period of more than six months or a citizen of the RA resides in a foreign country for a period of more than six months (also applicable if the citizen was born outside of the territory of the RA).

In both cases violations give rise to an administrative warning or a financial penalty of between 50% and 100% of the whole minimum salary².

In accordance with the RA Citizenship Law, a person can lose RA citizenship if they, while permanently residing in foreign countries for a period of seven years, have not registered at the consulate without any reasonable excuse.

² In this context the size of the minimum salary is assumed to be 1,000 AMD.

B. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN, IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1. The legal status of foreigners in Armenia

According to the RA Law on Foreigners, foreign people shall have equal rights, freedoms and responsibilities to Armenian citizens, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution, laws and international treaties of the RA.

Foreigners have rights for possessing property, for engaging in labour activities, for entrepreneurial activities, for education and various other rights. In certain cases provided by law, foreigners may have the right to vote. In the RA, foreigners shall be obliged to respect the RA Constitution and laws, other legal acts, national customs and traditions.

As well as protecting their own rights, foreigners are entitled to all the rights of RA citizens, as well as enjoying the diplomatic protection of the state of their citizenship.

In the territory of Armenia, foreigners shall bear equal liability to Armenian citizens, except for cases provided for by international treaties.

In case of transit through the territory of Armenia foreigners shall submit tickets to the third country and/or the entry visa for the third country and may stay in the territory of the RA for no more than 72 hours, except for emergency cases.

If a foreigner is in a transit zone and will not enter the territory of the RA, he or she may stay in the transit zone for no more than 48 hours, except for emergency cases.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Foreigners do not have the following rights:

- entering the territory of Armenia without a visa;
- electing and being elected³;
- voting in general referenda;

³ There is one exception to this rule: in accordance with the Electoral Code of the RA foreigners and individuals with no citizenship are also entitled to participate in the elections of local self-government bodies (head of the community and member of the community council), provided they have been registered as residents in that community for at least six months.

- entering public service;
- establishing and/or joining political parties;
- exercising the right of land ownership.

2. The legal status of foreigners of Armenian origin in Armenia

The legal status of foreigners of Armenian origin is different from the legal status of other foreigners in the following manner:

- Special temporary and permanent residence permits can be given to foreigners of Armenian origin (see Part 4).
- Foreigners of Armenian origin can acquire Armenian citizenship through a simplified procedure (see Part 5).

An individual that has been given a special residence permit is given a special type of passport for a term of ten years, which gives him/her the right:

- to travel to Armenia without an entry visa;
- to own land.

C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What documents must be presented in order to acquire a passport?

In order to acquire a passport, Armenian citizens must present the following documents:

- a) a completed application form (in foreign countries the application form is provided by the RA diplomatic representations or consular services);
- b) a birth certificate, for those individuals acquiring a passport or any other identity cards before the age of 16, in case the person is unable to present the documents listed in this clause;
- c) twocolour photos (35 x 45mm);
- d) the written agreement of the parent(s) or the legal representative of the parents (for individuals under 16 receiving a passport). If the parent or the legal representative cannot be personally present to hand in his/her agreement, then his/her signature must be attested by a notary;
- e) a military identity card or call-up card (for citizens liable for military service) (See Part 6).

2. How can the passport of an RA citizen be recovered if it has been lost or claimed as invalid in a foreign state?

An Armenian citizen whose passport has been invalidated or lost while being in a foreign state should apply to the RA diplomatic representation or the consular service in the foreign state, in order to replace their passport.

In cases where there is no diplomatic representation or consular service of the RA in that given state, the citizen can apply to the Armenian consulate situated in the nearest neighbouring country.

3. Who can invite a foreigner to visit the RA?

An invitation to a foreigner to visit Armenia can be given by:

- An Armenian citizen living in the RA;
- A foreigner having residency status in the RA;
- Legal persons registered in the RA;
- RA state agencies, local self-governing bodies, Embassies, consular services and international organisations (and their representations) accredited in the RA.

PART 5

ACQUIRING THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“Armenians by birth shall acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia through a simplified procedure.”
(RA Constitution, article 11.3(2))

A. RECOGNITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

All RA citizens are equal before the law, irrespective of the basis of their acquisition of RA citizenship, nationality and whether or not they are citizens of another country.

According to the “On Citizenship” law, one basis for acquisition of citizenship is the recognition of RA citizenship.

The following individuals are recognised as citizens of Armenia:

- Citizens of the former Armenian SSR permanently residing within the territory of the RA, who prior to enactment of the Constitution (13 July 1995) had not acquired the citizenship of another State or have not renounced RA citizenship more than one year after the date of the enactment of this Law (from 28 November 1995 to 28 November 1996);
- Stateless persons or former citizens of other USSR republics who are not foreign citizens and who permanently reside in the RA and have applied for the acquisition of RA citizenship before 31 December 2012;
- Former citizens of the Armenian SSR, who live outside the RA and have not acquired citizenship of another country.

B. ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA BY INDIVIDUALS OF ARMENIAN ORIGIN

Any non-RA citizen aged 18 years or above and capable of working may apply to for RA citizenship if he/she:

- a) has been lawfully residing in the territory of Armenia for the preceding 3 years,
- b) is proficient in the Armenian language,
- c) is familiar with the Constitution of Armenia.

Armenian nationals can acquire RA citizenship without meeting the above mentioned three requirements. Individuals who marry a citizen of the RA or have a child who holds RA citizenship can acquire RA

citizenship by mere familiarity with the RA Constitution, which is tested through a special examination (see Appendix 4).

The identification document for RA citizens is the Armenian passport.

IMPORTANT NOTE

At present the passport serves as a travel document and as an identification document within the country. From January 2012 those functions will be carried out by a new electronic passport featuring biometric data and an electronic identification card. Any RA citizen 16 years of age will have an electronic identification card, which will replace the present passport and be valid in the RA territory. The electronic passport will serve as a travel document for the RA citizens travelling outside of Armenia. For additional information please visit the official website of the e-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit CJSC <http://www.ekeng.am>

1. Procedures and conditions for presenting documents for RA citizenship acquisition.

In order to acquire RA citizenship an individual must present their documents to the following institutions:

- In Armenia: Passport and Visas Department of the RA Police;
- In foreign countries: RA diplomatic and consular representations.

In order to acquire RA citizenship, any non-RA citizen 18 years of age and capable of working, who has been lawfully residing within the Republic of Armenia for the preceding three years, is proficient in the Armenian language and familiar with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, should submit the following documents in person:

- application form,
- passport and copy thereof,
- six 35x45mm colour photos,
- health certificate,
- document certifying payment of the state fee.

A simplified procedure for acquiring Armenian citizenship, for individuals not permanently residing in the RA for the preceding three years and not having knowledge of the Armenian language, is as follows for the undernoted cases:

- 1. An individual who has married a citizen of the RA or has a child who is a citizen of the RA should submit the following documents in person:**
 - a. application form,
 - b. six 35x45mm colour photos,
 - c. birth certificate and copy thereof,
 - d. certificate of marriage and copy thereof,
 - e. spouse's passport and copy thereof, or a certificate proving the spouse's citizenship,
 - f. birth certificate of the child (or the passport of the RA citizen, or a document certifying citizenship) and copy thereof,
 - g. document certifying payment of the state fee.
- 2. An individual, whose parent(s) previously held RA citizenship or was born in the RA, and who acquired citizenship within three years after turning 18, should submit the following documents in person:**
 - a. application form,
 - b. passport and copy thereof,
 - c. six 35x45mm colour photos,
 - d. birth certificate and copy thereof,
 - e. document certifying payment of the state fee.
- 3. An individual of Armenian origin should submit the following documents in person:**
 - a. application form,
 - b. passport and copy thereof,
 - c. six 35x45mm colour photos,
 - d. birth certificate and copy thereof,
 - e. document certifying Armenian origin, e.g. the birth certificate (or copy thereof) or document certifying nationality of a parent, grandparent or sibling.
 - f. document certifying payment of the state fee.
- 4. An individual who acquired RA citizenship after 1 January 1995 should submit the following documents in person:**
 - a. application form,
 - b. passport and copy thereof,
 - c. six 35x45mm colour photos,
 - d. birth certificate and copy thereof,
 - e. document certifying payment of the state fee.

When submitting the aforementioned documents the person must also fill in a questionnaire (see Appendix 3).

Within ten days of receiving the documents the embassy or consular service makes an appointment to examine the applicant's knowledge on the RA Constitution. If the list of submitted documents is incomplete, the Embassy or Consular representation invites the individual to submit the missing documents within five working days. If the Constitution test results are positive, the Embassy or Consular representation sends the relevant documents, test results and conclusions to the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs within ten days.

Within five days of receiving the documents, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs forwards them to the RA Police, who in turn sends the documents to the National Security Service of the Government within ten days.

Within 15 days of receiving the documents, the National Security Service gives its conclusion.

Within a month of receiving the documents and the NSS's conclusion, the Police prepares its report and submits this to the Staff of the RA President.

If the application is successful, RA citizenship is granted to the applicant by the decree of the RA President.

The application is rejected if the applicant is deemed to be a threat to the state or public security, public order, public health and morals, or the rights and liberties, honour and good reputation of other citizens.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Each individual acquiring RA citizenship submits his/her application to the Passport and Visa Department of the Police in person. Documents written in foreign languages must be presented together with notarised Armenian translations.

For additional information please refer to the official website of the Passport and Visas Department of the RA Police:
<http://passportvisa.am>

C. DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Based on Constitutional amendments in 2005, an RA citizen can also be a citizen of another state or states (RA dual citizen). According to the RA law "On Citizenship";

- A person who holds citizenship of other countries in addition to RA citizenship shall be deemed a dual citizen of the RA.
- For the Republic of Armenia, a dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia shall be recognized **only as an RA citizen**. This provision extends also to those who, after 1 January 1995, without renouncing RA Citizenship as required by the law;
 1. accepted or were granted citizenship of another country, or
 2. renounced their RA citizenship unilaterally.
- A dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia has the same rights, responsibilities and obligations as other RA citizens, except where prescribed by international treaties and Armenian law.
- An RA citizen, upon accepting or receiving citizenship of another country, must inform the Passport and Visa Department or a regional department of the Police, or the Embassy or Consular representation of a foreign country (see Appendix 5). Failure to inform the relevant authorities shall result in a 50,000 AMD fine.

Individuals of Armenian origin must submit all documents listed in Paragraph B of this section in order to acquire dual citizenship.

Dual citizens of the RA receive the same kind of passport as other Armenian citizens.

1. Peculiarities of legal status of the RA dual citizen

As a general rule the RA dual citizen has all the rights prescribed to normal Armenian citizens and bears all responsibilities and liabilities so prescribed. At the same time the status of a dual citizen has certain legal limitations:

- An RA dual citizen cannot be elected the President of Armenia or a deputy of the RA National Assembly. They cannot be a member of the RA Constitutional Court, the RA Ombudsman or the Mayor of Yerevan. They cannot hold a position in the RA national security bodies, or high-ranking positions in the RA Police;
- a criminal penalty is prescribed for not informing the RA Government about acquiring or receiving citizenship of another

- state within the terms prescribed by the law (see Appendix 5);
- the RA dual citizen is not exempt from compulsory military service if before acquiring citizenship of another state he/she used to be a citizen of the RA (see Part 6)

RA dual citizens residing outside of Armenia do not participate in RA elections. They can participate in elections only if they are on diplomatic service outside of the Armenian territory (or they are related to a diplomat) or are employed by foreign subsidiaries of Armenian legal entities (see Part 4).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Certain countries prohibit dual citizenship (or do not accept citizenship of all the states). Citizens of those states, by accepting citizenship of a different state (including the RA), automatically lose the former citizenship. Thus, citizens of other states who want to become RA citizens or RA citizens who want to become citizens of other states need to be familiar with the legislation on citizenship of the given state.

D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How is the issue of citizenship of spouses regulated?

Marriage of an Armenian citizen to a foreigner does not automatically entitle either spouse to change their citizenship. The change of citizenship of one spouse does not entitle the other to change their citizenship. However, the above-mentioned circumstances may become the basis for changing citizenship.

2. How is the citizenship of a child determined?

A child whose parents are RA citizens at the moment of his birth, regardless of the place of birth, acquires RA citizenship.

When one of the child's parents is a citizen of the RA at the moment of his birth while the other parent is unknown or a person without citizenship the child acquires RA citizenship.

In cases when one of the child's parents, at the moment of his birth, is a citizen of the RA, and the other one is a foreign citizen, the citizenship of the child is determined via written agreement from the parents. In the absence of such an agreement the child acquires RA citizenship if:

- he/she was born in the RA; or
- he/she would become a person without citizenship if he/she does not acquire RA citizenship; or
- the parents of the child are permanently residing in Armenia.

3. Who grants Armenian citizenship?

Armenian citizenship is granted by the RA President.

4. Can RA citizenship be terminated if an individual decided to reside permanently in another state?

Residing outside of the RA (including permanent residency) does not automatically result in termination of the RA citizenship. The law also guarantees that RA citizens residing outside the country are protected under the patronage of the RA.

PART 6

MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

*"Every citizen shall be obliged to take part,
as prescribed by law, in the defence
of the Republic of Armenia".
(RA Constitution, Article 46)*

A. REGULATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

According to the Constitution every citizen shall participate in the defence of the RA, as prescribed by law. This regulation is covered by the following laws: "Military Service", "Doing Military Service" and "Alternative Military Service".

1. Military service and citizens liable for military service

Military service is the constitutional duty of RA citizens to participate in the defence of the Republic of Armenia.

Military service for citizens consists of the following stages:

- registration for military service,
- preparation for military service,
- conscription into military service,
- doing military service.

The conscriptees are:

- male citizens of pre-conscription age (16-18),
- male citizens of conscription age (18-27), and
- female citizens of military professions, or those who have served in the military.

2. Military registration of citizens

Military registration is the state system for analysing public resources for military conscription, training and manoeuvres for citizens of pre-military (16-18), military (18-27) and military reserve age.

Military registration of pre-conscription age citizens is called military pre-conscription. Male citizens who turn 16 during the course of the given year are liable for pre-conscription. Pre-conscription is undertaken by committees of military commissariats between January and June of the relevant year.

Military pre-conscription of citizens living in foreign countries for a period

longer than a month is undertaken by RA diplomatic and consular representations.

For military registration RA citizens must present themselves at their resident military commissariats (or in the place of their actual RA residence, for those who are not registered with a commissariat). Armenian citizens living in foreign countries should register at the relevant RA diplomatic or consular representation for their location.

Armenian citizens, wherever they reside, shall after turning 18 present themselves for registration at the military commissariat of their residence (or actual place of residence, for those who are not registered with a commissariat), for compulsory military service conscription (or deferment thereof) as prescribed by law. Failure to present oneself at the military commissariat is considered evading compulsory military service and is subject to legal penalties, including the initiation of a criminal case, investigation, etc.

Conscriptees who change their place of residence shall present themselves for registration at the corresponding military commissariat (or diplomatic/consular representation) within seven days of registering at a new place of residence (those not registered with a commissariat should register at the actual new place of residence).

RA citizens who leave for a foreign country for permanent residency shall present themselves at the military commissariat of their residency (those who are not registered – at a place of their actual residency) and sign a letter of commitment at the relevant RA diplomatic or consular representation in the relevant country.

The conscripts shall inform the military commissariat (or diplomatic/consular representation) within seven days, about any changes in their marital status, residential status, educational institution, workplace or employment position.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Before December 2009 Armenian citizens liable for military service, who departed for permanent residency in foreign countries, could opt out of military registration via a permit from the special interagency committee as prescribed by legislation. According to changes introduced in the "Military Service" law of December 2009, and the May 2010 governmental order entitled "Military Registration of the RA Citizens", RA citizens liable for military service are no longer allowed to opt out from military registration.

3. Preparation for military service

Public schools and secondary vocational educational institutions are primarily responsible for the preparation for military service. According to the Government order, these schools organise and carry out pre-conscription preparations.

4. Conscription for compulsory military service

Conscription is the recruitment during peacetime of citizens liable for military service.

Citizens **liable** for compulsory military service are:

- RA male citizens aged 18 to 27,
- the first group of reserve officers, aged below 35 (e.g. an RA citizen who is a professional doctor and carries the military rank "lieutenant of health services").

RA citizens who are involved in post-graduate studies in foreign countries, by request of the State Educational System and within the framework of interstate and interagency agreements, as well as students of the Armenian Judicial School, are exempt from compulsory military service. If the aforementioned citizens graduate after the age of 27, they are called for compulsory military service during the first conscription after their graduation (if they have not defended the thesis or become involved in professional, academic and pedagogical activities).

In all cases, citizens liable for military service are those who after passing a health examination are deemed fit for military service during peacetime. The list of diseases affecting eligibility for military service is prescribed by order N175 of the Minister of Defence dated 26 February 2010.

The following citizens are **not liable** for military service:

- citizens under investigation or trial,
- citizens who have previously been sentenced to prison for a grave offence or twice for a crime of forethought, and who have been in prison for at least three years, etc.,
- citizens who have committed a crime included in the list approved by the Minister of Defence or Prosecutor General.

The draft and discharge of conscriptees is handled according to the decree of the Armenian President, twice a year in April-June and October-December.

The conscription and discharge of reserve officers is in accordance with

the decree of the RA President, and takes place once a year within the timeframe prescribed by this decree.

5. Exemption and temporary exemption from compulsory military service

The following citizens are **exempt** from compulsory military service:

- Citizens who are recognized by the Republican Military Draft Commission as being unfit for compulsory military service due to health conditions and are withdrawn from the military register;
- Citizens whose parent(s) or sibling(s) were killed during active defence of the RA or whilst serving in the armed forces or other military organisations, and who are the only other male of the family;
- Citizens who are exempt according to a decision of the Government;
- Citizens who, before acquiring RA citizenship, have undergone compulsory military service in the forces of another state;
- Citizens who have a scientific degree (Candidate of Sciences or Doctor of Sciences) and are involved in professional, research or scientific activities.

Temporary exemption from compulsory military service is given:

- due to marital status or a particular situation in the family;
- to citizens who wish to continue their education;
- due to certain health conditions;
- certain other bases.

Temporary exemption from compulsory military service due to marital status is given to a conscriptee who:

- has a disabled father and mother, or a single disabled parent⁴, where the parents do not have another able-bodied son who is a citizen of the RA and is not in military service himself;
- has a child who has grown up without a mother;
- has two or more children;
- has a disabled wife within the first or second group of disability;
- has a younger natural sister or brother who is under the age of

⁴Disabled parents are a mother and father who have reached the retirement age, or fall within the first group of disability, or have been recognised as disabled via a court decision.

- 18 and in the first or second group of disability, or is recognised as disabled by a court decision, where there is no other able-bodied member of the family living with her/him;
- has a wife who is six months pregnant with a second child (or twins);
- was adopted less than five years before reaching conscription age, or whose parents have divorced less than five years before reaching conscription age and at least one of the aforementioned requirements are met (e.g. has a single disabled father).

A temporary exemption from compulsory military service due to marital status can also be given in certain cases not listed above (in certain cases not provided by law).

Temporary exemption from compulsory military service for continuing education is given to:

- regular students of state higher educational establishments (including clinical medical studies, medical internships, and Master's programmes) as well as regular students of certain secondary vocational educational establishments, which are included in the Government-approved list;
- post-graduate students of public academic institutions who are on state fellowships;
- students, including those in clinical medical studies, medical internships, Master's programs and post-graduate studies, who are enrolled in higher educational establishments in foreign states, through international and interagency agreements and via state fellowship;
- students of the RA Judicial School;
- students of primary vocational educational programmes, via secondary and higher education, younger than nineteen, providing they submit a certificate from the head of the institution to the military commissariat.

Temporary exemption from compulsory military service for health conditions can be given to citizens in two categories:

- those in need of medical treatment,
- those who are temporarily unfit for military service.

Temporary exemption from compulsory military service is given to conscriptees who are in need of medical treatment three times during a period of up to one year. After the third period of temporary exemption

expires, the conscript, following the result of medical examination, is either;

- recognised as fit for military service via the medical commission and is therefore drafted to military service,
- recognised unfit for military service in peacetime and is registered in reserve, or
- recognised unfit for military service ever and withdrawn from the military register.

Conscriptees that are recognised as being temporarily unfit for compulsory military service are given a one-time military deferment for a period of three years. After the expiration of this deferment the conscriptee, following the result of medical examination, is either;

- recognised as unfit for military service via the medical commission,
- recognised unfit for military service in peacetime and is registered in reserve, or
- recognised unfit for military service and withdrawn from the military register.

Conscriptees who received temporary exemption from compulsory military service due to involvement in Judicial School or post-graduate programmes and having graduated after the age of 27 can receive one-time exemption for medical treatment for a period of six months, or can be considered temporarily unfit for compulsory military service for a period up to one year.

6. Military Service

Military service in RA forces is a special type of state service.

Military service may be one of two types:

- active military service,
- reserve military service.

Active military service may be one of two types:

- compulsory military service,
- contracting military service.

7. Being in Reserve

Citizens released to reserve military forces shall present themselves for registration at the military commissariat at the place of their residence (or

at their actual place of residence if not registered with the commissariat).

8. Military service of dual citizens

Those with dual citizenship shall participate in the defence of their homeland as prescribed by the RA Constitution. They can be called up either for compulsory military service or for voluntary military service on a contractual basis.

The above mentioned also applies to citizens who, after 1 January 1995 have renounced RA citizenship and have adopted or received citizenship of another state without meeting the requirements of the prescribed order, as well as to individuals who have unilaterally renounced RA citizenship.

9. Compulsory military service of dual citizens

A citizen of another state who acquires RA citizenship is exempt from compulsory military service, if before acquiring RA citizenship;

- they have served in the military forces of another state for not less than one year, or
- they have served for at least 18 months in the alternative military service of another state, with the exception of those states as defined by the Armenian Government⁵.

If the Armenian citizen has acquired citizenship of another state he is not automatically exempt from compulsory military service, regardless of whether or not he served in the military forces of that state.

A dual citizen is not exempt from conscriptions and military trainings.

10. Additional information

During conscription for compulsory military service the privilege of serving in a military unit located close to the conscriptee's place of residence is given to;

- the only child of a single parent who is on a retirement pension or has a second-group disability,
- conscriptees whose parent(s) or sibling(s) died during duty in the RA borderline military and other forces, and the military units of foreign states located in Armenia, within the framework of RA international agreements.

⁵ This list has not yet been determined by the Government of the RA.

- conscriptees who are married with one child,
- conscriptees who lost one or both parents,
- otherconscriptees, as prescribed by the decree of the Minister of Defence.

A military unit is considered to be close to the conscriptee's place of residence if it is located within 100 kms of that place of residence.

If two brothers are serving in the military they may be called up at the same time, if they so wish.

B. ALTERNATIVE MILITARY SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Armenian citizens can also participate in RA defence by undergoing alternative military service. According to the "Alternative Military Service" law, this applies to citizens whose religious beliefs are contrary to passing military service in military departments, or carrying, keeping and using arms during military service.

The types and terms for alternative military service are as follows:

- an alternative military service term lasts for 36 months,
- an alternative labour service term lasts for 42 months.

Alternative military service takes place in separate military units of the Ministry of Defence, during residence before the ordinary draft on 1 March or 1 September.

Citizens who carry out alternative labour service outside RA military forces can do so within the departments of the Ministry of Health or Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

To participate in alternative military service a citizen shall submit an application to the relevant military commissariat. Those on alternative military service are not allowed to carry, keep or use arms, as prescribed by law.

It is a legal requirement that citizens who undergo alternative military service cannot be appointed to public positions where they need to carry, keep or use arms.

C. CONDITIONS FOR EXEMPTING CITIZENS HAVING NOT DONE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE BY BREACHING THE PRESCRIBED PROCEDURE

The law regarding citizens not having done compulsory military service by breaching the prescribed procedure was adopted on 17 December 2003. The main purpose of this law is to exempt from criminal liability those citizens who have not done compulsory military service in the period between the 1992 autumn conscription and 1 May 2009. The law instead prescribes the payment of mandatory fees, provides these citizens with servicemen's cards and transfers them to the reserve forces.

1. The domain of the law

The provisions of the law protect two groups of people:

- all those who reached the age of 27 (or 35 for reserve officers) before 1 May 2011 and have not undergone compulsory military service due to breaching the prescribed procedure (evaded military service),
- all those who did not reach the age of 27 (or 35 for reserve officers), and have, before 1 May 2011, established basis for deferment or temporary exemption from military service (e.g. due to Candidate of Sciences, Doctor of Sciences, two children, etc.).

Not carrying out military service is equivalent to evading it regardless of whether the person has been registered with the military, whether or not he has received the notification from the military commissariat, etc.

2. Mandatory fees

Citizens who have not undergone compulsory military service, commencing from the moment of not presenting themselves at the compulsory draft, are liable for penalties for each evaded call-up as follows:

Cases of evasion from compulsory military service	Fees to be paid for each evaded call-up by a citizen, for exemption from compulsory military service (in AMD)
1. Citizen has reached the age of 27 and, without qualifying for an exemption, has not undergone compulsory military service.	100.000
2. Citizen liable for conscription has not undergone compulsory military service but has later been found to have established grounds for exemption from compulsory military service, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the citizen has been recognized by the Republican Military Conscription Commission as not liable for military service due to health conditions and has been withdrawn from military registration; 2) the citizen whose parent(s); or natural sibling(s) has died during the course of defence of the Republic of Armenia or while serving in military forces of the RA, where he is the only male offspring of the family. (This exemption applies irrespective of age.) 3) the citizen has a scientific degree (Candidate of Sciences or Doctor of Sciences) and is involved in professional scientific activities. 	30,000 0 50.000

<p>3. Citizen liable for conscription has not undergone compulsory military service and has acquired a temporary exemption from military service with the purpose of continuing his education.</p>	50.000
<p>4. The citizen has not undergone compulsory military service but has later established basis for temporary exemption from military service by virtue of his marital status, and:</p> <p>1) has both disabled parents, or a single disabled parent who do not have another able-bodied son, who is a citizen of the RA and is not on military service himself. Disabled parents are defined as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a father and mother of retirement age having the right to receive a senior citizen pension, - a father and mother with a first or second group disability, - a father and mother who have been recognised as disabled via a court decision); <p>2) has a child who is growing up without a mother;</p> <p>3) has two children;</p> <p>4) has a wife with a first or second group disability;</p> <p>5) has a natural sibling with a first or second group disability or who has been recognised as disabled via a court decision, where there is no other able-bodied member of the family that lives with him/her;</p>	30.000

6) has a wife that is pregnant with a second child or with twins, or is in the sixth month of pregnancy; 7) has the right to a temporary exemption due to other family reasons that are not stated in the law.	
5. Citizen liable for military conscription, who did not undergo compulsory military service by age 27 but later became a father of three or more children, or a father of two children growing up without their mother.	0
6. Citizen liable for military conscription who did not undergo compulsory military service but later acquired reasonable grounds for exemption due to health conditions.	30.000

3. Procedure and timetable for submitting and discussing applications for exemptions from military service

A citizen residing in a foreign country can submit their exemption application to the Armenian diplomatic or consular representation, or via their representative (a parent or otherwise authorised person).

The application form is provided by the military commissariat and the following documents need to be attached:

- a) copies of the birth certificate and passport,
- b) certificate confirming registration at the place of residence,
- c) certificate confirming information regarding family members,
- d) proof of basis allowing exemption or temporary exemption from compulsory military service.

Application processing and response time cannot exceed two months.

In the event of a negative decision or rejection of the application, the applicant will receive a notification justifying the rejection.

In the event of a successful application the applicant will receive a notification containing bank account information to which they must make their payment as prescribed by law. These documents also include the deadline for this payment, as well as information regarding submission of the corresponding receipt. If the payment is not made within the timeframe indicated in the notice, it will not be accepted.

If the candidate disagrees with the application response, they are entitled to appeal against the court decision within one month of receiving the notice, in accordance with the law.

4. Making the payment

After receiving the response to their application, the candidate should make payment within ten days via a bank transfer. The payment is made into the bank account opened for this purpose by the Ministry of Defence and the funds go towards the military costs of the Republic.

5. Suspension of criminal prosecution and registration in the reserve

Within one month of making the payment the citizen receives the decision on the suspension of the criminal prosecution, from the relevant body.

The citizen receives a serviceman's card and becomes registered in the reserve. Their status is equivalent others liable for military service and registered in the reserve.

**For additional information please refer
to the RA Military Commissariat**

Address: 6 Babayan, Yerevan 0037, RA

Tel: (+37410)201308, or

Public Board of the RA Ministry of Defence

Address: Moskovian 5, Yerevan 0001, RA

Tel: (+37410)523486, 523482

Official website of the RA Ministry of Defence: <http://www.mil.am>

D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What should a citizen of the RA do if he is not called up for military service?

An Armenian citizen between the ages of 18 and 27 should present himself on his own initiative at the military commissariat for his place of residence, to seek clarification for not being conscripted into military service. Inaction is treated as evasion of military service.

2. What should a citizen of the RA do if he has reached the age of 18 and does not have a passport?

An Armenian citizen must present himself for military registration at the military commissariat of the place of his residence (or his actual place of residence if he isn't registered with a commissariat) or to a diplomatic or consular representative. A citizen can then receive a passport on the basis of a certificate for military registration.

3. What should a citizen of the RA do if he has evaded the compulsory military service and has not reached the age of 27, and if a criminal prosecution is initiated against him?

A citizen should present himself at the military commissariat of the place of his residence (or the actual place of his residence if not registered with a commissariat) or to a law-enforcement body. The military commissariat or the law-enforcement body will then assess whether the conscriptee is fit or unfit for military service and will present him to the conscription commission. If the commission takes a decision to call up the citizen then the law-enforcing body halts the criminal prosecution and the citizen is called up to the army without any negative legal consequence.

In the event of a citizen below the age of 27 having evaded compulsory military service and acquiring before 1 May 2011 a reason for exemption from military service (e.g. a Doctor of Sciences degree or the birth of a second child), he is entitled to pay certain fees to the state budget, as prescribed by law, and the criminal prosecution against him will be stopped. He will be registered into the reserve of the Armenian armed forces and receive a serviceman's card (see paragraph C of this part).

4. Can a citizen of the RA who has evaded compulsory military service make necessary payments to the state budget through a mediator, without returning to Armenia?

Yes, a citizen who has evaded military service can delegate any person

with a notary certificate to represent him at the state and local self-government bodies. This representative can submit the citizen's applications as well as make the necessary state payments. Furthermore, the representative is entitled to collect his serviceman's card for him. A parent, an adopted parent or a guardian of a citizen who has evaded military service can represent him without any notary certificate. However, a notary certificate would be necessary to receive the serviceman's card. In this way, an Armenian citizen who has evaded military service is not required to return to the RA. He can return after the criminal prosecution has stopped, to be taken for military registration and to receive his serviceman's card through a mediator.

5. Can a citizen of the RA make a payment to the state budget and be exempt from the compulsory military service?

RA legislation does not provide any basis to be exempt from compulsory military service by making a payment to the state budget. Any male RA citizen who is aged 18 is obliged to serve in the army as legally prescribed.

PART 7

ENTERING, STAYING AND RESIDING IN AND EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“Everyone lawfully staying within the Republic of Armenia shall have the right to move freely and choose a place of residence within the territory of the Republic of Armenia”
(RA Constitution, Article 25(1))

A. ENTERING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Foreigners must enter Armenia through designated state border crossing points, whilst in possession of valid passports and with the permission of the border authorities of the national security service, on the basis of;

- an entry visa, or
- a residence permit (see paragraph B of this part).

Foreigners under the age of 18 may enter the RA with their legal representative (a parent, adopter or guardian) or an attendant. They may also enter alone, if they come to the Republic of Armenia to visit their parent(s) or another legal representative.

The citizens of the following states can enter the RA without an entry visa:

1. Russian Federation
2. Ukraine
3. Belarus
4. Georgia
5. Uzbekistan
6. Tajikistan
7. Kyrgyzstan
8. Kazakhstan
9. Moldova

The citizens of these nine states can stay in the territory of the RA for a maximum term of 180 days within a period of one year. If they wish to stay longer, they must apply for a residence permit (see paragraph B of this part).

1. Types of entry visa

The types of entry visa are:

- a visitor entry visa (V);
- an official entry visa (O);
- a diplomatic entry visa (D);
- a transit entry visa (Tr).

The visitor entry visa⁶entitles foreigners to enter and stay in Armenia for a period of up to 120 days. The term of stay may be extended under certain circumstances.

The visiting entry visa is given for the purpose of tourism, visiting relatives and friends, business or other professional interests, medical treatment or certain other reasons for a short-term stay.

2. Issuing an entry visa

An entry visa is issued:

- by the RA diplomatic or consular representations in foreign countries;
- at the RA state border crossing points, by the subdivisions of the Passports and Visa Department of the RA Police;
- by electronicmeans(electronic visa), by the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3. Applying for an entry visa

To receive an entry visa the foreigner shall submit the following documents:

- 1) a passport or travelling identity card⁷ (the validity term of the document submitted must be at least one month longer than the validity term of the requested visa);
- 2) an application form completed in Armenian or English⁸,
- 3) one colour photo (35x45mm),
- 4) foreigners under the age of 18 should attach a document confirming that his/her visit will be with his/her parent(s), or with a legal representative or an accompanying guardian. If the child is alone, their visit must be to one of his/her parents staying in the RA, or to another legal representative of his/her parents, or to a receiving organisation. For the last of these, an application or reference note must be presented by the child's parent(s),

⁶Additional information on visitor and other types of entry visas (including official, diplomatic and transit visas) can be found at the website of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs at <http://www.mfa.am>

⁷An identity card is an internationally recognized identification document, issued by another state or country.

⁸The application form is available at the official website of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at <http://www.mfa.am> (“Consular Service/Visa (entry visa)” section).

- legal representative of the parents or by the receiving organisation itself;
- 5) invitation (if requested),
 - 6) receipt of payment of the legally prescribed state duty (see Appendix 6).

As a rule, at RA diplomatic and consular representations an entry visa is issued within three working days, provided there is no need to check the documents).

To acquire an electronic visa one must visit the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.mfa.am/eVisa/>.

4. Extension of the term of the entry visa

Extension of the term of the RA entry visa (including the electronic visa) is possible only within the territory of the RA. To extend the visa the foreigner must submit his identity card and an application form to the Passports and Visa Department of the RA Police a minimum of fifteen days prior to the expiration date of the entry visa. The Passports and Visa Department will then either extend the term of the entry visa within two working days, or reject the application.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The RA Government has approved the following list of states whose citizens can only apply for entry visa at the RA diplomatic and consular representations in their state (or in a nearby state, in situations where there is no representation in the given state) **on the basis of an invitation letter:**

- 1. Afghanistan
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Cameroon
- 4. Egypt
- 5. Iraq
- 6. Niger
- 7. Nigeria
- 8. Pakistan
- 9. Saudi Arabia
- 10. Somali
- 11. Sri Lanka
- 12. Sudan
- 13. Syria
- 14. Vietnam

15. Nepal
16. Palestine
17. Cote d'Ivoire
18. Ghana
19. Sierra Leon
20. Algeria
21. Morocco
22. Libya
23. Mauritania
24. Tunisia

Citizens of these states cannot apply for electronic entry visas.

Citizens of China and India can only receive RA entry visas in their RA diplomatic and consular representations. Since 2011 they may acquire an entry visa without an invitation letter.

Citizens of Armenian origin, RA citizens and their close relatives (parents, brother, sister, spouse, child, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild) may acquire an entry visa without an invitation letter.

The Armenian origin of a foreigner can be proved through documents provided by religious or community organisations, as well as those provided by state bodies. Direct relationship of close relatives is proven with official documents.

B. STAYING AND RESIDING IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The "On Foreigners" law defines three types of residence permits for foreigners staying and residing in the RA territory:

- temporary,
- permanent,
- special.

Documents confirming temporary, permanent and special residence statuses of the RA are, respectively,

- the temporary residence card,
- the permanent residence card, and
- the special passport,

1. Grounds for granting temporary and permanent residence statuses

Temporary residence status can be granted to a foreigner if he/she proves that there are circumstances justifying their residence in the territory of the Armenian Republic for one year or a longer term. Such circumstances can be:

- study,
- existence of a work permit,
- marriage with a citizen of the RA or with a foreigner legally residing in Armenia,
- being a close relative (parent, brother, sister, spouse, child, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild) of a citizen of the Republic of Armenia or of a foreigner holding permanent residence status in the RA,
- being engaged in entrepreneurial activities,
- being of Armenian origin.

Permanent residence status can be granted to a foreigner if he/she:

- can prove that he/she has a spouse or close relative who is a citizen of the RA (or has a special residency status), has accommodation and means of subsistence in the RA, has legally resided in the Republic of Armenia for at least three years,
- is carrying out entrepreneurial activities in the RA, or
- is Armenian by origin.

2. Terms and conditions for acquiring/granting temporary and permanent residence statuses

Temporary residence status shall be granted for a term of up to one year with a possibility of extension for one year each time.

Permanent residence status shall be granted for a term of five years with a possibility of extension for the same term each time.

An application for extension of temporary or permanent residence statuses must be submitted to the Passports and Visa Department of the RA Police at least 30 days prior to the expiry of the term of the status.

3. Application procedure for temporary and permanent residence statuses

The application form for acquiring the temporary or permanent residence status must be submitted to the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police.

The decision on granting or refusing temporary and permanent residence status shall be made by the Passport and Visa Department, within 30 days of submitting the application.

For obtaining or extending the temporary or permanent residence statuses, a foreigner must submit to the Passport and Visa Department the following documents:

1. application form,
2. 3 coloured photos (35x45mm),
3. passport, copy, and notarised Armenian translation of the passport,
4. certificate granting or extending the residence status in the RA,
5. certificate proving health condition,
6. receipt for payment of the state fee.

To extend temporary residence status, a foreign applicant meeting the above mentioned requirements need not submit a notarised Armenian translation of their passport, with the exception of cases where a foreigner has changed his/her passport during that period.

When submitting the documents a foreigner should fill in the application questionnaire (see Appendix 7).

4. Grounds for granting a special residence status

A special residence status is granted to:

- foreigners of Armenian origin;
- other foreigners that are performing economic or cultural activities in the RA.

5. Terms and procedure for granting special residence status

The special residence status is given for a term of ten years. It can be awarded more than once.

To be granted special residence status an application should be submitted to the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police in the RA, or to an RA Embassy or Consular representation in a foreign state.

To be granted special residence status in the territory of Armenia a foreigner shall in person or through registered postsubmit the following documents to an RA diplomatic or consular representation:

- an application questionnaire addressed to the RA President,
- a letter addressed to the head of the RA diplomatic or consular representation (giving biographical and other personal information)
- two reference letters from a community organisation or renowned individuals that have had significant input in the RA or in a foreign state,
- six 35-45mm photos,
- receipt for payment of the state fee.

6. Travelling across (transiting) the territory of the RA

When travelling across Armenia a foreigner may stay in the RA if he/she can present a valid travel ticket or an entry visa for the visiting state. In those situations a foreigner can stay in the RA for up to 72 hours.

If a foreigner enters the transit zone and has not entered the RA territory, then he can stay in the transit zone for up to 48 hours.

The mentioned terms are subject to extension only in force majeure situations.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The procedure for being granted special residence status (including details regarding the application questionnaire and letter formats) can be found on the official website for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mfa.am> (see the Consular Department/Special residence status section).

For details regarding state fees, see Appendix 8. For the actual amount of state fees please refer to the embassy or consular representation in the relevant state.

C. EXITING THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Foreigners can exit the RA by producing a valid passport or a valid document confirming the legality of their stay or residence in the territory of the RA.

The exit of a foreigner from the RA is forbidden where;

- criminal proceedings have been initiated against the foreigner and a decision was taken regarding their involvement as a defendant;
- he/she has been sentenced to such penalties, the fulfilment of which is possible only in the RA.

D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. In what situations are the entry of foreigners into the RA forbidden?

A foreigner cannot enter the territory of the RA if:

- they do not have a passport or other identity card,
- they arrive at the state border crossing point without a valid passport,
- their visa was rejected at the state border crossing point,
- they did not receive an entry permit by the state body overseeing border control.

2. On what grounds can a foreigner be refused a residence status?

As a general rule the granting of a residence status may be refused to a foreigner, where:

- he/she has been expelled from the territory of the RA (if three years have not elapsed since enforcement of the expulsion or the removal of residence eligibility);
- he/she has been convicted in the RA for committing a serious crime;
- there exists reliable evidence that he/she is engaged in activities which may harm the state security of the RA, breach the constitutional order or weaken the defensive capacity, such as terrorist activities, human trafficking, etc.
- he/she suffers from a contagious disease that threatens the health of the population,
- while seeking residence status, he/she has submitted false biographical information, or has failed to submit essential documents.

3. How may a foreigner appeal against the refusal to grant them a residence status?

Except for special residence status, a foreigner may appeal via judicial procedure against refusal of an application filed for obtaining or

extending a residence status.

4. When may a foreigner reapply for obtaining residence status if his/her application for granting special residence status is rejected?

Where the granting of a residence status is rejected, a foreigner may apply for residence status again after one year.

5. Who can invite a foreigner to visit the RA?

A foreigner may be invited to visit the RA by:

- an Armenian citizen residing in the RA;
- a foreigner holding a residence status in the RA;
- legal persons registered in the Republic of Armenia;
- state bodies, local self-government bodies of the RA, embassies, consular services, international organisations or their representations accredited in the RA.

PART 8

EDUCATION

IN THE REPUBLIC OF

ARMENIA

"Each individual has the right to an education"
(The RA Constitution, Article 39 (1)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The RA Constitution guarantees the right of Armenian and foreign citizens to an education. Armenian and foreign citizens are granted an opportunity to acquire an education at scientific and research institutions as well as other places of learning, regardless of nationality, race, gender, language, age, religion, faith, and so on.

After graduating citizens receive a state-issued diploma certificate, recognised throughout the RA.

Armenian and dual citizens studying at state educational institutions are guaranteed free general secondary education, as well as free vocational, higher, graduate and post-graduate education via competition.

All foreign citizens studying in the RA have rights and liberties as defined by the Constitution and bear certain responsibilities prescribed by it.

Armenia offers general and vocational educational programmes. Both of these can be mandatory or optional

Foreign citizens in the RA can receive education at:

- 1) general secondary schools;
- 2) vocational educational institutions;
- 3) higher educational institutions;
- 4) spot graduate studies of higher educational and research institutions.

They can develop their scientific and other qualifications at higher educational and scientific institutions, in departments and programmes for mid-career training, specialising in clinical studies.

Educational institutions are as follows:

- Pre-school,
- General educational institutions,
- Pre-vocational,
- Vocational,
- Higher,
- Additional and extra-curricular,
- Post-graduate professional.

International cooperation in the field of education is implemented in line with Armenian legislation and international treaties.

The RA has been a party to the Bologna Process since 1995.

IMPORTANT NOTE

More information on the Armenian educational system and the Bologna process can be found on the official website of the Ministry of Education and Science <http://www.edu.am>.

B. GENERAL EDUCATION

General education covers the comprehensive development of an individual and their worldview, establishing a basis for the selection and mastering of professional programmes, according to the individual's preferences and abilities.

General education is compulsory in the RA until the individual becomes 16 years old. After 16 he/she can, with the permission of their parents (or adoptive/foster parents/guardians), leave school.

The state budget provides 1st to 3rd grade pupils with free textbooks, with the exception of books on foreign languages and music. Children of socially vulnerable families are provided with books prescribed by general educational programs. The Government supports pupils with special abilities, to ensure they receive an appropriate level of education.

1. Secondary education and its duration

General secondary education is structured in three levels, and has a total duration of twelve years, as follows:

- 1) elementary school (1st to 4th grades);
- 2) middle school (5th to 9th grades);
- 3) high school (10th to 12th grades).

2. General educational programmes

General educational programmes contribute to the comprehensive development of an individual, his worldview, priorities and abilities, and establish the basis for the selection and mastering of professional programmes.

These programmes are as follows:

1. pre-school,
2. elementary (general, vocational, special),

3. general (general, vocational, special),
4. secondary (general, vocational, special).

General educational programmes are undertaken by pre-school and general educational institutions.

If an individual fails to complete one stage of an educational programme (with the exception of pre-school), they are not allowed to progress to the next level of general education.

3. Conditions for enrolment in general school

To enrol a child in a general school the parents (or their legal representative) must submit the following documents to the school:

- a) completed application form (for first-grade applicants a certificate of registration from the State Register is also necessary),
- b) two photos (2x4),
- c) copy of the child's birth certificate (for first-grade the original birth certificate and its copy are necessary)⁹,
- d) transfer form for those applicants who transfer from one school to another (except for transfers from a general school to a special high school),
- e) applicant's personal file (applicable for anyone enrolling in a class higher than first grade).

4. Language of instruction and other situations regarding children of foreign citizens and those who do not have citizenship

Any individual whose RA education has been interrupted, as well as those who have left and returned to the country, should continue their education in Armenia, in the appropriate grade for their age group, by presenting the aforementioned documents.

The choice of instructional language for children of foreign citizens and those who do not have citizenship is made by the parents (or legal representatives) of the children.

Children of RA citizens, who have completed the first and second years of their education in Russian (or another foreign language) in a foreign country can continue their education in the Armenian language in the

⁹ The copy, signed by the Principal stating "Copy of the original" is kept in the personal file of the applicant.

corresponding grade, when moving to Armenia.

Foreign citizens may apply to higher educational institutions in the RA according to general conditions.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Individuals that have enrolled in schools prior to 2006 will study for 11 years. However, starting from 2006, a 12-year secondary education is in force.
- Education in state schools is free of charge.
- Education at private (paid) schools is delivered in accordance with state educational standards.
- The academic year runs between 1 September and the following June.

C. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1. Vocational education programmes

The principal vocational education programmes in the RA are as follows:

- 1) primary vocational (craftsmanship);
- 2) vocational;
- 3) higher education;
- 4) post-graduate education.

The purpose of primary vocational (craftsmanship) education is to train students for jobs that demand a professional qualification along with general education.

Primary vocational education is accomplished:

- at vocational (craftsmanship) schools,
- at colleges,
- at other vocational institutions,
- at study centres,
- at penitentiary institutions,
- with licensed masters who give private classes.

The duration of study varies between six months and three years. The graduate receives a "Craftsman" degree.

The purpose of secondary vocational education is to prepare specialists in a particular field based on general education. Secondary

education takes place in colleges. The duration of education, depending on the chosen profession and the basic educational level of the student, lasts between two and five years. The graduate receives a "Specialist" qualification.

The purpose of higher education is to prepare specialists with enhanced professional qualifications. The following levels of higher educational qualification are available in the RA:

- 1) Bachelor,
- 2) Certified Specialist,
- 3) Masters.

Armenia's higher educational institutions consist of universities, institutes, academies and conservatoires.

The purpose of post-graduate education is to raise the educational and scientific knowhow of individuals that already have educational degrees.

Post-graduate education is undertaken within post-graduate departments, clinical study courses, as well as research and clinical internship programmes of higher educational and scientific research institutions.

The duration of educational programmes of higher and post-graduate education are as follows:

- 1) at least four years to receive a Bachelor's degree, and at least five years for a police degree;
- 2) at least five years to become a Certified Specialist, and at least four years for a specialised qualification in the arts or physical training;
- 3) at least one year for a Master's degree and at least four years for an equivalent qualification in the medical field.
- 4) at least three years to receive a research-based qualification.

Armenian and foreign citizens can receive higher and post-graduate education within permanent (and additional) higher and post-graduate educational programs via full-time studies or distance learning

Foreign citizens must pay to study at higher educational institutions, with the exception of those of Armenian origin, for whom the Government allocates a limited number of non-paid places.

For tuition fees and additional information please contact the corresponding educational institutions.

Tuition fees for students of Armenian origin from the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, and Samtskhe-Javakhk and Qvemo-Kartli regions of Georgia who study in the RA, are equivalent to those of Armenian citizens.

The full list of state-owned and private universities in the RA is available at: www.armenic.am

IMPORTANT NOTE

There are 18 state universities in the RA, eight of which have foreign administration, as well as more than 20 private universities. There are thousands of foreign and post-graduate students enrolled at Armenian universities.

The full list of RA state and private universities can be found at www.armenic.am (see the section entitled "Education in Armenia/Universities").

2. Conditions of enrolment for vocational educational institutions

Foreign citizens who have obtained a general education corresponding to the level of secondary school education (and in certain cases to the level of eight years secondary RA education) can be admitted to primary vocational (craftsmanship) and vocational educational institutions.

Foreign citizens, whose educational level is equivalent with that of RA secondary schools, can be admitted to higher educational institutions. Individuals that have completed a Bachelor of Sciences (Arts) degree can study in RA higher educational institutions with individual training curricula.

Foreign citizens who do not speak Armenian or Russian, or have poor knowledge of the Armenian language, should be admitted to preparatory departments (divisions) of higher educational institutions for one year to study Armenian (or other languages depending on the language of instruction). There they can also study other subjects related to the chosen field of study (such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, history, etc.). They should also familiarise themselves with relevant RA legislation. At the end of the academic year students take final exams, and only those who pass them may continue their education in higher educational institutions.

Foreign citizens who study in preparatory departments and fail the final exams are expelled from their higher educational institution.

Foreign citizens with a Masters degree can be admitted to post-graduate and scientific research departments of higher educational institutions as well, while those with a PhD can undertake doctoral studies.

Foreign citizens who have a higher medical education as well as at least two years of field-specialised work experience at a medical institution, or have completed two years of medical clinical studies, can be admitted to post-graduate departments of medical higher educational and scientific research institutions.

Foreign citizens with higher education, can be admitted to training courses to improve their skills and qualifications in departments of higher educational and scientific research institutions, without any age restrictions.

Foreign citizens (including Diaspora Armenians) who want to study at primary vocational (craftsmanship), vocational, higher educational and post-graduate institutions of the RA should submit the following documents:

1. application to the Armenian Minister of Education and Science,
2. questionnaire of the Ministry of Education and Science,
3. copy of the passport (all pages), birth certificate or certificate of baptism,
4. copy of the completion certificate of an educational institution, with the corresponding transcripts (notarised by a state consulate),
5. four photos (3x4 size),
6. a CV in English, Russian or Armenian

All applicants to RA institutions of higher education should also present a medical reference regarding general health, while those who apply for post-graduate studies should also submit an 20-page academic writing sample on the chosen field of study in Armenian, Russian or English.

All documents should be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science;

1. by the applicant in person or someone authorised by him/her,
2. via an institution of higher education,

3. by Armenian diplomatic representatives in a foreign country, or
4. by mail (or email) to the following address: 3 Government bldg., Central Avenue, Yerevan, 0010, RA (or info@edu.am).

3. Acknowledgement of international educational qualifications

Certificates of education issued by any foreign state, when submitted to Armenian authorities (for further studies or employment) will be acknowledged and their equivalence confirmed in accordance with the Lisbon Convention of 11 April 1997. This “certificate of acknowledgment” is issued in accordance with the “acknowledgment of international certificates and diplomas in the territory of Armenia” act. Under this act the Ministry of Education and Science acknowledges and confirms the equivalence of certificates of education, academic titles, and academic ranks conferred by international educational establishments and issues a certificate detailing the equivalence.

In order to attain a certificate of acknowledgment the individual must submit an application to the National Information Centre for Academic Recognition and Mobility, established by the Armenian Government in 2005. Additional information on the list of documents to be submitted with the application can be found on the official website of the Centre at <http://www.armenic.am>.

4. Admission of applicants from the Diaspora

The admission procedures, conditions and deadlines for Armenian Diaspora applicants are set separately for each academic year. For example, for the free-of-charge full-time Bachelor's programme in the 2009/2010 academic year the documents were accepted up until 20 August 2009. For the preparatory department the deadline was 6 November 2009 (11 November for 2011/2012). The deadline for post-graduate programmes was 30 September 2009 (September 20 for 2011/2012). The Ministry of Education and Science aims to maintain procedures, terms and approximate deadlines during subsequent academic years.

Applicants from the Diaspora must submit their documents to the Ministry of Education and Science in person or via Armenian diplomatic representations in foreign states.

As a rule they must submit the following documents:

- letter on behalf of the RA Minister of Education and Science, mentioning the name of the chosen Higher Educational

- Institution and the profession,
- copy of passport,
 - copy of birth certificate translated into Armenian (or Russian) and authorised by notary,
 - copy of certificate of secondary (complete) education, stating subjects and exams taken, translated into Armenian (or Russian) and authorised by state notary,
 - medical reference on general health conditions,
 - medical certificate regarding HIV/AIDs,
 - six photos (30x40mm).

Applicants who wish to receive post-graduate professional education must also present a research abstract on the topic or the list of publications, mentioning the date and place of publication and copies of 2-3 publications.

IMPORTANT NOTE

In the 2010/2011 academic year, the RA Government allocated 70 fellowships for Diaspora students. Applicants from the Diaspora could also apply for paid education, with no limit to paid educational places.

State fellowships are available at the departments of Armenian studies, pedagogy and culture.

**For additional information apply
to the RA Ministry of Education and Science,
or visit the official website of the Ministry at <http://edu.am>.**

D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How should the school grade of a child who returns to Armenia be determined?

The Ministry of Education and Science has adopted a ‘table of equivalence’ to equate public education systems of the RA and those of foreign states. The school grade of the child, who is an RA citizen and who returns to the RA, is determined in accordance with this table. The municipal educational department for the place of residence of the child, after determining the educational level, instructs the school management to assess the level of academic knowledge of the child and thereby determine the grade in which he/she should enter the school system. For children that have returned from the Russian Federation there is only one grade demotion.

2. In what instances should a school graduate be exempt from the Armenian language state exam?

If a 10th grade graduate has studied the Armenian language only in 9th and 10th grades, then he/she, upon his or her own wish, can become exempt from the Armenian language state exam. In those cases the graduation certificate shall indicate "NOT TAKEN" in the appropriate line.

3. When are applicants allowed to take the entrance examinations in the Russian language?

School graduates with a Russian education may take the entrance exams in the Russian language (with the exception of the Armenian and foreign language exams).

4. When can an applicant to a higher educational institution take an entrance examination in a language other than Armenian?

Applicants who do not have grades for Armenian language and literature in their certificates of secondary education (or equivalent graduation certificate) may take a written Russian language exam instead of the written Armenian language exam. Those who do not have grades for Russian language and literature can instead take the written exam in English, French, German, Spanish or Italian.

5. Under which circumstances are students from state or accredited private higher educational institutions of foreign states transferred to Armenian higher educational institutions?

The transfer of students from foreign state or accredited private higher educational institutions is implemented through the paid educational system. Students studying abroad within the framework of interstate agreements, or those who return to the RA because of health issues or other valid reasons hindering the educational process, can continue their education free of charge by the order of the head of the receiving higher educational institution and the confirmation of the RA Minister of Education and Science.

Once there is a positive response from the receiving higher educational institution, the academic record of the student is submitted to the Ministry. The decision on the transfer is taken by the RA Minister of Education and Science, upon receiving a positive reply to their written inquiry to the foreign institution.

PART 9

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“Everyone shall have the freedom to choose their occupation.”
(RA Constitution, Article 32(1))

A. EMPLOYMENT

1. General rules of employment

Foreign citizens are entitled to work in the RA under similar conditions and regulations to Armenian citizens.

Foreigners shall have the right to freely manage their working skills, choose the variety of profession and activities, and to be engaged in economic activities not prohibited by Armenian legislation.

Employment relations in Armenia are governed by the Labour Code, which was adopted in 2004. This new legislation reduces the role of the state in overseeing employment and places greater emphasis on contractual relations.

The workbook is the main document containing information regarding the labour activity of the employee.

2. Working time and rest period

Work duration may not exceed 40 hours per week (or 8 hours per day). Maximum work duration, including overtime work, may not exceed 12 hours daily or 48 hours per week (including rest and lunch breaks).

Night work cannot be assigned to persons under 18 years of age or to individuals with certain medical conditions.

Pregnant women and persons taking care of a child under three years of age may be assigned to night work only with the individual's consent.

Night time is considered to be between 10p.m. and 6a.m.

Employees are provided with a break of between 30 minutes and two hours, to rest and eat.

The general rest day is Sunday, while for a five-day working week the rest days are Saturday and Sunday.

The shortest annual paid leave in the case of a five-day working week is 20 work days, whilst in situations regarding a six-day working week the paid leave consists of 24 work days.

Working women in the RA shall be provided with pregnancy and maternity leave with their full wage being paid accordingly:

- 140 calendar days (70 days of pregnancy, 70 days of delivery);
- 155 calendar days (70 days of pregnancy, 85 days of delivery) in the event of complicated delivery;
- 180 calendar days (70 days of pregnancy, 110 days of delivery) in the event of giving birth to more than one child.

Parental leave before the child is three years of age shall be granted according to the choice of the parent(s), step-parent(s), grandparent(s), guardian(s) or any other relatives who are raising the child. During the period of this leave the employee shall retain his/her job.

B. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

Employers in the RA shall enter into employment contracts with their employees. The conditions governing employment contracts are listed in the Labour Code of the RA. The employment without an employment contract is considered illegal.

The employment contract is concluded:

- 1) with an indefinite term, if the term of validity is not specified in the contract, or
- 2) with a definite term if this is specified within the contract.

An employment contract signed for a definite period may be concluded:

- for a certain period of time,
- by defining calendar date of the contract, or
- for the period of the performance of certain work.

An employment contract shall be terminated:

- 1) upon the consent of all parties;
- 2) if the contract expires;
- 3) upon the initiative of the employee;
- 4) upon the initiative of the employer;
- 5) in other instances established by the Labour Code.

The Labour Code guarantees the protection of employees against sickness and injury at work. It also guarantees protection for pregnant women and working mothers with children under the age of three. These guarantees are valid even when not specified within the labour contract.

C. INTERGOVERNMENTAL TREATIES ON REGULATING LABOUR MIGRATION

Armenia has signed intergovernmental labour migration regulatory agreements with CIS countries, including the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belorussia, Turkmenistan, as well as Georgia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

By virtue of the aforementioned treaties each of the countries is obliged to recognise (without specific legalisation) certificates of education, relevant documents on granting qualifications, ranks and titles. The countries have also agreed to recognise other documents necessary for employment, as well as validated translations of these documents, as prescribed by the employee's country of origin.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The RA state policy on employment is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (<http://www.mss.am>) while the overseeing of employment rights and corresponding legislation is implemented by the Labour Inspectorate (<http://www.apt.am>).

PART 10

ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY

IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“Everyone shall have the right to social security during old age, disability, loss of income-earner, unemployment and other cases prescribed by the law”.
(RA constitution, Article 37)

A. ACCESS TO STATE PENSION AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

1. Guarantees given to retired Armenian citizens for receiving state pension when they emigrate to other states

According to the law in force prior to February 2009 the payment of state pensions to RA citizens would have been terminated upon their departure to other states for permanent residence. The pensioner who was leaving for permanent residence to another state would receive their state pension for a six month period, or his remaining pension, but for no longer than six months.

The pension was paid to the emigrating pensioner on the basis of a written application. Once the pensioner had been signed out from the registry the pension payment would be terminated.

Since February 2009 the aforementioned decision has changed, so that the pension of a citizen leaving for another state can be paid via a letter of attorney.

The pension may be paid on the basis of one letter of attorney for not more than twelve months, commencing the month following the last payment. After twelve months a new letter of attorney must be presented, which will then be valid for a subsequent twelve-month period.

According to the “State Pensions” law in Armenia, each month’s pension can be paid in cash or some other way, according to the preference of the pensioner.

IMPORTANT NOTES

When an RA citizen leaves for permanent residence to a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member state, the payment of their pension is terminated if a similar type of pension is provided via the legislation of their new state of residency (see point 2):

2. Pension rights of RA dual citizens and foreign citizens

The pension rights of RA dual citizens and foreign citizens are prescribed by:

- RA international agreements, and
- RA internal legislation.

2.1. According to the CIS agreement of 13 May 1992 entitled “Pension Rights and Guarantees for Citizens of CIS Member-states”¹⁰ citizens with a residence permit in the RA are entitled to receive their pension in their place of residence, as long as the their pension payments in the country of their former permanent residency have been terminated.

A pension is assigned according to either a reference indicating the termination of pension payments in the country of former permanent residence, or the submission of a pension file from the body that had previously been responsible for pension payments in the country of the citizen’s former residence.

The aforementioned agreement also stipulates that social security documents issued by CIS member-states as well as by state bodies of the former Soviet Union before 1 December 1991 are admitted without verification.

2.2. According to the “State Pensions” law, in force since January 2011, RA dual citizens and foreign citizens shall each have the right to a pension.

A foreign citizen shall have the right to a pension and be eligible to claim this during the period of his or her entitlement to reside in the RA. Furthermore, foreign citizens who do not have the status of a refugee in the RA shall be entitled to a pension if they are not paid a pension by the state of their citizenship.

Individuals with dual citizenship of the RA shall be entitled to a pension if they permanently or predominantly reside in the Republic of Armenia (and are registered with the state register of population at their place of residence in Armenia) provided they are not paid a pension by another state.

Employers who employ foreign citizens and stateless individuals without citizenship are exempt from making social security payments on their behalf. Foreign citizens working in the RA are also exempt from social security payments.

The right of dual citizens and foreign citizens to social security payments

¹⁰Member-states in the agreement are: Armenia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine.

in the RA is suspended if:

- the term of their residency in the RA has expired (for foreign citizens),
- they are permanently or mostly residing in other states (having registered at the RA state registry at their residential address in a foreign state) or they are deprived of RA citizenship (for RA dual citizens),
- they are granted a pension in other states (for foreign citizens and RA dual citizens).

3. Individuals entitled to state benefits in the RA

Individuals entitled to receive state benefits in the RA are as follows:

- citizens of the RA;
- foreign citizens who have a valid residence permit in the RA;
- stateless individuals;
- individuals who have refugee status in the RA.

The types of state benefits are as follows:

- family benefit and one-time financial assistance;
- childcare benefit,
- one-time assistance for the birth of a child;
- benefits for the family of a deceased Armenian soldier who has been awarded the Order of Martial Cross or declared a National Hero.

One-time benefits are granted in situations of:

- the birth of a child in the family;
- enrolment of a child into the first grade of public school;
- death of a family member.

Another type of family benefit is the emergency benefit, which is granted to families who find themselves in difficult life situations and are not liable for any other kind of family benefits. These cases include the need for partial assistance for a child's school fees, force-majeure situations and short-term financial problems.

**For additional information refer to
The RA Ministry of Labour and Social Matters,
Address: 375010, Republic of Armenia,
Yerevan, Republic Square, Government building 3
E-mail: hasmik.khachatryan@mss.am
Web address: <http://www.mss.am/>**

B. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICE

In accordance with Article 38 of the RA Constitution, everyone, including foreign citizens, shall have the right to receive medical care and services in the manner prescribed by law.

Everyone shall have the right to receive basic medical services free of charge. The regulations on receiving medical services in the RA are regulated in accordance with the "Medical Care and Services to the Population" law

1. The rights to medical services for foreign citizens and RA citizens residing in foreign countries

According to the "Medical Care and Services to the Population" law, each individual (including foreign citizens) residing in Armenia is entitled to receive healthcare and services according to RA legislation and international treaties.

Each individual, irrespective of nationality, race, gender, language, belief, age, health, political or any other convictions, social origin or other status has access to healthcare and services in the RA.

Foreign citizens are entitled to free healthcare and services, within the framework of state-guaranteed healthcare programmes. They are also entitled to receive healthcare and services via private medical insurance, personal means and other sources.

Those entitled to provide healthcare and service in the RA shall provide immediate, first-aid care to each individual regardless of payment insurance basis and any other circumstances.

In other countries the healthcare and services of Armenian citizens are provided in accordance with the legislation of the given state, as well as via RA international treaties.

2. Specific regulations regarding the provision of healthcare to citizens of the member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

On 5 April 2000, the National Assembly of the RA ratified the following treaty (signed in Moscow on 27 March 1997) "On the order of providing medical services" to citizens of CIS member-states.

The treaty stipulates that immediate and urgent medical care is provided free of charge to citizens of CIS member-states. This provision does not

cover other forms of health care.

C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a duration of service to be granted pension in the RA?

Work experience may be a mandatory condition for certain types of pension. For example, a labour-related old-age pension is granted to any individual who has reached the age of 63, provided he or she has had a length of service of 25 years. An old-age social pension shall be granted to individuals who have reached the age of 65 and are not required to have a duration of service.

2. Is there compulsory medical insurance in the RA?

At the time of writing there is no legal obligation to buy medical insurance in the RA. Medical insurance is undertaken on a voluntary basis with insurance companies.

**For additional information refer to
The RA Ministry of Health,
Address: 375010, Republic of Armenia,
Yerevan, Republic Square, Government building 3
E mail: info@moh.am
Web address: <http://www.moh.am/>**

PART 11

PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“The right to property shall be recognised and protected in the Republic of Armenia.”
(RA Constitution, Article 8 (1))

A. PROPERTY RIGHTS

In accordance with Article 5 of the RA law "On Foreigners", foreigners shall have equivalent rights, freedoms and responsibilities to Armenian citizens, unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution, laws, and the international treaties of the RA. This principle also extends to property rights.

The RA Constitution recognises and protects the right to property. According to Article 31 of the Constitution, everyone, including foreign citizens, shall have the right to possess, use, dispose of, and bequeath his or her property at their discretion.

According to the Constitution, no-one can be deprived of property, except through judicial procedure in cases provided for by law.

Dispossession of property for the needs of society and the State may be carried out only in exceptional cases of paramount public interest, as prescribed by law, with appropriate prior compensation.

According to the RA Land Code, foreigners with special residence status in the RA can have property rights for any type of land. Other foreigners, in certain cases, have property rights for gardening land, as well as for lands for construction and maintenance of individual residential houses, for social and industrial facilities and for multi-apartment buildings.

IMPORTANT NOTE

In most cases, a notarised validation is required in order to make a real estate deal (an agreement on purchase and sale) in the RA. Following this, the state registration of property rights is conducted by the State Committee on Real Estate Inventory of the RA Government (official website <http://www.cadastre.am>).

B. ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY AUTHORISED BODIES OF FOREIGN STATES

Legal documents authorised and provided by the relevant authorities of foreign states are accepted by notaries in the RA only when verified by Armenian Consulates (or apostilles), unless otherwise stipulated by RA legislation or international treaties.

Documents issued in one of the signatory countries to the Hague Convention of 5 November 1961 ("Abolishing the Requirement for Legalisation of Foreign Public Documents") are also issued and certified by state authorities of other member-states in the presence of an apostille.

In accordance with the "Legal assistance and legal relations regarding civil, family and criminal cases" Convention signed between the CIS countries, documents that have been issued and certified by the relevant authorities of CIS member states and which bear the seal of that respective state's coat of arms, are accepted by the notary offices without Consular legitimisation or apostille.

In accordance with international agreements on legal assistance signed with Georgia, Bulgaria, and Romania, documents that have been issued or certified by the relevant authorities, which bear respective coat of arms of those countries, are accepted by notary offices without Consular verification or apostille.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The RA joined the Hague Convention on 19 November 1993 and it entered into force on 14 August 1994. The Hague Convention and the list of member-countries of the Hague Convention is available on the official website of the Ministry of Justice at <http://www.moj.am>.

C. CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

According to the Armenian Customs Code each individual arriving for permanent residence in Armenia may import certain duty-free properties for their personal use.

The details regarding these customs privileges are as follows:

- **Property for personal use** is considered to be all items for an individual's personal use, one vehicle for personal use, as well as household furniture and other goods, which do not have factory packaging and labelling and were purchased by an individual before arriving in Armenia;
- **A person arriving in Armenia for permanent residence** is considered to be an RA citizen who left the territory of Armenia for the purpose of obtaining permanent residency in another state and thereby cancelled his/her residence registration in the RA. It also refers to RA citizens, foreign citizens and stateless

persons who did not have permanent residency in the RA and who, after arriving in Armenia, registered as permanent residents and presented to customs documents certifying their permanent residence status in the RA (passport or identification card with a note certifying permanent residency in the RA).

- An RA citizen, when arriving to the RA for permanent residency, **shall present to customs** the document certifying his/her permanent residency status in the foreign state, such as an Armenian passport (with a stamp of the RA consulate stating "Registered by Consulate for permanent residence") or a reference provided by the relevant authorities of the foreign state proving the individual's former permanent residence in that country (document authenticity as verified by the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- The property for personal use of an individual arriving in the RA for permanent residence is to be imported within a period of **180 days** before or after acquiring residence registration in the RA.
- This privilege can be used by an individual only once within five years.

D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is considered real estate?

Real estate is unity of land, part-underground, isolated water objects, forest, multi-year plants, underground and ground buildings, construction and any property affixed to land.

2. What is apostille?

Apostille is a special seal or a stamp which facilitates the recognition of legal documents of a citizen in other countries. The apostille certificate confirms the capacity of the Government official signing the document, authenticity of the signature and, where appropriate, of the seal or stamp on the document.

3. What are the documents that do not require apostille in the RA?

The apostille is not required for documents provided by Armenian Diplomatic and Consular representations, nor for documents directly related to trade and customs actions. Apostille is not required for documents not complying with the RA legislation.

PART 12

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

IN THE REPUBLIC OF

ARMENIA

A. REGULATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE RA

Foreign investments in the RA are regulated by the “Foreign Investments” RA law, adopted in 1994.

1. Guarantees for foreign investments

The “Foreign Investments” law is aimed at attracting foreign investments, as well as providing the following guarantees:

1. foreign investments cannot be nationalised,
2. foreign investments cannot be repossessed,
3. can be confiscated only in force-majeure situations, via court decisions and subject to full compensation.

Foreign investors and foreign employees are allowed and guaranteed to freely export their property, profits made through investment, as well as other instruments lawfully obtained via foreign investments, payment for work, or compensation, as prescribed by Article 9 of the aforementioned law. In case of amendments to RA legislation regarding foreign investment, legislation effective at the moment of investment implementation shall be applied, upon the request of a foreign investor, during a five-year period from that moment.

2. Forms of foreign investments

Foreign investors shall be entitled to investment in the territory of the Republic of Armenia by means of:

- a) Foreign currency, other currency values and Armenian national currency (AMD);
- b) Movable and immovable property (structures, buildings, equipment, and other material values) and any property rights related to that property;
- c) Stocks, bonds and other securities as established by RA legislation;
- d) The right to claim money or performance of contractual obligations;
- e) Any valuable right to intellectual property;

- f) The right, conferred via RA legislation or contract, to engage in economic activities, including the right to explore, extract, develop, or exploit natural resources;
- g) Paid services, and
- h) Any other type of investment not prohibited by legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

3. Methods of Implementing Foreign Investments

Foreign investors shall be entitled to implement investments via the following methods:

- a) Creation of enterprises entirely owned by foreign investors, creation of branches, divisions and representative offices owned by foreign legal entities, and the takeover of ownership of going concerns;
- b) Foundation of joint ventures with legal entities and unincorporated enterprises of the RA as well as citizens of the RA, or acquisition of shares in going concerns;
- c) Acquisition, within the limits defined by RA legislation, of stocks, bonds and other securities, as established by the RA legislation;
- d) Attainment of the right to use land independently or with the participation of Armenian legal entities or unincorporated enterprises, as well as RA citizens, and procurement of concessions to use natural resources in the RA territory;
- e) Acquisition of other property rights; and
- f) Other methods not prohibited by RA legislation, particularly the execution of contracts with legal entities or unincorporated enterprises of the RA, as well as contracts signed with RA citizens.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISES WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

It is forbidden to commence entrepreneurial activity in the RA without state registration. Individuals are permitted to import goods and items to Armenia for personal use, in restricted quantities. However, state registration of a private entrepreneur is required for their resale. Enterprises operating as exporters located outside of RA territory do not need registration in Armenia.

For certain types of activities a license may be required.

State registration of legal entities and sole proprietors is performed by the State Register of Legal Entities within the Ministry of Justice. The State Register consists of Central and Regional units. (<http://www.moj.am> - Ministry/Structure).

After obtaining a certificate of registration, the legal entity shall, within a month of the registration date, register with the Tax Service of the State Revenue Committee of the Government.

The process of establishing a legal entity consists of two stages:

- execution and collection of documents required by law;
- submission of the required documents for state registration to the RA State Register of Legal Entities.

1. Types of legal entities in Armenia

The types of legal entities in the RA are as follows:

Joint Stock Companies

A joint stock company is a legal entity, the charter capital of which is distributed into a certain number of shares, defining the rights and obligations of the stockholders in relation to the company. There are two types of joint stock company: open and closed. An open joint stock company may, without restrictions, issue shares and sell them to the public. Every shareholder has the right to sell shares without the consent of any other shareholders. In closed joint stock companies, shares are distributed only among the founders of the company and the number of these shareholders is restricted (a maximum of 49 shareholders are permitted by law).

Limited Liability Companies

A limited liability company is an economic entity established by an individual or a group of individuals, the charter capital of which is divided

into shares. The number of shares is determined by the company charter. Participants within the company are not liable for obligations undertaken by the company and, subject to the value of their contributions, shall bear responsibility for the risk of losses due to the company's activities.

Branches

A branch is a separate unit of a company which is located beyond the location of the original legal entity, performing either all or part of the functions of the company, including representative functions. In Armenia it is easier and cheaper to establish a branch rather than a subdivision or affiliate. Founding a branch does not require any capital investment. A branch of any foreign company must be registered in the State Register. For this to happen, the company must provide a letter confirming the decision of the foreign company to open a branch, as well as a document proving that the company has been registered in accordance with the legislation of its country of origin.

Representations

A representation is a separate unit of a company which is located beyond the location of the original legal entity, representing and defending the interests of the legal entity. Having representation is very similar to having a company branch. It should be noted that, like a branch, it is also located and operated beyond the location of the founder company and does not have the status of a legal entity. Like a branch, it acts in accordance with authorities given by the founder company.

There is however one notable difference between a branch and a representation. A representation is merely entitled to represent and defend the interests of the founder company, whereas a branch can perform all the functions of a legal entity, including representative functions.

2. Documents required for state registration of legal entities

In order to register an enterprise, the following documents need to be submitted to the State Register of Legal Entities in the Ministry of Justice:

- application by the founder(s) or the head of the executive body, or an authorised person of the founder(s) of the enterprise;
- protocol of the general meeting on the establishment of the enterprise (with the participation of the founders) signed by the founders or the President and the secretary of the enterprise;
- at least two copies of the Charter of the enterprise confirmed via

- the constituent meeting (assembly or other body defined by the law);
- receipt for payment of state duty (12,000 AMD, paid in any bank);
- application for registration of the company name (a state duty of 5,000 AMD)

If the founder is a foreign legal entity or there is a foreign legal entity in the list of founders, then the founder must submit the following documents, which should be translated into Armenian and validated by the notary.

- a) extract from the commercial register of the country of origin of the enterprise, containing information regarding the organisational form of the enterprise declared at the time of registration, as well as its legal status;
- b) foundation documents for the foreign legal entity, e.g. the Charter of the enterprise, or other equivalent documents;
- c) decision by the authorised managing body of the foreign legal entity on the founding of an enterprise.

These documents should mainly contain the following information:

- a) legal status and organisational form of the legal entity;
- b) registration date in the country of residence;
- c) legal name of the enterprise;
- d) location of the enterprise;
- e) enterprise's duration of operation;
- f) names of the enterprise's management board authorities (General Assembly of Founders, Board, Executive body);
- g) names of people on the management board authorised to make decisions regarding the establishment of this enterprise, acquire shares in the charter capital and terminate participation in the legal entity.

A foreigner who wants to open a firm in Armenia must also include a translated and notary-verified copy of his or her passport with the aforementioned list of required documents.

3. Registration of legal entities

To register a legal entity, the aforementioned documents must be submitted to the territorial office of the State Register at the legal entity's location. To register a sole proprietor, the required documents must be

submitted to the territorial office of the State Register for the place of residence of the sole proprietor.

After presenting all required documents to the State Register, the territorial office of the State Register must process the information and register the data regarding the legal entity's executive board within five days.

IMPORTANT NOTE

At present the state registration of legal entities and sole proprietors can be done electronically at <http://www.e-register.am> (see Chapter 13 under FAQ).

C. USEFUL INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS

According to the assessment of international organisations, the investment and trade policies of the RA are among the most liberal in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Investments by foreign companies are encouraged, and these companies enjoy certain advantages. Armenia's investment climate is continuously improving thanks to a strong Government commitment to attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and enhancing legislation in order to provide investment incentives.

1. Investment incentives

- political and economic stability
- favourable investment legislation
- investment guarantees
- strong Government commitment
- a well educated, and qualified workforce
- a cost-effective workforce and a science-based quality
- no limitations on foreign ownership
- competitive prices for electric power
- access to CIS and Middle-Eastern markets
- no export duties
- free conversion of foreign exchange
- free repatriation of profits
- unrestricted labour recruitment
- unrestricted remittances

Since 1991 the inflow of foreign investment has increased and the dynamics of this growth is encouraging for the future of the country. From 2000 to 2008 the total sum of foreign investments in Armenia amounted

to more than USD 3bn.

For further information and advisory, please contact:

1. The Armenian Development Agency (<http://www.ada.am>)

The Armenian Development Agency (ADA) was established in 1998 by the RA Government, in order to facilitate the flow of FDI and to promote exports.

ADA operates as a "one-stop shop" agency for investors, by assisting them in setting up their business in Armenia, helping with project implementation, liaising with the Government and providing information on investment opportunities in the country, as well as on investment-related regulations and laws. With its export-promoting activities, ADA helps companies find markets for products, undertakes market research and seeks partners for joint ventures so as to increase the volume of exports and develop Armenian enterprises. ADA also organises international conferences, business-forums, trade fairs and exhibitions.

The Armenian Government sees ADA as the main national intermediary for bridging the gaps between policy development and implementation, and for promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Chairman of the Board of ADA is also the Armenian Prime Minister

ADA coordinates the work of the Secretariat of the Armenian Business Support Council, which provides an effective mechanism to channel issues of concern from the business community to the Government, and in particular to the Secretariat of the IT Development Support Council.

ADA cooperates with many international organisations such as the World Bank, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Development Alternatives Inc (DAI) and others.

2. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Armenia (<http://www.armcci.am>)

The functions of the Chamber are as follows:

- Defining the record-keeping procedure of the unofficial register of Armenian commercial organisations and sole proprietors, whose financial economic attributes testify as to their reliability and trustworthiness in undertaking partnerships within the territory of the Republic and in foreign states;

- maintaining the unofficial register, which includes commercial organisations and sole proprietors in the RA, whose financial and economic attributes prove the reliability and trustworthiness of their activities in the territory of the RA and in foreign states;
- providing independent expert analysis and assessments of products in response to applications lodged by domestic and foreign commercial organisations, to check and monitor their quality, quantity and completeness;
- providing support to companies in patenting and registering their inventions, models, industrial samples, brand names, trademarks, service marks and countries of origin of goods and commodities, as well as helping domestic and foreign commercial organisations and sole proprietors participate in exhibitions;
- developing business plans;
- creating databases;
- organising trade fairs in Armenia and in foreign countries and supporting the participation of Armenian businesspeople at these events;
- performing other activities in accordance with the law.

3. Union of Manufacturers and Businesspeople (Employers) of Armenia (<http://www.umba.info.am/>)

The Union of Manufacturers and Businesspeople (Employers) of Armenia undertakes the following tasks:

- helping create beneficial conditions for supporting the development of businesses in Armenia;
- establishing close relations with similar foreign organisations and business circles among the Armenian Diaspora;
- supporting the improvement of investment policy in Armenia and attracting foreign and local investment;
- organising business conferences, forums, exhibitions and fairs, and encouraging the production of competitive goods and the expansion of their exporting potential, etc.

PART 13

DOING BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

"Everyone shall have the right to engage in entrepreneurial activity not prohibited by law."
(RA Constitution, Article 33.1(1))

A. POSSIBILITIES FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

1. The perspective of improvement of business atmosphere

With the purpose of improving the business and investment atmosphere in the RA, several projects have been adopted by the Government and reforms have been implemented in the following ten fields:

Payment of taxes

Dates for tax report submission and tax payments have been changed.

External trade

Reforms have been implemented in several fields of external trade technical supervision, particularly in the fields of mandatory certification of products, veterinary supervision, phytosanitary supervision, as well as decisions relating to the country of origin and the supply of certificates. Electronic systems of customs declaration have also been introduced.

Registering a company

A “one-stop shop” registration centre for legal entities and private entrepreneurs has been established. An electronic system for state registration of legal entities and private entrepreneurs has been introduced (www.e-register.am).

Construction permits

Procedures for receiving construction permits have been clarified and timeframes have been shortened.

Enforcement of agreements

A mandatory requirement for legal entities to have a seal of approval has been abolished.

Receiving loans

The RA Central Bank has adopted a set of legal acts to assure the privacy of credit information and the credit licensing bureau.

Protection of investors

In June 2011, changes were introduced to the “Joint-Stock Companies” law, in order to improve the mechanisms for revealing economic activities.

Property registration

Rapid coefficients have been introduced in the field of state property registration.

Company closure/liquidation

Company liquidation periods have been reduced.

Regulation of labour relations

Business support hotlines have been introduced, thanks to a Government decree. An interagency council for appealing activities and decisions taken by the taxing and customs services has also been established.

The aim of the RA Government is for Armenia to become one of the most business-friendly countries in the region.

For additional information related to the business environment in Armenia, please refer to the Ministry of Economy www.mieconomy.am, tel: +37410/597130.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The number of activity types requiring licensing has been reduced from 169 to 96. An electronic system for receiving licenses has been established at www.e-gov.am. An online system for receiving and presenting company registrations, licensing and tax reports has been introduced.

Source: <http://www.mineconomy.am>

2. “Doing Business”

Projects aimed at improving the business environment in the RA are developed within the framework of the “Doing Business in Armenia”

Memorandum. Since 2008, the business environment in Armenia has greatly improved, in line with implemented reforms made as a result of the Memorandum.

According to data published in the “Doing Business” 2012 report by the World Bank and International Financial Corporation, the RA carried out several field reforms between June 2010 and May 2011.

The following five fields have been essentially improved:

- registration of a company,
- issuing construction permits,
- receiving of loans,
- payments of taxes,
- company closure/liquidation

In terms of business attractiveness of CIS countries, Armenia is second in line to Kazakhstan.

IMPORTANT NOTE

“Doing Business” is an internationally recognised expert program. It commenced in 2002 and allows objective evaluation of the business environment and legislation of 183 countries, including Armenia.

Source: <http://www.doingbusiness.org>

3. Free Economic Zones

The establishment of free economic zones in Armenia is designed to attract foreign direct investments via the removal of restrictions. This helps ensure the sustainable economic development of the country.

According to the “Free Economic Zones” law, the following privileges are to be offered to those doing business in a free economic zone:

- value-added tax exemption for organisers and users (residents) of the free economic zone, in the provision of services and supply of goods within the zone,

- profit tax exemption for residents (legal entities) and income tax exemption for private entrepreneurs who carry out activities in the zone,
- property tax exemption for public and industrial building and construction work within the territory of the free economic zone used by residents,
- exports without the payment of customs charges and non-tariff regulation measures,
- providing services through state agencies in the zone via the “one-stop shop” principle.

Trade and legal entities registered in the RA, their branches and private entrepreneurs, as well as representatives of foreign organisations that implement entrepreneurship activities exclusively in the free economic zone may be considered as residents of the zone based on the corresponding permit and agreement.

To get a resident permit for the free economic zone it is necessary to submit the following documents to the permanent interagency committee:

- an application,
- a business proposal,
- a reference from the organiser regarding the terms of activities' implementation in the zone.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Two free economic zones are expected to be established – one for the production of goods of strategic importance and the second for exporting. The first zone (to be located by the “Zvartnots” international airport) will mainly be for agricultural products, while the second (to be located at the “Mars” electronic factory) will be for technological innovations.

For additional information please contact the Ministry of Economy, Investment Policies Department:

Tel: +37410 597 127

E mail: investment@mineconomy.am

Source: <http://www.mineconomy.am>, <http://ada.am> (Armenian Business Guide 2011)

(2008 concept note regarding the establishment of a free economic zone adjacent to Armenia's "Zvartnots" international airport.)

4. Free Trade Zone

In October 2011 the Government heads of the eight CIS member states (including Armenia) signed an agreement entitled "Establishment of A Free Trade Zone between CIS Member States". According to the agreement, the parties will set up new international terms of trade management which will greatly facilitate trade relations between them.

For the parties signing the agreement, the free trade zone will enable the following:

- Trade without customs,
- Common criteria on licensing, coding and other issues,
- A ban on one-sided restrictions upon another state's entity,
- Existing restrictions will be reduced each year, based on the principles of the World Trade Organization.

According to the agreement the RA economic regime has been improved. The number of restrictions found in the former bilateral agreements has been reduced by 600.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The parties within this agreement are Armenia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The agreement will come into force after its ratification by the member states.

The free trade zone has nothing to do with the free economic zone.

Source: <http://www.gov.am>, <http://cis.minsk.by>

5. "Regulatory guillotine"

In November of 2011, a letter of intentions was signed between the RA Government and the international donor organizations (USAID, UNDP, OSCE, WB, Austrian Development Agency) on boosting Armenia's economic management efficiency through "regulatory guillotine". This is expected to improve the economic field, particularly in terms of the business environment in Armenia.

“Regulatory guillotine” will help upgrade business regulatory policy and essentially improve the business environment in Armenia. It will reduce the level of bureaucracy, eliminate barriers in the business environment, as well as increase management effectiveness.

An Economic Activity Regulatory Board was set up by presidential decree on 17 September 2011, to deal with the cleanup of market-related legislation and to improve and simplify State-administered services. The board's activities will be aimed at eliminating provisions preventing the development of the business environment and market economy, improvement and simplification of state-administered citizen services, improvement of normative legal acts in the aforementioned fields, as well as the development of recommendations for the elimination of costly and economically ineffective tools and regulatory mechanisms.

Source: <http://www.gov.am/>

B. LEGAL REGULATION OF BUSINESS BY FOREIGNERS

According to the Constitution, the right of each individual (including foreigners) to be engaged in business is unrestricted by law.

The law prohibits anyone having market monopoly, abusing one's dominant position and dishonesty within competition. Under no circumstances will an individual of any citizenship or nationality be deprived of their right to engage in competition in the RA.

Competition and the restriction of monopolistic activities, types and sizes can be prescribed by law, as required for the protection of public interests.

1. The “State Support to Small and Medium Size Entrepreneurship”
law does not set any restrictions for foreigners. Foreigners and Armenian dual citizens enjoy the same rights as Armenian citizens and can be engaged in small and medium-sized entrepreneurship.

The law provides for three types of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship:

- Micro company (commercial organisations and individual entrepreneurs with no more than 10 employees on average),
- Small company (commercial organisations and individual entrepreneurs with no more than 50 employees on average),
- Medium company (commercial organisations and individual entrepreneurs with no more than 250 employees on average).

The main directions for state support are as follows:

- Formation of a favorable legal environment;
- Financial and investment support and provision of guarantees;
- Business information and consultancy support;
- Execution of favorable tax policy;
- Vocational education and training of specialists;
- Creation of simplified systems for statistical reports and accounting, etc.

2. According to the “Individual Entrepreneur” law, a foreigner has equal rights to Armenian citizens and dual citizens, and while legally residing in the RA can be engaged in business activities as an individual entrepreneur.

An individual entrepreneur in the RA shall have the right:

- to form a commercial organisation or participate in one;
- to have commercial representations;
- to hire employees.

3. The “Approval of the List of Goods Imported by Organisations and Individual Entrepreneurs with 0% Customs Duty Rate, Subject to Excise Tax when VAT is not Calculated by Customs Authorities” law sets the list of goods not subject to value-added tax when imported into the RA by organisations and individual entrepreneurs.

According to this law, goods not subject to value-added tax are as follows:

- Pedigree live birds, horses, goats, live fish,
- Barley and corn seeds,
- Medical herbs and plants,
- Tobacco raw material and tobacco waste,
- Raw aluminum, aluminum waste and scrap,
- Aviation fuel, aviation gasoline and oil.

IMPORTANT NOTE

If the foreigner is engaged in business activities in the RA, he/she may get temporary or permanent resident status (see Chapter 4).

C. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What do we understand by the free economic zone?

According to the “Free Economic Zone” law, this zone is the territory as defined by the RA Government, which is outside RA customs territory and where entrepreneurship is carried out in line with certain legal parameters.

2. Which documents are required to register as an individual entrepreneur?

According to the “State Registration of Legal Entities” law, this registration is carried out by the State Register Agency of Legal Entities within the Ministry of Justice. To register an individual entrepreneur the following must be submitted to the agency: an application form, a copy of the passport (foreigners shall submit a translated and certified copy), copy of the social security card, a colour photo (3x4) and a receipt for the state tax payment (3000 AMD, Account No. 900005160750).

3. How long does it take to register a company at the State Register Agency of Legal Entities?

The legal entity is considered registered after a record has been made in the state register. Once all the documents have been submitted the State Register representative records the legal entity’s registration. Currently there is an electronic register online, for company registration in the RA. Any individual, including foreigners, can register their company in the state electronic register within a few minutes, at <https://www.e-register.am>. After submitting the required documents, the registration is considered complete.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Foreigner - a person who is not a citizen of the Republic of Armenia and has citizenship of another state (foreign citizen), or does not have citizenship of any other state (a person with no citizenship).

Foreigner of Armenian origin - a foreigner whose Armenian origin is confirmed by documents provided by religious and community institutions, as well as by the state-authorised bodies.

Citizen of the Republic of Armenia permanently residing in a foreign country (resident alien) - an Armenian citizen who has left Armenia to live elsewhere or has been resident elsewhere for a period of more than six months.

Migrant worker - a person who is, was or will be engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national. (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families)

Document proving permanent alien residence -the passport of a citizen bearing the stamp of Consular Legalisation of the Republic of Armenia in a foreign country, that bears the statement: "Registered by the Consulate for permanent residence" and/or a reference confirming permanent residence, given by the authorised body of a foreign country, the authenticity of which has been verified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

Place of permanent residence - a place where a person is residing permanently or predominantly.

Entry Visa - a permit given by the authorised state regulating body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (see Part 7), that entitles a foreigner to enter the territory of the Republic of Armenia, to move in transit, to be within, and to exit from the Republic of Armenia in compliance with the purposes, conditions and terms indicated upon it.

Status of Sojourning - a permit given by the authorised state regulating body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia that entitles a foreigner to reside in the Republic of Armenia for a certain period of time.

Status of Permanent Residence - a permit given by the authorised state regulating body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia that entitles a foreigner to reside permanently in Armenia.

Status of Special Residence - a permit given by the President of the Republic of Armenia that entitles a foreigner to reside in Armenia within the period of validity of the permit.

Foreign investor - a foreign state, any foreign legal entity, a foreign citizen, a person with no citizenship, a citizen of the Republic of Armenia with permanent residence in another state, or an international organisation that, in accordance with the legislation of its/their place of registration, invests in the Republic of Armenia.

Foreign investment - any money and/or intellectual property that is being directly invested by a foreign investor in an entrepreneurial or other sphere of activity in the territory of the Republic of Armenia with the purpose of generating profit (income) or achieving other useful results.

Company with foreign investments - a company of any legal organisational form created in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, the founder or participant of which is a foreign investor.

Public education - the process of upbringing, educating and training an individual, accomplished through essential and additional programmes of pre-school, elementary, principal and secondary education.

Pre-school education - education that is accomplished via the pre-school education programme and is called upon to prepare an individual for elementary general education.

Elementary education - the first level of compulsory education which includes the first level of essential programmes of public education.

Principal education - the second level of compulsory education which includes the first and second levels of essential programmes of public education.

Secondary education - the third level of public education which includes the three levels of essential programmes of public education.

Primary vocational education - vocational educational programmes undertaken on the basis of the principles of general education, with the exception of workmanship training.

Secondary vocational education - secondary vocational educational programmes, undertaken on the basis of the principles of general education.

Higher professional education - the professional education of Bachelor's, Certified Specialist and Master's programmes, undertaken after the successful completion of secondary general education.

Post-graduate professional education - professional education (Master's, Certified Specialist) such as post-graduate, research or academic degree programmes.

Organiser of the free economic zone is the legal entity founded by the Government mainly for organising the free economic zone, ensuring establishment of the necessary infrastructure and the provision of services for carrying out activities.

APPENDIX 1:
Holidays and Day of Remembrance
(according to the law on Holidays and Days of Remembrance)

31 December - 2 January	The New Year (non-working days)
3-5 January	The Pre-Christmas holidays (non-working days)
6 January	The Holy Christmas and Apparition (non-working day)
7 January	Remembrance Day (non-working day)
28 January	Army Day (non-working day)
21 February	Mother Tongue Day
28 February	Day of Remembrance of Victims Massacred in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and of the Protection of the Rights of Displaced Armenian People
8 March	International Women's Day (non-working day)
7 April	Maternity and Feminine Beauty Day (non-working day)
24 April	Day of Commemoration of the Genocide Victims (non-working day)
1 May	Labour Day (non-working day)
8 May	Erkrapah Day (Land Defenders' Day)
9 May	Day of Victory and Peace (non-working day)
15 May	Family Day

28 May	Republic Day (non-working day)
1 June	International Children's Day
14 June	Day of Remembrance of Victims of Repression
5 July	Constitution Day (non-working day)
1 September	Day of Knowledge and Education
21 September	Independence Day (non-working day)
5 October	Teacher's Day
3 rd Saturday in October	Translator's day
10 November	Local Self-governance Day
7 December	Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Earthquake
Thursday 8 weeks prior to Easter	Saint Vardanants' Day, the Day of Benevolence and National Tribute
Sunday 64 days after Easter	Holiday of Saint Etchmiadzin

APPENDIX 2:
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATIONS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Afghanistan

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Afghanistan
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr.
VasiliGhazaryan
Residency: Astana, Kazakhstan
Address: 19 KizZhibekStr, KomsomolskiMicrodistrict Astana, Kazakhstan
Tel.: 7 (7-172) 402015,402017
Fax: 7 (7-172) 401970
E-mail: armkazakhstanembassy@mfa.am

Albania

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Albania
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr.
GagikGhalachian
Residency: Athens, Greece
Address: 95, KonstantinouPaleologou Avenue, Kalandri 15232, Athens,
Greece
Tel.: (30-210) 6831130
Fax: (30-210) 6831183
E-mail: embassy.athens@mfa.am

Andorra

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Principality of Andorra
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr.
VigenChitechian
Residency: Paris, France
Address: 9, Rue Viete, 75017 Paris, France
Tel.: (33-1) 42129800, (33-1) 42129802
Fax: (33-1) 42129803
E-mail: ambarmen@wanadoo.fr

Argentina

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Argentine Republic
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H. E. Mr. Vladimir
Karmirshalyan
Residency: Buenos Aires, Argentina
J.A. Pacheco de Melo, 1922, C1126AAD Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel.: (54 11) 4816-8710
Fax: (54 11) 4812-2803
E-mail: armenia@fibertel.com.ar

Austria

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Austria
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: Mr. Arman Kirakosian
Residency: Vienna, Austria
Hadikgasse 28, A-1140, Vienna, Austria,
Tel.: (43 1) 5227479 (43 1) 5243668 (consular)
Fax: (43 1) 5227481
E-mail: armenia@armembassy.at

Bahrain

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Kingdom of Bahrain
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. Vahagn Melikian
Residency: Abu Dhabi, UAE
Address: Embassies District (al-Safarat), 24 Al Karamah Str., Zone 2, P.
O. Box Number: 6358,
Tel.: (9712) 4444196, 4444128
Fax: (9712) 4444197
E-mail: armemiratesembassy@mfa.am

Belarus

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Belarus
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. Armen Khachatrian
Residency: Minsk, Belarus
Address: 17, Kirov Str., 220050 Minsk, Belarus
Tel.: (375-17) 227-51-53, 227-05-63
Fax: (375-17) 227-51-53
E-mail: armbelarusembassy@mfa.am

Belgium

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Kingdom of Belgium
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. Avet Adonts
Residency: Brussels, Belgium
Address: 28, Rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: (32-2) 348-44-00
Fax: (32-2) 348-44-01
E-mail: armbelgiumembassy@mfa.am

Brazil

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Federative Republic of Brazil
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. Ashot Yeghiazaryan
Residency: Brazil City, Brazil
Address: SHIS QL 28, Conjunto 3, Casa 4, CEP: 71665-235
E-mail: armgenconsulatesan-paulo@mfa.am

Bulgaria

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Bulgaria
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. ArsenShoyan
Residency: Sofia, Bulgaria
Address: 3, Zagorichane Str., 1111 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel.: (359-2) 9461272, 9461273
Fax: (359-2) 9461274
E-mail: armbulgariaembassy@mfa.am

Canada

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Canada
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: Mr. ArmenYeganian
Residency: Ottawa, Canada
Address: 7, Delaware Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0Z2, Canada
Tel.: (1-613) 234-3710
Fax: (1-613) 234-3444
E-mail: armcanadaembassy@mfa.am
URL: <http://www.armembassycanada.ca>

Chile

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Chile
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. Vladimir
Karmirshalian
Residency: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Address: J. A. Pacheco de Melo 1922 C1126AAD, Ciudad de Buenos
Aires, Argentina
Tel.: (54-11) 48168710
Fax: (54-11) 48122803
E-mail: armargentineembassy@mfa.am

China

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the People's Republic of China
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. ArmenSargsian
Residency: Beijing, China
Address: 9, TayuanNanxiaojie, Chaoyang District, 100600 Beijing, PRC
Tel.: (86-10) 65325677
Fax: (86-10) 65325654
E-mail: armchinaembassy@mfa.am

Croatia

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Croatia
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr.
RoubenKarapetian
Residency: Rome, Italy
Address: Via 20 Settembre, 98/E - 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel.: (39-06) 329-6638

Fax: (39-06) 329-7763
E-mail: armitalyembassy@mfa.am

Cyprus

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Cyprus
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr.
Gagik Ghalachian
Residency: Athens, Greece
Address: 95, Konstantinou Paleologou Avenue, Kalandri 15232, Athens,
Greece
Tel.: (30-210) 6831130
Fax: (30-210) 6831183
E-mail: embassy.athens@mfa.am

Czech Republic

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Czech Republic
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr. Tigran Seiranian
Residency: Prague, Czech Republic
Address: Na Pískách 1411/95, 160 00 Prague 6, Dejvice, Czech
Republic
Tel.: +420 220 518 175
Fax: +420 220 517 686
E-mail: armembassy.cz@mfa.am
URL: www.cz.mfa.am

Denmark

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Kingdom of Denmark
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E.
Mr. Hrachya Aghajanyan,
Address: RyvangAlle 50, 2900, Hellerup, Denmark
Tel: +4535822900
Fax: +4535832900
E-mail: armembdk@mfa.am
URL: <http://denmark.am>

Egypt

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Arab Republic of Egypt
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: H.E. Mr.
Armen Melkonyan,
Mohamed Mozhar 20, Cairo, Egypt
Tel.: (20 2) 7374157, 7374159
Fax: (20 2) 7374158
E-mail: armegyptembassy@mfa.am
URL: www.armembegypt.com

Estonia

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Estonia

Residency: Warsaw, Poland

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary:H.E.Mr. AshotGaloyan,
50, Bekasowstr.

02-803, Warsaw, Poland

Tel.: (48 22) 8990940-42.8990936-37

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Finland

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France

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Lithuania

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Cote D'Ivoire

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The Netherlands

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Ukraine, Rovno

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USA

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Venezuela

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Caracas
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APPENDIX 3:
Questionnaire for acquiring Armenian citizenship

1.	First name, father's name and surname (if you have changed your first name, or your surname, please indicate all of your first names and surnames and the reasons for changing them):
2.	Date of birth (day, month, year):
3.	Place of birth (in full):
4.	Nationality (if you have changed nationality, please indicate when and the reasons why):
5.	Citizenship (allegiance):
6.	If you have citizenship of another state, please indicate the state:
7.	Have you ever resided in other states? (When and where?)
8.	Marital status (married, divorced, single, widowed):
9.	Education and profession (Which educational institution(s) have you graduated from and when?):
10.	Do you hold an academic degree or an academic title?
11.	Do you have any scientific works and discoveries?
12.	Have you ever been elected to representative bodies? (If so, when and where?)
13.	Have you ever been subjected to criminal or administrative liability? (If so, when and for what reason?)
14.	Do you suffer from any of the listed diseases? (if yes , specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plague (lung form) • cholera • active tuberculosis of respiratory organs (all forms with pathogen release) • tropical malaria • atypical pneumonia • avian flu • AIDS
15.	Have you ever participated in military or war activities? If yes, then indicate the country, the time of the activities and the position you occupied. Have you been a prisoner of war?
16.	When have you arrived in the Republic of Armenia?
17.	The objective of your arrival in Republic of Armenia:
18.	Have you previously been to the Republic of Armenia? (When and for what purpose?)
19.	Your immediate family (father, mother, sister, brother, spouse, children): If any of the aforementioned persons has changed their first name, surname or nationality, then please indicate the name in full:

Re-lation:	First name, sur-name, father's name:	Date of birth/ day, month, year:	Nationa- lity:	Citi-zen- ship:	Place of work, pos-ition:	Place of permanent residence:

20. Please list the works you have performed since the beginning of your professional career (including education at higher and secondary vocational educational institutions and military service). While filling in this section of the questionnaire, please indicate the name of the workplace at the time of your occupation. Information about military service should be given in accordance with the military card, stating the position and military rank.

Day, month, year:	Name of workplace (or place of study), location, position:	Address of workplace (place of study):
Accepted:	Dismissed:	

21.	Do you hold any state awards?	
22.	Specify your experience in the military service and your military rank:	
23.	Motives for acquiring citizenship:	
24.	Place of permanent residence (address in the Republic of Armenia and abroad):	

25. Please list all the documents attached to this questionnaire:

26. Any further information you deem relevant about you or your relatives, in addition to the above data:

27. Official remarks: _____ holds: (first name, surname)

a) passport:

(alphanumeric serial number, name of passport issuing authority)

Issued on: _____ expiry date: _____

b) residence permit:

(alphanumeric serial number of the special passport certificate)

Issued on: _____ issued by: _____ expiry date:

c) residence permit of a person not having citizenship

_____ (alphanumeric

serial number)

Issued on: _____ issued by: _____ expiry date:

28. The questionnaire, the documents referred to therein and the accuracy were checked by:

_____ (surname, position and signature of the accepting official)

_____ 20...
(date of acceptance)

29. I am hereby notified of the liability provided for by the law for submitting false information (data)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Name and surname)

APPENDIX 4:
Procedure for assessing knowledge
of the Armenian language and the RA Constitution,
for individuals applying for Armenian citizenship¹¹

1. The knowledge of the Armenian Constitution by individuals applying for citizenship is checked through a test.
2. The test for checking the knowledge of the Constitution (hereafter the test) is comprised of 30 questions. Each question has three multiple choice answers, only one of which is unambiguously correct.
3. The test is given to individuals who have applied for RA citizenship, by the department entitled to accept the application.
4. The test is completed on site, and must be completed within an hour.
5. The test is completed by marking the correct answer to each question. If more than one answer has been checked, then the candidate may say which answers they consider to be correct. If he/she chooses the right answer, they get a point for that question.
6. A candidate who correctly answers more than half of the test questions is considered to be familiar with the Constitution of the RA.
7. If the candidate has given wrong answers to more than half of the questions he/she may retake the test either the next day, or on another day. The applicant may take the test as many times as necessary to give correct answers to more than half of the test questions.
8. A person who has applied for RA citizenship is considered proficient in the Armenian language if he/she correctly fills in the citizenship application in the Armenian language and gives correct answers to more than half of the Constitution test questions.

¹¹ Approved by the Decision of the RA Government on 30 August 2007
(No. 1040-N)

TEST
FOR ASSESSING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Question 1: In the Republic of Armenia, authority belongs to:

- 1) political parties;
- 2) ***the people***;
- 3) private entrepreneurs.

Question 2: What type of state is the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) ***democratic***;
- 2) authoritarian;
- 3) totalitarian.

Question 3: Which is the legislative body in the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) the courts;
- 2) ***the National Assembly of the RA***;
- 3) the political parties.

Question 4: The state language of the Republic of Armenia is:

- 1) Western Armenian;
- 2) ***Literary Armenian***;
- 3) Russian.

Question 5: The flag of the Republic of Armenia is tricolour:

- 1) red, blue, white;
- 2) red, green, white;
- 3) ***red, blue, orange***.

Question 6: The capital of the Republic of Armenia is:

- 1) Gyumri;
- 2) ***Yerevan***;
- 3) Erebuni.

Question 7: Who has the power to appoint ministers?

- 1) the political parties;
- 2) ***the President of the RA***;
- 3) the Minister of Justice of the RA.

Question 8: Everybody is equal:

- 1) to each other;
- 2) ***before the law***;
- 3) before the National Assembly of the RA.

Question 9: An individual is not liable to testify:

- 1) against a person that has committed a crime;

- 2) against his friends;
- 3) **against his spouse and close relatives.**

Question 10: Who can be elected as President of the Republic of Armenia among those listed below?

- 1) **any individual above the age of 35, who is a citizen of the RA, has resided permanently in the RA over the course of the last ten years and has the right to vote;**
- 2) any citizen;
- 3) the Prime Minister of the RA and Deputies to the National Assembly of the RA.

Question 11: Who can be elected as Deputy to the National Assembly among those listed below?

- 1) any citizen;
- 2) **any individual above the age of 25, who is a citizen of the RA, has resided permanently in the RA in the course of the last five years and has the right to vote ;**
- 3) any individual undertaking entrepreneurial activity.

Question 12: For how many years is the President elected?

- 1) **for five years;**
- 2) for his/her lifetime;
- 3) for eight years.

Question 13: Which are the administrative units in the Republic of Armenia among those listed below?

- 1) regions and provinces;
- 2) districts;
- 3) **marzes and communities.**

Question 14: Who makes decision regarding domestic policy of the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) **the Government of the RA;**
- 2) the People;
- 3) the Courts.

Question 15: Who makes decisions regarding the declaration of war and the signing of peace accords?

- 1) the National Assembly;
- 2) the Prime Minister of the RA;
- 3) **the National Assembly, on the suggestion of the President of the RA.**

Question 16: Who has personal liberties and securities among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) **anybody**;
- 3) nobody.

Question 17: Who has the right to privacy of communications among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) **anybody**;
- 3) nobody.

Question 18: Who has right to education?

- 1) **everybody**;
- 2) only citizens of the RA;
- 3) only students with good progress.

Question 19: Who has the right to exit the Republic of Armenia?

- 1) **everybody**;
- 2) repatriate Armenians;
- 3) foreign citizens.

Question 20: Who has right to legal assistance among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) **anybody**;
- 3) nobody.

Question 21: The right to vote and and to participate in referendums is conferred upon:

- 1) every citizen;
- 2) foreigners;
- 3) **citizens of Armenia above the age of 18**.

Question 22: Who has right to privacy in their personal and family life among the listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) **anybody**;
- 3) nobody.

Question 23: Who has right to the security of their place of residence among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) anybody;
- 3) **nobody**.

Question 24: Who has right to freedom of speech among those listed below?

- 1) each citizen;
- 2) **anybody**;
- 3) nobody.

Question 25: Intellectual property rights are protected by:

- 1) the agencies of national security;
- 2) **the law**;
- 3) the parties.

Question 26: Who is obliged to participate in the defence of the RA as prescribed by law, among those listed below?

- 1) **every citizen**;
- 2) foreigners;
- 3) state officials.

Question 27: The Government of the Republic of Armenia consists of:

- 1) **the Prime Minister of the RA and his/her Ministers**;
- 2) Ministers;
- 3) the Prime Minister of the RA and the Governors of the 'marzes'.

Question 28: By what type of order do individuals of Armenian origin acquire citizenship of the RA?

- 1) **simplified**;
- 2) complex;
- 3) there is no order at all.

Question 29: Who opens and leads sessions of the Government of the RA?

- 1) the Chair of the National Assembly of the RA;
- 2) the Chair of the Court of Appeal of the RA;
- 3) **the Prime Minister of the RA**.

Question 30. The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia or amendments to the Constitution are adopted:

- 1) by the Government of the RA;
- 2) by the Constitutional Court of the RA;
- 3) **through a referendum**.

APPLICANT:

_____ (signature) _____ (first name, surname)

IMPORTANT NOTE

The correct answers are in bold and italic.

APPENDIX 5:
Decree of the RA Government
on defining the procedure of notifying the authorised Government body regarding acceptance or acquisition of the citizenship of another country¹²

1. The present decree defines the procedure of notifying the authorised Government body regarding acceptance or acquisition of the citizenship of another state, as well as about renouncing citizenship of the RA and acquiring citizenship of another state from 1 January 1995 until this decree enters into force without a prescribed order.
2. When receiving citizenship of another state, an Armenian citizen (hereafter applicant) shall inform the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police or Police Department adjunct to the RA Government and the RA diplomatic or consular representations in foreign states within one month of the date of receipt of citizenship.
- 3 Those individuals who have renounced Armenian citizenship and acquired citizenships of other states between 1 January 1995 and the entry into force of the present Order¹³, shall, inform the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police or any Police Department adjunct to the RA Government or RA diplomatic or consular representations, within six months after the legal execution of this decree.
4. While declaring the acquisition of citizenship of another state the applicant shall present the following documents:

- 1) application form;
- 2) passport of the Armenian citizen (and copy thereof);
- 3) passport of the citizen of another state (and copy thereof);
- 4) copies of the above passports, verified by a notary.

5. On the form, the applicant shall state the name of the organisation to which the application is submitted, the name, surname, date and place of birth of the applicant, the name of the state of which he/she received citizenship and the date of this receipt. The application shall be signed by the applicant, indicating the date of its submission.
6. When informing the relevant authorities of the receipt of citizenship of another state in person, the applicant shall present the documents

¹²Approved by the RA Government Decision of 29 September 2007 (No.1110).

¹³Entered into force on 20 October 2007.

prescribed by Paragraph 4 (points 1-3) of this decree.

7. When informing the relevant authorities of the receipt of citizenship of another state by mail, the applicant must send the documents prescribed by Paragraph 4 (points 1 and 4) of this decree.

8. In cases outlined by Paragraph 6 of this decree, after the verification of the authenticity of the passports and copies, the passports are immediately returned to the applicant.

9. After receiving the documents stipulated by Paragraph 4 of this decree the Police Department shall, within three days, send the application form and notarised copies of the passports to the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police.

10. After receiving the documents stipulated by Paragraph 4 of this decree the RA diplomatic representation in the foreign country shall forward them to the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs within ten days.

APPENDIX 6:
Republic of Armenia Entry Visa State Fees

No	Entry Visa Type	Fee in AMD
1.	Visitor, single entry, up to 21 days of stay	3000
2.	Visitor, single entry, up to 120 days of stay	15000
3.	Visitor, multiple entries, up to 60 days of stay; validity of up to six months	20000
4.	Visitor, multiple entries, up to 120 days of stay; validity of up to one year	40000
5.	One entry transit visa	10000
6.	Children under the age of 18 (all types of visas)	0

* The fee does not include the Embassy/Consulate visa application fee which may vary. Please contact the respective Embassy or Consulate.

In situations where the visa application is denied or travel plans are changed the visa fee is not refundable.

Visa fees may change without prior notice.

APPENDIX 7:
**Application questionnaire for receiving (extending) a residence
permit for the Republic of Armenia**

1. Name, surname, father's name:

2. Citizenship:

3. Date of birth (day, month, year):

4. Place of birth:

5. Nationality:

6. Purpose of visit and occupation:

7. Marital status:

8. Children under 16 - name, surname, father's name, date of birth (day, month, year) and citizenship:

9. Addresses in the Republic of Armenia and abroad:

10. Passport number, alphanumeric serial number, name of passport issuing authority, date of issue:

11. I am aware of my responsibility to provide information to the local register within 15 days of getting my residence permit, and within seven days of changing my permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia:

Date: _____ 20____

Filled in by _____
(signature)

APPENDIX 8: Fees for residence permits

Nº	Type of Document	Fee in AMD
1.	For granting temporary residence, status, a temporary residence card and registering in the RA	105000,0
2.	For granting permanent residence status, a permanent residence card and registering in the RA	140000,0
3.	For granting special residence status, a special passport and registering in the RA	150000,0
4.	For extending the term of temporary residence status	105000,0
5.	For changing a permanent residence card	20000,0
6.	For retrieving the residence card of a foreigner who has temporary or permanent residence of the RA	12000,0
7.	For replacing special passport of the RA	75000,0

APPENDIX 9:
**List of relevant laws for RA citizens living abroad, dual citizens and
foreigners**

1. The RA Constitution (05.07.1995, amendments made on 27.11.2005)
2. The RA Code of Administrative Violations (06.12.1985)
3. The RA Civil Code (05.05.1998)
4. The RA Customs Code (06.07.2000)
5. The RA Criminal Code (18.04.2003)
6. The RA Labour Code (09.11.2004)
7. The RA Electoral Code (26.05.2011)
8. The RA law on Language (30.03.1993)
9. The RA law on State Awards of the Republic of Armenia (22.04.1994)
10. The RA law on Foreign Investments (31.07.1994)
11. The RA law on Citizenship (06.11.1995)
12. The RA law on Public Health Care (04.03.1996)
13. The RA law on Consular Service (29.05.1996)
14. The RA law on State Duty (27.12.1997)
15. The RA law on Military Service (16.09.1998)
16. The RA law on Education (14.04.1999)
17. The RA law on Scientific and Technological Support (05.12.2000)
18. The RA law on Licensing (30.05.2001)
19. The RA law on Referendum (12.09.2001)
20. The RA law on Joint-Stock Companies (25.09.2001)
21. The RA law on Limited Liability Companies (24.10.2001)
22. The RA law on Non-Governmental Organizations (04.12.2001)
23. The RA law on Political Parties (03.07.2002)
24. The RA law on Doing Military Service (03.07.2002)
25. The RA law on Freedom of Information (23.09.2003)
26. The RA law on Public State Register (24.09.2002)
27. The RA law on Human Rights Defender (21.10.2003)
28. The RA law on Alternative Military Service (18.02.2004)
29. The RA law on Citizens not Having Done Compulsory Military Service by Breaching the Prescribed Procedure
30. The RA law on Administrative Basis and Administration (18.02.2004)
31. The RA law on Higher and Post Graduate Education (13.12.2004)
32. The RA law on the Flag (15.06.2006)
33. The RA law on the Coat of Arms (15.06.2006)
34. The RA law on the Anthem (25.05.2011)
35. The RA law on Foreigners (25.12.2006)

36. The RA law on Pre-vocational and Vocational Education (30.04.2008)
37. The RA law on State Pensions (22.12.2010)
38. The RA law on Procurement (22.12.2010)
39. The RA law on Free Economic Zones (25.05.2011)
40. The RA law on Civil Service (26.05.2011)

RA legislation is available via the Armenian Legal Information System at www.arlis.am, www.laws.am, www.legislation.am