

Armenian-Azerbaijani Dialogue Programme (2008-2016)



British Embassy
Yerevan



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION

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About



Armenian-Azerbaijani dialogue is one of the core programmatic directions of EPF's cross-border work. Since 2008, EPF Armenia and EPF Azerbaijan have implemented several Armenian-Azerbaijani dialogue projects to further support peace building activities over the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. EPF programming aims to develop a new cadre of informed Armenian and Azerbaijani civil society peace-builders, and it harnesses the knowledge of experienced civil society leaders and policy level stakeholders from all sides of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. EPF believes that its programming positively and innovatively contributes to the transformation of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

Over the past 8 years, EPF implemented the following projects:

- ✓ Unbiased Media Coverage of Armenia-Azerbaijan Relations Project (2008-2009),
- ✓ Unbiased E-Media coverage in Armenia and Azerbaijan (2010-2011),
- ✓ Community Youth Peacebuilding Through New Media (2011-2012),
- ✓ Linking Civil Society Peace Builders with Policy-level Stakeholders Stage I (2013-2014),
- ✓ Linking Civil Society Peace Builders with Policy-level Stakeholders Stage II (2014-2015),
- ✓ Linking Civil Society Peace Builders with Policy-level Stakeholders Stage III (2015-2016).

The first three projects (2008-2012) mainly aimed at increasing the unbiased reporting and coverage of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, as well as creating networks between young people of both countries. They also had a goal to initiate a dialogue between young people from Armenia and Azerbaijan through facilitating communication and giving opportunities for implementing joint projects using new media tools and technologies.

From 2013 to 2016, within the different stages of the "Linking Civil Society Peace Builders with Policy-level Stakeholders" project, EPF organized several Conflict Transformation Schools (CTS) where participants were able to learn from well-known specialists about the aspects of conflict transformation and modern approaches in conflict studies. Overall, the project aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Nurturing a younger generation of civil society leaders capable to innovatively contribute to the transformation of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict via theoretical assessment and practical bilateral programming;
- Linking policy level stakeholders with the new generation of civil society peace-builders in devising and advocating alternative methods of transforming the Nagorny Karabakh conflict;
- Broadening perspectives of the government stakeholders and the broader public on both sides of the conflict divide using available alternatives for transforming the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.





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Armenian-Azerbaijani Dialogue Projects

"As a future sociologist specialized in Conflict Studies, I was thrilled to be a part of the Conflict Transformation School organized by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation. It was an irreplaceable experience for me, full of skills exchange and knowledge acquisition. I really liked the sessions that were included in the program; the lecturers chosen were very apt. The school confirmed on my vision, of which I had some doubts in the past, that there is no alternative to transforming the conflicts both personally and professionally. There is a need to continue to multiply the content of the school in various circles".

Hayk Smbatyan, CTS participant

During the Conflict Transformation School I learnt about many different concepts such as the "negative peace". It was not my perception about conflicts that changed; my entire understanding of peace has changed. Often we think that we live in peace, but in reality the conditions where we live should be described rather as a negative peace.

Naira Baghdasaryan, CTS participant

Since 2008, EPF organized and produced joint Armenian-Azerbaijani documentaries, cartoons, blogs, brochures, trainings, conferences, reports and talk-shows.

Among the most successful joint productions reaching large public were the film "Passenger" that was viewed more than 6000 times on EPF Armenia's Vimeo page, and the cartoon "Cockroach: Understanding Stereotypes" that gathered almost 4200 views.

The number of applicants to the Conflict Transformation School from Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh over the past three years exceeded 350, and 133 of these young people were selected and participated in the extensive 5-day course on developing critical thinking and exploring various topics related to the field of conflict studies.

For more information visit:

www.bit.ly/ArmAz



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62

Journalists and Editors



133

Conflict Transformation School participants



>100

Participants in joint meetings in Tbilisi, Georgia



≈400

Conflict Transformation Schools' applicants in Armenia
(2013 - 2016)



≈150

Conflict Transformation Schools' applicants in Azerbaijan
(2013 - 2016)



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