

Sustainable Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Armenia: Call for research proposals

The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge generation for developing countries. Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development.

The World Bank Office in Armenia is pleased to announce a call for research proposals to understand the **current challenges facing Armenia in achieving (a) sustainable and inclusive growth, and (b) the World Bank's Twin Goals of eradication of extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity**. In particular, the World Bank encourages **academic and research institutions and individuals, NGOs, SCOs, experts, and other development and policy practitioners** to submit their research proposals.

The World Bank will review all submissions and **provide financial support to selected authors to conduct and finalize their research**.¹ Additionally, World Bank experts may provide technical assistance and dissemination opportunities to support the researchers, if applicable.

All papers must respond to an explicit research question related to the challenges Armenia is facing to attain (a) or/and (b) described above. A non-exhaustive list of relevant topics includes:

- Productivity trends and challenges
- Agricultural productivity
- Magnitude, characteristics, and drivers of informal employment
- Skills and quality of learning
- Matching worker skills to the private sector needs
- Demographic challenges
- International migration and remittances flows
- Migration and demographic trends within Armenia
- Development of subnational regions (marzs or other geographical/administrative divisions)
- Development of secondary urban centers (outside Yerevan)
- Municipal governance and administrative reform of rayons
- Living conditions, demographic characteristics, connectivity, human capital and welfare of internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Access to finance and financial inclusion
- Constrains and opportunities in international trade
- Constrains and opportunities to attract foreign direct investment (FDI)

¹ The World Bank will select up to five proposals based on the requirements highlighted in the Call. The maximum amount to be provided to each project is up to US\$5,000.

- Role and opportunities on trade
- Exposure, adaptation and mitigation to climate change and/or natural disasters

A World Bank Committee will evaluate all submissions in terms of **originality, analytical rigor, and policy relevance**. Proposals that leverage data and empirical evidence will be prioritized.

Both advanced research papers and research proposals will be accepted. Research proposals may not exceed 2,000 words and must include an explicit research question, methodological strategy, suggested data sources, and relevant hypotheses. Submissions should preferably be written in English but may also be written in Armenian. However, **all submissions must include an Abstract in English.**

Those interested should **submit a proposal or complete the paper by Friday, June 17, 2022, 11:59 pm (UTC)**. The authors of accepted papers/proposals will be informed by July 2022.

All selected authors will be expected to deliver the **final research document by Wednesday, November 30th, 2022.**²

Please send all submissions and any questions to the World Bank team at itevosyan@worldbank.org, afuchs@worldbank.org, or mgonzalezicaza@worldbank.org.

² The format and length details of the final delivery will be agreed upon between the authors and the World Bank team. All final papers will be delivered in English. The World Bank may facilitate translation services.