

## The Armenian General Benevolent Union in Europe



# AGBU Europe's Mission



**The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is the world's largest non-profit organization devoted to preserving and promoting the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programmes.**

AGBU has played a vital role in the life of the Armenian diaspora since its foundation, in Egypt, over 100 years ago. With a presence in close to 30 countries, every year AGBU supports, serves and connects over 400,000 individuals across Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and the diaspora.

AGBU Europe advances AGBU's mission by developing activities across the continent in coordination with 12 local chapters, as well as a growing number of partner organizations. These activities focus on:

- education
- leadership training
- heritage
- remembrance
- European Union (EU) public affairs

AGBU Europe's work is driven by four guiding principles:

**Core Values:** AGBU is non-partisan and unaffiliated with any political organization. Since its establishment, AGBU Europe has built on the orga-

nization's traditions of solidarity, humanism and cooperation between all Armenian communities in Europe.

**Leadership:** AGBU Europe emphasizes the importance of leadership. Our programmes focus on providing support and on building capacity. The AGBU Europe GORIZ Seminar Programme trains young professionals and students, while the AGBU Europe Senior Leadership Initiative connects established professionals who wish to contribute to the Armenian community.

**Active citizenship:** Diasporas in Europe and their respective cultures have an important role to play in the larger society. AGBU Europe maintains an open dialogue with public authorities and institutions across the European continent.

**Armenia in Europe:** AGBU invests considerable resources in the social and economic development of Armenia and supports the country's European aspirations. It also encourages Europe's participation in bringing peace to the South Caucasus by engaging with the people and leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh.

# The Organization

## AGBU Europe

Alexis Govciyan (President)  
Nicolas Tavitian (Director)

## AGBU Europe Chapters

Austria (Vienna)  
Bulgaria (Burgas, Dobrich, Haskovo,  
Plovdiv, Russe, Silistra, Silven,  
Sofia, Yambol)  
Cyprus (Larnaca and Nicosia)  
France (Paris, Lyon, Marseille,  
Nice-Côte D'Azur, St. Chamond/  
St. Etienne, Valence and Vienne)  
Germany (AGBU-HAIK, Frankfurt  
and Hamburg)  
Greece (Athens and Thessaloniki)  
Italy (Milan)  
The Netherlands (Almelo)  
Spain (Barcelona)  
Switzerland (Geneva)  
United Kingdom (London)  
Armenia (Yerevan)

## AGBU Young Professionals Groups

Austria (Vienna)  
Belgium (Brussels)  
Bulgaria (Sofia and Plovdiv)  
France (Paris, Lyon and Marseille)  
Germany (Frankfurt and Hamburg)  
Poland (Warsaw)  
Russian Federation (Moscow)  
Switzerland (Geneva)  
Turkey (Istanbul)  
United Kingdom (London)

AGBU  
**YOUNG**  
PROFESSIONALS

**For more information, visit:**

[www.agbueurope.eu](http://www.agbueurope.eu)  
[www.agbuyp.org](http://www.agbuyp.org)

**AGBU Europe Office**

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# Our European Programmes



**In keeping with of its mission, AGBU Europe has developed international programmes in five priority areas: young leaders, senior leaders, cultural heritage, remembrance and advocacy.**

## Young Leaders

Goriz was established in 2008 to cultivate future Armenian leaders in Europe. It identifies, trains and supports young Armenian leaders. GORIZ participants are pillars of their communities: they have started NGOs, launched newspapers, run in elections, mobilized their peers and otherwise helped to strengthen their communities. Through the GORIZ programme, they are able to further develop their activism and civic engagement.

**GORIZ seminars** vary by theme and location. In the past, they have included lobbying (Venice, 2009); democracy and participation (Yerevan, 2010); European citizenship (Brussels, 2011); media (Yerevan, 2012); Armenians in Turkey (Istanbul, 2013); and Minority participation in public life (Tbilisi, 2014).



**AGBU Young Professionals (YP)** is a growing network of groups around the world who are committed to preserving and promoting an Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programmes for young people between the ages of 22 and 40.

In Europe, there are YP groups in Athens, Austria, Belgium, Geneva, Hamburg, London, Lyon Rhône-Alpes, Marseille, Paris, Plovdiv and Sofia, as well as partnerships with organizations like SIVAM in Moscow, HAIK in Germany and UTI in Istanbul.

**For more information:**  
<http://www.agbugoriz.org>  
<http://www.agbuyp.org>

## Senior Leaders

Launched in Warsaw in 2013, the AGBU Europe Senior Leadership Initiative is a network of policy makers, entrepreneurs, journalists and academics. Members are of Armenian heritage or have an interest in the Armenian community. Together, the leaders provide support to future generations and exercise leadership on key issues.

## Cultural Heritage

The know-how and wisdom of past generations is the foundation upon which we build our own lives. But the upheaval of the twentieth century left much of heritage of the Armenian community destroyed, forgotten or denied.

In its work, AGBU aims to raise awareness about the Armenian culture and heritage in Europe, Turkey and beyond. In 2009, AGBU spearheaded the *Armeniaca Project* with the support of the EU's Culture 2007-2013 Programme. This project, now completed, digitized several of the most important private archives of Armenian monuments in Europe, the Middle East and Turkey. These included artwork and publications, as well as pictures of ancient Armenian buildings, many of which have since been destroyed. These archives make the future restoration of the remaining structures possible. The *Armeniaca Project* ended with exhibitions in the European Parliament and several European cities.

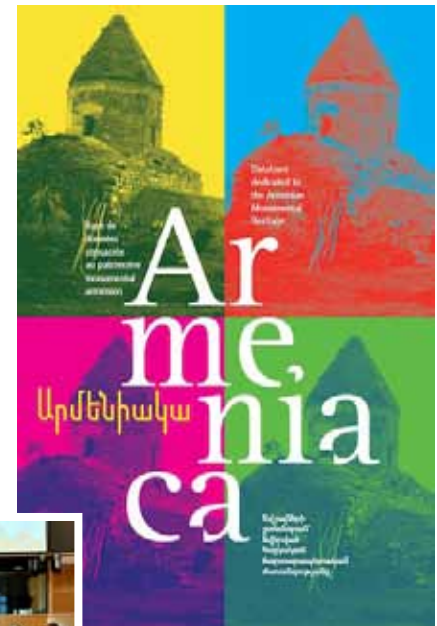
## Remembrance

AGBU Europe is leading efforts to commemorate the first major genocide of the 20th century. Supporting efforts to foster change in Turkey, in 2013 and 2014 AGBU Europe organized the first European delegation to commemorate the Armenian Genocide in Istanbul, partnering with the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM) and with the Turkish NGOs DurDe! (Say Stop!) and IHD (İnsan Hakları Derneği – Human Rights Association).

## Advocacy

AGBU Europe believes that it is particularly important for all segments of society, including diasporas and cultural minorities, to engage with public authorities. AGBU therefore helps build capacity among Armenian diasporan groups towards carrying out an effective and prag-

matic dialogue with public authorities. The organization is also working directly with European institutions on a number of issues, including the preservation of Armenian heritage, the promotion of multilingualism, the struggle against racism and the denial of the Armenian genocide in Europe as well as the development of relationships with Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.



# Our Programmes in Europe



**AGBU and its chapters offer a wide range of cultural and educational activities in Europe, including camps for children, choral groups, musical ensembles, dance and theatre troupes as well as schools.**

**For more information on AGBU programmes, please go to:**  
[www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org) – [www.agbueurope.eu](http://www.agbueurope.eu)



## Academic Programmes

- Armenian Virtual College
- Scholarships for students
- Nubarian Library (Paris)



## Summer Programmes and Youth Camps

- Discover Armenia (Armenia)
- Musical Armenia (Armenia)
- Scout Camp (Armenia)
- Camp Hay Ler (Bulgaria)
- Bulgaria and Sofia (Bulgaria)
- Colonie de Vacances (France)
- Antranik Scout Camp (Armenia)
- Internship programme (Yerevan)

## Choral groups

- Gomidas Choir (Haskovo, Bulgaria)
- Aravod Choir (Yambol, Bulgaria)
- Koghtan Choir (Paris, France)

## Dance Troupes

- Garod Dance Ensemble (Vienna, Austria)
- AGBU Dance Ensemble (Dobrich, Bulgaria)
- Nur Dance Ensemble (Sofia, Bulgaria)

## Musical Ensembles

- Ereboundi Band (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
- AGBU Chamber Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- State Chamber Orchestra (Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh)





## Theatre Troupes

- AGBU Youth Theatre Troupe (Haskovo, Bulgaria)
- Ahazank Theatre Troupe (Paris, France)

## Schools

- Artaki Kalpakian School (Athens, Greece)
- Saturday School (Dobrich, Bulgaria)
- Saturday School (Haskovo, Bulgaria)
- Saturday School (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
- Alex Manoogian Saturday School (Paris, France)
- Weekly School (Vienne, France)



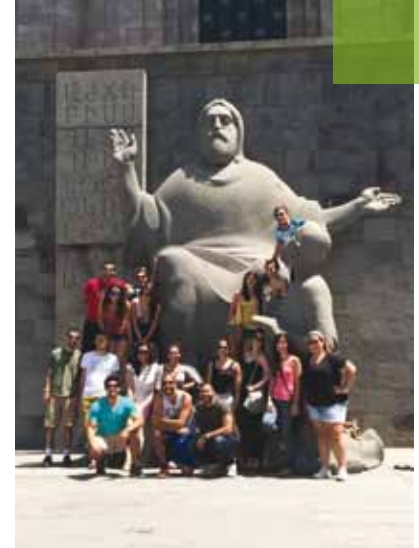
## Programmes in Armenia

- Children Centres (3)
- Senior Dining Centres (3)
- Ultrasound Training Centre
- Grants to support
  - the French University of Armenia
  - the American University of Armenia
  - Yerevan State University
- Grants to the Holy Etchmiadzin, the Holy See of the Armenian Church, to support:
  - the restoration of churches
  - the training of clergy
- Support to the restoration of church buildings and to the training of priests
- Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centres (4)



## Emergency Aid

Humanitarian Relief to Syrian Armenians





## Armenians in Europe

The Armenian diaspora in Europe dates back at least 1200 years. Over the centuries, it has played a significant role in the European story. Armenians are recognized linguistic or national minorities in a number of EU countries. The number of Armenians in Europe increased considerably with the influx of survivors of the Armenian genocide in 1915 and victims of subsequent persecution in Turkey. They have been joined more recently by many more Armenians who have left the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The Armenian population in Europe today is estimated to be 1.5 million and Armenian associations and communities are active throughout the continent.



### For more information

[www.agbueurope.eu](http://www.agbueurope.eu)  
[www.agbuyp.org](http://www.agbuyp.org)

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### Support AGBU Europe

All AGBU Europe programmes are made possible through the generous support of members and donors. Please support us by donating online or contact us directly. All contributions will be acknowledged.

[www.agbu.org/donate](http://www.agbu.org/donate)

For more information please visit our web site at:

[www.agbueurope.eu](http://www.agbueurope.eu)