

## **Grants Brief Summary**

### **AM Media Production**

To contribute to the development of alternative media and alternative content through the establishment of an on-line platform featuring high-end cultural information.

The grantee will select 14 classical Armenian films and produce an analytical program around each of them. Grantee's WebTV will broadcast two analytical programs each month, which will be followed by a facilitated on-line discussion on the project's video-blog, as well as via other web-based social networks. The materials and discussions will be disseminated wider in the regions through public watching in EPF's tele-center hubs. The project will increase viewership for the high-end cultural information and initiate a sustainable interactive dialogue on the phenomenon among active youth groups throughout Armenia.

### **Anna Muradvan**

Anna Muradyan is a recognized blogger and journalist who proposes to do a school netizen activation project as part of ARM. The project aims at decreasing school violence and teenage aggression through encouraging citizen reporting and web social networking in targeted schools of Etchmiadzin and Yerevan. Anna will work with school-age children in secondary schools to teach them basic blogging and I-reporting techniques. She will engage an expert juvenile psychologist to encourage school students to report on misconduct of teachers, shortcomings in the teaching process or inter-student violence. If successful the project will be replicated in secondary schools of other regions as well.

### **Armavir Development Center**

To contribute to the development of alternative media in Armavir region of Armenia through engaging young people in civic activism and blogging.

The grantee will establish a youth-led Social Blog, and will train 100 young people in blogging and new media tools. The trained youth will post citizen journalism materials in a newly created Social Blog. Through the course of the project regular competitions will motivate the activism of young bloggers. At the end of the project the grantee will organize a Bar Camp to highlight the results of blogging initiatives and to engage more young people in civic activism. The Bar Camp video-report will be broadcasted through local TV channels and posted on the web. The project will create a network of active civic journalists in Armavir region and initiate an interactive dialogue on social and political issues.

### **ARM Comedy**

ArmComedy proposes to raise public awareness on political, social and environmental problems, providing regular satirical coverage of news. The coverage will spotlight local political and social developments.

ArmComedy's "Embarrassing Bad Governance" project will illustrate governance of public officials showing inconsistencies of political performance and general social drawbacks with a focus on pre-election behavior of political parties. The project will be implemented through generating satirical articles, shooting PSAs and video sketches and conducting a closing

stand-up comedy show at the end of the project. The project will generate public pressure for improved work of public figures by naming and shaming their performance. The project will provide an alternative view of political parties prior to 2012 elections.

### **A1+**

To contribute to the development of alternative media and new ways of information dissemination through promotion of citizen journalism and Internet broadcasting.

The grantee, independent media outlet A1+, will facilitate public access to the A1+ web-site, create and disseminate instructions and educational films targeting non-professional journalists, as well as will encourage “I-report” media content creation and dissemination by newly engaged citizen journalists. The grantee will also enable live transmissions by A1+ journalists, making the A1+ Internet broadcasting more efficient and interactive. The project will promote citizen journalism, boost independent news broadcasting via internet, and will improve competitiveness of the independent media outlet A1+ against government-controlled TV channels.

### **Berd IT**

To contribute to the development of new media and social networking through IT advancement and information diversification among school-age youth in Berd region of Armenia.

The grantee will conduct a series of training for secondary school teachers and students on social networks and new media tools. Following the trainings, a facilitated blog platform will be created to host materials on educational policy regulations, training opportunities, and best practices related to secondary education. The grantee will bring together partners and experts from both Berd region and wider Armenia to the first ever Bar Camp event in the region. Through the course of the project 250 more teachers and school students will receive training on new media and social networking. The project will instigate an open dialogue among youth and teachers over development challenges in Berd region.

### **Ecolur**

To contribute to the development of new ways of information dissemination and social networking through the establishment of a network of I-reporters in disadvantaged ecological areas of Armenia.

The grantee, EcoLur Informational NGO, will conduct a series of training in citizen journalism for civic activists in 25 communities throughout Armenia, identify activists to become liaisons in the network of I-reporters, and engage OSCE-created Aarhus Centers. The grantee will also create a “Video Ecolur” page for S.O.S video submissions and an EcoLur blog to host and disseminate materials generated in the hot spots. The project will raise awareness of the Government and wider public about pressing ecological issues in targeted communities and increase public participation in decision making on these issues.

### **Hetq Investigative Journalists**

To contribute to the development of alternative media and new ways of information dissemination through support to investigative journalism in Armenia.

The grantee will add an on-line multimedia platform to its existing web-site ([www.hetq.am](http://www.hetq.am)), and will train 12 professional journalists from Yerevan and the regions of Armenia in operation of multimedia tools and production of multimedia content. The project will establish a network of well-trained investigative journalists throughout Armenia, improve the quality and diversity of investigative reporting on Hetq's web-site, enlarge Hetq's readership, and increase the number of references to Hetq's multimedia investigative materials by Armenian web-based news agencies.

### **Lori TV**

To contribute to the diversification of news flow in Lori Region through creation of a mobile live broadcast capacity at Lori TV.

The grantee will purchase and install a portable live broadcast equipment (Niagara Gostream SURF) enabling an instant broadcast of events from hot spots. The project will be piloted during the three month lifecycle of the grant. The project will create a rapid reporting capacity in Lori region.

### **Lragir.am**

To contribute to the development of alternative media and new ways of information dissemination through promotion of citizen journalism in the regions of Armenia.

The grantee will create a mobile version of [www.lragir.am](http://www.lragir.am), add a new column "Social Reporter" to the regular and mobile versions of [www.lragir.am](http://www.lragir.am), and invite interested readers to submit content for the "Social Reporter" via internet and mobile phones. Future citizen journalists will be able to learn mobile report and video production and submission techniques on the grantee's web-site. The project will establish a sustainable network of collaborating citizen journalists, and will increase the volume and diversity of grassroots regional information on social, political, ecological, and cultural issues that will reach decision-makers and general public throughout Armenia.

### **Persona Grata**

To contribute to the development of new sources of information and demand for alternative media content through encouraging a public dialogue on issues of fight against corruption in Armenia. The grantee will engage a group of three Armenian journalists in an investigation of Georgia's successes in the fight against corruption and their correlation with the Armenian realities. Resulting print and video reports will be made publicly available via web-sites of the involved media outlets and a newly established blog. Closer to the end of the project, the grantee will conduct a public presentation and discussion of the project results. The project will increase stakeholder and general public awareness of the Georgian good practices in the fight against corruption, and will enhance public advocacy on effective ways of fight against corruption in Armenia.

### **Seda Muradyan**

Seda Muradyan is an individual applicant, a current Stanford Knight fellow, who proposes to create an I-Report Facebook App. The social game will be created as a result of a research conducted in Stanford. It aims at mobilizing the resources of internet users through a Facebook game and encouraging them for active social reporting. Facebook users will be invited to create "Avatar Citizen Journalists" and to compete with other users with the self-

generated I-report stories. The Avatars will have spaces for accumulated stories from different social network platforms (FB, Twitter, Blogs). The App will not be a mere simulation but will recommend the authors to replicate their stories in real news media resources.

The grantee proposes to provoke the activism of netizens to become producers not consumers of the Armenian news feed.

### **Samvel Martirosyan**

Samvel Martirosyan is another individual applicant whose team proposes to create a Mobile Journalism Portal and to widely promote the portal through online and offline networks.

The grantee proposes to create a user-friendly resource accessible not only in Yerevan but also in the Marzes. The project will be carried through a dense series of trainings and meetings in the regions. The team will establish partnership relations with leading traditional media resources and most active bloggers to ensure information exchange. The partnership links will also help to market the new Portal in the social networks.

As a result of the project activities the Portal will host regular unedited information flow from the regions of Armenia. It will allow for submissions via MMS, SMS, E-mail and Twitter.

### **Versus Studio**

To contribute to the development of alternative media through the establishment of a new source of information on the phenomenon of Armenian migration in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The grantee will produce a documentary featuring stories of Armenian migrants of different generations throughout the world, and will create a web-site featuring relevant official documents, personal stories, photos, and video and audio material on the issue. A section on the web-site will make it possible to initiate and facilitate a public discussion over the issue.

The project will improve understanding of historical, economic, sociological, psychological reasons that forced Armenians to migrate to and from their homeland throughout the 20th century, as well as enhance chances of informed public participation in policy-making on the issue.