



Municipality of Gyumri
Municipality of Vanadzor

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Young Chin,

Minister of the Interior and Safety
Government of South Korea

Amélie de Montchalin,

Minister of Public Sector Transformation and the Civil Service
Government of France

Helen Darbishire
Access Info Europe

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Call for Expression of Interest

Dear Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Jurisdictions and CSO communities of Gyumri and Vanadzor, two largest municipalities of Armenia, we write to join the Local-OGP community. Sufficient time our two Jurisdictions have made significant efforts to establish democratic, fair, and participatory mechanisms at the Local level. Indeed, these reforms couldn't be achieved without the direct participation of citizens, the NGO community, and other stakeholders.

Armenia's regionalism is born on the ruins of Soviet's centralized economy. Majority of urban communities, built around a dominant industry, were thrown into a non-gravity environment, when the Soviet economy collapsed. Newly independent Republic had to strive for a smart decentralization reform, designing new models of local autonomy and new frameworks for resource acquisition and distribution on local level. In 2002 Armenia ratified the European Charter of Local-Self Governance and in 2013 the Additional Protocol to Charter on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority. Respective changes have also been introduced in the RA law on Local Self-Governance to enable and promote citizen participation in decision making at local level.

Both cities are members of European sister city movement with active partnerships at all levels with forefront European Cities.

Both cities are also active contributors to the European Covenant of Mayors, being environmental hotspots for growing mining and industrial capacities in the region.

