



## ***OUR ORGANIZATION'S MISSION***

Our mission is to raise public awareness in fields of state and public significance. We consider this an essential and integral component of any democratic society.

We take measures to increase the capacity of the media field in Armenia. Moreover, we ourselves implement media activities through the ArmRusInfo Russian-language news site and SUT.am fact-checking website, which combats disinformation.

UIC, together with its partners, fights to increase the quality of the elections in Armenia, both by participating in observation missions on election the day and through affecting the preceding processes.

In the course of preparing all kinds of materials, we are led by the promotion of democratic values. We will not under any circumstances justify aggressive wars, human rights abuses, as well as crimes against humanity or nature.

We do not represent interests of any political party or other groups.

The teams of “Union of Informed Citizens” and its subdivisions have undertaken a number of public commitments which are not envisaged by Armenian legislation. In particular, we have an environmental policy, the goal of which is minimizing hazardous emissions due to organization’s activity by reducing energy consumption, as well as minimizing use of paper and sending used paper to recycling facilities. We also hold our events and rent out offices only in buildings which are adapted for persons with wheelchairs.

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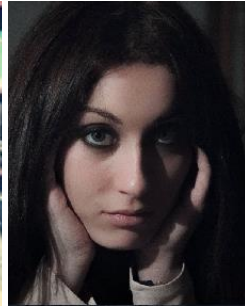
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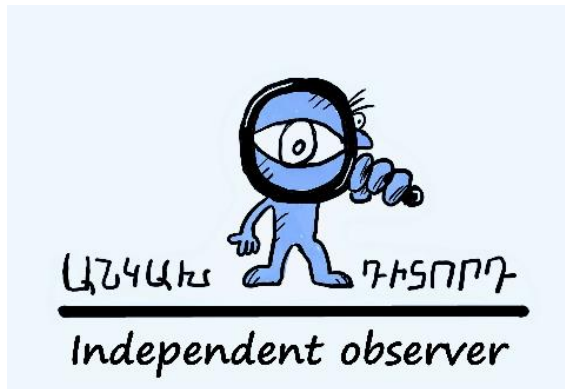


**Vahram Toqmajyan**  
*Historian Expert*

# *PARTNERS*



UIC is a member of the the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, the Armenian national platform of which has more than 200 member organizations. The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) aims to strengthen civil society in the Eastern Partnership countries as well as foster cooperation and the exchange of experience between civil society organizations from partner countries and the EU.



We are a member of Independent Observer Civic Alliance, within the frameworks of which we carry out election observation mission. Other members include Helsinki Citizens' Assembly-Vanadzor Office, Martuni Women's Community Council and Goris Press Club.

## *AREAS OF ACTIVITY*

- Research and analyses
- Publication of useful resources
- Publication of video materials
- Training for journalists
- Advocacy of electoral legislation
- Observation of elections
- Fact checking through Sut.am website
- Russian-language news through ArmRusInfo website

## **Research and Analyses**

During the year, the research conducted by our team was mainly about:

- Issues related to the Armenian-Russian arms deal
- Human rights violations in Armenia
- Decline of democracy level in Armenia
- Attitude of international community towards human rights violation cases
- Pro-Cremlin propaganda in Armenia
- Armenia's integration to the Eurasian Economic Union
- Russian-Turkish relations and their impact on Armenia
- Energy sector: electricity and natural gas pricing
- Grants received from other countries by Armenian state authorities
- Karabakh conflict
- Armenia-Iran relations
- EU-Armenia relations
- Activity of Russian security bodies in Armenia
- Citizens' personal data protection in Armenia
- History of Armenia's foreign affairs

During the year, we carried out research activities, and on the basis of our findings, we published 105 articles. These articles have been republished in other online media for at least 1750 times.

## **Publication of useful resources**

In 2016, we have published 7 useful materials, which are envisaged for journalists and other researchers. They include international agreements, reports, and clarifications of legal acts, which cannot be found anywhere else.

## Publication of video materials

On the basis of the most important research works of our experts, animation video materials are being created. During the year 2016, 23 video materials were prepared and published. Eight of those videos have also been published in the Russian language.

Our videos have had more than 593.000 views on YouTube and additional 1,7 million on Facebook and other social networks. On YouTube only, the videos have been watched for 1,6 million minutes.





## Training for Journalists

During the year 2016, we organized two seminar-conferences “Foreign Policy and Its Coverage” in Tsaghkadzor. A total of forty-seven journalists from leading Armenian news media outlets took part in the training.

During the seminars, spokesperson of the RA Ministry of Defense Artsrun Hovhannisyan, spokesperson of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tigran Balayan, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Armenia H.E. Mr. Piotr Antoni Świtalski, Deputy of the RA National Assembly Alexander Arzumanyan and other experts delivered speeches and answered the questions of participants.



## Advocacy of Electoral Legislation

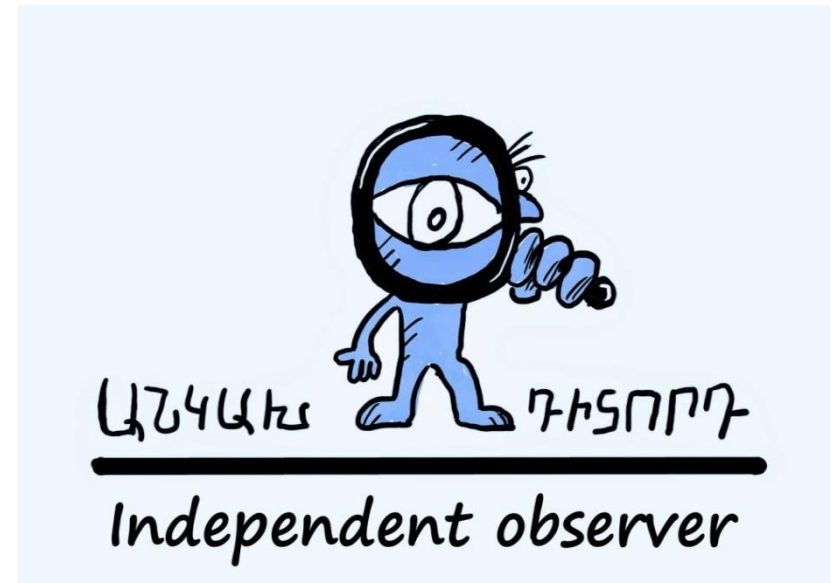
During the whole course of 2016, the electoral legislation was discussed in Armenia. In cooperation with other civil society organizations, we developed a list of key demands related to the RA Electoral Code and promoted them.

Within the framework of the advocacy activities, we participated in the 4+4+4 negotiation format in the Parliament and implemented other advocacy mechanisms. We also advocated for a number of CSOs' demands in the Central Electoral Commission and Police.

## Observation of Elections

On October 2, 2016, local elections were held in a number of communities in Armenia. In order to observe those elections and subsequent ones, we founded the “Independent Observer” Public Alliance with Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Vanadzor Office.

“Independent Observer” observed the elections in Gyumri and Vanadzor with 200 observers.



## Fact checking though Sut.am

In November, 2016, we created the SUT.am fact-checking website. During 2016, there were 35 publications in the website.

Moreover, the website not only refutes the direct propaganda of Kremlin, but also fights the indirect expressions of that propaganda. A vivid example is the instance when there was an attempt to create an impression among the public that the West intends to destroy family values in Armenia by promoting the law on combating domestic violence.

Within just a few weeks, SUT.am became a famous and influential media outlet, with publications having up to 5-6 thousand views each in average.

## Russian-Language News in ArmRusInfo

During the year 2016 we promoted our newly-founded Russian-language ArmRus.info news website. It has already become a fully-functioning media website. During the aforementioned period, more than 3000 materials were published on the website. The website has objectively covered current news for Russian-speaking readers in Armenia, as well as important developments taking place in Armenia for foreigners.



## ***FINANCE***

### ***2016 REVENUE BY DONORS in USD***

European Endowment for Democracy, Brussel	\$2,213.00
Open Society Foundations-Armenia, Yerevan	\$11,430.00
National Endowment for Democracy, Washington	\$52,956.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$66,599.00</b>

### ***2016 EXPENDITURES BY IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS***

Democratization of the Constitutional Referendum Process	\$2,213.00
Public Debate on Electoral Legislations	\$4,454.41
Monitoring the Activites of the Central Electoral Commission	\$5,446.65
Public Debate on Foreign Policy	\$52,993.49
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$65,107.55</b>