

A Horizon Journey: Past, Present, and Future

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Past

PERITIA – Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action

- H2020 multi-disciplinary research project investigating the question of public trust in expert advice and its impact on policy
- Co-Ordinator Maria Baghramian, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Budget: €3m
- Duration: February 2020 – May 2023

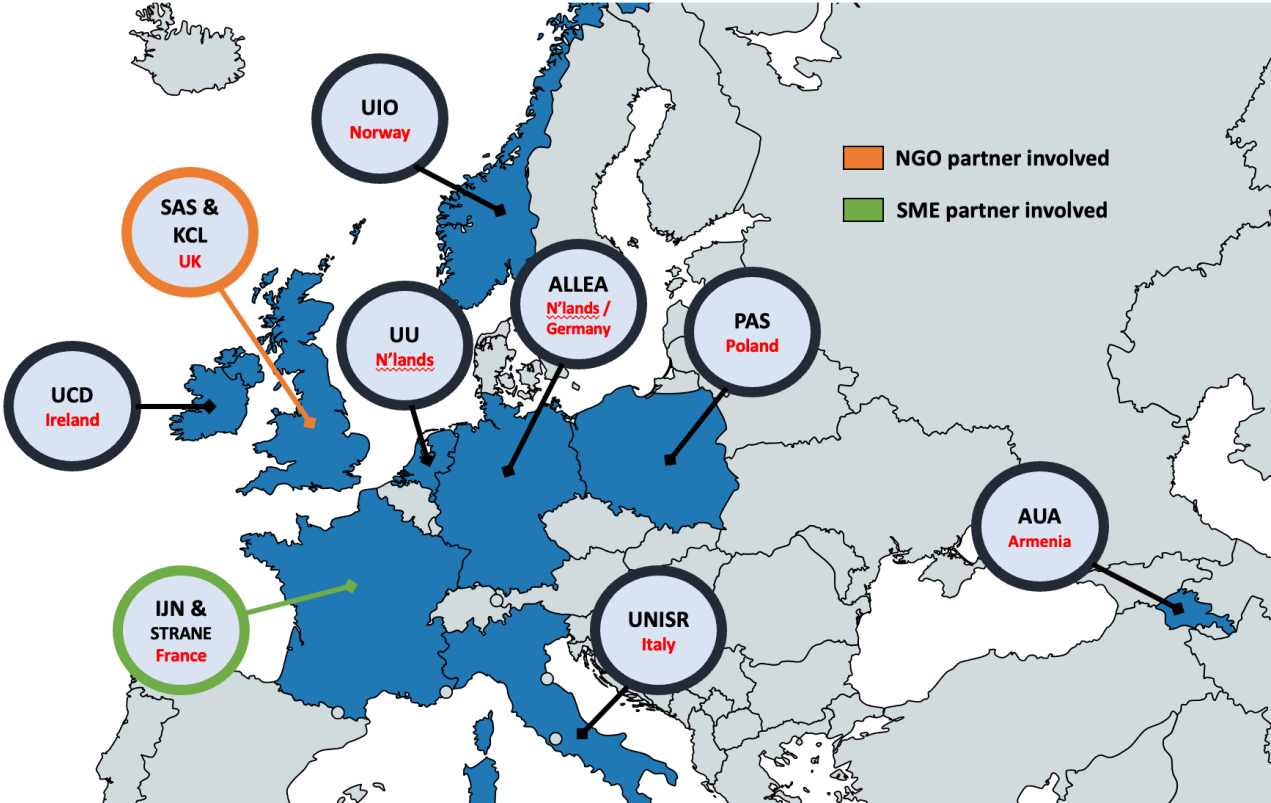


Universiteit Utrecht



11 international partners from 9 countries

First instance of Armenia’s participation in a Horizon Research and Innovation Project



Geographical distribution of consortium

Team at AUA



**Alen G
Amirkhanian**

**Jenny
Paturyan**

**Arshak
Balayan**

**Siranush
Harutyunyan**

Key Activities: 1. International Conference on the Ethics of Trust and Expertise

- A 3-day hybrid conference, June 2022, on ethical issues relevant to public trust, the nature of expertise, and the role of experts in public life.
- 65 peer reviewed papers
- 3 keynote addresses
- 50 international in person attendees.



2. PERITIA Discussions@AUA

- PERITIA @AUA organised in-person discussions on the work of international contributors to the PERITIA project



Armenian/English simultaneous translation

PERITIA Discussions@AUA		5:30 PM Yerevan Online via Zoom	
 Discussing Naomi Oreskes Serob Khachatryan 31 March	 Discussing Michael Lynch Arman Gharagulyan 28 April	 Discussing Heather Douglas Mariam Atalyan 12 May	 Discussing Dan Sperber Kristine Grigoryan 26 May

Register here:
https://ace.aua.am/peritia/discussions_at_aua/

AUA American University
of Armenia



Armenian/English simultaneous translation

PERITIA Discussion @AUA, Part 2		5:30 PM, Akian Gallery Online via Zoom	
 Discussing Åsa Wikforss Andranik Stepanyan 15 September	 Discussing Stephan Lewandowsky Hovhannes Nikoghosyan 15 October	 Discussing Philip Kitcher Steve Donatelle 27 October	 Discussing Sheila Jasanoff Hakob Madoyan 10 November



Register here

AUA American University
of Armenia

3. Local organizer of the international Youth on Trust Competition

- Close to 45 students from 25 different Armenian cities and villages participated in the competition.
- Four of the Armenian finalists were winners in the international round of the competition. They attended closing event in Brussels



<https://newsroom.aua.am/2022/08/17/youth-on-trust-competition-4-pan-european-winners-armenia/>



<https://newsroom.aua.am/2023/06/05/concluding-peritia-impact-tools-and-youth/>



4. Data Collection and Analysis

National Survey on Public Attitudes Towards Science and Expertise

- Final sample size: **1104 individuals**

- **Results Reported**

In

<https://peritia-trust.eu/highlights/>

and the PERITIA Trust Hub

<https://peritia-trust.eu/trust-hub/>

Other Partners

Sample sizes:

- Germany: 2,017
- Ireland: 2,030
- Italy: 2,044
- Norway: 2,045
- Poland: 2,168
- UK: 2,042

Data were collected directly from respondents via a **self-completed online survey**.

Fieldwork dates ranged from **January 4-19, 2022**.

5. Deliberative Mini-Publics: Citizens and Experts Assembly. Armenia one of the five PERITIA participating countries

Theme: urban transport policies for climate mitigation

Thirty-five Yerevan residents assembled at AU) to hear from experts, reflect, and deliberate on urban transportation policy choices for Yerevan, especially in the context of climate change.



<https://newsroom.aua.am/2023/03/15/yerevan-residents-deliberate-on-citys-transport-policy-and-the-climate/>

Outcome

- PERITIA received glowing reports from the reviewers both in its mid-term and final reporting periods. Since then, the project has been used as a model for many multi-disciplinary applications.
- Armenia's participation and contributions was a key element of this success.
- Participation in PERITIA became the gateway to the multiple applications of Alen Amirkhanyan and AUA Acopian Center in various projects
- The success of PERITIA@AUA was a key motivation for my next project: ETICA

ETHICA

AUA CENTER *for* ETHICS *in* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Public Launch



Funded by
the European Union

AUA CENTER *for* ETHICS
in PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUA TURPANJIAN INSTITUTE
of SOCIAL SCIENCES

Present
Horizon Europe European Research Area (ERA) Chair
Funding 2.5 Million euro

Duration: March 1, 2025-March 1, 2030

ERA Chair holders are internationally recognized scholars with a strong research track record and experience in running research projects

They are to elevate the research environment of the host institution, increase its international visibility, and enhance its academic reputation.

ETICA's Mission

To create a comprehensive ecosystem of research, training, and outreach on pressing ethical issues in the public domain in Armenia

ETICA

AUA CENTER *for ETHICS in PUBLIC AFFAIRS*



**RESEARCH &
INTERNATIONALISATION**



**TRAINING &
EDUCATION**



**PUBLIC
OUTREACH**



**STRUCTURAL
REFORM**



COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT

Pillar 1

- To recruit a high-performing research team.
 - Three international and one local early career researchers have been recruited
- Elevate the research output of the institution and bring it to international attention.
- Four international conferences took place in June 29-30, 2025.
- Invitations have been sent for the second international conference: June 22-24, 2026. Topic: Trust and Hope in a Time of Crisis

Publications

Volume 1 of ETICA: A Yearbook of Ethics & Public Affairs has been published

Call for papers for the second volume has been distributed

. The first of ETICA workshop, Led by Professor Jonathan Wolff (Oxford) will take place on April 22 2026.

Four International Conferences No 1

Conference 2
Trust and Hope
in a Time of
Crises
June 2026



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the European Union

AUA CENTER *for* ETHICS
in PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUA TURPANJIAN INSTITUTE
of SOCIAL SCIENCES



GLOBAL INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED STUDY



THE ARMENIAN
SOCIETY OF FELLOWS

Համայնքի պատանդ-ընկերներ, իմանալի պատանդ Համայնք

International Conference *on National Identity in a Time of Crisis*

June 29 - 30, 2025 | Manoogian Hall, PAB

ETICA

Peer reviewed publications

ETICA:

A Yearbook of Ethics
& Public Affairs

Editors: Baghramian &
Balayan

Published annually by:
AUA Press

Volume 1: 2025

The Role of Experts
in Public Policy



Pillar 2: Training and Capacity Building

Led by Dr Arshak Balayan (AUA)

- Actions:

- In Progress:

- Commissioning translation of eight books on Ethics into Armenian

- Research in progress sessions Open to philosophers in Armenia: Session 1 September, 2025

- Training sessions for students and professionals. First Philosophy Café for students, Oct 26. Academy Café.

- Producing up-to-date teaching material in ethics

- Publishing a handbook of applied ethics in Armenian by Dr Balayan.

Research in Progress 1: Support for ETICA translation project



Funded by
the European Union

AUA CENTER for ETHICS
in PUBLIC AFFAIRS

First ETICA Research-in-Progress Meeting

WHAT IS INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE? A DIALOGUE

September 11 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Akian Art Gallery, AUA

Speakers:



Dr. Axel Gosseries
FNRS Research Professor, UCLouvain



Dr. Levon Babajanyan
Associate Professor, YSU

*The event will be held in **English** and followed by a reception at the Faculty Lounge, PAB.*

ETICA

Research in Progress 2: Support for research papers in progress



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Second ETICA Research-in-Progress Meeting

**TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:
ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS BEYOND
“DEVELOPMENTALISM” (AN ARMENIAN CASE STUDY)**

October 24 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Room 233W, AUA

Speaker:



Dr. Marina Kalashyan
Russian-Armenian University

Respondent:



Dr. Arshak Balayan
Deputy Director, ETICA
Assistant Professor, AUA

ETICA

Pillar 3: Outreach and Dissemination

Led by Alen Amirkhanian (AUA)

Pillar 3 replicates many of PERITIA's activities but has in a much larger scope

1. Conduct two national opinion surveys on the themes of trust and hope in a time of poly-crises
2. Organise deliberative mini publics with adult and younger groups on core themes of the project
3. Organise public lectures by international figures as occasions for discussions on key themes from the project.
4. Produce policy briefs informed by the above activities.

To begin n 2026

Pillar 4: Structural Reforms in Higher Education

Led by Dr Knar Khachatryan (AUA)

To update the governance of AUA with the goal of a better alignment with the best EU and international practices.

To focus on the requirements of research ethics, research management training, and research integrity.

To facilitate further EU and international funding applications.

Example of Activities

AUA OFFICE of SPONSORED PROGRAMS
& TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

AUA CENTER for ETHICS
in PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SIPAC Scientific and Innovation
Partnership Assistance Center

HORIZON EUROPE WIDENING PROGRAMS 2026-2027

Presentation & Discussion

November 14 | 3:00pm
Room 133W, PAB or Join via Zoom



Meeting ID:
841 4329 2584



Professor Maria Baghramian
ERA Chair & Director,
AUA Center for Ethics in Public Affairs



Tigran Arzumanyan
Chairman, Scientific and Innovation
Partnership Assistance Center



Dr. Jenny Knell
Research Development Officer,
University College Dublin

Future

As ERA Chair, I am committed to applying for further funding.

So far

1. Widening Area: Application to “Hop” on an exiting Horizon project “Successful AI”. ETICA Work Package: Trustworthy AI from Theory to Practice. Outcome, December 2025
2. Two Research and Innovation applications, AUA/ETICA as a member of a larger team

Call: Balancing the Fight Against Misinformation with Freedom of Expression.

a. Coordinated by a PERITIA Network member from Milan

b, Coordinated by a close research collaborator from University of Glasgow

- 3, Cost Action: participation by invitation from a UK co-ordinator. Outcome, c, February 2026.
4. **In preparation:** A Twinning Project application in partnership with 3 European universities
5. Two ERA Fellowships

Total funding for Armenia c.2.7 million euro

I hope to succeed in at least one.

The Significance of ETICA and PERITIA for Armenia

- Better integration of Armenian researchers into the European Research Area

Providing support for international collaboration, research engagement and peer reviewed publications

- Providing educational resources and training in professional and applied ethics
 - Promoting informed public discourse on public issues
 - Providing motivation and training for applying for funding applications

Challenges: Language barriers in involving other universities in Armenia

Strengthening network connections beyond those available to me personally

Acknowledgement

- This presentation was made possible through funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe ERA Chair Program.
- **Thank you for your attention.**



**Funded by
the European Union**