



DETAILED FACT SHEET

“Youth For Achievements” (YFA) is a self-governed, non-profit, non-governmental educational organization. YFA was originated and is managed by the Future Leaders’ Exchange (FLEX) Program alumni of Armenia. The organization was formed in 1994 and is officially registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. Over 17 years of its existence YFA has implemented a number of educational, benevolent and intercultural projects and activities, aimed at fostering values of democracy, humanism, human rights and freedom.

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Current Projects

Presently YFA implements a range of activities in various sectors, such as promotion of civil society, education and human rights. YFA continues to devote extensive efforts to increasing community involvement in betterment of school life and fostering greater public engagement in the country.

- **“E-Society” Web Based Platform Creation Project**

Year Funding Received: 2011- Present

Funding Source: UNICEF

Description of the Activity: “E-Society” project aims at setting up a web resource on child rights and children issues and a web-based platform that will facilitate participation of children, adolescents and youth in decision-making on issues affecting them, to establish rapport between Student Councils and decision-making governmental bodies, Parliament, Ombudsperson’s Office, and other institutions that could benefit from children’s views, to engage children and youth in major discussions of issues that affect their lives at central, provincial levels.

- **“Smart Future” Career Orientation Project**

Year Funding Received: 2011- Present

Funding Source: ACIE

Description of the Activity: “Smart Future” Career Orientation Project aims at students graduating from high schools through providing them useful and necessary information about today’s Armenian labor market and the professions available other than doctors, lawyers, economists and linguists. Various professions will be described and explained to the school students by university or college students studying there. The project is being carried out in 42 high schools of Gyumri, Vanadzor, Abovyan and Hrazdan cities in partnership with Alumni and Career Centre of Yerevan State University

- **“Youth Councils’ Initiative” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2011- Present

Funding Source: ACIE

Description of the Activity: “Youth Councils’ Initiative” Project aims at activating and increasing the participation of youth in their schools and communities by expanding and contributing to their civic knowledge. 7 secondary and high schools’ Student Councils of Abovyan city will be equipped with the practical skills needed to foster youth activism and by inspiring more active participation of the extended community as they witness the collective power and actions of students and communities. Various trainings on Leadership, Community Service, Project Management will be delivered to participants after which they will be provided with an opportunity to apply for small grants to design and implement local projects.

- **“Youth Engaged in Society” School Debate Club Creation Project – (YES)**

Year Funding Received: 2004 - Present

Funding Source: Jinishian Memorial Foundation / European Union

Description of the Activity: YES project aims at fostering civil society and active engagement of youth in society through creation of debate clubs. The project included 76 schools from Armavir, Metsamor, Echmiatsin, Abovyan, Hrazdan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Gavar, Sevan and Yerevan. In the sixth year of project implementation the project included 26 new schools from Ashtarak, Masis and Artashat towns. The project aims at using competitive debating and school debate clubs to inspire and empower youth to become active and responsible members of their society. The clubs offer young people (age 14-18) a place to gather in an informal academic environment to explore, analyze and discuss key issues in their lives and society. At first the clubs students compete in intra-club debate competitions and after they gain experience they participate in the interschool debates and as well as in the national championship.

Accomplished Projects

- **“For Better Life” Educational Project**

Year Funding Received: June 2010 - 2010

Funding Source: American Councils For International Education

Description of the Activity: The project aimed at improving lives of young orphans and thus encouraged them to continue fighting for better life and never give up their dreams to achieve their goals in life.

Job hunting seminars were organized for 15-21 year old young people from Gyumri and Vanadzor orphanages in the scopes of the project. The seminars included computer, resume writing classes, as well as internet usage and interview skills sessions. Before the main training sessions participants underwent teambuilding, communication and leadership workshops using interactive methods.

- **“Interactive Human Rights” European Law Mooting Competition project – (IHR)**

Year Funding Received: 2009 -2010

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union

Description of the Activity: European Law Mooting Competition project aimed at assisting to Human Rights promotion in Armenia by providing an appealing and interactive mechanism, incorporating awareness raising and self-education in the area of Human Rights for undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students majoring in law, international relations, international law, political science and history. The legal case was developed with consideration of timely accurate issues related to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Republic of Armenia. This Action created further continuous interest and tradition in such awareness raising and training with practical emphasis.

- **“Basics of Debate” Manual Publication Project**

Year Funding Received: 2008

Funding Source: Counterpart International (CPI) Representation in Armenia

Description of the Activity: “Basics of Debate” Manual Publishing Project was a part of a larger “Youth Engaged In Society” School Debate Club Creation project: The project was aimed at publishing Armenian language Debate manual which was created during the last years of YES project implementation. Based on the previously developed manual new manual was developed according to feedback received from Debate club members and mentors. The manual is a vital tool used during the debate training organized by the mentors for new members and serves as a guide for new mentors.

- **Armenian Youth Discusses European Values, Good Governance, Human Rights and Democracy**

Year Funding Received: 2008

Funding Source: British Embassy of Armenia

Description of the Activity: YFA in cooperation with British Embassy of Armenia implemented “I speak” project. The project aimed at promoting good governance and democracy through organization of series of film screenings and further discussions among Armenian youth. The goals of the project were to raise various issues important to promoting democracy and good governance in Armenia, to involve approximately 400 students, aged 12-16 for discussions from 8 towns of Armenia, to facilitate open and critical discussion on issues of democracy and good governance, to trigger analytical approach among youth and help them freely express their view points and share those with peers. The project and similar way of youth discussions/debate has proven to be successful and a good tool for the promotion and raising knowledge of democracy culture development in Armenia.

- **“Interactive Human Rights” European Law Mooting Competition project – (IHR)**

Year Funding Received: 2004-2005 / 2007 -2008

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union/ “Legal guide” organization

Description of the Activity: “The major goal of the project was to assist to the promotion of Human Rights by providing an appealing and interactive mechanism that would incorporate awareness raising and self-education in the

area of Human Rights among young generation, as well as would be replicable and have a potential to grow into a tradition thus ensuring transferable sustainability. The Project involved knowledge transfer and absorption through public simulation of a court process of the European Court of Human Rights. Target group of students was chosen as a safeguard of knowledge sustainability and its preservation among the most progressive and receptive segment of the population. Main activities of the action were: the moot European Court of Human Rights contest for student mooted teams and televised final of the moot court contest final. All activities were covered by media which provided public awareness of the action and Human Rights issues.

- **“Democracy is Debate” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2007

Funding Source & Partnership: Democracy Commissions Small Grants

Description of the Activity: The goal of “Democracy is Debate” project was to educate civically conscious citizens of a democratic society through organization of a summer school for representatives of 35 regional schools of Armenia. “Democracy is Debate” project used non-formal education as a method for development of youth that was aware of its rights and was able to exercise them. It targeted students of 35 secondary schools of Armenia, from the following 6 towns: Armavir, Abovyan, Echmiatsin, Hrazdan, Gyumri and Vanadzor. The project targeted 14-17 age year-old members of debate clubs, but participation was open to other interested students as well. Participating youth also had an opportunity to put into practice their newly acquired knowledge by designing their own projects, concerning health, education, culture, art, labor right and drug protection. All the projects were funded; the teams received small grants and had two months for project implementation.

- **“Strengthening Civil Society role in good governance development in Armenia” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2007

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union/ Armenian PR Association (APRA)

Description of the Activity: The major objective of the project was enabling the civil society actors to engage in democratic governance by improving of quality and quantity of policy dialogue in the country between the stakeholders on governmental and civil society levels. The project had the specific objectives to:

1. Establish mechanisms for continuous dialogue and cooperation in the framework through creation and institutionalization of Civic Advisory Councils (CAC) in target areas of Governance: Justice, Social Services and Environment Protection.
2. Build Capacity of the Civil Society actors (NGOs and Media) to act as consultative/advisory bodies with the target government agencies
3. Promote principles of responsible governance among Armenian state officials
4. Raise awareness of general public about the functioning of Civil Advisory Councils and good governance practices by delivering easily accessible online information, through provision of TV broadcasts and with the means of press.

- **“Voter Education Campaign” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2006

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union/ Helsinki Association

Description of the Activity: The objective of the Project was awareness raising on civil participation issues and elections. This was the continuation of the previous “Voter Education Campaign” implemented by YFA in 2006. The target groups of the Project were 180 school communities of Armenia. From each school community one teacher/mentor participated in TOT organized in Yerevan. After the TOT each teacher/mentor conducted 2 day seminars on elections and voters’ rights issues in his/her school community. It was estimated that 25 high grade school students, parents, teachers and community members attended those seminars. As seminars were conducted in 180 school communities, 4500 potential voters were involved in the Project.

- **“South Caucasus Youth Councils Initiative” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2004-2007

Funding Source & Partnership: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Description of the Activity: YFA implemented “South Caucasus Youth Councils Initiative” project which was designed to empower youths through the formation of youth councils to make positive contributions to their schools

and communities. The project included 13 schools from Kotayk and Kamaris villages of Kotayk region, Mayisiyan and Sardarapat villages of Armavir region, Vanevan and Drakhtik villages of Gegharkunik region, Vosketap and Pokr Vedi of Ararat Region, and Yerevan schools 87, 108, 128, 130, as well as special school number 17. Through participation in organized youth councils, youths ages 14 to 17, received training on leadership, communication and teambuilding skills, needs assessment and proposal writing. Participating youths had an opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge by designing their own projects to address a self-identified need in their own schools and communities. Youth also participated in collective workshops, identified needs and created a joint project.

- **“Interactive Elections” Mooting project (IE)**

Year Funding Received: 2007

Funding Source & Partnership: co-funded by UNDP

Description of the Activity: “Interactive Elections” project aimed at assisting development of democracy, civic participation, raising young voters’ awareness on the issue of importance of participatory democracy and boosting their participation in elections. This project was a logical continuation of YFA’s previous projects on dissemination of principles and values of democracy, awareness raising among young voters on election-related issues through training and encouraging participation in electoral processes. Important component of this 6-month project was the interactive training for students served through 2-day seminars and Mock parliamentary elections simulation game. Project covered higher education institutions of Yerevan, Lori and Shirak regions, thus giving participation opportunity to a large number of Armenia’s students from across the country.

- **“Youth For Elections” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2007

Funding Source & Partnership: National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Description of the Activity: The overall goal of “Youth For Elections” project was uniting a group of young people, who would share intention of supporting democracy-building in Armenia, provide them with knowledge about democracy and elections and assist the group in implementation of their small-scale initiatives aimed at involvement of more youth. The project planned to form a youth initiative, which will serve the purpose of fostering voter participation in upcoming elections 2007-2008.

An initiative group with 5-10 members was formed to carry out various small-scale activities aimed at raising the awareness of youth regarding free and fair elections, as well as fostering their participation in upcoming elections. Members of the group had participated in a workshop where they had obtained skills necessary for working in a team and design the plans of the initiative group, as well as receive training on electoral processes and cornerstones of democracy.

- **“We Must Do More...” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2006

Funding Source & Partnership: American Councils for International Education (ACIE)

Description of the Activity: The overall goal of “We Must Do More...” project was to improve the life of children living in orphanages, and youth in general through publicizing the orphanage conditions and needs via internet. We aimed at improving lives of the children living in the orphanages and thus encourage them to continue fighting for better life and never give up their dreams to achieve their goals in life. The project targeted orphanages from Shirak and Lori regions; “House of Children” and “Hope” orphanages from Gyumri and Vanadzor orphanage. “We Must Do More...” was a FLEX Small Grant project funded by American Councils and implemented by group of alumni and supported by “Youth For Achievements” Educational NGO. Within the scopes of the project www.manuk.am website has been created, which contains details about the project itself and all the participant orphanages. The main purpose of which was to collect various donations and at the end of the project to disseminate them to the orphanages.

- **“Voter Education Campaign” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2006

Funding Source & Partnership: US Embassy / Democracy Commission Grants

Description of the Activity: “Voter Education Campaign” Project was designed with the purpose of assisting the formation of the civil society and fostering active citizen involvement in democratic processes. The Project intended to make a positive impact on target communities by changing its members’ mentality from passive democracy-consumers to active democracy-makers. Within the scope of the project, YFA has initiated a large educational

campaign targeting 60 school communities with an aim of increasing the participation of these communities' members, present and future voters, in the civil society and, particularly, in upcoming elections of 2007 and 2008.

- **English Teacher Training**

Year Funding Received: 2003-2006

Funding Source & Partnership: British Council Armenia

Description of the Activity: In conjunction with British Council in Armenia YFA organized trainings for English Language Teachers in 150 Armenian secondary schools and around 200 English language teachers. The project aimed at introducing new methodology and innovative techniques to create active and interesting atmosphere in the classrooms. During 4 cycles of the project it has introduced the teachers with various exercises and techniques in the spheres of reading, writing, speaking and vocabulary.

- **“Men against Domestic Violence” Campaign Project**

Year Funding Received: 2005

Funding Source & Partnership: United Nations Development Program (UNDP) / Gender and Politics in South Caucasus

Description of the Activity: Project was implemented in partnership with Armenian Public Relations Association. The project was aimed at raising the level of awareness on domestic violence cases and their prevention focusing on 15 project target communities: 5 in Yerevan and 10 in regions of Armenia. Also, discussions of discriminatory reality in Armenian communities were held through: articles, trainings of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) active members in target communities, shooting and airing a TV Shows, as well as seminars were organized by trained Social Service Agents and PTA members in their communities.

- **“European Union in the eyes of Armenians”**

Year Funding Received: 2004

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union

Description of the Activity: The overall goal of the project was creating a web-based portal with multiple functions allowing both promotion and measurement of the impact of such promotion in an interactive and widely accessible manner. The web portal contains a variety of information related to the European Union. More precisely, the “European Union in the Eyes of Armenians” web portal provides an excellent opportunity to receive basic information and brief facts about the history of the European Union, to raise topics of discussion in the Forum and engage in a heated and live discussion in the forum. The web portal enables on-line visitors to test their knowledge of the European Union, its major historic events and current developments. A rich and diverse database of relevant links placed in the web portal bridge users with the major European web resources. Finally, guests of the web portal can enjoy the combination of exploring the Art Gallery and rating children’s artworks representing their perception of the European Union.

- **“Youth In Service” Youth Empowerment and Civic Participation Promotion Project**

Year Funding Received: 2004

Funding Source & Partnership: American Councils for International Education (ACIE)

Description of the Activity: Based on the previous experience in establishment of Youth Councils in schools, YFA has launched another initiative aimed at empowering youth with knowledge and capacity to maximize their participation in school communities and create favorable environment for fostering active societal involvement. Youth Councils were established in 10 Yerevan secondary schools, which underwent a series of trainings providing them with necessary competence to utilize it in their everyday activity and future operation. Upon completion of trainings Youth Councils were granted an exquisite opportunity to develop and implement their own mini-projects. The Project contributed to the development of students’ involvement into the process of democracy building as well as raising generations with healthy and contemporary understanding of civil society.

- **“Bridges of Integration” Boarding School Students Psychological Treatment Project**

Year Funding Received: 2004

Funding Source & Partnership: American Councils for International Education (ACIE)

Description of the Activity: “Bridges of Integration” project aimed at conducting psychological treatment trainings for children of Secondary Boarding Schools. Target participants were students of Boarding Schools with most acute psychological problems. The trainings targeted the development of their communication skills or their psychological correction.

- **“Transparency and Accessibility of Armenian Judicial System” Armenian Economic Web Portal Creation Project**

Year Funding Received: 2004

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union / Armenian PR Association (APRA)

Description of the Activity: The major objective of the project was improving access to regulatory and administrative information and increasing transparency of judiciary structures, policies and proceedings in and related to the Economic Court of the Republic of Armenia, as well as improving the quality and effectiveness of judiciary. As an obtained result a web site has been designed. The main task of the web site is to safeguard the free provision of necessary information about the judiciary system and to enhance the efficiency and quality of information exchange between the public and the Economic Court. The Economic Court website not only contributes to the increase of public awareness on the court functions, and raises their legal conscience, but also becomes a daily source of information. Moreover it promotes the formation of civil society as a positive experience of transparency and cooperation.

- **“Young Entrepreneurship Promotion Campaign” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2003

Funding Source & Partnership: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Description of the Activity: During July-December of 2003, YFA conducted the “Young Entrepreneurship Promotion Campaign” aiming at enhancing the understanding of the entrepreneurship concepts and business thinking among young segments of the Armenian was focused on raising awareness of the young segment of population of the Lori and Tavush regions (age between 16 and 25) in the issue of entrepreneurship as of a concept. The project included a series of interactive trainings introducing young business tyros with basic knowledge in entrepreneurship. Within the scope of the project a Business Fair was organized to enable young entrepreneurs to meet their potential micro-credit organizations and explore possible ways of future beneficial cooperation. A TV show was aimed at identifying the problems and concerns young entrepreneurs encounter with when starting their own business and increasing public awareness about youth entrepreneurship in general.

- **“Manifesto: Right To Decide” Public Awareness Campaign**

Year Funding Received: 2003

Funding Source & Partnership: Mental Disability Advocacy Program, Open Society Institute - Budapest

Description of the Activity: During September-December of 2003 YFA stepped into a new area of human rights advocacy – rights of mentally disabled people. The Campaign was implemented in cooperation with “Women for Dialogue”, “IT and Women”, “Unison” NGOs as well as “Prkutyun” Charitable Union for Assistance to Disabled Children and “Progress” Center of Social Researches. The Campaign started with consolidating and systematizing the cross-section efforts made in the sphere of Intellectual Disabilities. The activities implemented during the Campaign included Roundtable discussions with the key players of the field, educational Workshop for mass media representatives, Artwork Exhibition with participation of more than 150 children with intellectual disabilities countrywide, as well as TV Clip, Poster and Booklet production. As a result of the Campaign a Manifesto on the rights of people with intellectual disabilities was presented to decision-making bodies of this sphere as an appeal for National Strategy Development.

- **“Investing For Future” Fundraising Event**

Year Funding Received: 2003

Funding Source & Partnership: American Councils for International Education (ACIE)

Description of the Activity: “Investing For Future” Fundraising project was implemented within the period of July-November of 2003. The project served one specific need: raising funds for the Small Grants fund created for PTAs of over 60 schools countywide. The aim of the project was reducing the gap between available funds and school needs by uniting efforts of interested parties in a joint undertaking. The project was highlighted by multi-cultural fundraising events such as auction, raffle, arts and crafts show, gala concert, and reception. The concert was organized in cooperation with “OVATION” Production center. The project also contributed at increasing the awareness of communities, businesses, international and domestic non-profits about the activity of PTAs in schools and problems of school communities.

- **“Europe – Problems and Tendencies” Tele-Debate Series**

Year Funding Received: 2003

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union

Description of the Activity: “Europe-Problems and Tendencies” project was initiated in January of 2003. The project included four TV-debates, which touched upon various aspects connected with current successes and problems of the European Union, as well as the ways of its future development and expansion. The teams were comprised of students from different higher educational institutions of Armenia. Specialists and stakeholders from relevant fields were invited as guests of the programs and were given a chance to contribute to the discussions. Apart from the above-mentioned invitees, the audience also hosted journalists, leaders of NGOs and other interested individuals. The main goal of the project was to provide a wide range of information to the public and increase public awareness on the issues of the European Union.

- **“Colours of Childhood” Project**

Year Funding Received: 2002, 2003

Funding Source & Partnership: Open Society Institute Assistance (Soros) Foundation Armenian Branch Office

Description of the Activity: During the project duration a virtual gallery www.colours.am was created representing artworks of talented students. The goal of the Project was to use the capacities provided by modern technologies for enlarging the virtual world of Armenian Child Art, which would provide young artists an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate their artworks to the wide Internet audience. The site has 897 artworks of 708 child artists from around 200 schools of Armenia.

- **CEDAW Promotion Campaign**

Year Funding Received: 2002

Funding Source & Partnership: World Learning Inc.

Description of the Activity: The project aimed at increasing awareness on The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which had been ratified by the Republic of Armenia in 1996. The Campaign was funded within the scope of “Special Initiatives on Women’s Rights and Economic Equality and Civil Rights”. 105 PTA members of 105 school communities from all regions of Armenia underwent “CEDAW and Women’s Rights” trainings. Afterwards, the participants initiated and organized similar seminars for their local communities. Overall 1997 representatives of school communities (teachers, students and parents) participated in the seminars during the Local Initiatives Stage. Above all, “Guaranteed Rights vs. Traditions” TV Debate was shot and broadcasted on one of the national TV channels in Armenia. Most active PTA members, who previously participated in “CEDAW and Women’s Rights” trainings, constituted two teams supporting contrary viewpoints.

- **“Sustain To Advance” School Sustainability and Parent Teachers Association Promotion Project**

Year Funding Received: 2002

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Department of State (US DOS)

Description of the Activity: “Sustain To Advance” School Sustainability Promotion and Parent Teacher Association Development Project targeted one specific need: assistance to 60 school communities in acquiring both the capacity and resources to improve the quality of life of children and sustain technical capacities provided to within the scope of “Armenia Connectivity 2000” as well as other similar assistance programs. The participant PTAs underwent “Leadership and Management”, “Principles of Community Service”, “Public Relations”, “Information Technologies” training courses, which were followed by the Small Grants Competition. The competition enabled the PTAs to put into practice the knowledge previously gained during the trainings and design their own projects aimed at meeting the most fundamental need of the school community. 15 out of 42 applicant PTAs were awarded grants for the implementation of their proposed initiatives. Within the framework of Small Grants Competition and the funded

PTA projects school communities acquired a number of assets, such as installation of three playgrounds, construction of two outdoor sports facilities, establishment and furnishing of two school libraries and one auditorium, renovation of four classrooms and one indoor gym, creation of one music room and purchase of necessary musical instruments and purchase of sports equipment for school gym. Four PTAs, whose proposals were not among winning ones, were granted two computers each donated by Children of Karabagh Fund.

- **“Work & Travel USA” Program**

Year Funding Received: 2002

Funding Source & Partnership: Self-funded

Description of the Activity: In October 2002 – May 2003, YFA in cooperation with Worldwide International Student Exchange organization implemented the “Work & Travel USA” Summer 2003 Program. The exchange visitor program enabled Armenian university students gain a greater understanding of the United States. By working and traveling throughout the country, program participants had a unique chance to experience the United States more than just like tourists, and to share their own traditions and culture.

- **"Perspectives of European Integration" TV Debate Series**

Year Funding Received: 2001

Funding Source & Partnership: European Union

Description of the Activity: The project gave the Armenian society basic information on the history of European integration, described paths of different countries leading them into the EU, discussed positive and negative effects from the viewpoint of Europeans, as well as politicians and economists. Students from different higher education institutions participated in the televised debate. The most important and most intensively discussed topics were the strength of the union vs. weakening of member country's national identity, opportunities of building a stronger economy vs. the freedom of implementing own economic and social policies, national currencies vs. single euro.

- **“For A Better Childhood” Community Service Development Project**

Year Funding Received: 2000, 2001

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Description of the Activity: "For A Better Childhood" (FABC) Community Service Development Project aimed at assisting communities in meeting the most fundamental needs for children's healthy and safe development and in acquiring both the capacity and resources to improve children's quality of life. This was made possible by promoting the ideas of community service and public relations. An effective way of such promotion was the establishment, training, and strengthening of Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) in secondary schools of Armenia. 45 schools participated in the Project.

- **“Back To Serve” Community Service and Professional Development Project**

Year Funding Received: 2001, 2002

Funding Source & Partnership: American Councils for International Education (ACIE)

Description of the Activity: "Back To Serve" Project was implemented by the Vanadzor Branch of YFA in 2001. It was aimed at better representing Lori region on the World Wide Web. Within the scope of the Project two informational websites were developed. One of the websites illustrated historical-cultural monuments, while the second one represented the most popular educational institutions of Vanadzor, the administrative center of Lori Marz. The second phase of the project was implemented by the Gyumri Branch of YFA. This Project was aimed at enhancing the online representation of Shirak Marz of Armenia through two informational websites about historical-cultural monuments of Shirak Marz and higher educational institutions of Gyumri, the administrative center of Shirak Marz. The projects allow demonstrating the exceptional beauty of nature and the centuries-long history of Armenian regions, thus attracting many tourists. The websites also represent the higher educational institutions of the regions.

- **Advocacy Trainings in cooperation with Catholic Relief Services (CRS/Caucasus)**

Year Funding Received: 2000-2002

Funding Source & Partnership: Catholic Relief Service (CRS)

Description of the Activity: Advocacy Trainings were held in 32 Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor schools of Armenia in cooperation with Catholic Relief Service, Caucasus Armenia Office.

- **"Face The Democracy" Human Rights Campaign**

Year Funding Received: 1998

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Information Service (USIS)

Description of the Activity: Major objective of the project was to encourage involvement of young people in the democratization processes in Armenia and to define their role and share of responsibilities in the partaking of nation building. Youth is more likely to participate in the democratic processes throughout their lives if they perceived the importance of their social and political activity at an early age. "Face the Democracy" project was part of YFA's continuous effort of involving young people in the political life in Armenia, by increasing their awareness about the issues regarding civil society principles.

- **"Vote For Voting" Youth Countrywide Campaign**

Year Funding Received: 1997

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Information Service (USIS)

Description of the Activity: The project was aimed at increasing youth awareness on the election process, as well as encouraging young voters (age range between 16 and 19) to take part in elections. Series of regional seminar-workshops, designed for high school and university students, were held in various regions of Armenia. These workshops included guest speaker presentations, group discussions, question/answer sessions, voting simulations, etc. The campaign was concluded with an overall two-day "Choose or Lose" conference in Yerevan. Many YFA members volunteered their time and efforts to introduce voting culture and to explain the significance of the vote in the election process to nearly 400 young voters all over Armenia.

- **Organization of Concerts/American Music Day Concert**

Years Funding Received: 1997

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Information Service (USIS)

Description of the Activity: American Music Day Concert was organized in dedication of the 222 anniversary of the American Independence. In the past YFA has organized a number of chamber music concerts at the Union of Composers and Musicologists of Armenia with participation of talented young musicians of Armenia.

- **Tree Planting Projects**

Year Funding Received: 1997

Funding Source & Partnership: Tree Project of the Armenian Assembly of America

Description of the Activity: Members of the Organization participated in tree-planting projects at Yerevan Military Academy after M. Melkonian, in Ashtarak and Gyumri in cooperation with Tree Project of the Armenian Assembly of America.

- **"Transcaucasus in Transition" project**

Year Funding Received: 1995

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Information Service (USIS)

Description of the Activity: The "Transcaucasus in Transition" Peace Conference, sponsored by American Councils for International Education, was held in 1995 in Tbilisi, Georgia. FLEX alumni organizations "New Generation", "Azerbaijan International Youth Club" and "Youth For Achievements", representing Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia respectively, played an important role in partaking and conducting the conference on a high level of professionalism. The conference consisted of four-day workshops covering topics closely connected with political, economic and social issues, pertinent in the three Transcaucasus countries.

- **Courses of English Language and American Culture**

Year Funding Received: 1994-1996

Funding Source & Partnership: United States Information Service (USIS)

Description of the Activity: The courses of English Language and American Culture were conducted for employees of the Ministry of Energy of RA, Ministry of Health of RA, Central Bank of the RA and women's NGO leaders in Armenia.

Future Plans

Our future plans include continuation of implementing development, benevolent, educational and intercultural projects on an advanced level using the experience acquired in the recent years. YFA plans to expand areas of its activities and channel its efforts towards constructive intervention in other issues, both local and global. Specific areas of interest (apart from education, culture, arts, human rights and democratization) for YFA are:

- Advancement of communities through betterment of schools;
- Assistance to school communities through organization of targeted fund raising events;
- Establishment of School Debate Clubs in all Armenian schools as extra curricular activity;
- Promotion of Human Rights among youth and introduction of related practical courses in the academic curriculum;
- Assistance to children with disabilities and their integration into the mainstream of society;
- Assistance to marginalized youth in boarding schools and increasing the level of their civic participation;
- Incorporation of Information Technologies in educational process;
- Development of entrepreneurship among youth;
- Regional cooperation with NGOs with similar vision and mission;
- Environment protection and instilling sense of social responsibility towards environment.

We are open for collaboration with interested organizations and institutions.

Our Partners and Supporters

YFA has formed partnerships with a number of local and international organizations. Regular and effective collaboration with these organizations has enabled YFA to enter new areas of activity and enlarge the organization's capacity. Brought below are domestic and international organizations, as well as governmental bodies and agencies, which have supported our Organization and collaborated in accomplishment of projects.

- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia
- American Councils for International Education
- International Research and Exchange Board
- US Alumni Association of Armenia
- British Council Armenia
- United States Embassy in Armenia
- British Embassy in Armenia
- Jinishian Memorial Foundation
- Delegation of European Commission to Armenia
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Development Program
- National Democratic Institute
- Open Society Institute
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Non-Governmental Organizations Center
- Project Harmony
- Armenian Public Relations Association
- World Vision Armenia
- IFES
- Peace Corps
- British Council
- Heifer International
- Council of Europe
- Oxfam GB Yerevan Office
- Viva Cell
- Tufenkian Foundation
- Casals
- "Legal Guide" NGO
- "Future is Yours" NGO
- Eurasia Partnership Foundation
- Civil Society Institute
- European Movement
- Counterpart International
- Mobilizing Action Against Corruption Activity
- Civilitas foundation
- Children of Armenia

On-line Materials

The following websites are constructed by YFA and serve as an indispensable part of corresponding projects.

- **<http://www.yfa.am/>**

The official website of “Youth For Achievements”.

- **<http://www.ashakert.am/>**

The website of the “E-Society” Project is aimed at creating a student council community in Armenia. The website provides the students with opportunity to contact the cooperating state and non-state agencies and receive answers to their questions. Share their experience in running the student council with their peers.

- **<http://www.debates.am>**

The website of the “Youth Engaged in Society” Debate Club Creation Project was constructed with an aim to serve as an online resource center for the newly established debate clubs. The website contains Debate Rules and Ethics as well as informs visitors on the Project, timetable and overview of debate competitions.

- **<http://www.interactiveHR.am>**

The bilingual website of the “Interactive Human Rights” European Law Mooting Competition contains sufficient information on Project, its implementing and funding organizations. All interested participants can find the Official Problem of the Competition, Rules and Guidelines, Official Schedule, as well as information on registration procedure posted on the website.

- **<http://www.colours.am>**

The Virtual Gallery, constructed within the framework of the “Colours of Childhood” Armenian Child Art Promotion Project, represents around 600 artworks of over 250 Armenian children. The Gallery provides visitors with the exquisite opportunity to evaluate the artworks on-line, to post opinions in the guestbook and to establish contact with the artist.

- **<http://www.manuk.am>**

The website of the “We Must Do More...” Project includes all the detailed information about the orphanages, thus giving possible donors and interested individuals/organizations an opportunity to see the current condition and needs of the orphanages.

- **<http://www.europe.am/>**

"European Union in the Eyes of Armenians" Project

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