

# Country Report - Armenia

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WIPO-PPO-KIPO EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL FORUM  
ON USING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) PANORAMA  
FOR BUILDING CAPACITY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED  
ENTERPRISES (SMES) FOR STRATEGIC INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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# **The Main Directions of the State Policy in the Field of SME Support and Intellectual Property Rights and Protection in Armenia**

## ***The Intellectual Property Agency of the Republic of Armenia***

The national system of intellectual property protection in Armenia started by the establishment of the Patent Office Under the Government of the Republic of Armenia in January 1992 and the National Agency of Copyright in December 1993. Later, in 2002, the Intellectual Property Agency of the Republic of Armenia was established by merger of the two organizations, which has the status of separate division acting within the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia. In the same year the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the statutes and the structure of the Agency.

In 2005 the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Conception on State Regulation in the Field of Intellectual Property. At present the legal field of intellectual property is regulated by laws and legal acts as well as the international agreements of the Republic of Armenia. The Republic of Armenia is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) since 1993 and the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO) since 1995.

The Agency cooperates with the European Patent Office (EPO), other international and regional structures and foreign offices. The Agency publishes the Official Gazette "Industrial Property" in Armenian and Russian, which now is issued monthly. Within the frameworks of patent information exchange the Gazettes are sent free of charge to the Patent Offices of foreign countries, international organizations, to several libraries and other organizations of the Republic of Armenia. The Official Gazette "Invention Applications" is published each month, where the invention applications are open for inspection by public. The Agency publishes as well full descriptions of patented inventions and utility models.

The main obligations of Agency are providing legal protection to industrial property subject matters connected with adoption of applications, carrying out examination, rendering protective documents on inventions, utility models, industrial designs, trade marks, appellation of origin as well as publication of official information and implementation of other works stated by its Statutes.

In 2007 130 applications on inventions and 17 applications on utility models were filed with the Intellectual Property Agency, 140 of which by national applicants and 7 by foreign applicant (table 1). As of December 31, 2007 the total number of applications on inventions and utility models has been 2716 since 1992.

## ***The Fund "Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development Center of Armenia".***

"Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center" Fund (SME Development National Center of Armenia) was established by Government of Armenia in 2002. SME Development National Center is authorized to provide state support to small and medium entrepreneurship (SME) in the country. The support is provided through implementation of annual SME State Support Programs with resources allocated from State budget. SME Development National Center of Armenia is governed by Board of Trustees headed by the Minister of Economy. SME Development National Center of Armenia carries out its activities through the well developed network of regional branches and representative offices covering all regions of Armenia coordinated by the central office in Yerevan. Since 2002 thousands of SMEs benefited from various support programs designed for start-up and operating companies.

*SME Development National Center of Armenia's activities are targeted at:*

- Ensuring a dialogue between SMEs and state
- Increasing efficiency and competitiveness of SMEs
- Ensuring availability of business development services for SMEs
- Expanding the financial opportunities for SMEs
- Promoting innovations and R&D activities of SMEs
- Assistance for establishment of new SMEs
- Supporting internationalization of SMEs' activities

*Enterprise Europe Network hosted by SME Development National Center of Armenia*

Starting from 2008 SME Development National Center is hosting Enterprise Europe Network Correspondence Center in Armenia. The Network offers support and advice to businesses across Europe. The Enterprise Europe Network is made up of close to 600 partner organizations in more than 40 countries, promoting competitiveness and innovation at the local level in Europe and beyond. Based on “**no wrong door**” concept Enterprise Europe network serves as a “one-stop shop” for SMEs providing free of charge information and practical advice on market opportunities, European legislation and policies relevant to a company or sector. Enterprise Europe Network helps SMEs to find suitable business partners using its business and technology cooperation database, provides information on tender opportunities and international networking.

**Support to SME Units as for Protection of Intellectual Property, Standardization and Conformity Assessment.**

Provision of opportunities for protection of intellectual property, standardization and conformity assessment for SME units its one of the pledges for success of their activities as well as strengthening in domestic market and penetrating into foreign markets.

In scope of the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development State Support Annual Programs it is provided support to SME units in the issues for protection of intellectual property, standardization and conformity assessment. Particularly: for SME units workshops on topics for protection of intellectual property, standardization and conformity assessment as well as seminar-discussions and round-table discussions devoted to above-mentioned issues are organized. Along with this it is provided consulting and information support to SME units by professional business service providers as for the above-mentioned directions according to submitted applications by SME units. Besides it in 2007 the SME Development National Center in cooperation with Intellectual Property Agency of RA developed and published the "Intellectual Property Protection Guide for SMEs".