



# Archaeological Site of EREROUYK, (ԵՐԵՐՈՒՅՔ) and village of Ani Pemza (ԱՆԻ ՊԵՄՁԱ), ARMENIA



Nominated by the Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena





## Armenia at a glance



Small, mountainous and highly seismic country with a rich Cultural Heritage

Christian since the IV<sup>th</sup> c., independent Republic since 1991

Varied landscape - Rich biodiversity in danger: 150 species of animals and 357 of plants in the red book face extinction.

About 33.000 monuments, many abandoned buildings, pipes, fences and infrastructures are scattered on the territory spoiling the landscape.

Soil pollution and waste management organization still far from European standards.

Young population concentrated in the capital (about 64%) and in a few cities (Vanadzor and Gyumri are the most important)

Several little villages scattered throughout the territory where the resident population, constantly falling, lives in extreme poverty (about the 35% of the Armenian population lives below the poverty line)

The literacy rate is very high (99.7%) - salaries are very low.





## Tourism development in ARMENIA



In 2013, the number of travelers reached 924.965 (an increase of 9.7% compared to 2012), this trend seemed to accelerate in 2014 with RA National Statistics Service (NSS) confirming a 13.6 percent increase compared to 2013.

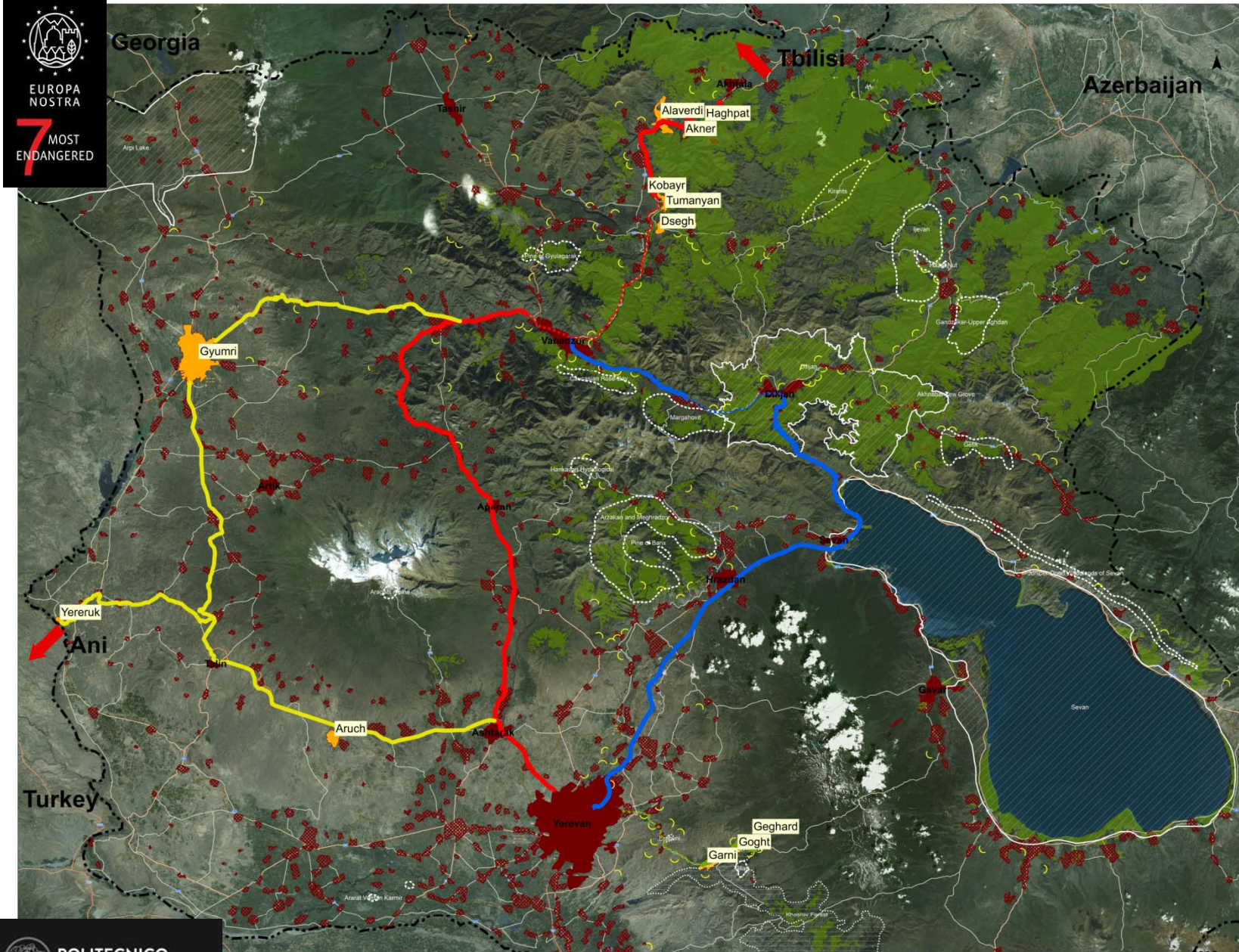
Furthermore, Armenia is at the edges of Europe that is able to attract the 52% of world tourism with a positive trend (+5% according to WTO 2014 report). Between 2010 and 2030, arrivals in emerging destinations (+4.4% a year) are expected to increase at twice the rate of those in advanced economies (+2.2% a year).

According to the WTO 2012 statistics, **34% of visitors came through organized tours**. At least 35 % of all visitors are believed to be coming to visit family or friends (VFF) and some 31% come for business or professional reasons. Independent travel is discouraged.

Domestic tourism is also significant and has a huge potential for growth. An analysis of the Southern Corridor project (AECOM, 2011) estimated domestic tourism in Armenia at over 450.000 travelers (expected to increase as disposable income rises).

Ererouyk is in the UNESCO WH tentative list since 1995





Map 1 Tourist Itineraries  
Nord Armenia

**Legend**

**Tourist itineraries proposed**

Yerevan Tbilisi through Aparan

- Road in good condition
- - - - Road damaged

Yerevan Tbilisi through Sevan

- Road in good condition
- - - - Road damaged

Yerevan Geghard

- Road in good condition
- - - - Road damaged

Yerevan Tbilisi through Gyumri

- Road in good condition
- - - - Road damaged

**Settlements**

- Proposed urban tourist destination
- Principal urban center
- Village

**Hazards**

- Landslide

**Natural Protected areas**

- National Park
- State Reserve
- State Sanctuary
- Planned State Sanctuary
- Forest

State Line

WORLD BANK GROUP

POLITECNICO DI MILANO

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI





# Archaeological Site of EREROUYK, (ԵՐԵՐՈՒՅՔ) and village of Ani Pemza (ԱՆԻ ՊԵՄԶԱ), ARMENIA

Gyumri, 40 minutes



Ani-Pemza village

Mining industry

Rupestrian rooms



Basilica

Necropolis

Dam

Armenian Kurdish village

Akhurian River  
(in Turkish Arpaçay)

Yerevan 2 h drive



Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
© 2016 Google



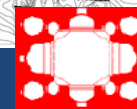
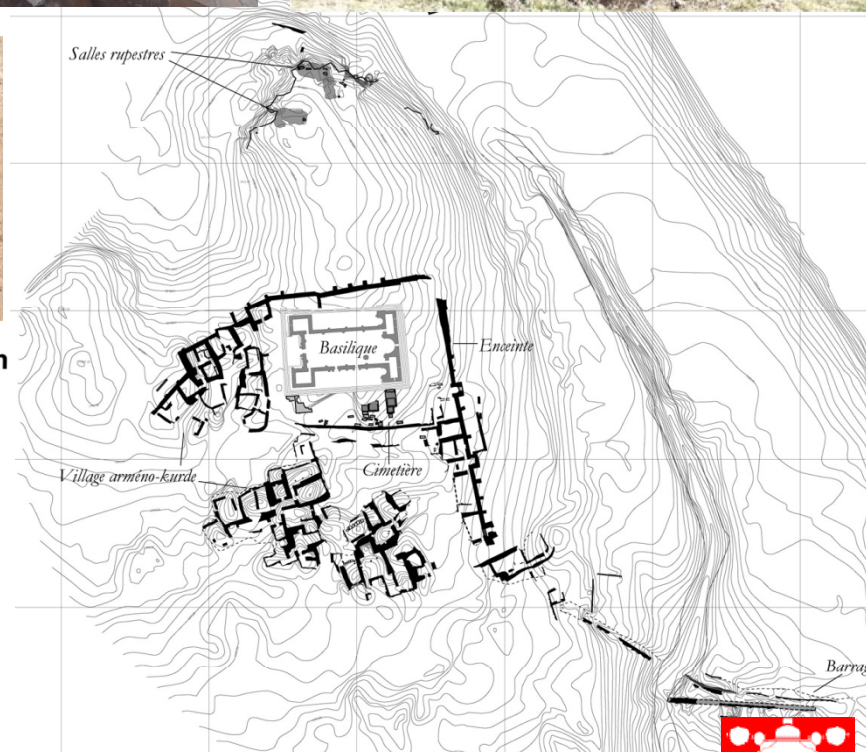


## Archaeological Site of EREROUYK, (ԵՐԵՐՈՒՅՔ)

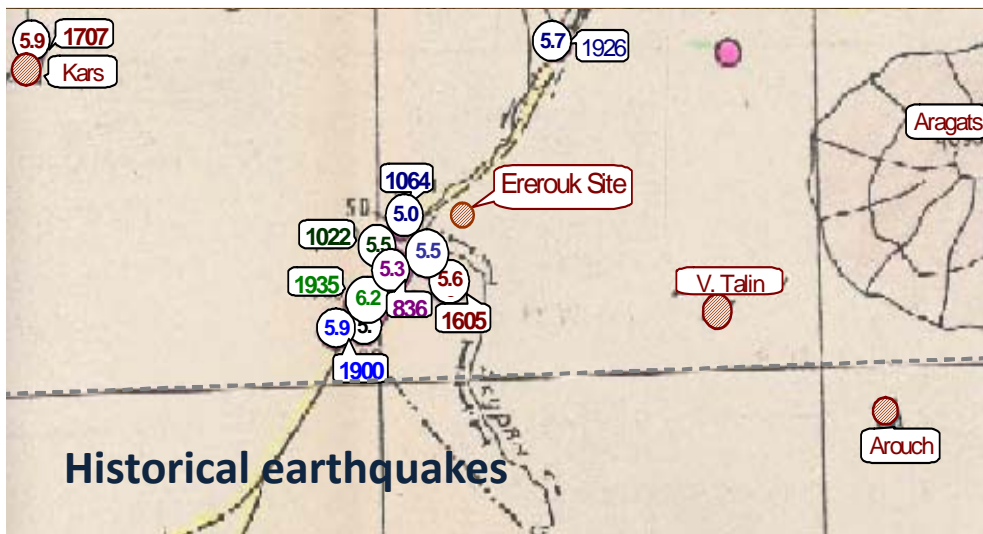


5cm

0



EREROUYK basilica



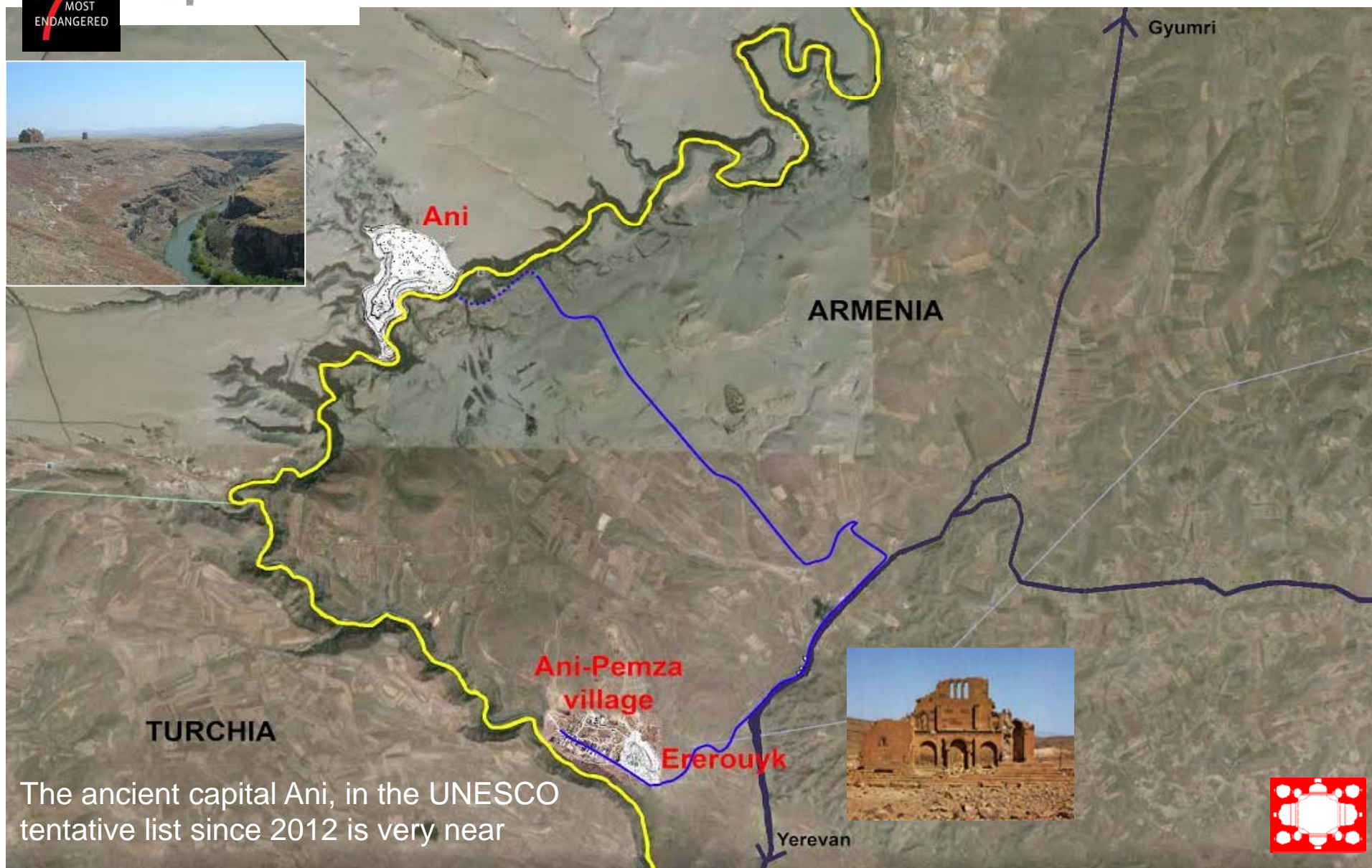


## The village of Ani Pemza (ԱՆԻ ՊԵՄԶԱ)



Built in 1926 to host the workers of a mining activity set in the nearby is now nearly abandoned





The ancient capital Ani, in the UNESCO tentative list since 2012 is very near







## Archaeological Site of EREROUYK and village of Ani Pemza



### **ACTION PLAN - FIRST STEPS**

**COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN**

**SETTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL  
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**NETWORKING**

**DEVISE A SITE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN INCLUDING NORMS AND  
REGULATIONS**

**GET APPROVAL FROM THE  
AUTHORITIES**

**FUNDRAISING**



## Working methodology

- Scientific and multidisciplinary approach;
- Accurate study
- **Collaboration with local experts;**
- Stakeholders identification and **involvement;**

## Key elements

Wellbeing of the local population  
Social inclusion  
Participatory approach

heritage as a crucial asset and resource



conservation, protection and enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage and preservation of its authenticity

Protection of the environment → stop of all the mining activities along the Akhurian river

Tourism is an important source of revenue, but also is a potential threat



The assets must be protected from overexploitation and overinfrastructure

Tourism should be responsible and sustainable





## Archaeological Site of EREROUYK, (ԵՐԵՐՈՒՅՔ) and village of Ani Pemza (ԱՆԻ ՊԵՄՁԱ), ARMENIA

### PLAN FOR ACTION – MONUMENTS PRESERVATION

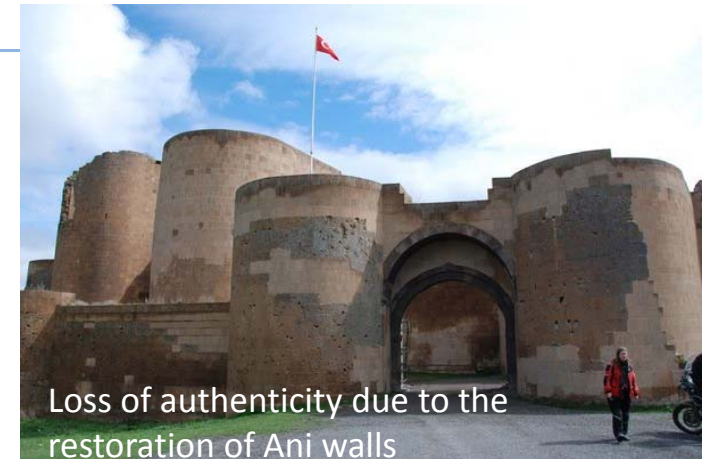
Scientific study of the state of decay of all the monuments (seismic and physical analysis) and implementation of **structural repair** guaranteeing the respect of the authenticity - the same for the village buildings.

**Cleaning from debris, reorganization of the pipelines and landscape restoration**

Realization of a **drainage system** and **paving** the interior of the basilica and of the porches, respectful of the remains of the original paving and foundations;

stonery materials **cleaning and conservation** (removal of weeds, stone preservation, joints pointing, etc...) and eventual anastylosis of a few columns;

enhancement of the site through the **rehabilitation of the road** leading to the area, the realization of a **parking in the village**, realization of **tourist paths and didactic panels** throughout the site and connecting the site and the village to the less known monuments along the Armenian side of the Akhurian river, realization of **rest areas** and **planting of trees**.





## Archaeological Site of EREROUYK, (ԵՐԵՐՈՒՅՔ) and village of Ani Pemza (ԱՆԻ ՊԵՄԶԱ), ARMENIA

### PLAN FOR ACTION – VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT



Rehabilitation of the village: **cleaning from debris**, restoration of the buildings, **improvement of the water and sewage systems** and the creation of **two museums**, a **custom branch office** able to provide permissions for entering in the buffer zone to observe Ani, and a **cafeteria/gift shop**.



One of the museums may host the most interesting sculpted fragments conserved in the area, the results of the findings of recent and future excavation works, a selection of **objects from Shirak museum** (actually unable to display its rich collection) and information about Ani;

The second museum could be devoted to the life in Soviet Union in the Twenties including the history of the village and of the near mine and images from the life of its inhabitants with a video section that could display some of their histories that are all very interesting implying the survival from the genocide;



Organization of an **international symposium** to present the results of archaeological and historical research and creation of a **web site**;

**dissemination of information** (through didactic materials, a scientific publication, tourist leaflets and booklets, etc...) and training for local people to become guides and/or hosts.





## SCIENTIFIC STUDIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FIRST

... to continue the work started by the experts of LA3M together with local archaeologists:

Site cleaning and archaeological excavations (especially in the West and South of the basilica), stratigraphic analysis and study of art history,

open archaeological excavation South to the southern wall of the cemetery, including an area in the late village to allow a better understanding of this area, where some structures considered "modern" can be very old,

archaeological excavations in the interior of the basilica,

continuation of the archaeological excavations at the bottom of the valley, near the walls of the "dam-viaduct" where ancient deposits were discovered,

study, restoration and display of the findings.





# PARTNERS

The **Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena** (CSDCA) is a non profit association active in Italy and in Armenia since the 1970s for the study and documentation of Armenian Heritage, Europa Nostra member since 2014. Since 1988 it is active also in the field of monuments restoration and training. *Dorsoduro 1602 ,30125 VENEZIA – tel. 0039.041.5224225 e-mail [csdcaarchitettura@gmail.com](mailto:csdcaarchitettura@gmail.com)*

The **Laboratoire d'Archéologie Médiévale et Moderne en Méditerranée** (LA3M) is a research unit belonging both to the French CNRS (National Centre for Science and Research) and the University of Provence (South of France). It is specialized in medieval archeology and the history of art and architecture in medieval Europe and the Middle East. *Université d'Aix-Marseille CNRS. 5, rue du château de l'Horloge BP 647 - 13094 Aix-en-Provence Tel. 0030 04 42 52 43 09 - e-mail [patrick.donabedian@orange.fr](mailto:patrick.donabedian@orange.fr)*

The **Shirak Regional Museum**, established in 1930, has a huge collection of cultural goods from the historic region of Shirak (archeology, ethnography, anthropology, numismatics, fine arts). The Museum is active in the field of archeology working in co-operation with state and local authorities, with the Armenian Department for Monuments Preservation, with non-governmental organizations and with scientific, cultural and educational centers in and outside Armenia. *E-mail: [smuseum@web.am](mailto:smuseum@web.am)*.

The **Politecnico di Milano** is a scientific-technological university which trains engineers, architects and industrial designers with a focus on the quality and innovation of its teaching and research. In the ambit of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASU) operates a group directed by Maurizio Boriani that is specialized in the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage from the territorial and urban scale to the single artifact and has gained considerable experience working on the field in Italy and abroad. *via Bonardi, 3, Milano, tel. 0039.02.23995008 – e-mail [maurizio.boriani@polimi.it](mailto:maurizio.boriani@polimi.it)*

The **Global Heritage Fund** (GHF) is a non-profit organization with the mission to protect, preserve and sustain the most significant and endangered cultural heritage sites in the developing world. GHF projects are selected using strict criteria developed by its Board of Trustees and Senior Advisory Board. *631 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 – tel. 1.650.325.7520, e-mail: [marina.djabbarzade@gmail.com](mailto:marina.djabbarzade@gmail.com)*.

