

## Recently approved OSIAFA-funded projects

*Within its various programs the Board of Directors of OSI-Armenia periodically approves new initiatives as well as continuation of older projects to reach its programmatic goals. During the Board meeting held on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> the following projects were approved:*

### Media Program

Grant number	Organization	City	Grant Amount	Project Purpose
16231	Gala TV	Gyumri	\$23,640	This newly approved project to be implemented by Gala TV will create possibilities for dialogue between public and the authorities for political, economical and social dialogue, as well as one for the authorities and the opposition to find solutions and attempt to stabilize the tense situation. This will be done through the development of the GALA TV website, placing the internal ombudsman's monthly report on the website, increasing the coverage from Yerevan and other marzes, preparation and broadcast of four social clips, broadcasting two Gala News additions as part of "Dialogue" TV program. Participants of "Dialogue" can include politicians, parliament members, representatives of government and civil society representatives. The program will allow a regular resident of the region to ask questions to government representatives.
16252	"ATHK OJSC Hamakarg"	Capital city and the marzes	\$14,412	The project will propose a series of analytical information on <a href="http://www.lragir.am">www.lragir.am</a> website for visitors to get answers to their questions related to the political and economic system of Armenia. The materials will incorporate expert assessment of the events and situations and provide recommendations to the authorities and political forces for them to

address the issues identified in the analysis. At the same time, the organization will involve national and international experts to prepare analytical pieces. Related reports and analysis prepared by international organizations will be placed on the website as well.

16249            EcoLur                            Capital city and \$14,180  
the marzes

Ecology and the influence of the environment on population have always been central for the Foundation. A project presented by EcoLur” was approved by the Board which will look into raising the awareness of various stakeholders on socio-ecological risks so they can impact the decisions that affect their health and safety. To reach the project goal, the website and EcoLur network will be employed for raising awareness and information exchange. The project will last for a year and will attract cooperation from various like-minded companies and individuals.

16255            “Tevanyan” OJSC                    Capital city and \$14,252  
the marzes

This project will enable expression of pluralistic views on [www.7or.am](http://www.7or.am) website on urgent issues impacting the public was also approved. The website will trigger debates between two and more parties and an online blog will be created to ensure discussions between visitors and experts.

**Civil Society Program**

<b>Grant number</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Project Purpose</b>
	Hetq online	Capital city and the	\$21,890	Armenia has not been spared from the global

marzes

economical crisis which has particularly impacted the most vulnerable groups and individuals. Governments initiate various programs to overcome the crisis. The OSIAFA Board approved a project presented by the Investigative Journalists NGO which aims at monitoring the expenditure of state funds directed towards reduction of the impact of crisis as approved by the government of Armenia. The project will also raise public awareness on cases of mismanagement of these funds; conduct public discussions on anti-crisis measures; bring out individual cases of people being impacted by the crisis or having been allegedly helped by government measures. This will help the government to be more targeted and need-based in their actions. The organization will mainly use newspaper inserts and their website [www.hetq.am](http://www.hetq.am) to run the project.

### **National Education Program**

<b>Grant number</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Project Purpose</b>
16260	Metsamor school	Metsamor	\$6,000	OSI has been supporting creation and promotion of an initiative titled “Europe at schools” at urban and rural schools throughout the country. The European clubs at schools aimed at raising the students’, teachers’ and community awareness on European values, structures, history and culture to promote the process of European Integration and democratization of Armenian educational system. Following the successful implementation of the first stage of the program, the Board approved to fund eight new projects with the former schools targeting
16246	Hrazdan school	Hrazdan	\$6,000	
16247	Yerevan 145 school	Yerevan	\$6,000	
16263	Surenavan school	Surenavan	\$6,460	
16248	Yerevan 198 school	Yerevan	\$6,000	
16254	Idjevan school	Idjevan	\$6,000	
16253	Vanadzor school	Vanadzor	\$6,000	
16261	Gyumri educational complex	Gyumri	\$5,882	

new audiences and including new activities such as teaching people their rights and responsibilities, civic activism, Armenia's European integration issues, etc.

16273	Education without Boundaries	Yerevan	\$30,030
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The Foundation is known for its long-standing support for educational reforms in the country and subject content development. Particular attention has been given to development of standards for Civics and Social Science subjects. Standards had been developed and piloted for middle school. As a continuation of that initiative, subject standards (civic education and human rights) had been developed for high school as well. This was envisaged to be done in two stages. Based on the results of the first stage, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the proposal was approved to create guiding materials and monitoring tools for teachers and school administrators for effective standard implementation.

**Information program**

<b>Grant number</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Project Purpose</b>
16251	ARENA	Capital city and the marzes	\$38,360	Building information society and knowledge-based economy is one of the main missions of the Foundation. Recently, in cooperation with NATO and UNDP, OSIAFA helped to create a network system that provides more than 40 universities and educational institutions with high speed fiber optic connectivity. The initiative is being implemented through Armenian Research Educational Networking Association (ARENA). The new

project approved by the board emphasizes further development of the network infrastructure and service provision. That will be achieved through organization of IT and networking-related services for ARENA users.

**Public Health program**

<b>Grant number</b>	<b>Organizations</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Project Purpose</b>
16244	Khnamk NGO		\$20,000	Promotion of health policies based on social inclusion, human rights, justice and scientific evidence is the target of the Foundation's public health program. For many years the program has supported provision of services to people with mental health problems. The board approved a project to be implemented by Khnamk NGO to continue the endeavors in providing rehabilitation and integration services to people with mental health problems. It also intends to carry out advocacy activities to reach governmental support for the services offered. The second project that public health program prioritizes is promotion of human rights in patient care.
16357	Antidrug Civil Union		\$43,840	Antidrugs Civil Union has submitted a project the purpose of which is to initiate the development of a new generation of lawyers with expertise in human rights in patients care. It also plans to increase the capacity of local NGOs interested in working in this area by strengthening their advocacy efforts to promote policy change. The current project will promote human rights in patient care in the country by identifying a project fellow on Health and Law who will be involved in conducting a research based on the OSI-supported Practitioner Guide.

Law and health experts will be hired to review the gaps in RA health laws using the results of the research and additional information documented by other partner NGOs. The prepared recommendations will be used for further advocating relevant changes in the laws. Law and Health Coalition will be established and strengthened to participate in law and health advocacy initiatives. Project timeframe is 12 months.

**Law program**

Grant number	Organizations	City	Grant Amount	Project Purpose
16264	Protection of Rights without Borders		\$30,000	The Foundation has initiated the very first court monitoring project in Armenia, which initially focused on criminal and civil cases. It is committed to continuing the project. For that purpose OSIAF-Armenia has funded the Protection of Rights without Borders NGO to carry out the subsequent stage of the Court Monitoring project. The proposal approved by the Board outlines development of methodology, code of ethics, questionnaires and forms for the monitoring, training of a group of monitors to conduct the monitoring in the court of 1st instance of “Kentron” district, preparation of a summary of existing legislation regulating the field. The monitoring will be conducted on either court deliberations of the motions on imposition of detention as a measure of restraint or administrative court. Prior to starting the monitoring of detention cases a memorandum should be signed to ensure access to closed hearings. If the organization does not receive the permit to attend closed hearings, monitoring of the administrative court in Yerevan

will be conducted. Monitoring report will be published both in Armenian and English and distributed to all stakeholders and interested parties.

16245

Law and Legal  
Protection NGO

\$20,270

The Foundation started working with Law and Legal Protection NGO since the beginning of 2009 to promote their institutional capacity building and sustainability of their activities. It financed the organization to also observe the rights of people taken into detention centers of RA. The funding also covered production of a report for 2008 where they summarized their findings.

During its last Board meeting the Foundation funded another project to be carried out by the group which aims to monitor protection of rights of above mentioned individuals, promote improvement of their dwelling conditions, present situational analysis to the Police and interested parties, study relevant legislation to submit proposals regarding its improvement and so forth. The project has commenced in July and will last 7 months.