



Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies in Buildings in UNECE Region (UNECE/UNDP joint events)

Co-organizers: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Government of Armenia, United Nations Development Programme Office in Armenia

Workshop languages: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

INFORMATION NOTE

VENUE

Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies in Buildings in UNECE Region (UNECE/UNDP joint events) will be held on 14-15 March 2019.

The venue of the events is

Hrazdan Hotel

72 Dzorapi str., Yerevan 0015, Armenia

Tel.: (+374 10) 53 53 32

E-mail: reservation@hotelhrazdan.am

Website: hotelhrazdan.com

For further information on the venue of the meeting, please visit the website of the hotel.

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Venue registration of the participants will take place on **Wednesday, March 14, 2019, from 9:00 to 10:00 am at the Hrazdan Hotel**. Identification badges will be issued to participants at registration. Please present your international passport (or ID) for registration.

VISA

It is the responsibility of the participant to obtain the visa to enter Armenia (if required).

List of [countries](#) whose nationals **are unilaterally exempted from the requirement of obtaining a visa**.

List of [countries](#), with which Armenia has a **visa-free regime** according to bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Holders of all other national passports and travel documents, including UN Laissez-Passer, **are required to obtain an entry visa**.

List of the [countries](#) whose citizens **can obtain Armenian entry visas upon arrival** (at the airport) in Armenia.

In all other cases the visa regime for the citizens of Armenia with foreign states is regulated by the internal law of those countries and might be changed in accordance with them. Therefore, the MFA of the Republic of Armenia recommends to check on the latest information on visa requirements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or from the diplomatic missions of the destination country before the trip.

Citizens of foreign countries for whom a visa-free regime is set can stay on the territory of the Republic of

Armenia for no more than 180 days during one year if no other term is defined by the international agreements of the Republic of Armenia.

List of countries nationals of which could apply for visitor visa only with invitation. (the list of documents required for the invitation). This limitation is obsolete for the citizens of those countries of Armenian nationality.

For the list of documents required for issuing a visa and more information, please visit the site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia at <http://www.mfa.am/en/visa/>

Should you need a visa support, please contact **Ms. Gohar Harutyunyan**, Project Assistant of “De-risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits” UNDP-GCF Project (+374 44) 410 012; E-mail: gohar.harutyunyan@undp.org at your earliest convenience.

TRANSPORTATION

- **From/to Zvartnots airport**

Zvartnots International Airport, EVN, www.zvartnots.am, is about 10 km (6 miles) from Yerevan. Free Wi-Fi is available in the airport. Facilities: ATMs, duty free, currency exchange, car rental, information center and cafes.

Taxis are available to the city center. “**Airport Service**” is the only official taxi service provider in Zvartnots International Airport (they have dedicated desk). A ride to Yerevan city center typically costs around AMD 4,500 (about \$10).

Contact information: Tel.: +374 98 828 200, +374 10 595 900, +374 60 430 000.

“**Express bus and minibus**” passenger transportation service is available from/to the “Express” bus stop of Zvartnots Airport to/from the “Express” bus stop of Republic Square near the fountains (24 hours/day; every 30 minutes; about 20 minutes journey time; price is AMD 300 (about \$0.6); luggage transportation is free of charge). Alternatively, you can request a pick-up service from your hotel, which is usually more expensive.

To escape unpleasant situations, please negotiate your trip cost with the taxi driver upfront.

- **Transportation in the city:**

The following means of public transportation are available in Armenia:

Metro: Yerevan subway system has one line stretching from the north to the Railroad Station in the southern edge of the city. There are 11 stations. The fare is AMD 100 (approximately USD 0.22).

Buses: There are buses running in major directions. The fare is AMD 100.

Minibuses: These small vans seating 12-14 people are available everywhere in the city. They run until late at night. The fare is AMD 100.

Taxi Services:

There are many taxi services, which accept orders by mobile application (iOS and Android mobile applications are available) such as:

GG Taxi, www.ggtaxi.com/signin Apps: [iOS](#) and [Android](#); tel.: (+374 94) 302 300 also via (+374 95) or (+374 96)

Yandex Taxi, taxi.yandex.com/#index Apps: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)

U Taxi, <https://www.u.taxi/en> Apps: [iOS](#) and [Android](#); tel.: (+374 12) 532 222, **mob.:** (+374 44) 532 222, also via (+374 77) or (+374 91)

They offer very clean, comfortable cars with polite and skillful drivers. The fare is AMD 100 per 1km (USD 0.22). Minimal fare is usually AMD 500-600 (USD 1.1)

Regular taxi: There are taxi stands at major city intersections. Fares are according to counter (please ensure that taxi has a counter before getting in).

Participants can directly coordinate with the hotel, where they are staying regarding the airport transfers.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for their own hotel bookings.

Upon receiving this Note, please arrange ~~for your accommodation in~~ Yerevan. A list of hotels, located at a walking distance from the workshop venue, is provided below. Please note that the event period is a high season in Yerevan, so you are strongly advised to reach the hotels the soonest possible.

* Also kindly note that the prices might change in March due to middle season. For other options you can visit <http://www.hotels.am/>

** In case you prefer to stay at Venue hotel (Hrazdan hotel), please contact at the given email address (**reservation@hotelhrazdan.am**) for room reservation, indicating code for discount (**undp13-15.03**)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR STAY IN ARMENIA

- **Local Customs:** Armenians are much like any other Europeans in their manners and lifestyle.
- **Time Zone (GMT+4):** Time difference between Armenia and Europe is +2 hours; with the United Kingdom +3 hours; with East Coast of the United States +8 hours; and with the West Coast of the United States +11 hours.
- **Language:** Armenian is the official language in Armenia, which forms its own language group in the Indo-European language family. However, almost all Armenians can speak quite good Russian because Armenia was part of the Soviet Union. English is becoming more widely spoken, particularly in Yerevan; however, outside the capital, few people speak English.
- **Currency:** The Armenian currency is known as the “dram”, and the currency is abbreviated as AMD (Armenian Dram). The dram is accepted everywhere. Dollars, Euros and Rubles **are not accepted**, but can be exchanged almost anywhere in the country, with other major currencies also easy to exchange. Exchange booths do not charge a commission and rates are almost always competitive.
- **ATMs (Cash Machines):** are widely available in larger towns. However, outside Yerevan you should have a major system such as Visa Electron on your card for it to work.

Credit cards are widely accepted in hotels, big commercial centers, restaurants and cafes. However, when traveling outside Yerevan it is better to have cash.

The banks in Yerevan are usually open from 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays and from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. No lunch breaks! The ATMs can be found on all the major streets.

Exchange offices are open until midnight and operate at weekends and on public holidays. There are 24/7 currency exchange booths with good rates in all big supermarkets (SAS, Yerevan City).

- **Cash:** US Dollars, Euros and Rubles are not accepted.
- **Exchange rates** by the Central Bank of Armenia, www.cba.am
- **Exchange rates** in all banks and exchange points can be checked alternatively at www.rate.am
- **Drinking Water:** The tap water is drinkable in Armenia. However, mineral and/or still water bottles will be usually provided by the hotel.
- **Security:** Overall Yerevan is a safe city. However, theft and pick pocketing are not unheard of, particularly targeting foreigners; utmost care is essential. Use common sense when walking on the street at night, especially after drinking. Female visitors should be aware that in the outskirts of the city, a single woman walking alone at night may attract attention.
- **Electrical Standard:**

The electricity in Armenia is 220 volts, 50 Hz. Electric outlets in Armenia use European plugs with 2 round pins. The outlet plug adaptors can be purchased at any electronics shop or supermarket in Yerevan.



- **Shopping:**

In **open markets bargaining** is a must!

Armenian carpets, cognac, fruits, handicrafts memorabilia are some of the popular things people take home from Armenia. Most of these are plentiful at “Vernissage”, a seemingly never-ending weekend flea market next to Republic Square with more touristy stuff. Souvenir and craft shops are available in shopping plazas and hotels.

- **Business hours:**

Most shops/restaurants are open every day and offices and schools are open Monday to Friday (partially on Saturdays). Mornings are usually slow, and places do not tend to open early.

Shopping hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-20:00, there are 24 hour shops as well.

- **Dialing Code:**

The international dialing code for the country is 374, Yerevan city is 10.

Outgoing international calls can be made by dialing: “+” (or 00) followed by the country code, city code and the number.

- **Weather:** The geographical location of Armenia and its unique topography creates as much weather contrasts as the country itself. The climate is unusually varied according to altitude, but runs to extremes as a whole, is defined as continental.

Tipping: is increasingly common in Armenia, especially at cafes and restaurants. Many Armenians will simply round up their checks, or leave ten percent. Many restaurants have begun to charge a ten percent “service fee”. This fee is often not clearly stated on the menu, so you should ask if you want to know. Tipping is usually not expected in taxis, but again, rounding up is not uncommon.

INTERESTING PLACES TO VISIT IN ARMENIA

The tourist information can be consulted at the sites:

www.armenia.travel/en

www.welcomearmenia.com/armenia_tourist_attractions/armenia_travel_guide

www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g293931-Armenia-Vacations.html

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANT RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Participants receiving financial support (DSA) in connection with their participation in the event will be contacted by UNECE for details.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY

With respect to health requirements and precautions to be taken by participants travelling to Armenia, all participants should consult and seek medical advice from their physicians/doctors and take medical precautions as advised.

Please note that all participants are responsible for medical, accident and travel insurance, for death or disability compensation, for loss or damage to personal property and for any other costs or losses that may incur during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that appropriate insurance be obtained for the period of participation until your return to your country of residence. This is solely the responsibility of each participant.

The organizers bears no responsibility and will not be liable for medical accident and travel insurance, for compensation, death or disability, loss or damage to personal property and for any other costs or losses that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation in the meeting.

CONTACTS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

101 - fire department

102 - police department

103 - ambulance

911 - general emergency

UNDP Armenia

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT:

UNECE

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