

Community Foundations: Challenges and Opportunities in Armenia

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Abstract

Around the globe, the community foundation movement has proven itself to be increasingly dynamic, expanding both numerically and geographically. However, as Lusine Hakobyan demonstrates, community foundations have not yet taken root in Armenia principally because of the country's political and historical context. Rather, after independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenian philanthropy has developed primarily within the context of non-governmental organizations which, unfortunately, are subject to both internal and external limitations on sustainability. This paper assesses both the challenges and opportunities for the development of community organizations in Armenia. Hakobyan analyzes current community-level organizations in Armenia, arguing that, while no single structure or organization exists to assume immediately the community foundation role, the critical components for successfully starting the project are there. Ultimately, Hakobyan recommends creating a framework upon which to capitalize on the existing strengths of civil society organizations, thus allowing for the establishment of community foundations that can link the needs of local populations with existing donor funds.

For the full version of the paper, please click [here](#).

