

#ACXchange

INFORMATION BULLETIN



Americas
Competitiveness
Exchange

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4, 2024



ABOUT ACE ARMENIA

The Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) “Building Bridges, Connecting People” will take place in Armenia from September 28 to October 4, 2024.



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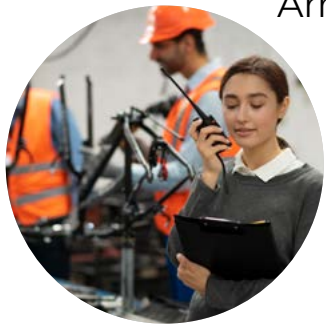
This week-long event will bring together decision-makers from across the Americas and beyond to engage with Armenia’s key stakeholders from the public, private and academic sectors to explore cooperation opportunities in investment, trade, business development, spark research exchanges and build new partnerships to advance inclusive and sustainable economic development.

The agenda for ACE Armenia offers opportunities to connect with the country’s top companies, universities and innovation centers in the following clusters: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Engineering; Agriculture and Agribusiness; Sustainability and Renewable Energy; Talent Development and STEM Education; Tourism and the Cultural Economy. Host sites include leading economic development partners in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, and the nearby cities in Tavush, Shirak, and Vayots Dzor Provinces.

ACE Armenia is convened by the Republic of Armenia through the Ministry of Economy with the support of the Government of the United States, through the Department of Commerce and the Department of State - Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS), and the assistance of the General Secretariat of the OAS, as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC).

WHAT SETS ARMENIA APART

Skilled Workforce



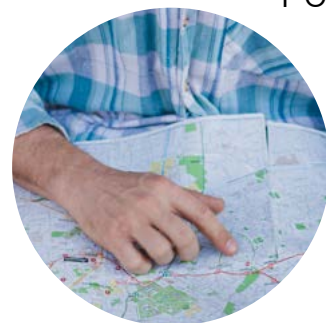
Armenia is known for its talented workforce, particularly in industries such as technology and engineering. The country places a strong emphasis on education, with a well-developed system that includes universities and vocational schools.

Technological Advancement



Armenia is emerging as a technology hub, with a vibrant startup ecosystem and a rapidly growing ICT sector. The country's focus on information technology, software development, and innovation has attracted global attention and investment.

Geographical Advantage



Positioned at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Armenia serves as a gateway to multiple markets. Its proximity to the European Union, the Middle East, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) offers opportunities for trade and access to a diverse customer base.

Supportive Business Environment



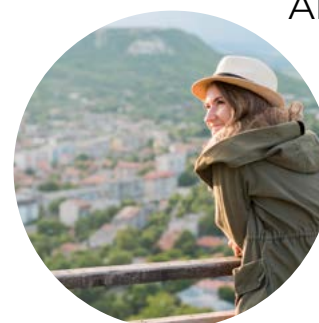
The Armenian government has implemented various reforms to enhance the ease of doing business, streamline regulations, and attract foreign investment. Initiatives such as tax incentives, simplified procedures, and business-friendly policies have contributed to a favorable business climate.

Access to Funding and Support



Armenia offers access to various funding sources and support mechanisms for startups and businesses. Business incubators, accelerators, and venture capital funds provide resources, mentorship, and financial backing to foster entrepreneurial growth.

Tourism Potential



Armenia's rich cultural heritage, historical sites, and natural beauty make it an attractive destination for tourism. The country's efforts to promote its tourism industry offer opportunities for businesses in hospitality, travel, and related sectors.

FEATURED INDUSTRY CLUSTERS



**ICT and
Engineering**



**Talent Development
and STEM Education**



**Agriculture and
Agribusiness**



**Sustainability and
Renewable Energy**



**Viticulture and
Winemaking**



**Tourism and the
Cultural Economy**

LOGISTICS AND BUDGET

THE PROGRAM ORGANIZERS WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

-  Local transportation throughout the program from site to site in Armenia.
-  VIP access to sites and experts.
-  Meals during the official program hours.
-  Preferential rates at the ACE selected hotels in Armenia.
-  Logistical support for the duration of the program.
-  Airport Passport control fast-track procedure support.
-  Access to advisory support and facilitators from the Government of Armenia and stakeholder institution and ACE partner institutions supporting the program in Armenia.

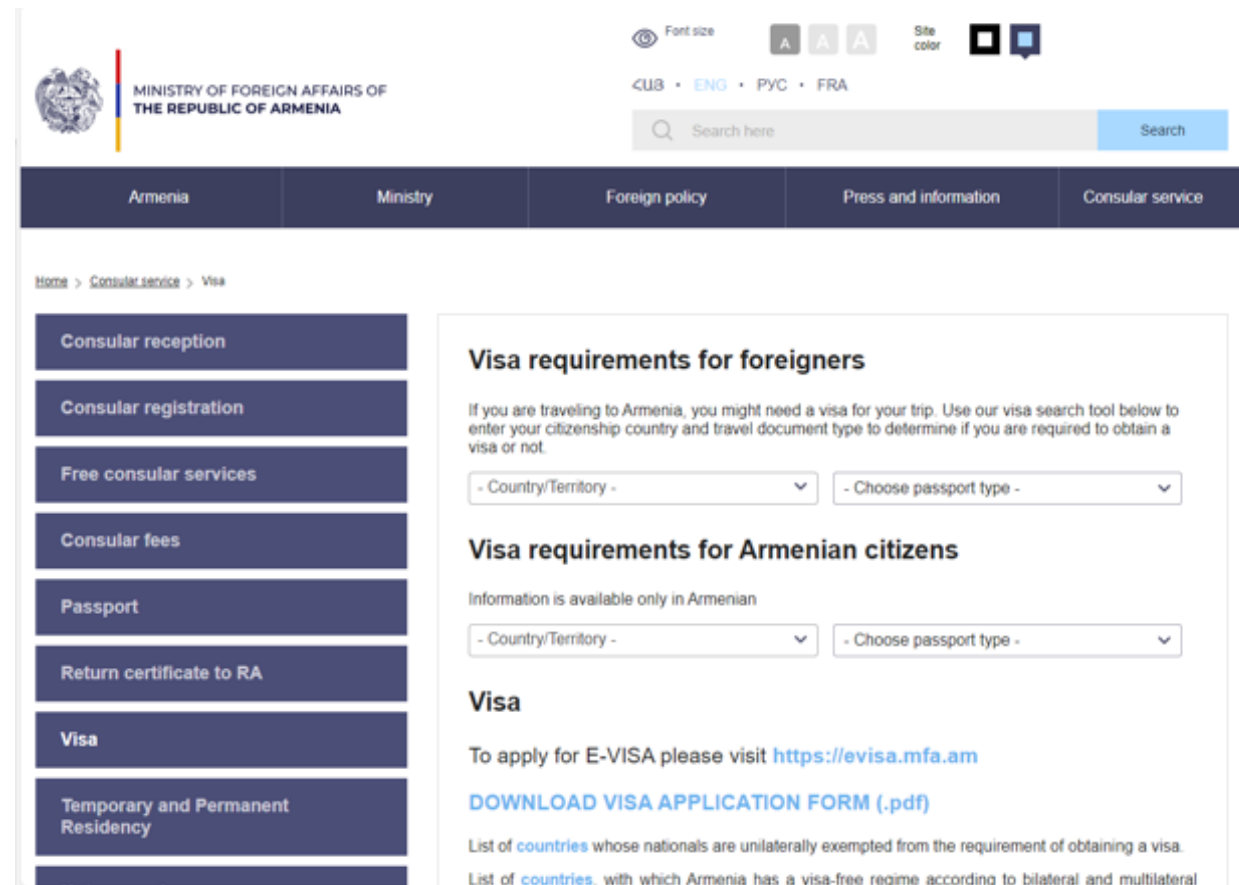
ACE ARMENIA PARTICIPANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

-  Booking and paying for their airfare to and from Yerevan, Armenia.
-  Booking and covering the cost of their hotel accommodations in Armenia for the duration of the program in the ACE selected hotels.
-  Arranging their transportation airport-hotel-airport.
-  Covering the remaining cost of meals outside of the program and other miscellaneous items.

VISA INFORMATION

To confirm if you need a visa to travel to Armenia:

<https://www.mfa.am/en/visa/>



The screenshot shows the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. The header includes the ministry's name and logo, along with language options (ENG, ARM, FRA) and a search bar. The main navigation menu lists various services. The 'Visa' section is highlighted in the left sidebar. The main content area is titled 'Visa requirements for foreigners' and provides information on how to use the visa search tool, including dropdown menus for 'Country/Territory' and 'Choose passport type'. It also includes a section for 'Visa requirements for Armenian citizens' and a link to the E-VISA application system.

To apply for an E-visa visit

[E-Visa \(mfa.am\)](https://www.mfa.am/en/visa/)



E-VISA Issuance System

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic of Armenia

APPLY FOR E-VISA

CHECK APPLICATION STATUS

Visitor visa (up to 21 days of stay) / Non-refundable fee - USD 8
Visitor visa (up to 120 days of stay) / Non-refundable fee - USD 38
E-VISA processing time is up to 3 working days

Ordinary passports only

For questions regarding the visa process, please contact:

visa@mfa.am - reference: ACE Armenia.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Passport:** All foreigners must present a valid passport upon entry.
- ✓ **Visa:** Depending on your nationality, you may need to obtain a visa. Please check if your country is on the visa-exempt list.
- ✓ **Proof of Residency:** If you are a resident of Armenia, you must provide proof of your residency status.
- ✓ For those coming from a visa-free country, you can stay in Armenia for up to 180 days per year



HOTEL IN ARMENIA:

The DoubleTree by Hilton Yerevan City Centre has been selected to host the delegation throughout the week. In order to access the preferential rate please make sure to use the **official link** [ACE Armenia \(hilton.com\)](https://www.hilton.com/ACEArmenia) to book your reservation. Since the program will arrange for the local transportation, we ask all participants **to stay at the official hotel**.

ACE selected hotel in Yerevan, Armenia:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel



Address:

Grigor Lusavorich Street, 4 2, Yerevan, 0015, Armenia

Telephone number: +374 11 555333

Check-in:

Saturday, September 28, 2024 or
Sunday, September 29, 2024

Check-out:

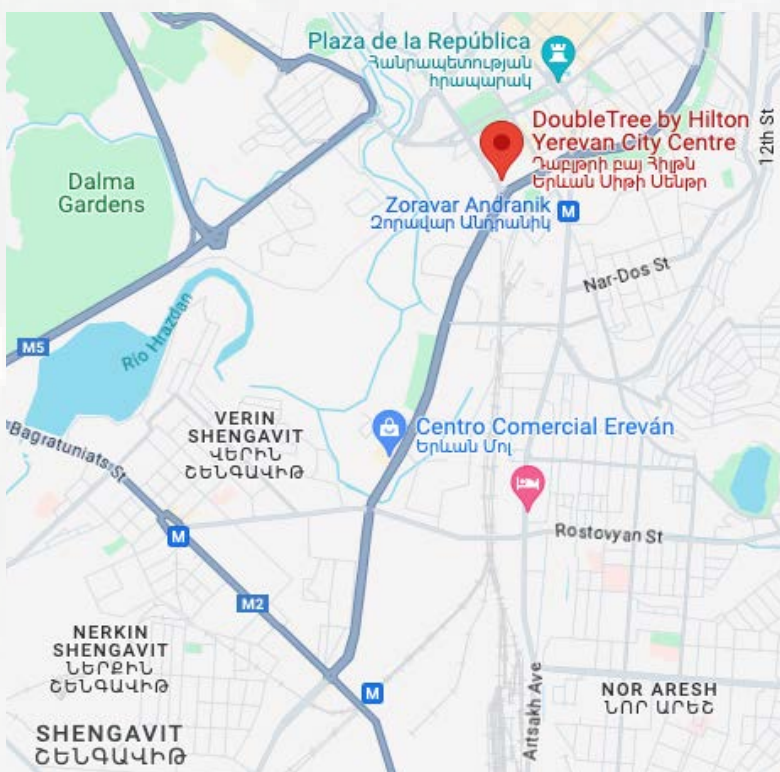
Saturday, October 5, 2024

Note: The rate offered to the group is only valid when reservations through the link provided. The deadline for the preferential rate is August 16, 2024.

For cancellation Policy:

- Free cancellation until September 16, 2024
- 50% refund for cancellations between September 16 and 20, 2024
- Non-refundable after September 20, 2024

**Each participant is responsible to complete its own reservation and cancellation*





RATE PER NIGHT:

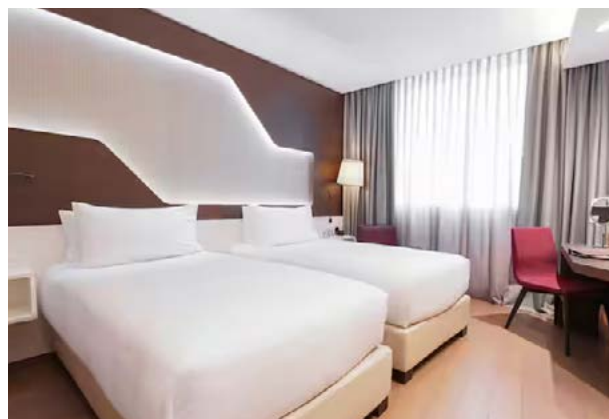
King Guest Room



AMD 54,000 / \$ 146 USD

The rate includes full buffet breakfast and is quoted with VAT

Twin Guest Room



AMD 54,000 / \$ 146 USD

The rate includes full buffet breakfast and is quoted with VAT

Hotel amenities



Free
parking



Free
WiFi



On-site
restaurant



Fitness
center



Room
service



Business
center



Meeting
rooms



Pets
not
allowed

For any questions, please contact:

EVNYE.DS@hilton.com

AIRPORT:

ZVARTNOTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Zvartnots International Airport in Yerevan offers daily direct flights to and from major international cities.

- **Airport:** Zvartnots International Airport (EVN)

Transportation to & from Zvartnots Airport

Taxis, shuttles, ridesharing apps, and rental cars are available.

- **Taxis**

Taxis to the city center typically cost around 3,000 AMD (approximately USD 8) per trip. You can also use taxi apps like **GG Taxi**, to book rides directly from your smartphone.

- **GG Taxi**



- Available on the [App Store](#)
- Get it on [Google](#)

- **Airport Express #201 Minibus**

The Airport Express #201 Minibus, operates daily between Yerevan city center and Zvartnots Airport. Buses depart every half hour from 7 AM to 10 PM, providing a reliable connection to and from the airport.

Give exact amount of money to the driver just before you get off the bus, minibus or trolleybus. Use front door for getting off. Local currency is required.

Buses - **100 AMD**

Minibuses - **100 AMD**



COVID-19 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Armenia has lifted all COVID-19 entry restrictions.

MEALS

Meals will be provided to participants during the official program hours.

Participants are expected to cover the cost of meals and other miscellaneous/incidental items that occur outside the official program hours.

DRESS CODE

The default dress code for ACE is business attire. It is recommended that participants wear comfortable shoes throughout the five-day program. More details about the dress code for each day and activities will be provided by the organizers closer to the event.

EXPECTED WEATHER

The average temperature in Yerevan in September /October for a typical day range from a high of 63°F (17°C) to a low of 41°F (5°C).

LANGUAGE

Activities during the five-day program will be conducted in English. The official state language of Armenia is Armenian, but Russian is also widely spoken. English is prevalent, especially among the younger generation, and most of the service industry staff are likely to speak at least two of these languages. Additionally, nearly every restaurant offers trilingual menus in Armenian, Russian, and English, a translator such as AYOLingo can be very helpful if you don't speak Armenian, so it's a good idea to download one before your arrival.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The Armenian Dram is the currency of Armenia. AMD

While credit cards are widely accepted in Yerevan, Armenia as a whole is not as cashless as some European or Western countries. It's advisable to carry cash, especially for restaurants, markets, or services that may not accept cards. Yerevan offers ample access to ATMs and currency exchange offices. Major supermarkets often feature kiosks for currency exchange.

The Yerevan metro operates on a coin/token system priced at 100 AMD per ride, purchasable only with cash. It is recommended that participants get some local cash upon arrival at the airport. Exchange rate in August 2024 is: 1 USD is 389 AMD. It would be important that participants inform their credit card company about their travel plans to avoid potential payment issues.

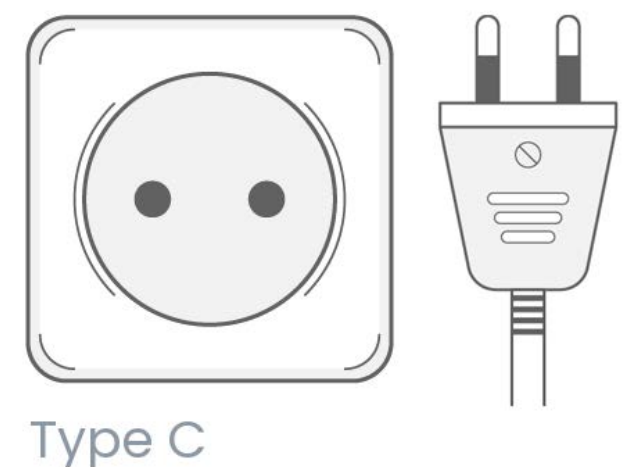
MOBILE AND INTERNET (WIFI)

Mobile services and SIM cards are available. Plans can be purchased for \$12 USD per month, including unlimited data, SMS, and domestic and international calls to countries such as Canada and the US, with only a passport required for purchase. SIM cards are available at Zvartnots International Airport near the baggage claim, and mobile service providers are located throughout Yerevan and other major cities.

- **E-SIM Airalo** - <https://www.airalo.com/armenia-esim>
- **Yesim** - <https://yesim.app>

VOLTAGE

Power outlets in Armenia are mainly Type C, which is the standard European outlet. You can use your electric appliances in Armenia if the standard voltage in your country is between 220 - 240 V. If the label on your electronic device states 'INPUT: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz', then you need a Type C travel adaptor. Otherwise, you may also need a voltage converter.



WATER

Drinking water in Armenia comes from natural underground sources. There are fresh, flowing drinking fountains throughout Yerevan and the rest of the country called pulpulaks.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Fire Department - **101**

Police - **102**

Ambulance - **103**

Gas Emergency Service - **104**

Emergency Situations Crisis Management Center - **911**

Municipality of Yerevan Hotline - **105**

Human Rights Defender of Armenia Hotline - **116**

Zvartnots International Airport Hotline - **187**

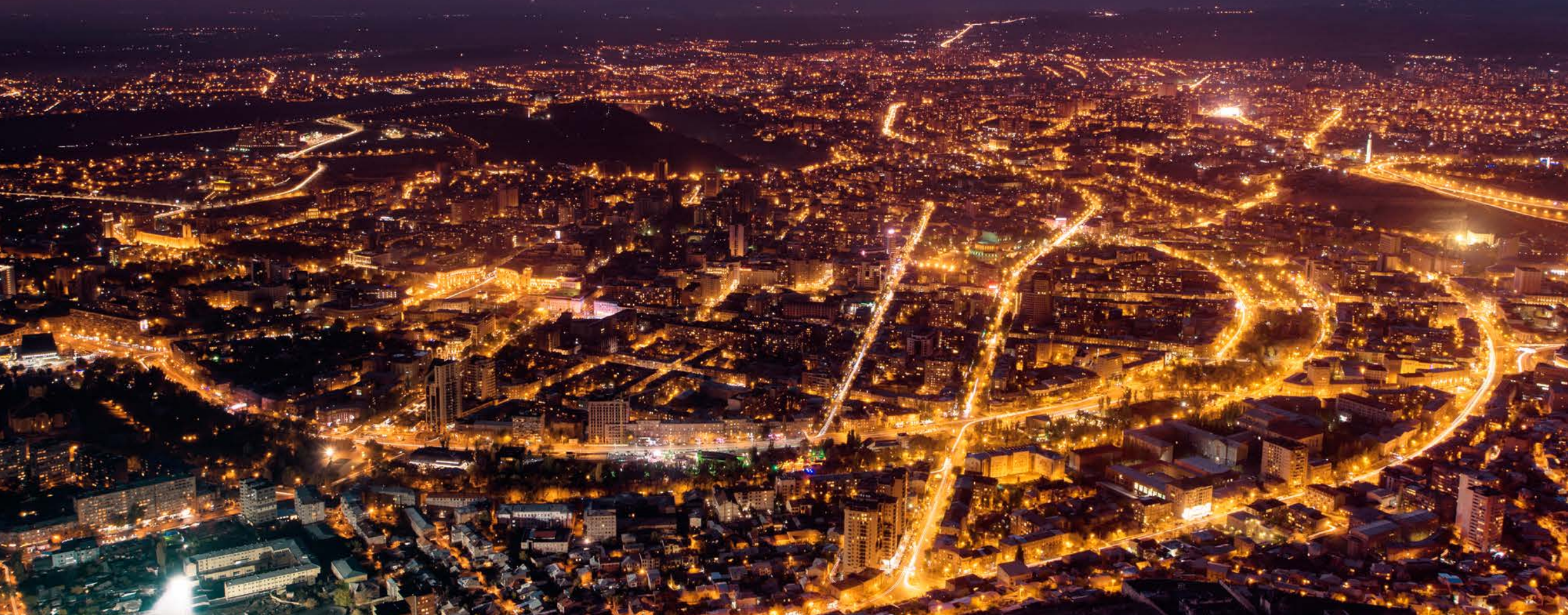
SPECIAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR ACE VISITORS

Dedicated information center for ACE visitors located right in the arrival area at the airport. Be sure to find the info desk upon your arrival. Our team will assist you with directions, transportation options from the airport to your hotel, and information on connecting to the internet.



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CONTACT US:

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to reach the ACE team,

Ministry of Economy of Armenia, Narine Haroyan, narharoyan@mineconomy.am

- To contact ACE Committee and the team at the OAS,

Mr. César Parga, Chief of the Section of Competitiveness,
Innovation and Technology at the OAS, at cparga@oas.org cc: msolis@oas.org and egomez@oas.org