

V ☒ I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a HE Project

I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Interested in the following upcoming calls

Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience (HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10)

PARTNER INFORMATION

Founded in 1991, the American University of Armenia (AUA) is a private academic institution that provides American-style education in Armenia. As an affiliate of the University of California and accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission.

Currently, AUA offers eight undergraduate and eleven graduate programs and multiple research opportunities for faculty and students. In that regard, the University has been awarded external funding for the implementation of over 300 initiatives and projects in research, education, specialized training, infrastructure improvement and capacity-building. The university is home to seven research centers, each specializing in their respective fields of expertise, including environmental studies, business, health services, applied linguistics, engineering, legal studies, and social sciences.

With a proven track record of over 20 years of its results-driven approach to managing diverse and complex projects, AUA has secured funding from major funding sources, such as Horizon Europe, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Embassy in Armenia, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), World Bank, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the United Nations. The University is currently leading innovative initiatives of significance to the local and economy and country and region development in areas such as environmental sustainability, renewable energy, journalism, media, public relations, public health, business expansion, artificial intelligence, and engineering, making it a global hub for research and collaboration.

The AUA Center for Research in Applied Linguistics (CRAL) is part of the MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (MATEFL) Program and as such part of the CHSS. CRAL has a track record of over two decades of teaching English to 6-16-year-olds, including English for specific purposes. Among relevant CRAL projects implemented during 2016-2024 are:

- The project on designing and implementing an English Program for Media and PR Professionals (funded by a grant of \$204,000 from the U.S. Embassy in Armenia);
- Research in teaching English as a foreign Language (funded by a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Educational Testing Center);
- Assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on English language achievement in Armenia (funded by a grant of \$3,700 from UNICEF);
- The post-COVID-19 program for closing the English language achievement gap in Syunik public schools (funded by a grant of \$1,700 from UNICEF).

The MATEFL program is the only degree program designed specifically to prepare specialists in teaching English as a foreign and second language in Armenia and benchmarked on the curricula of best practice programs internationally. The faculty teaching in MATEFL are experts with international experience in conducting curricular needs analyses, designing curricula, and teacher training.

AUA's TEFL program in delivering the Certificate in TEFL (CTEFL) to English teachers from different regions in Armenia, a project spearheaded by the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), funded by the US Embassy of Armenia and supported by the RA MoESCS.

As an integral part of AUA, MATEFL and CRAL are administered and operate in accordance with the University governance and reporting structure, and in compliance with its management, oversight, accounting, and financial control policies, processes, and procedures.

Description of the Legal Entity

☒ Higher Education	☒ Research Institution	☐ Public Administration
☐ Industry /SME	☐ NGO	☐ Other

Description of the Research Team or Group:

The research team at the Center for Research in Applied Linguistics brings together expertise from the fields of language education, curriculum studies, and policy analysis. The research experience of the team includes a track record of conducting policy-relevant studies on curriculum reforms, foreign language teaching and assessment, and teacher development. The team has extensive experience collaborating with the National Center for Education Development and Innovation, a unit under the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia. In addition, the research team has established connections with secondary schools and has carried out both research and teacher training projects in authentic classroom environments.

Expertise of the Team Leader:

Dr. Irshat Madyarov is an Associate Professor at the American University of Armenia (AUA), where he serves as the Chair of the MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) program and Director of the Center for Research in Applied Linguistics (CRAL). Holding a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology from the University of South Florida, Dr. Madyarov brings extensive experience in English language teaching, applied linguistics, and instructional design. His research focuses on integrating digital technologies into language education, including mobile learning, natural language processing, and corpus linguistics. He has contributed to international publications and conferences, emphasizing the role of technology in enhancing language learning and teacher education. Dr. Madyarov's interdisciplinary approach aligns with initiatives aimed at leveraging digital tools to develop key skills and competencies, making him a valuable contributor to projects that intersect education, technology, and cultural preservation.

Dr. Irena Galikyan is a distinguished scholar and educator at the American University of Armenia (AUA), serving as a research associate at the Center for Research in Applied Linguistics and as an assistant professor in the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) program. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Sciences from Leiden University, where her dissertation delved into the complexities of learner–learner interaction in digital learning environments, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of such interactions and their measurement challenges. Irena Galikyan has published research in top-tier journals in the field, such as *The Internet and Higher Education* and *Computers and Education*.

Potential role

V ☒ Research

V ☒ Technology Development

V ☒ Dissemination

V ☒ Training

Already experience as a consortia managed by institute	Coordinator	<u>V ☒ YES</u> ☐ NO (Project manager of
	Partner	<u>V ☒ YES</u> ☐ NO
	Expert Evaluator	☐ YES ☐ NO

CONTACT DETAILS

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