



The 7 Most Endangered 2016

Programme run by **Europa Nostra**,
the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe,
in partnership with the **European Investment Bank Institute**

Archaeological Site of Ererouyk and village of Anipemza, Armenia

Technical report

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1. Summary

Foreword

This report is prepared within the cooperation on the 7 Most Endangered Heritage Sites between Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute. The content of this report is the result of meetings, interchange of information and discussions between experts from different organizations.

Europa Nostra, the leading Cultural Heritage organization in Europe, supported this project through the participation of qualified experts that volunteered for the realization of the assessment of the site during 2016 and experts from EIB Institute have drafted this report.

The project

The Ererouyk site, identified as one of the “7 Most Endangered Sites” of Europe in 2016, is situated to the North West of Yerevan on a rocky plateau next to the Akhourian River. It holds an extraordinarily important but ruined basilica built during the VI Century and numerous other archaeological remains from different periods.

Adjacent to the archaeological site is the relatively well preserved village of Anipemza, built between 1926 and 1938 to host the workers of a near quarry/mine that was closed in 1994. It has been designed by a renowned Armenian architect and constitutes an important testimony of the architecture and social organization over the Soviet period in Armenia.

Ererouyk and Anipemza, now lying in a poor state of abandonment although having a relevant cultural interest and certain tourism potential, could instead be enhanced and even become the first step for the promotion of a more sustainable cultural tourism development in the Shirak region, as well as pave the way for achieving a long-term strategy consisting of creating a trans-national Akhurian river archaeological park.

Aim and objectives of the project

The purpose of the project in this report is to enhance the cultural assets of the site in a way to allow the improvement of the living conditions of the local population and, by doing so, to constitute an example of a viable and sustainable approach to the promotion of cultural tourism development in Armenia. The project envisages three main goals: (i) putting in place actions to avoid further deterioration of the basilica and of the archaeological site of Ererouyk, as well as to increase its cultural significance by means of fostering research and interpretation, (ii) setting up actions aiming at improving the current conditions of the village of Anipemza through conservation and enhancement works, (iii) creating new commercial activities (namely based on sustainable heritage tourism) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

In summary, the main goal is to implement an exemplary project that combines the improvement of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the village with the enhancement of its cultural heritage, both ancient and modern.



Scope of the project

The components of the project consist of: (i) scientific studies, environmental feasibility assessment, setting standards and rules for the protected area, devising a management plan and project design, (ii) civil works corresponding to the conservation of the Ererouyk basilica, the preservation of the archaeological sites, the enhancement of the Anipemza village and several complementary works, (iii) realization of two museums (iv) promotion of minor commercial activities and training for local population; (v) promotion of the site and implementation of communication actions, including the organization of an international dissemination event

Recommendations

Due to its particular nature, the project may benefit from the participation of different international and national organizations of diverse nature, although the creation of a dedicated strong Project Implementation Unit is suggested. This PIU should be capable of managing the entire process that can be ideally completed in two phases (lasting 3 and 1 year respectively) with total investment costs estimated around € 5 million (excluding taxes and other financial charges).

Moreover, several managerial recommendations arise, like: (i) close collaboration with the local authorities to guarantee the full respect of the national and international norms; (ii) open participation of stakeholders (full involvement of the village inhabitants since the beginning) over the entire process; and (iii) participation of local experts to favor the exchange of ideas and inputs.

To achieve a successful implementation of the project, a system of norms and regulations should be established as a priority (basic details can be found in Appendix 4). These regulations should take into consideration the ownership of the lands and village buildings to allow an equal distribution of available resources in favor of the inhabitants. In general, the community should be educated in order to be able to participate in the whole process.

In parallel, an International Scientific Committee should be set up to provide the necessary technical advice, defining the rules that will protect the village and its surrounding area from an over-use and supervising the preservation works.

It is recommended to consider the project as an integrated action, taking into account its major objective is to attract culturally interested tourists to the area. In this sense, it would be important to consider the development of this site as a first step towards the development of a future North tourist corridor in Armenia and to take action to link the site to the projects envisaged for the development of Gyumri.

Preservation works should be based on rigorous studies and undertaken, together with activities for the identification, study and preservation of all the scattered elements and actions aiming at raising the awareness of the public. They should be limited to minimum interventions, in order to preserve the authenticity of the site. It is also recommended that the preservation programme includes interventions to guarantee the improvement of the living conditions of Anipemza inhabitants and permanent research and interpretation of historic goods.



Due to the nature of the different components of the project and their inter-relationships, it is recommended to carry out an Environmental Feasibility Assessment. An active participation of major stakeholders over the entire process would be essential to ensure the success of the project.

Depending on the availability of funding, the project may be implemented gradually, as an ensemble of smaller separate interventions. Therefore, from the very beginning, due attention should be paid to the operational issues and maintenance of the whole system. The realization of the museums, restaurant and other public spaces should go in parallel with training activities for the future staff, completed with promotion and communication actions.

Taking into account the vicinity of the airport in Gyumri and the global tourism demand in Armenia, the project could well achieve an annual demand within the range 40 000 - 50 000 visitors (about 5% of the annual tourist inflow in Armenia). Whether this demand would be enough to ensure the sustainability of the project in the future is something that should be carefully checked.

Various potential sources for funding the project have been identified, but further investigations and negotiations should be carried out to clarify the contribution (either in terms of grants or loans) of each potential donor or financial supporter.

A dedicated web-site, edited by CSDCA in collaboration with EN experts, Politecnico di Milano and La3M, will be soon available online and would be very useful for raising awareness on the project, together with the organization of cultural events at local level¹.

2. Location and purpose

Location of the site and accessibility

The Ererouyk-Anipemza site is situated in Shirak region, to the North West of Yerevan, on a rocky plateau close to the Turkish-Armenian border, along the Akhurian river canyon. It is about 2 hours' drive from Yerevan (101 km), from where it is possible to choose two different roads, both recently rehabilitated and in very good shape and passing near to interesting monuments, which are worth visiting although not often inserted in standard tourism itineraries. The site is also very well connected with the city of Gyumri (47 km) and with the stop "Ani" of the railway line Yerevan-Tbilisi (7 km).

The historic site

The Ererouyk-Anipemza site belongs to what once used to be one of the region's largest and most important centers of worship. Some centuries ago the region also comprised the famous medieval Armenian capital city of Ani that lies only 7 km away on the other side of the border, which is on sight by means of a belvedere that is only a few minutes' drive from Ererouyk.

The Ererouyk historic site holds an impressive but severely deteriorated basilica built during the VI Century and numerous other archaeological remains of various origins.

¹ Internet link: www.Ererouyk-Anipemza.eu



Adjacent to the archaeological site is the village of Anipemza, built in 1926 to host the workers of a near quarry and a stone transformation factory (although the factory was closed in 1994, the quarry is still in use). The village is relatively well preserved and constitutes an outstanding testimony of the architecture and social organization of the Soviet time.

Anipemza and Ererouyk, now lying in a poor state of abandonment although having a certain potential for tourism, could be enhanced and become the first step for the realization of a long-term strategy consisting of creating the trans-national Akhurian river archaeological park².

Purpose of the project

The project will be implemented through the pursuit of several distinct objectives, thus creating the possibility of a gradual implementation, depending on the availability of funds. The objectives of the project are:

- Continuation, enhancement and dissemination of the scientific research on the cultural assets in the area (eventually including the implementation of some necessary archaeological excavations).
- Preservation of the monuments and archaeological remains.
- Enhancement of Anipemza village (rehabilitation and stabilization of the private and public buildings, improvement of public spaces, improvement of lighting, cleaning from debris and obsolete buildings).
- Realization of the tourist infrastructure (improvement of the road leading to the village, realization of a parking lot in the village, rehabilitation of the dining house to create a restaurant, improvement of the private apartments to allow their use as B&Bs).
- Realization of a Museum devoted to the village and to the life in the Soviet era on the model of the Little Museum of Dublin and of the Museum of the DDR in Berlin.
- Creation of employment for the local population (minor commercial activities, hospitality, guides, museum keepers, etc.)
- Realization of an Archaeological Museum- research center.
- Creation of safety conditions and eventual revitalization of some activity connected with the stone quarries

Within this context, it is recommended to consider the project as an integrated action, taking into account its major objective is to promote the sustainable development of the

² The vicinity to the ancient famous city of Ani (capital of Armenia in the Middle Age), on the other side of the (now closed) Turkish border, plays a special role in increasing the importance of the site. Several times the Scientific Academy of Armenia has expressed its desire to negotiate with Turkey for the preservation of the ruins of Ani. Since the late Sixties some scholars, both European and Armenian, proposed the creation of a trans-national archaeological reserve in the area around the Akhurian River, which is extraordinarily rich in outstanding architectural and archaeological monuments. Unfortunately, the materialization of this idea seems today to be far from becoming a reality soon.



village through attracting culturally interested tourists to the area. In this sense, it would be important to promote the incorporation of the site into a future North tourist corridor in Armenia (otherwise, the viability of the project in terms of its sustainability in the future may be very likely compromised).

3. Context

The Shirak region

Ererouyk-Anipemza lie in the Shirak region, one of the poorest regions of Armenia, bordering Turkey in the west and Georgia in the north. Its capital and largest city is Gyumri (some 122 000 inhabitants). As per the 2011 official census, Shirak has some 252 000 inhabitants (8.3% of the entire population in Armenia), 60% of which live in 3 cities and the rest in 116 rural communities (one of which being Anipemza).

During the Soviet period, the region was a major industrial hub within the Armenian SSR. After the independence, the industrial sector of the region has drastically declined. The 1988 earthquake caused huge destructions and was followed by a serious economic crisis that caused continuous depopulation (still registered in recent years).

Currently, the economy of the Shirak region is mainly based on agriculture, including farming and cattle-breeding, which represents 12% in the annual total agricultural product of Armenia. Around 80% (2 200 km²) of the total area of the province are arable lands, out of which 37% are ploughed. Overall, the region contributes 3.5% to the annual total industrial product of Armenia, being the largest producer of building materials in the country (mainly tuff stones and pumice).

The city of Gyumri

The city of Gyumri is the second or third largest city in Armenia. Although being heavily damaged by the 1988 earthquake, the city seems now bound to undergo a certain renaissance and to redevelop into a major hub of the national economy. Various current developments contribute to such outlook: improvements of the road infrastructure in the region, reinforcing links both with Georgia and Yerevan; availability of funds supporting urban development activities and the development of an IT techno-park; and the development of Gyumri airport into a low cost/charter hub. In summary, the development of Gyumri³, which also includes an increasingly diversified offer of hotel beds, has potential to mobilize some funds for the materialization of the North tourism corridor.

National economic context

Armenia is a small (some 30 000 km²), landlocked, lower-middle income country with a population of less than 3 million (with a large diaspora population of around 7 million) and an average per capita income of some \$ 3 800 in 2014. Growth has increased at a pace averaging 4.2 percent during 2010-2014, with the largest components of GDP being tourism and travel (51%); industry, including mining and energy (29%); and agriculture (21%). Exports are outweighed by imports (namely manufactured goods and food)

³ Indeed, the European Investment Bank, together with other IFIs, is financing the urban development of Gyumri by means of a loan approved in 2015.



resulting in a substantial trade deficit of around \$ 2 billion annually. Remittances from the Armenian diaspora (more than \$ 1.5 billion), limited foreign direct investment inflows and donor funding help to close the gap.

Inflation has dropped since 2010 to about 4% at present. The population has declined in recent years mainly due to emigration and about 64% of the population is urban. Currently, 32% of the population is considered poor, in particular in rural areas. However, improved institutions and implemented structural reforms should result in poverty reduction gains.

According to the Armenian Development Strategy, incoming tourism is a major export line item after the mining and metal industry and covers more than half of service exports. As demonstrated around the world, with careful strategic and relatively modest public sector investments, tourism can be nurtured into a critical source of economic and employment growth at a time when the agriculture sector is shrinking and manufacturing/mining cannot sufficiently absorb a large share of the labor force (which is the case in Armenia).

Armenia's tourism strategy

According to the World Bank, the outlook for Armenian tourism and its contribution to economic growth is cautiously optimistic (the tourism and travel sector accounted for nearly 32 percent of export earnings in 2014 and the generated 11% of total employment, i.e. 133 500 jobs). During the period of 2010-2014, the number of international travelers visiting Armenia increased by more than 10 percent per annum, recently reaching more than 1.2 million. The top generating markets include CIS (Russia, Georgia and Ukraine; 42%), Iran (18%), the EU (10%) and USA (8%). At least 51% of all visitors are believed to be coming to visit family or friends; while 34% of visitors came through organized tours. Therefore, the number of tourists may be estimated around at 400 000 per annum.

With over 30 000 registered historical monuments throughout the country, dating from pre-historic to Hellenistic and early Christian eras (three of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites), Armenia is often referred to as an open-air museum. Yerevan alone hosts 40 art museums and galleries. Armenia may offer multiple eco/nature experiences to travelers, summer and winter destinations, including 33 national parks and protected areas but the offer is still not developed and would need important investments (i.e. the development of new ski stations). Within this context, cultural heritage tourism is considered the first to be further developed as it has an already existing market and requires less investments.

In 2014, the World Bank helped the Armenian Government in the development of the South Corridor Tourism Destination Strategy. It focuses on four regions and combines several scenic cultural and natural attractions (Dvin, Khor Virap, Tzorzakar, Garni)⁴, traditional farms, mountains, carpet production in Yeghegnadzor and Goris, wine tourism in Areni, and cultural heritage and traditional cuisine in Goris.

A similar strategy for the development of the North tourism corridor (Gyumri – Vanadzor – Dilijan – Lake Sevan) has not been developed so far, although it is also

⁴ By request of the Armenian Ministry of Culture, also the WH sites of Haghpate, Sanahin and Geghard in the North Lori and Kotayk regions) have been included in the World Bank project.



considered of having relevant touristic potential. It is easily reachable from Yerevan and can be combined with a visit to Georgia, thus increasing the interest of visitors coming from far away (i.e. Far Eastern visitors are expected to grow very fast in the next years). The Ererouyk area would form part of this corridor as suggested in a report devised by the Politecnico di Milano for the World Bank in 2015.

4. Description and scope

Location of the site

The site lays along the eastern banks of the Akhurian river, which flows in a deep gorge and forms part of the border between Armenia and Turkey. The area is open to a large plateau (rising ca. 1400 m asl) which extends westwards over the right river bank. Eastwards the view is closed by hilly and rocky ground characterized by the presence of yellow tuff stone, where many quarries are located.

The Anipemza area used to be one of the region's largest and most important centers of worship, as testified by its extraordinary richness in outstanding architectural and archaeological monuments (e.g. the monasteries of Horomos and Haygedzor, and the church of Bagaran). Some centuries ago the region was wider, being its capital the famous medieval city of Ani (nowadays on the other side of the Turkish border). Ani (recently admitted in the World Heritage List of UNESCO) plays a special role in increasing the importance of the site, offering a breathtaking panorama that holds interest for tourists, though not being accessible because it lies in the middle of the so called "buffer zone" (a land strip along the border that has military significance and is still garrisoned by Russian soldiers on the Armenian side).

Currently, Anipemza has no economic resources but the quarry of volcanic stone (almost closed nowadays) and the monuments. Agriculture and cattle breeding is made difficult by the scarcity of water and by the fact that a considerable part of the arable land lies in the buffer zone (not even accessible for the owners). Near to the village are the structures of an industrial complex for mining and processing building. With the exception of some quarries, they are in a state of abandonment.

Site description

The most relevant element of the site consists of the triple aisled basilica with the apse flanked by two lateral chambers (similar in plan to other well-known Armenian basilicas; i.e. those of Zvartnots and Tekor). It was built around the VI Century and it was once part of an architectural complex consisting of monastic buildings and village houses. All around the basilica is a platform composed of a series of steps that run along the four sides of the building. This platform is higher than the interior floor level, showing that it had more a symbolic use, rather than being for some practical reasons.

The basilica had lost the upper parts before the XVIII C. and has been further damaged by various earthquakes, including a major one in 1988. The study of its structure documents alterations of the original structure already in the early XIII Century, which makes it difficult to understand its original shape. In spite of these hitches, its imposing remains recall the greatness of this monument and its outstanding historic and artistic significance, enhanced by its links with the cathedral of Ani (testified by ancient



inscriptions carved on the walls). Although studied by eminent experts, it still presents enigmatic aspects that increase its charm. In the surrounding area of the basilica there are scattered remains of funerary monuments, a wide boundary wall, a dam, a mausoleum, few rupestrian rooms and several early Christian sculpted fragments (of which, dating and function are still unknown).

A few hundred meters away lays the village of Anipemza, built in the first decade of the Soviet republic to host the workers of the near industrial complex for producing building materials (quarrying and processing). Today, the village is impoverished, even forgotten (the mine closed its doors in 1994 and residents who lost their jobs now often work abroad, notably in Russia). The village is however rather well conserved and architecturally quite interesting due to the quality of its design (a pure representative of the urban architecture during the initial Soviet period). Its rehabilitation and utilization for tourism purposes would add interest to the site and benefit the local population.

The last section of road leading to the monuments (2 km approx.) is in a poor state, thus making difficult the development of tourism in an area that has no resources but the quarry of volcanic stone (almost closed nowadays) and the monuments. The structures of the industrial complex for mining and processing building materials are in a state of semi-abandonment.

Further details on the current situation of the different components of the project can be found in Appendix 2.

Scope of the project

The scope of the project is very diverse and the main proposed actions are, in summary, as follows (further details can be found in Appendix 3):

Scientific studies dealing with:

- The Basilica and its surrounding archaeological area: analysis of the state of decay of the monuments and identification of structural needs, site cleaning, archaeological excavations, sedimentology analysis, stratigraphy and completion of previous studies on art history carried out by the Laboratoire d'Archéologie Médiévale et Moderne en Méditerranée (University of Aix en Provence) and Shirak museums.
- Anipemza village: analysis of the state of conservation of the village and its about 25 buildings (seismic and physical analysis) and implementation of structural repair aimed to reinforce the structures where needed and to upgrade weakened living conditions.
- An Environmental Feasibility Assessment, comprising both the archaeological sites, the village, the mines and including an active participation of major stakeholders.

Construction works:

- Construction of a drainage system and paving both the interior of the basilica and the exterior porches, while being respectful of the remains of the original paving



and foundations. The objective is conserving and preserving the basilica from future deterioration. In this sense reinforcing actions would be carried out (e.g. concerning the vaults of the eastern chapels and parts of the façade) but the building would not be the object of reconstruction works.

- Cleaning and conservation of stony elements (removal of weeds, stone preservation, joints pointing, etc.) and eventual anastylosis of a few columns of the porches.
- Enhancement of the site through: the rehabilitation of the road leading to the area; construction of a parking in the village; creation of tourist paths; installation of didactic panels throughout the site, including those less known monuments along the Armenian side of the Akhurian river; and improvement of the general environment (e.g. habilitating rest areas and planting trees).
- Rehabilitation of the village by means of: improving the water supply/treatment network and other utilities in need; cleaning from debris and restoration of some relevant buildings to allow hosting a limited number of tourists.
- Preservation of the abandoned mine/quarries to be kept as an interesting heritage associated to the living conditions of the village during the Soviet period

Creation of two museums, or one museum with two sections (including a custom branch office able to provide permissions for entering into the buffer zone to observe the remains of Ani and a cafeteria/gift shop):

- One museum should host the most interesting sculpted fragments conserved in the area, the results of the findings from recent and future excavation works, a selection of objects from Shirak museum (currently unable to display its rich collection) and information about ancient Ani
- The second museum would be devoted to the life in Soviet Union in the 1920s, including the history of the village and of the near quarry/mine. It should contain different visual elements (e.g. pictures, photographs, videos) reflecting the life of its inhabitants and explaining some of their histories

Communication actions:

- Dissemination of information (through didactic materials, a scientific publication, tourist leaflets and booklets, etc.) and training of some local people to become guides.
- Organization of an international symposium to present the results of archaeological and historical research.

All the above activities should be prepared and implemented in full collaboration with local experts and stakeholders and be structured as an opportunity to reinvigorate the local economy.

5. Technical aspects

Ererouyk basilica suffered from numerous earthquakes in the last centuries that caused the loss of its upper parts already since XIXth C. Several partial restoration works have been implemented to save it from further collapse after the 1988 earthquake but they are still not sufficient. The building is now in a ruined state which makes it severely exposed



to the wear and tear of time. In particular, the vaulted roofs of the chapels flanking the apse are collapsing and may constitute a risk for the visitors.

The surrounding archaeological area includes the remains of an imposing rampart, a triple wall that served as a dam, a small edifice of unknown function, several rupestrian rooms, and an abundance of lapidary material and graves that are no doubt paleo-Christian. A series of dwellings, apparently from a later period, are in a state of abandonment and in risk of being lost before it would be possible to understand dates and functions of many of them. On top of that, it would be positive to have the area fenced in order to visualize the limits of the archaeological site and prevent open access to vehicles.

The village of Anipemza that, until the collapse of the Soviet Union, prospered with more than 300 people employed in the adjacent mines with high monthly salaries is now in crisis and the inhabitants suffer from unemployment and part notably of the male adult population works abroad. Their situation is particularly difficult as the mine is partially closed and gives only few and occasional work, the lands stand in a buffer zone and are often closed for military purposes (thus becoming hard to harvest), the area is arid and the water comes from far and is frequently too expensive for the local population. As a result, several houses are abandoned and exposed to deterioration.

In general, restoration works should be limited to minimum interventions reinforcing structural integrity and using like for like materials and techniques, as well as allowing the identification of elements that should be added in order to preserve the authenticity of the remains that keep so important information for future research. Within this context, it appears recommendable that the building material exploited in the ex-quarries is used, to the extent of possible, as the rehabilitation material for the Basilica, which would give this project a special attraction in combining different components. It is also recommended that the restoration programme includes cleaning of the site, conservation of the stone surfaces and a proper drainage system.

Major threats & risks

The complexity of the project (with many different activities involved and requiring a wide range of know-how and experience) is relevant. Therefore, its success is linked to surmounting several non-negligible threats and risks, as follows.

Based on recent inspections carried out by Politecnico di Milano and archaeological research carried out by the Université de Aix-en-Provence over many years, a number of emergency and critical conditions have been identified.

In summary, for both the basilica and the mausoleum, major threats come from three main aspects, which need to be thoroughly evaluated in the near future: (i) seismic resistivity; (ii) water leakage through the exposed surfaces into the walls; (iii) potential loose masonry in danger of falling.

All the scholarly studies that have been carried out on the basilica show that there are many interpretative question marks regarding its original architectural layout and,



therefore, the slightest trace should be properly preserved. Invasive actions are a major threat to be evaluated and, if possible, avoided.

Most of the scattered archaeological material is left unprotected. There are valuable carved stone elements that should be properly protected. Moreover, there is some risk of vandalism, which in the past has produced graffiti on the stone surfaces that contain important inscriptions to be preserved from possible damage.

Overall, restoration works should be based on a rigorous methodology based on documentation, assessment and study of the structures. This should be done before any proposal for stabilizing-supplementing-strengthening-protecting the buildings is designed and carried out. As an interesting complement, the interpretative infrastructure may well use thoroughly virtual reconstructions to ease understanding and thus avoid unnecessary reconstructions of the buildings.

As regards to the village, its uniqueness resides in the preservation of its original features both in the urban layout and in the buildings, which have conserved the interior design of the epoch of construction. If no intervention would be implemented the village risks to be abandoned; in case of intervention, it will be necessary to set rules for any construction work to avoid the risk of losing its integrity.

In summary, it has to be highlighted that a priority objective is to maintain the integrity and authenticity of the historical buildings and of the village as a whole (including the urban setting, the ratio between buildings and open spaces, the design of the interiors, the access road) to assure the preservation of the local cultural, historical, architectural and social values

6. Implementation and calendar

The project has been nominated by Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena (CSDCA Cultural Heritage - Milano, Italy) and accepted by Europa Nostra as one of the “7 Most Endangered Sites” in 2016. The Ministry of Culture of Armenia, which owns the historic buildings, accepted to give its high patronage to the project and the Mayor of Anipemza offered collaboration. However, to carry out the project it would be essential to identify the ownership of the different buildings forming part of it (including their willingness to contribute to the success of the project) and establish a set of rules for the acquisition of the lands and buildings.

Management structure

On the basis of previous experiences when working in Armenia, the project appraisal team is aware of the importance of identifying a solid project management structure in charge of leading and coordinating the entire process, including the initial design, the operation as a heritage tourism site, the procurement strategy and the entire implementation process.

In parallel, a close collaboration with the local authorities would help to guarantee the full respect of the local norms. An open participation of stakeholders over the entire process would also be a priority, even if difficulties organizing this in Armenia are not negligible. Against this background, the participation of local experts would favor the



exchange of ideas and inputs and would increase the impact of the innovative proposed approach.

A key element for an efficient management of the site is to include the villagers in any activity related to the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of Anipemza. This should also include a start-up process, guided to instruct proper policies for tourism reception and appropriate support for the visit of the site. This also could of course include complementary activities which could become a strong asset to boost interest in visiting the site.

Finally, an International Scientific Committee should be set up to provide the necessary technical advice, defining the rules that will protect the village and its surrounding area from an over-use and supervising the restoration works.

It is important to highlight the fact that the procedures to get everything approved are not standardized in Armenia and essentially depend on the Ministry of Culture. However, many other participants would likely play relevant roles in this sense.

Research, creation of the archaeological/natural park

A recent research carried out by University of Aix-en-Provence, which only disclosed part of the historical information, should be continued to complete the understanding of the site. The activity should be organized as a work-in-progress and be connected with the creation of a living museum in Anipemza that would permit showing the results of the studies in a dynamic manner. This would also help increase the tourists interest for the site through the creation of temporary exhibits of the archaeological findings.

The creation of an area with restrictions in terms of use of the archaeological site, together with setting up prescriptions on how to preserve the landscape and the historical values of the village, appear as priorities. In parallel, a complete survey of the village buildings should be carried out to establish their current state. Afterwards, guidelines for the improvement of the village buildings would be devised to favor rehabilitation works respectful of the existing characteristics that make Anipemza a unique village. Finally, apart from standard protection/rehabilitation activities, the project should comprise training actions to create a sort of permanent specialized center for Armenian cultural and natural heritage conservation/interpretation at regional level.

Calendar

Considering the nature of the different components, the complete implementation of the project would be logically carried out in two phases. Phase one is considered essential and is reasonably estimated to last three years, as follows:

Phase 1

Scientific studies, environmental impact assessment and design, including administrative process to obtain all the necessary permissions	One year
Civil works corresponding to the rehabilitation of the Ererouyk basilica, the preservation of the archaeological sites, the enhancement of the Anipemza village and most relevant	Between 18 months and two years



complementary works	
Habilitation (by means of reconversion of existing buildings) of one of the two museums (in parallel with civil works), restaurant and shops	One year
Communication actions (basic ones)	Six months

Phase two would depend on the success of the first phase and the availability of further funds. It could either commence just after the third year of Phase one or be delayed and would consist of the following elements:

Phase 2

Complementary archaeological studies and conservation actions	One year
Final enhancement of the Anipemza village and final complementary works	Six months
Rehabilitation of quarries	Six months
Habilitation (by means of reconversion of existing buildings) of the second museum	One year
Communication actions, including the organization of an international event	Last four months

Being the implementation of studies and works dependent on the availability of financing, the above indicated calendar may be flexible, nevertheless, it is suggested to follow the following priority list:

1. Setting the legal frame for ownership, principles of intervention, environmental protective restrictions, site management plan
2. Assessment of Village (state of conservation, structural assessment, mapping of the transformation occurred, public spaces, ownership and use of the buildings)
3. Environmental Impact Assessment
4. Basic infrastructure (access road, signs, parking)
5. Museum I
6. Ererouyk Basilica and archaeological site preservation - Phase I
7. Starting minor commercial activities
8. Communication to insert Anipemza in the touristic circuit
9. Anipemza village and most relevant complementary works Phase I, Ererouyk Basilica and archaeological site Phase II
10. Anipemza village and most relevant complementary works Phase II
11. Safety interventions in the Quarries
12. Museum II.

7. Environment, sustainability, social

It is suggested that an Environmental Feasibility Assessment (EFA) should be carried out for the entire project, comprising the Ererouyk site (the basilica and its surrounding



archaeological area), the Anipemza village and the quarries in the vicinities. The EFA should be carried out following the spirit of a standard Environmental Impact Assessment process, as defined in the EU Directives); the EFA and resulting conditions should take into consideration the following aspects:

- ✓ The preservation of the present natural and built environment, extending the protection to a large territory around the site.
- ✓ Definition of the basic rules for the future use of the different components of the project, preserving their sustainability in the long term.
- ✓ Tourist paths, didactic panels and rest areas should be designed, together with road signs starting from Gyumri and from Yerevan to facilitate the finding of the place also for independent travelers.
- ✓ Clearing debris should be one of the first actions to be taken both for the village and for the site, followed by putting underground the gas pipeline and improving/building a sewage and a solid waste treatment/disposal system.
- ✓ The availability of water (very scarce in the area) and gas in the houses is not a technical issue but a reasonable gain that should be solved as soon as the population starts having some earnings thanks to the implementation and operation of the project.
- ✓ The rehabilitation of the main avenue in the village with trees and flowers planting and the installation of benches, together with an aesthetical treatment of the facade of the first building visible from the basilica in line with the overall architectural layout of the village, would result in an immediate and consistent improvement of the aspect of the village.
- ✓ A more efficient and sustainable use of the stone quarries (which are currently mainly closed and abandoned) could increase the employment and constitute a precious resource for the village. Their current use is dysfunctional, as it involves high negative environmental impacts, low respect for the health and safety of the workers and bad quality of the output (stone damaged by the explosions). The development of a proper commercial plan comprising the entire industrial cycle would be highly recommendable).
- ✓ Recomposing the markers and the display of all scattered material are proposed to be evaluated together with the setting of the itineraries for visitors. Access and visit of the site should be made safe for visitors and accessible for persons with reduced mobility.
- ✓ Movement of scattered stones to be conducted under supervision of an expert, after proper survey of current position and cataloguing of the stones.

Development of a comprehensive long-term strategy for generating revenues would be therefore recommended, as well as an appropriate marketing plan.



8. Use, demand, market

It is very difficult at this stage to make reasonable forecasts about the potential demand for the Ererouyk/Anipemza site. Nevertheless, it is broadly accepted that it has a certain real potential. Indeed, if a good conservation and development plan is effectively implemented, the Ererouyk site would be attractive for tourists given the rather unique complementarities between the archeological site, the village with its peculiarities and the new visitor/tourism-related facilities, the nearby abandoned quarries and a pleasant natural environment. Furthermore, according to ICOM Armenia director, the museum of Anipemza is expected to raise the interest of visitors as it will be the unique in Armenia to illustrate the life in Armenia at the times of Soviet Union, following the successful model of the Museum of the DDR in Berlin and the way of displaying the information and of involving the local population of the Little Museum of Dublin.

On a regional basis, this would also contribute to put the North-Western part of Armenia more prominently on the national tourism map (in particular, if the project is integrated into a tourism corridor). The current prospects for some renaissance for Gyumri and its surroundings could well present a rapidly available potential for complementarity with Ererouyk and Anipemza.

Taking into account the precedents of other similar small airports, it may be assumed the airport of Gyumri would do very well achieving some 400 000 passengers per year. Considering as well the total international visitors of Armenia, the Ererouyk project may reasonably expect receiving around 2 000 visitors or some 40 buses per week in the summer period. Therefore, under reasonable assumptions, the number of tourists visiting the Ererouyk site could be estimated at some 200 per day during the peak period and around 100 during the rest of the year. In summary, the total annual tourists visiting the site may be estimated within the range 40 000 - 50 000. Whether this demand would be enough to ensure the sustainability of the project in the future is something to be carefully checked.

From the very beginning, due attention should be paid to the operation and maintenance of the whole system. The realization of the museums, restaurant and other public spaces should go in parallel with training actions for the needed staff of the heritage site. Given the high literacy rates of the Armenian population, the village of Anipemza should be a good source of tourist guides, as well as of maintenance and security staff for the heritage site. This training would also include capacity building in the field of hospitality and access to the main networks of tourism market providers.

The ancient Armenian capital of Ani is located only 7 km away, on the Turkish side of the Akhurian River. Therefore, in the long-run a “cross-border archeological park” including both Ani and the Ererouyk sites would certainly be attractive. However, Ani has just been accepted for the UNESCO world heritage list but it does not include (yet) the Ererouyk site.



9. Investment cost

On the basis of other similar projects and depending on the results of the studies to be carried out, the investment cost of this one may be roughly estimated as follows:

Studies and design	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
Archaeology	100.000	100.000	200.000
Surveys	150.000	150.000	300.000
Basilica	90.000	90.000	180.000
Rehabilitation of buildings	100.000	50.000	150.000
Infrastructures	50.000	20.000	70.000
Quarries		10.000	10.000
Environmental Impact Ass.	80.000		80.000
	570.000	420.000	990.000

Construction works	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
Basilica	300.000	300.000	600.000
Surrounding area	50.000	20.000	70.000
Access road	350.000		350.000
Buildings	1.000.000	500.000	1.500.000
Utilities (water, energy, waste)	400.000	60.000	460.000
Museums	150.000	150.000	300.000
Parking	50.000		50.000
Services (cafeteria, shops)	80.000		80.000
Environmental measures	100.000	20.000	120.000
Quarries		80.000	80.000
Cleaning and rendering	70.000	30.000	100.000
	2.550.000	1.160.000	3.710.000

Information and dissemination	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
Signs and maps	80.000	20.000	100.000
International seminar event		50.000	50.000
Promotional activities	50.000		50.000
Documents (leaflets, books)	40.000	40.000	80.000
	170.000	110.000	280.000

Total project cost (€)	3.290.000	1.690.000	4.980.000
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(Taxes and financial costs not included)



10. Potential alliances and sources for funding the project

Major participants

The project has been designed with the participation of experts from different organizations and can continue benefiting from the participation of different international and national organizations of diverse nature. The most relevant ones are as follows:

- The nominator of the project is the Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena (CSDCA), a not for profit association aiming at the study, preservation and enhancement of Armenian Cultural Heritage, with more than 50 years of experience in Armenia where it works in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. It would maintain its role of coordinator of the actions to be taken for the project implementation, in close collaboration with the Politecnico di Milano and the University of Aix en Provence with which it has signed technical agreements.
- The Ministry of Culture of Armenia supported the nomination of Ererouyk-Anipemza since the beginning and promised collaboration with the project team in all the phases of the project implementation, providing formal endorsement (high patronage), supporting the creation of norms and regulations specific for the site and facilitating the access to relevant documents. It is important to highlight the fact that the procedures to get everything approved are not standardized in Armenia and essentially depend on the Ministry of Culture, which makes their support crucial.

Due to both their expertise and/or interests, many other international and local organizations have been identified and/or as potential participants in the project (a list of most relevant ones is provided in Appendix 5).

Potential funding

During two missions carried out on 19-20 May and 19-23 July 2016, several possibilities for financing the project were discussed.

Several International Financial Institutions (i.e. WB, ADB, EIB, EBRD) are giving loans to the Armenian Government for the realization of projects aiming at tourism promotion, infrastructure improvement and regional development. The inclusion of Anipemza in some of these programs is to be further explored with the local authorities⁵. Therefore, it would be wise to check whether the investments identified as necessary for the Anipemza village in this sector would be eligible under this loan.

The European Union is promoting a Pilot Regional Development Programme (PRDP) in Shirak region that may benefit the Ererouyk-Anipemza project⁶.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Italian Agency of Development Cooperation, will start in the next months a project aimed at the creation of a center for

⁵ For instance, the European Investment Bank, together with the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, is financing the improvement of water supply and sewage in rural areas throughout several regions in Armenia (Shirak being one of them). In parallel, the road corridor North-South is the object of other projects financed by different IFIs.

⁶ Ref. EuropeAid/154644/DD/ACT/AM).



enhancing the capacities of the Armenian Government in the field of Cultural Heritage Preservation; it may in the future contribute to awareness raising on the Ererouyk-Anipemza project.

It is wise to highlight that the development of a financial plan for the project would need to draw on several sources of funding, preferably grants/budget resources and possibly also loans. Operation and maintenance costs also need early consideration. Therefore, in depth discussions with the entities identified above (and probably some other) would be necessary to agree on their respective engagement in order to guarantee the funding of the project.

On top of that, a legal system and finance plan should be studied to cover the annual costs for ensuring the correct operation and maintenance of the different components of the project. The development of a comprehensive long-term strategy for generating revenues would be therefore recommended, as well as an appropriate marketing plan.

Finally, crowdfunding has already proved to be successful⁷ and may be used for financing some smaller activities, namely supporting private initiatives/operations launched by Anipemza inhabitants.

⁷ A crowdfunding campaign has been launched in July and collected € 8.600 for the organization of the first experts mission and some little activities as the emergency repair for the little mausoleum (<https://dartagnans.fr/fr/projects/ererouyk-anipemza-en-armenie/campaign>)



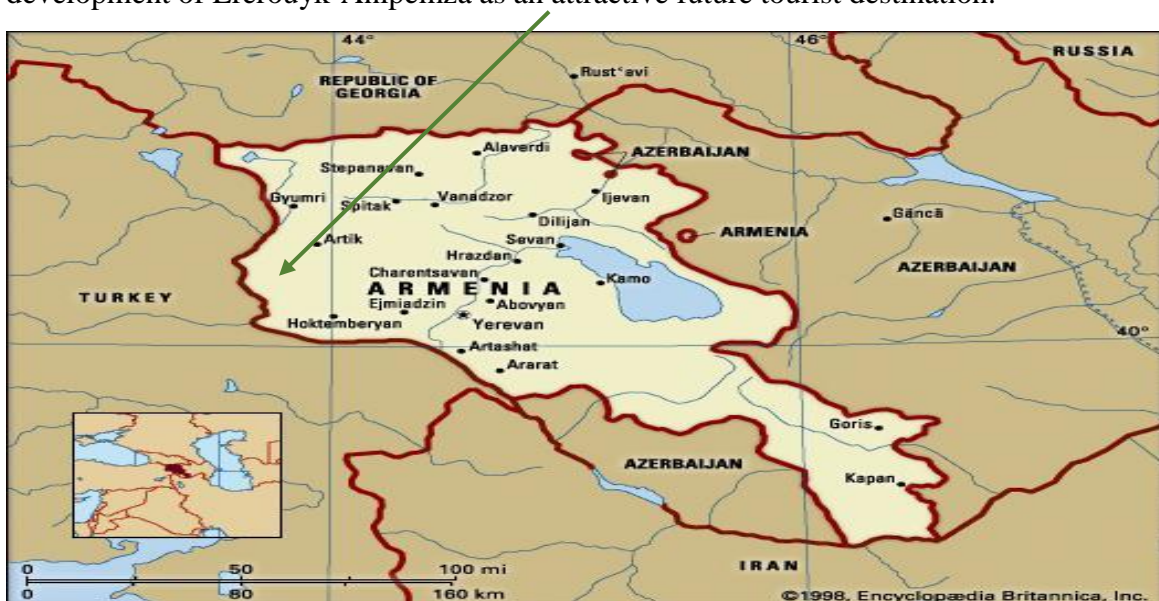
APPENDIX 1

Rationale for investing in tourism

According to the WB, major lessons resulting from investing in the tourism sector in countries like Armenia are as follows:

- Investing in livability and service delivery enhances the competitiveness of a location to attract businesses.
- Restoring built assets and reusing under-utilized land is linked with the WB inclusive green growth agenda.
- Investing in restoration of historical buildings and inclusion of these in national tourism circuits encourages homeowners in the area to improve their living standards.
- Integrating tourism in wider local economic development makes the sector more resilient.
- Investments in the tourism economy should be carefully blended in wider tourism and regional/local economic development strategies.
- Citizen engagement. The success of the project requires maintaining strong consultations with all stakeholders.

The current development of the city of Gyumri, that is only 30 minutes' drive from Ererouyk, includes the new possibility of becoming able to receive charter flights in the coming years. This is considered a very positive factor that may further favour the development of Ererouyk-Anipemza as an attractive future tourist destination.





Detailed description of the site and its components

The first impression arriving to the site is affected by the difficulties that one encounters in traveling on the last stretch of the road leading to the site, about 2-3 km where the asphalt is nearly completely lost and the resulting dirt road is scattered with holes that prevent big busses from accessing the area. Furthermore, in the vicinities of the monument there are fences constructed with pieces of iron, and just in front of the basilica there is a small building made of stone intended as public toilets, with a wooden floor suspended over a big hole, it has no framing for the door and windows, no water and no sewage, it is at the same time useless for tourists and ugly.

The Ererouyk basilica

The most relevant element of the site consists of an impressive three aisled basilica dated from the VIth century, which is unique in Armenia for its typology that raised the interest of several international scholars. It has a compact form, which hides an articulated interior, composed by four rooms placed at the corners, which form three recessed exterior unities: the one on the west side was occupied by a front entrance portico; the one on the south side has an arched portico, from which two decorated gates give access to the church; and third one, on the north side, had also an arched portico, but was isolated from the church and access was possible only from the exterior.

All around the basilica is a crepidoma, that is to say a platform composed of a series of steps that run along the four sides of the building. This platform is higher than the interior floor level, showing that it had more a symbolic significance, rather than being for practical use.

All the columns, pillars and the roof system are missing, with the possible exception of the two east corner rooms (pastoforia) which are covered by barrel vaults. These vaults are in two layers, one lower than the exterior room, thus creating a kind of second floor. Most peculiar is that the north-eastern room has a higher inclined vault, which exceeds the height of the exterior walls and gives some insight to the roofing system of the building.

The walls are built with the typical “midis” technique, a triple layered wall with two external stone ashlar and rubble masonry filling. The quality of the bonding mortar is very high. However, the deterioration leaves many empty areas, which have resulted in possible detachment of the stone facing from the core. The damage may also have been increased by the action of earthquakes, which are a major threat for the sub-Caucasian region.

The basilica had lost the upper parts before the XVIIIth C. and has been further damaged by various earthquakes, including a big one in 1988. The study of its structure documents alterations of the original structure already in the early XIIIth Century, which makes it difficult to understand its original shape. In spite of these hitches, its imposing remains recall the greatness of this monument and its outstanding historic and artistic significance, enhanced by its links with the cathedral of Ani (testified by ancient



inscriptions carved on its walls). Although studied by eminent experts, it still presents enigmatic aspects that increase its charm.

The building ruined state makes it exposed to the wear and tear of time. In particular:

- ✓ The two layered barrel vaults covering the two east side rooms (*pastoforia*) are severely damaged. Particularly critical is the condition of the upper inclined vault, where the risk of collapse is high. Water infiltration from the basis of the vaults in the eastern façade are provoking the collapse of some stone ashlar.
- ✓ The remains of the vault of the west portico, which are not bonded to the masonry of the facade, are detached. Plants, water infiltrations and seismic action are a major risk for the stones.
- ✓ Collapsed masonry has left the walls exposed to the elements. Long-term rainwater penetration resulted in a negative impact on the overall condition and performance of the structural elements, since it (i) produces physical damage to mortar, reducing its strength; (ii) convey salts that provoke physical damage to the stone facing; (iii) encourages biological growth, especially leafy plants whose roots damage physically the masonry; (iv) increases relative humidity inside the masonry. The above is particularly critical for the top of the walls.
- ✓ The paving of the interior and of the external porticos is partially lost, it should be restored and a proper drainage system devised.

The archaeological remains

In the surrounding area of the basilica there are scattered remains of funerary monuments, a wide boundary wall, a dam, a mausoleum, few rupestrian rooms, and several early Christian sculpted fragments (of which, dating and function are still unknown).

The archaeological site extends on a natural rocky plateau flanked on the east by a lower valley in where used to be a seasonal stream. The archaeological remains visible at present extend for about 6 500 m², although it is likely that a survey could identify other buried remains on a wider area. The inhabitants of the village mention there are some caves/historic heritage all along the river gorge.

The archaeological excavations as well as the research conducted by the University of Aix-en-Provence, LA3M department, have greatly improved the knowledge of that heritage, which stand all in a ruined condition, with minimal elevation.

The archaeological area includes:

- ✓ Remains of constructions, identified as belonging to an Armenian-Kurdish village which settled on the west and south sides of the Basilica, in close proximity, sometimes leaving few distance from its crepidoma. The plan of the ancient houses cannot be clearly distinguished even to the eyes of experts. Visitors, who are likely to approach the basilica from the remains of the village, walk randomly through the ruins, with no understanding of them.
- ✓ Remains of a necropolis, which extends to the south side of the Basilica. Tombs date from an earlier period than the Basilica, but there are also burials that belong to a later period. Together with the tombs stone markers (Khachkar) were found as



scattered material around the tombs. At present these stones are located to the north of the basilica, on a wide area, where they were moved to be surveyed, catalogued and studied. This study resulted in important scientific understanding of the area south of the basilica.

- ✓ Remains of a boundary/retaining wall on the edge of the plain towards the east valley. This wall may well be all one with the dam/viaduct that was excavated on the south-east limit of the site.
- ✓ The ruined masonries of the Armenian-Kurdish village need to be stabilized. Their ruined condition may be taken as an opportunity for spoliation.
- ✓ Dam/viaduct structures. The remains of a system of parallel walls, which belong to successive stages of construction, have been interpreted as a possible dam (which is also accounted by the present-day villagers as still existing some years earlier). However, research carried out by LA3M shows that these structures could also be interpreted as a viaduct serving to the pilgrims en route to the Basilica, to pass over the seasonal stream flowing in the valley. No major threat to the stability of the structures has been detected during the site visit. However, there is a need to complete the archaeological excavation to free the structure and then to stabilize the masonry.
- ✓ Rupestrian rooms located on the north rocky edge of the plain. Such rooms are documented also at Ani, and must be considered as part of the archaeological evidence of the settlement.
- ✓ A "Mausoleum" located on the valley to the east of the plan. This building, formerly interpreted as a cistern after the investigations carried out by the LA3M experts, is considered to be a mausoleum/little chapel. The building stands ca. 3,50 m under the present-day ground level, and still keeps the roofing system, made of a barrel vault supporting a pitched roof. There is an opening on one end, possibly not original, which gives access to the interior. The interior is partially occupied by debris and building material fell from the building itself. The construction is made of the traditional construction technique of ashlar facing a rubble masonry core. The same technique was used for the construction of the vault. The bonding between ashlar and rubble core is poor and many ashlar are detached or missing. Also, the stone slabs of the roof are missing. The mausoleum currently present the following problems:
 - Humidity has major negative effects on the construction, which lays buried in the valley (only the roof exceeds the ground level) the stone facing inside the construction is largely detached and many ashlar belonging both to the vault and to the wall lay on the ground.
 - On the roof, the stone slabs are missing and water has weakened the mortar. Two holes give way to water infiltration inside the construction. Particularly critical is the wide opening on the north side, which puts in danger the stability of this sector of the vault. Thanks to a crowd funding campaign, some urgent timber propping has been recently prepared and mounted.



The village of Anipemza

Only 300 m west of the basilica, adjacent to the archaeological site, is located the village of Anipemza. The village has been built in 1926 and enlarged in 1938 to host the workers of a near industrial complex for producing building materials (quarrying and processing). It constitutes a reasonably well preserved outstanding testimony of the architecture and social organization of the Soviet time.

Although administratively inserted in the list of rural villages, Anipemza was in fact conceived as a company town, similar to some European garden cities. The buildings are well distributed along a central road paved in basalt and flanked by gardens, trees and sidewalks on both sides.

The buildings, with 1, 2 or 3 floors, are made by the local tuff stone and are well designed with a classic “Tamanyan style”⁸. Also the organization of the buildings is representative of the urban architecture of the initial Soviet period: the apartments are distributed in residential buildings and there are a good number of public buildings as the Municipality, a little hospital and a pharmacy, the house of culture and cine-theatre, the kindergarten (a huge school building has been built later, in the Seventies), the laborers’ canteen, the post office and a hotel, a public library, and public garden/orchard fenced by a wall.

Apparently, very little or nothing has changed since the times of the village foundation. The interiors of the apartments are cozy and decorated and still present the original furniture typical of that time. Even dishes and cups are still the ones bought at the time. The main problem is the inadequacy or even the lack of toilets and bathrooms.

Indeed, most of the houses have no toilet and no current water inside, the heating is often provided only by wood stoves and the electric system is not safe. Many of the roofs need substantial repair and all lack of insulation; structural stability should be investigated to verify their safety in a seismic zone and the eventual damages occurred in occasion of the 1988 seism.

Potable water pipes arrived in the village only few year ago, but in general they are not connected to the apartments. Furthermore, most of the village population cannot afford the fees so they could not bring water at home, they collect it directly from the pipe on the main road. Potable water is brought with a cistern and sold for 10 AMD per liter. Sewage is not existing and toilets are usually simple boxes with a hole under them scattered in the gardens. Solid waste lacks of a proper management.

The same happens for the gas pipeline, it runs all along the village (out of earth, Soviet-style) but only very few houses are connected to it, the majority prefer to use gas bottles, which are far less expensive. Electricity is available for everyone but electric systems in the houses are not safe. Heating is provided by gas, electricity or wood that is preferred as less expensive although not available on place.

⁸ Arch. Tamanyan was the designer of the famous urban plan that is at the basis of modern Yerevan and is famous for devising a new style for Armenian architecture inspired to Neoclassicism with the addition of a national flavour (use of traditional materials as tuff, traditional decorative carvings on stone etc.).



Public lighting is provided by the Municipality. The Mayor has the responsibility of governing the Municipality and for that he is flanked by a Council made by 5 members, with an advisory function. The resources available for the Municipality are mainly provided by the Government (that also helps three very poor families) and in a little part by the taxes on commercial activities and by the mayor himself. Overall, the public spaces need maintenance (cleaning from debris, rehabilitation of roads and sidewalks, gardening, supply of seats and waste baskets).

The agricultural lands and pastures cover 72 % of the whole land pertaining the village (477 hectares) but harvesting is made difficult by problems of accessibility (some land lies in the buffer zone) and lack of water. Recently, the mayor started successful production of apricots. Other occupations are animal husbandry (cattle and small livestock), production of dairy products and cheeses (only for use in the ambit of the village), beekeeping (mainly for personal use but sometimes the honey is sold), and vegetable growing for family use. There is a small bus that every day guarantees the connection with Yerevan and a taxi driver. Two shops provide the indispensable goods and food.

Apart from the activities mentioned above, two teachers and a doctor, much of the workforce is employed abroad. In the remaining quarries the work is discontinuous, the salary low, the working conditions very bad (no protections as gloves and masks, no machinery, making the work very hard and possible only for young men. As a result, the village is impoverished and is depopulating⁹; however, the inhabitants expressed in the interviews the wish to stay if only some little industrial or commercial activities would be created.

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, the village prospered with more than 300 people employed in the adjacent mines with good monthly salaries. Unfortunately, nowadays, with the quarry partially closed, the inhabitants of Anipemza suffer from unemployment and part of the male adult population works abroad. Their situation is particularly difficult as the mine gives only few, occasional and unsafe work, their lands stand in a buffer zone and are often closed for military purposes (thus becoming hard to harvest) the area is arid and the water comes from far and is too expensive for the local population. Thus, several houses are abandoned and exposed to deterioration.

Anipemza is nowadays served by the Gyumri-Yerevan railway and the nearest rail station is in Aniavan, 5 km from Anipemza. Two trains per day transit there but they are not used by the villagers as they are considered too slow. In former times, a branch of the railway used to enter the manufacturing area of the village but it is not in use anymore.

Heading southwest from Gyumri and in parallel to the Turkish border, the road crosses the only rail link between Armenia and Turkey, opened in 1898 to provide a connection between Tbilisi (in Georgia) and Kars (in Turkey) at a time when both cities were in the Russian Empire. During the latter days of the Soviet Union, there was only one train each week across the border but even this has been suspended since 1992 because the border is officially closed.

⁹ The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (ARMSTAT) reported its population was 523 in 2010, the Anipemza accountant reports that it is 470 in 2016 (467 Armenian, two Russians and one Yezdi).



Armenia North-South Road Corridor





APPENDIX 3

Details related to the scope of the project and its implementation

Depending on the availability of funding, the different objectives of the project may be reached together or through the implementation of one or more of the single components identified in chapter 9 of the report. Nevertheless, it is of the foremost importance that any intervention needs to be carried out in a coordinated way according to the environmental feasibility assessment (as described in chapter 7), based on a site management plan and be subject to rules and regulation for interventions in the area that should be set up with the local authorities (Anipemza Municipality and Ministry of Culture). The creation of an area with restrictions in terms of use of the archaeological site, together with setting up prescriptions on how to preserve the landscape and the historical values of the village, appear as priorities. The main works forming part of the projects are as follows:

Scientific studies

- A recent research carried out by University of Aix-en-Provence, which only disclosed part of the historical information, should be continued to complete the understanding of the site. The activity should be organized as a work-in-progress and be connected with the creation of a living museum in Anipemza that would permit showing the results of the studies in a dynamic manner. This would also help increasing the tourist's interest for the site through the creation of temporary exhibits of the archaeological findings.
- Condition assessment of the Basilica and its surrounding archaeological area: analysis of the state of decay of the monuments and identification of structural needs, eventual archaeological excavations, sedimentology analysis, study on previous restorations with mapping of the original parts, virtual reconstruction of the original layout.
- Anipemza village: a complete survey of the built-up assets of the village, consisting of an analysis of the state of conservation of its about 25 buildings and including: (i) cadastral research on property; (ii) survey of the buildings; (iii) mapping of material and structural decay; (iv) mapping of inappropriate additions/modifications; (v) archive research on original drawings and other historical data about the village; and (vi) seismic analysis.
- Collection and interpretation of the true stories of the villagers. This should be followed by guidelines for the material and structural improvement of the buildings.
- The village is particularly well preserved with no modern construction, making it particularly suitable for attracting visitors. Any modern construction, even at large distance of the village, may have a negative impact on the historical environment, making thus ineffective any action focused on the enhancement of present potentials. Therefore, rehabilitation works must respect the existing characteristics that make Anipemza a unique village



- Study on accessibility on local and regional basis.
- To add value to enhance the results of the studies, scientific and informative publications on different media should be devised.

Preservation works

- Site cleaning.
- The objective here is conserving and preserving the basilica from future deterioration. In this sense reinforcing actions should be carried out (e.g. concerning interior vaults) but the building would not be the object of reconstruction works.
- Construction of a drainage system and paving both the interior of the basilica and the exterior porches respectful of the remains of the original paving and foundations.
- Cleaning and conservation of stony elements (removal of weeds, stone preservation, joints pointing, etc.).
- Preservation of the little mausoleum.

Enhancement of Anipemza village

- Rehabilitation of the village by means of: implementation of structural repair aimed to reinforce the structures where needed and to upgrade deterred living conditions, improving the gas and water supply/treatment network and other utilities in need with the burying of the pipes; cleaning from debris and restoration of some relevant buildings to allow hosting the two museums.
- Sewerage / septic tanks and other infrastructure needed to guarantee bathrooms and toilets in all the apartments and public buildings.
- Houses of the village: removal of inappropriate additions, conservation/repair of roofs and exterior surfaces; enhance insulation; repair major problems regarding interior structural and functional elements.

Realization of the tourist infrastructure

- Enhancement of the site through: the rehabilitation of the road leading to the area; construction of a parking in the village; creation of tourist paths; installation of didactic panels throughout the site, including those less known monuments along the Armenian side of the Akhurian river; and improvement of the general environment (e.g. habilitating rest areas and planting trees).

Creation of two museums, (eventually including a custom branch office able to obtain/provide permissions for entering into the buffer zone to observe the remains of Ani and/or a cafeteria/gift shop):

- One museum would be devoted to the life in Soviet Union in the 1920s, including the history of the village and of the near quarry/mine. It should contain different visual elements (e.g. pictures, photographs, videos) reflecting the life of its



inhabitants and explaining some of their histories and include the possibility of visiting some apartments of the village.

- The second museum should host the most interesting sculpted fragments conserved in the area, the results of the findings from recent and future excavation works, a selection of objects from Shirak museum (currently unable to display its rich collection) and information about ancient Ani

Creation of employment for the local population

- Involvement of the local population in all the phases of project implementation.
- Capacity building for tourism services (hospitality, guide, arts and crafts, museum keepers, etc).
- Promotion of SME development eventually through microcredit

Interventions for the quarries

- Preservation/safety of the mine/quarries abandoned and in use to be kept as an interesting heritage associated to the life-style conditions of the village during the soviet period.

All the above activities should be prepared and implemented in full collaboration with local experts and stakeholders and be structured as an opportunity to reinvigorate the local economy.

Communication actions are of the foremost importance to awareness raising and promoting the site as a tourist destination, they would include but not limited to:

- Creation of a web site.
- Dissemination of information (through didactic materials, a scientific publication, tourist leaflets and booklets, etc.) and training of some local people to become guides.
- Joining the international networks as AirB&B, Europeana, Tripadvisor, etc.
- Organization of an international symposium to present the results of archaeological and historical research.

Finally, apart from the above mentioned standard protection/rehabilitation activities, the project should comprise training actions to create a sort of permanent specialized center for Armenian cultural and natural heritage conservation/interpretation at regional level.



Methodological approach - Guidelines for the implementation of works

Works must comply with the international preservation guidelines for the historic sites, and particularly:

- the 1964 Venice Charter;
- the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage;
- the 1990 Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage;
- the 1996 Principles for the recording of monuments, groups of buildings and sites;
- the 1999 International Cultural Tourism Charter;
- the 1994 Nara Document on Authenticity;
- the 2003 Charter – Principles for the analysis, conservation and structural restoration of architectural heritage;
- the 2008 Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites;
- the 2011 Paris Declaration on Heritage as a driver of development, and other international preservation guidelines dealing with preservation of historic monuments and works of art;
- the 2014 Florence Declaration on Culture, Creativity and Sustainable Development. Research, Innovation, Opportunities.

Preservation must be based on a clear identification and understanding of the heritage resource and of its tangible and intangible cultural values as well as the assessment of the socio-economic context which form part of the local identity of the Village. Local materials, local craftsmen, and traditional techniques should be used to preserve the structural, material and aesthetical integrity. Modern materials and techniques must be used only exceptionally when it is necessary to guarantee higher performances which cannot be provided by traditional materials and techniques. The integrity and authenticity of the heritage resource must be preserved as a priority.

The design of interventions as well as the implementation of the conservation and rehabilitation works must reduce the decay, which cannot be stopped. The interventions thus must not foresee "definitive" interventions, which result in invasive actions, but minimum repairs to be followed by a continuous program of maintenance and repair. Since preservation approaches and technologies are constantly changing and evolving it is to be preferred the use of technologies and materials which have a long International experimentation.

The following principles and ethical standards for professional conservation, must be followed:

- Authenticity. Ensure the maximal respect of the authenticity of the forms and materials
- Minimal intervention. Retain the maximum amount of historic material and minimise alteration or introduction of new elements. Consider the impact of the repair process on the component and the structure, including access issues, the viability of moving



the materials for repair, and the extent of damage which might be done to other building elements in executing the intervention. Repair rather than substitute; show rather than hide; avoid additions which do not enhance structural performance.

- Reversibility. Ensure that alterations and additions can be undone without harm to the building.
- Compatibility. Where possible, use the same materials and techniques as previously used, if the use of different materials is considered necessary, ensure their compatibility with the originals.
- Structural integrity. Ensure the structure can take the loads it must bear.
- Documentation. Record the fabric before intervention and document the intervention itself so that future conservation work is well informed. The work and lessons learned shall be published and disseminated in a timely manner to the public in general and to professional audiences.
- Preservation of layering. Historic evidence must not be destroyed, falsified or removed. Proactive prevention of damage or loss is the preferred strategy for preservation.
- Multidisciplinary. Design the project in detail based on the results of a multidisciplinary study including archaeological and historical research, geotechnical and structural analysis, investigation on the building materials, etc.
- Employ conservators/restorers who are trained and experienced.
- Devise a management and maintenance plan to guarantee sustainability.



APPENDIX 5

Potential partners

The Politecnico di Milano is a scientific-technological university that 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 (DASStU) operates a group directed by Maurizio Boriani and Mariacristina Giambruno 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, including Armenia. The Politecnico di Milano hosts the Milan office of the CSDCA and supports all its activities in Armenia providing expertise and technical support.

LA3M (Laboratoire d'Archéologie Médiévale et Moderne en Méditerranée) of Aix-en-Provence University 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 archaeology and the history of art and architecture in medieval Europe and the Middle East. Since 2006 it has been implementing a research on Ererouyk archaeological site under the lead of prof. Patrick Donabédian who is one of the major experts of Armenian Art and Architecture. By mutual consent, Patrick Donabédian has been identified as the best suited expert to become the scientific director of research activities to be implemented on the site.

Europa Nostra is the pan-European federation of heritage NGO's. It is supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals. Covering 40 countries in Europe, the organization is the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural and natural heritage.

Politaly is a company established in Armenia in 2014 with the aim of attracting to Armenia foreign know how and capital. It helps foreign companies (mainly Italian) in entering the Armenian market providing support in the organization of production and business processes and offering accounting and legal services. They are very much interested in widening their approach including culture and so are ready to support the Ererouyk-Anipemza project. Politaly supported the project with the work of engineer Alex Koliada who joined the mission in Anipemza to give inputs for the identification of solutions to the main technical problems (road rehabilitation, sewage system, etc.). Their experience can be of use both for the preparation of tendering procedures and in the realization of rehabilitation works for the village and the road.

AVC is the brainchild of a former Peace Corps volunteer who served in Armenia for two years. It is an independent organization that is making volunteering in Armenia possible for all through affordable, safe, and fulfilling service projects. It is possible to enter into an agreement to offer work to the professional and not professional volunteers for which they are seeking meaningful experiences.



Local partners

During the visits in Armenia many possibilities of collaboration with the several Institutions actives locally have been explored, as follows:

- ✓ The Municipality of Anipemza welcomed the project proposal and will favor all the possible developments.
- ✓ The Shirak's office for the protection of the Historical Environment and Museums, directed by Mr. Avetik Melik Sargsyan will give a support for the logistics.
- ✓ The Shirak Regional Museum director, together with the responsible for the Shirak's office for the Conservation and Fruition of Armenian Monuments took part in the research promoted by the LA3M of Aix-en-Provence University and should be involved in any further study/operation on the archaeological site of Ererouyk.
- ✓ ICOM Armenia will support the creation of the Museum of Anipemza, making it operational and providing training to the local population to run it.
- ✓ National University of Architecture and Construction (NUACA) – NUACA University based in Yerevan may join the project through the organization of workshop for students on urban landscape preservation and improvement that can include practical hands on courses to be held in Anipemza with the aim of helping the villagers in finding solutions for the improvement of their own houses. Furthermore, prof. Emma Harutunyan from NUACA directed the realization of a 3D model of Ererouyk basilica that can be used for communication purposes.

Other considerations

The implementation of minor projects with the involvement of the local population and sustained by voluntary work are considered important for starting a process of awareness raising and increase the tourism potential of the site. Furthermore, the implementation of some activity at the small scale would favor the sense of belonging of the local population and its feeling of being part of the development process.

In this regard, besides the organizations and experts already involved, some other organizations could join the project team, like the Armenian Volunteers Corps, the European Heritage Volunteers or the Social Media Volunteers for Heritage (a joint initiative of Europa Nostra and European Heritage Volunteers, which is already involved in the creation of Ererouyk-Anipemza website).



APPENDIX 6

Meetings, missions and actions taken so far

On May 25th, 2016 in Madrid, there has been a first meeting held, participated by: Isik Aydemir, Elena Bianchi, Guy Clausse, Charles Pictet, Paolo Vitti, Gaiané Casnati (CSDCA), Rosamaria Rombolà (Politecnico di Milano). Maria Berza participated to the meeting through a Skype connection. During the meeting the focus of the mission scheduled for July was identified.

From July 19th to the 23rd 2016 the first experts mission was organized with the participation of: Gaiane' Casnati, Centro Studi e Documentazione Della Cultura Armena (nominator), Guy Clausse, European Investment Bank Institute, Paolo Vitti, member of the scientific council of Europa Nostra, Maria Berza, Member of the 7ME Advisory Panel, Visnja Kisic, council member of Europa Nostra, Mariacristina Giambruno, Politecnico di Milano, Patrick Donabédian, LA3M, Université de Aix Marseille and Tudor Berza, geologist Gohar Hovakimyan and Kristina Hakobyan from CSDCA Armenia and Anna Ghazaryan, senior specialist at the Ministry of Culture of Armenia.

The mission has been co-financed by a crowdfunding campaign that, being successful, proved to be a possible method to support other possible small operations on site. During the mission, several meetings have been held in order to identify the institutional steps to be taken for the project implementation and the possible collaborations with other local or International Institutions.

On September 26th, another visit to Ererouyk by the CSDCA president Agopik Manoukian (sociologist) and several meetings held by Gaianè Casnati in Yerevan allowed a better definition of the context, although a radical change in the political framework is still ongoing and may result in changes also in the process of approval and implementation of rehabilitation projects and in the process for the identification and realization of an historic-archaeological reserve in the area including the site.

Actions taken so far

1903 Marr's archaeological studies.

1970/80 (?) archaeological excavations and implementation of some restoration work under the direction of the local Department for the Conservation and Fruition of Armenian Monuments.

1995 World Monuments Fund mission to Ererouyk followed by the realization of a proposal for restoration project and the realization of iron propping for the safeguard of the basilica endangered by the 1988's earthquake.

2002-2003 Little interventions organized by CSDCA (structural repair to allow the removal of the iron propping – stitching and grouting in the East side of the basilica,



selected reconstruction of the upper part of the apse and of the North west tower's northern wall - co-financing CSDCA and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

2004 the top part of the perimeter walls of the basilica was consolidated with the construction of a "ring beam" topped with a layer of mortar and stone.

2005-2006 implementation of scientific studies on Ererouyk basilica (stratigraphic and stony materials survey, structural investigations).

2009-2016 realization of annual campaigns of scientific studies on the Ererouyk archaeological site involving geologists, archaeologists, architects, art historians, anthropologists, etc.

2015 Mrs. Irina Subotic visit to the site.

2016 March 16th Ererouyk- Anipemza is in the 7ME.

2016 July first experts' mission. In this occasion, a few concrete actions are taken:

- A photo contest has been organized to select images on Ererouyk-Anipemza monuments and people, the photos collected were exhibited at the Armenian National Library in Yerevan from July 22th to September. The exhibition has been opened by the vice Minister of Culture Arev Samuelyan who personally awarded the winners (2 youths from Anipemza).
- July 20th the first experiment of "spread hospitality" has been organized with all the participants to the mission, who were hosted in Anipemza's houses in spite of the lack of sanitary facilities.
- In September, another three experts stayed at Anipemza, this time at the mayor's house as the previous experiment provoked jealousies between the inhabitants.
- September 25th the exhibit has been moved to Anipemza's school and opened to the public. It is also foreseen the rehabilitation of the school's toilets in order to make them better for the local students and available also for the tourists.
- The same day some medicines were donated to the public "hospital" of Anipemza.
- October 22-28th the propping designed by architect Vitti to save the little mausoleum from further deterioration will be put in place.



APPENDIX 7

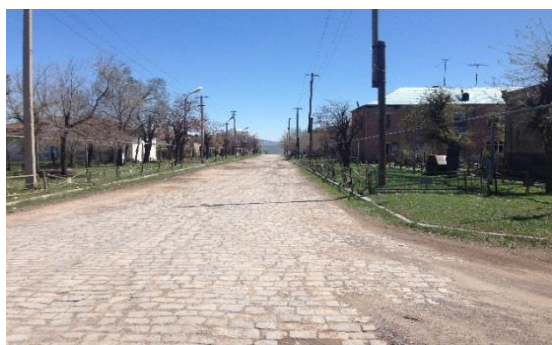
Photographic support



Basilica



Archaeologic remains



Ani Pemza village



General map of the site

