

[armeniapeace.org](http://armeniapeace.org)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**STRENGTHENING SECURITY, PREPARING FOR PEACE**

**Dear Friends,  
Dear Donors,**

We are pleased to share with you Armenia Peace Initiative's results for 2024, a year marked by significant progress in our projects. Our efforts to provide training for people living in villages on the border with Azerbaijan have just received a 'special mention' at the 2024 Human Rights Prize, awarded by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH) of the French Republic, which this year rewards initiatives 'for the protection of human rights in any situation linked to armed conflict'. This report highlights our achievements and unveils our ambitions for 2025.

Your support is essential if we are to continue our work and put our initiatives into practice. If you would like to contribute, please click on the **Donate** button. Donations to API are tax deductible for French fiscal residents. In that case, you will receive a CERFA tax receipt, 60% tax deductible for companies and 66% for individuals.

We look forward to meeting again next year for new achievements made possible thanks to your generosity. Together, let's continue to play our part in building a safer future for Armenia and the region.

With best wishes for the Holiday Season,  
Yours sincerely,

Taline Papazian  
CEO @Armenia Peace Initiative

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# About us

Armenia Peace Initiative (API) is an endowment fund committed to promoting peace and building security in the South Caucasus, in a spirit of openness and dialogue between the peoples of the region. A non-political and non-partisan organisation, API takes concrete action to strengthen human security in Armenia.

Since its inception in 2020, API has put its expertise and resources at the service of human security in three areas: information and knowledge security in the South Caucasus, a foundation for effective public diplomacy; digital security in Armenia; and civil security for the Armenian people. While the first area has an international dimension, the other two are deployed on the ground, where our training courses have a concrete and immediate impact on human security.

Our programmes are targeted at improving human security through measurable actions. We work closely with French and Armenian public institutions and partners from civil society.

**[Learn more](#)**

# About us

In 2024, we have strengthened two field programmes on which we are focusing most of our efforts. The first is dedicated to cyber security and the other to first aid. These two distinct but complementary strands address some critical vulnerabilities affecting the Armenian population, by developing essential skills to deal with the real threats they face. API is also committed to working alongside other civil society players in Armenia, neighbouring countries in the Southern Caucasus and in France, fostering collaborations based on shared values of solidarity and cooperation.

By building our training programmes as close as possible to the vulnerabilities on the ground, while at the same time having ambitious objectives in terms of bilateral cooperation between France and Armenia, European cooperation, and strengthening institutional capacities of the Armenian state, API is pursuing its mission to strengthen human and information security, thereby helping to cultivate a constructive intellectual environment and strengthen Armenia's resilience.



**[Learn more](#)**

# Information security

Since 2020, Armenia has been evolving in a historical context marked by unprecedented challenges. Between the constant risk of conflict and the fraught quest for a lasting, so far, elusive peace, Armenia is struggling to assert its sovereignty while meeting the vital expectations of its population, whether in terms of security, economy, education or justice.

In such an environment, access to clear, rigorous and analytical information, without partisanship and serving Armenia, becomes a crucial necessity. The ability to grasp the complexities of a post-defeat situation requiring lucidity, realism and inventiveness, in an extremely fluid global context, depends on the availability of reliable data. The work of journalists, diplomats, decision-makers and experts also depends on the existence of such material.

API, true to its commitment, works with people from a wide range of backgrounds: public institutions, political decision-makers, Armenian and Azerbaijani civil society, think tanks, French, European, American and Armenian academics, and humanitarian organisations. Thus we were present at the Global Armenian Summit in September 2024, among the exhibitors on the theme of security.

Our role is to fill strategic information gaps, contributing to a better understanding of the challenges facing the South Caucasus. We regularly publish our 'Debrief', a concise summary of the region's key issues, and select regional news highlights via our SM ([Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#), [X](#) ).

Our selected appearances in the Armenian and French media also contribute to this mission, providing the public with reliable analysis based on research carried out in the field, rather than simply relaying information whose source may be insufficiently verified. The international, French and Armenian media call on the expertise of Taline Papazian, Dr. in political science, specialising in armed conflicts and post-Soviet states and a lecturer at Sciences Po.



# Digital security

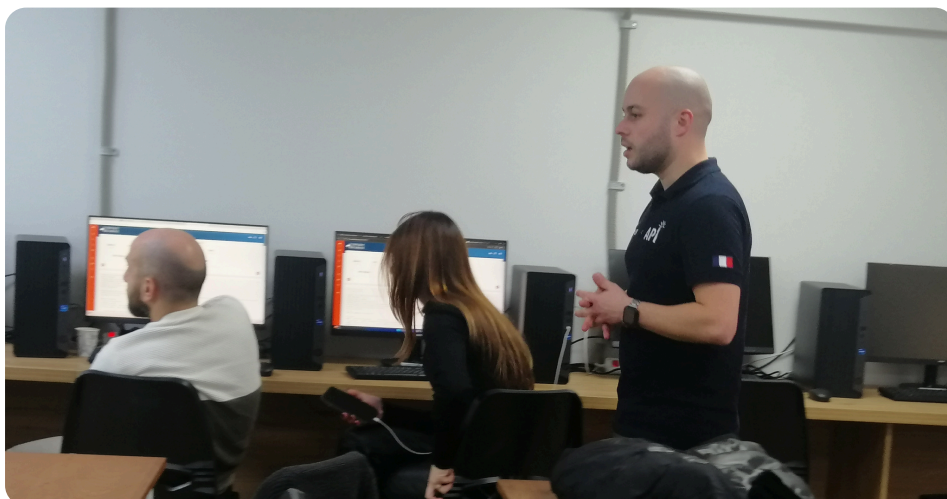
API is investing in local skills to reduce Armenia's digital vulnerabilities through cybersecurity training. API supports Relq, an inclusive programming school operating under a Simplon licence, founded in 2021 by Cyril Harpoutlian, a French entrepreneur. Relq offers free coding training to targeted vulnerable groups, including women, refugees from Artsakh and war veterans.

In 2024, API strengthened its commitment to Relq by contributing to a new introductory cybersecurity module. In April 2024 our cybersecurity trainer, Sébastien Barguirdjian, a lecturer at the Rennes-Saint Malo IUT, contributed his expertise to the range of Relq courses to support the latter's objective of sustainable social and professional integration. This introductory module gave participants an introduction to cybersecurity, covering current issues in the field, and enabled them to broaden the range of skills they had acquired through the Relq coding course, so as to improve their employability at the time of their graduation and better meet the economic and psychological needs of these vulnerable groups.



In 2024, API continued its 2023 journey in continuous education in cybersecurity in partnership with the French University in Armenia (UFAR). With one session of training per academic semester, the aim of our course is to improve the capacity of professionals working in key companies, banks, public institutions and certain sensitive ministries, so that they gradually acquire the skills they need to deal with the cyber threats to which they are regularly exposed. This year, 27 people were trained, more than two-thirds of them professionals already in post, with the remainder mainly students from UFAR's IT course. The trainees received joint UFAR-API diploma, certifying their success in the exams for the subjects taught, namely:

- Networks: Advanced concepts and practices,
- Virtualisation: Using tools such as VirtualBox and Proxmox,
- System administration and security: Security management and reinforcement,
- Digital Forensics: Digital investigation,
- Pentesting: Penetration tests to identify vulnerabilities.





The two sessions, held in spring and autumn, total more than 180 hours of teaching, delivered by two French instructors with cutting-edge expertise:

- Sébastien Barguirdjian, cybersecurity teacher at the Rennes-Saint Malo IUT,
- Nicolas Renard, Cloud Architect at Orange.

The courses, based on a practical approach, enable participants to work in simulated environments, using cutting-edge technologies and tools such as Debian and Kali Linux. Their teaching methods incorporate concrete examples and practical exercises, making the training particularly immersive and effective. Interactive exercises and regular assessments (MCQs and practical work) reinforce learning and measure participants' progress.



After an initial pilot session in 2023 and the design of this programme made of two complementary parts in 2024, API has established itself as a relevant player in digital security training in Armenia. True to our principles of action, targeting human security while providing high value-added expertise to help cover social and state vulnerabilities, API supports the strengthening of bilateral relations between France and Armenia. In 2025, API plans to intensify its efforts in the field of digital security by developing network exchanges between French and Armenian experts and continuing specialised training, in order to strengthen partnerships in this area.



# Civil security

Armenia's border regions remain the most vulnerable to the consequences of natural and man-made disasters. Preparing the civil sector for these risks is a pillar of the resilience of states and societies. To reduce these vulnerabilities, API has designed an ambitious civil security training programme launched in December 2023. After a run-in period, including first aid training in major regional towns and tests in certain isolated villages in border regions, a specific deployment targeting border villages in the Tavush region, in north-eastern Armenia, has begun. Locally, an institutional partnership with the State Academy for Crisis Management (AEGC), part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, was set up in April 2024 to prioritise intervention villages and map the follow-up of trained civilians.



These training courses have an immediate practical impact: they form volunteer groups capable of providing assistance to local medical or rescue personnel in the event of a serious crisis.

First aid training follows a NATO-standard protocol that has proved effective in preventing avoidable deaths in mass casualty situations, namely stopping haemorrhage, treating pneumothorax injuries and preparing casualties for evacuation. This protocol has been successfully transposed to the civilian world in Europe for just over ten years, for professions at risk (war reporters, for example) and specialised professions (nurses, anaesthetists).

In 2024, 14 priority 1 villages in the Tavush region - less than 10km from the border - were trained, with 1 to 3 groups depending on the size of their population. **377 participants**, including **251 women** and **92 health professionals**, attended our training courses.

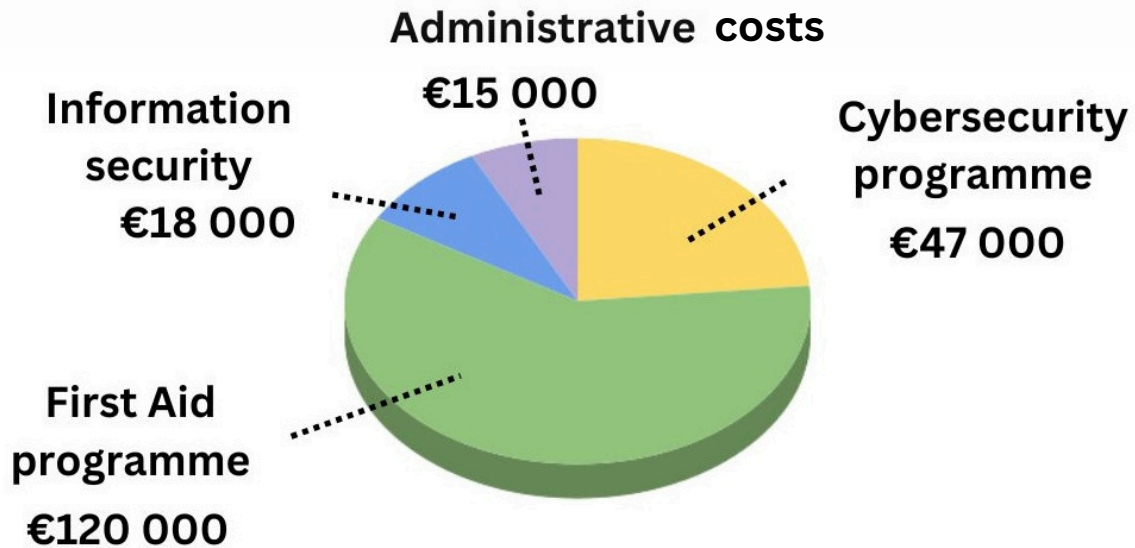
At the end of the training, each participant receives an **individual first-aid kit**, including the basic equipment used for learning. From 2025, we will also systematically equip the town hall, the medical centre and the village school with a **collective first-aid kit**, to ensure immediate coverage of critical needs.

In addition to teaching life-saving techniques, the initiative is distinguished by its tailor-made logistics: 23 training sessions have been organised, representing **more than 10,000 kilometres travelled** to reach **the most remote communities**.



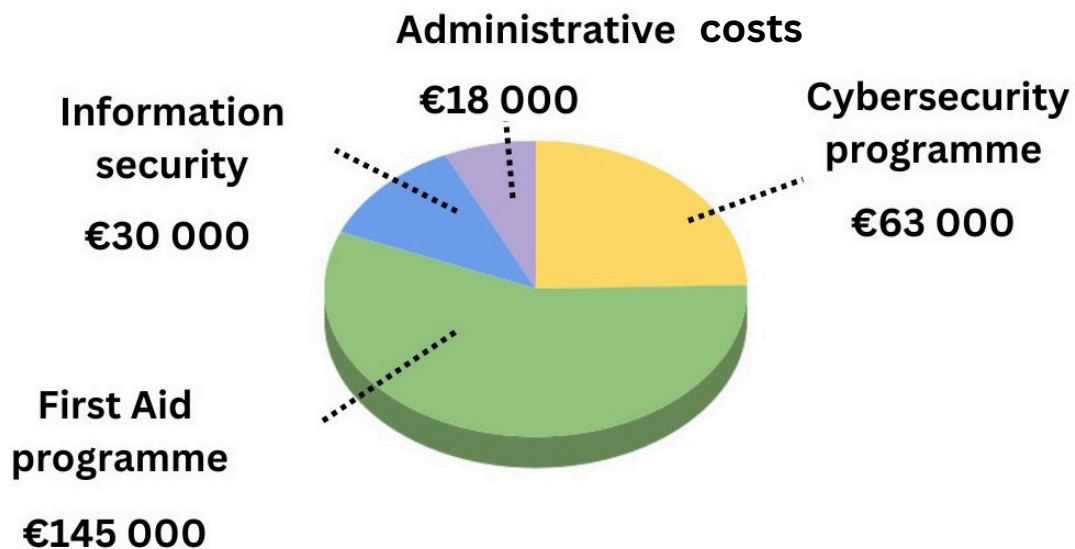
# Our achievements in numbers

## BUDGETS AND FUNDING 2024



**Total €200 000**

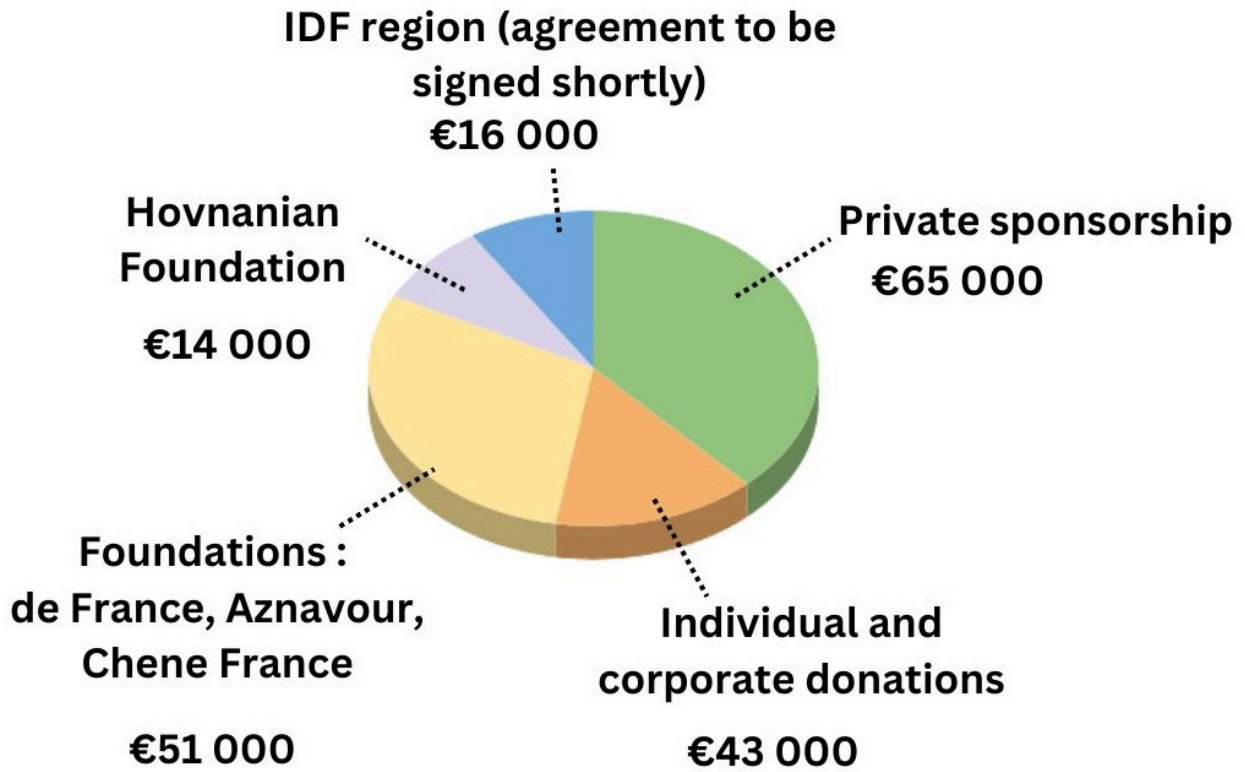
## BUDGETS AND FUNDING 2024 provisional



**Total €256 000**

# DEDICATED FUNDING

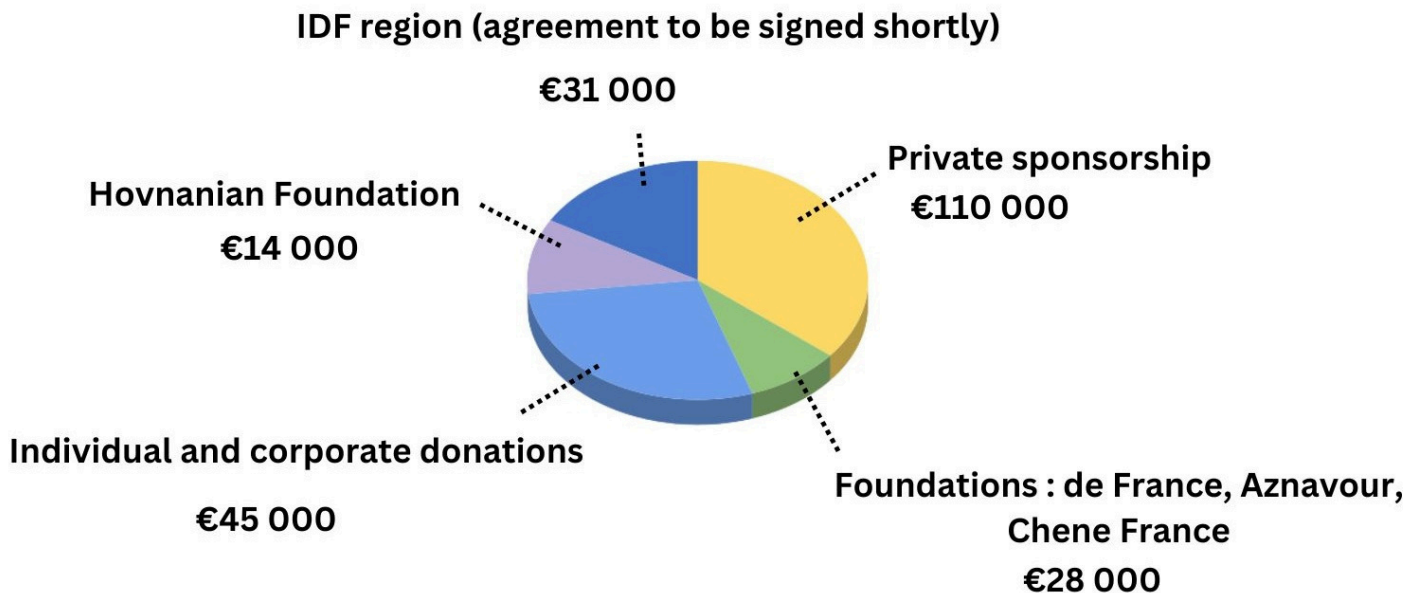
## 2024



**Total €189 000**

# DEDICATED FUNDING

## 2025



**Total €228 000**

They support our programmes  
in cyber security



They support our programmes  
in civil protection in border regions

Projet  
soutenu par





Donating to the Armenia Peace Initiative means acting concretely in favour of Armenia's sustainability. All donations, regardless of their amount, make our actions possible, whether promoting peace or strengthening security.

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Financial support is not the only thing that counts.  
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