



Diaspor**Arm**

EXPLORE . UNITE . EMPOWER

[DiasporArm](#) is a non-profit organization which aims to mobilize the significant available resources of the Armenian Diaspora, coordinate actions, support initiatives, and create synergies through networking, having as a goal the progress of the Republic of Armenia and Armenians around the world.

DiasporArm's foremost mission is to uncover the talents, competences, and vital connections within every Diaspora community it touches, from Sidney to Los Angeles. This initiative involves collaboration with various communities, organizations, associations, and RoA institutions, and will consist of mapping the Diaspora.

# GREECE \*

Greece has always been a major hub for trade routes and travelers. With its magical islands and ancient ruins, the appeal of this major European destination – the first democracy in the world – cannot be fully captured by the imagery on postcards. Certain historical regions remain less accessible to tourists (mainly up in the north of the country) and have therefore preserved their authenticity.

Armenians have lived in the area covered by present-day Greece since the Byzantine era, and a few villages even kept their Armenian names (for example Armenochori and Armenio). The first Armenian community in modern Greece formed at the end of the nineteenth century when Armenians from Cilicia were fleeing persecution. After the genocide, tens of thousands of Armenians took refuge in Greece. Many then continued on their journey to France or the United States, but others stayed in the country. About 30,000 Armenians are estimated to live in Greece today.

## ATHENS

In the 1920s, Armenian refugees settled in Neos Kosmos, to the south of the hill. The Armenian Catholic Church of St. Gregory the Illuminator was inaugurated in 1925, while the more recent St. Garabed Church dates back to 1981. The Levon & Sophia Hagopian School, run by the ARS (Armenian Relief Society), opened in 1962. Azat Or, founded in 1945 in Neos Kosmos, is one of Europe's oldest Armenian newspapers. The genocide memorial, representing the cracked bell of an Armenian church, was inaugurated in 1998 in Nea Smyrni's park.

## THESSALONIKI

Northern Greece's capital is home to the second largest Armenian community in the country. Two hundred meters from the legendary White Tower, the Church of the Holy Mother of God (Surp Asdvadzadzin) was consecrated in 1903. The Armenian community center is just next door, and a khachkar was put into the small adjacent plaza.

## KOMOTINI

The capital of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace was likely home to the largest Armenian colony in medieval Greece. St. Gregory the Illuminator Church dates back to 1834, however it is believed that another church existed prior to that. Today's Armenian community was formed by descendants of refugees from the 1920s and Armenians arriving recently from Armenia, and a similar pattern can be seen in Thrace's other cities

\* [Extracts](#) from **LITTLE ARMENIAS**

## Schools

City	School name	Enrolment	Frequency	Language	Affiliation	Contact Person	Title
Alexandropolis	Taronyan one-day school		One day	EA		Sula Kasapyan	Teacher
					ARS		
Athens	Sophie and Levon Hakobyan school		Eveyday		ARS	Babken Kasabian	Principal
Athens	AGBU "Artaki Galpakyan" College		Eveyday	WA	AGBU	Haykanush Minasyan	Principal
Gomotini	Armenian one-day school		One day	Both	ARS	Shrohit Balatlyan	Principal
Kavala	One-day course		One day		ARS	Hermine Kurbanyan	Principal
Nicaea	Zavaryan College of Armenian Blue Cross of Greece		Everyday	WA	ARS	Haykanush Minasyan	Principal
Thessaloniki	Malakyan-Gasparian Armenian Saturday school		One day	Both	ARS	Vera Tahmazian	Principal
Xanthi	One day school		One day	Both	ARS of Greek Macedonia & Thrace	Marietta Sargsyan	Principal
Xanthi	Tsaghkots Sunday School of "Hayastan" public cultural center		One day	Both		Zapel Galfaian	Principal

# Churches

City	Church Name	Established	Affiliation	Notes	Other activities	Contact Person	Title	Website
Alexandroupolis	Sourp Garabed Armenian Church		Holy See of Cilicia			Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Saghdedjian	Pastor	
Athens	Armenian Prelacy		Holy See of Cilicia	Prelacy		H.E. Archbishop Kegham Khatcherian	Prelate	<a href="http://www.armenianprelacy.gr">www.armenianprelacy.gr</a>
Athens	Sourp Garabed Armenian Church		Holy See of Cilicia			Rev. Fr. Nareg Shahinian	Pastor	<a href="http://www.sourpgarabed.gr">www.sourpgarabed.gr</a>
Athens	Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church		Armenian Evangelical Church			Bro. Hratch Najarian	Pastor	
Athens	Armenian Evangelical Church		Armenian Evangelical Church			Rev. Viken Cholakian	Pastor	
Athens	Holy Mother of God church		Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin	Diocese		Rev Fr. Khoren Arakelyan	Archimandrite	
Didimotikho	Sourp Kevork Armenian Church		Holy See of Cilicia			Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Saghdedjian	Pastor	
Heraklion	Sourp Garabed Armenian Church	1669	Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin					
Kavala	Sourp Khatch Armenian Church		Holy See of Cilicia			Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Saghdedjian	Pastor	
Kokkinia	Armenian Evangelical Church	1922	Armenian Evangelical Church					
Komotini	Sourp Krikor Lousavorich Armenian Church		Holy See of Cilicia			Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Saghdedjian	Pastor	
Thessaloniki	Sourp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Church		Holy See of Cilicia			V. Rev. Fr. Stepanos Pashayan	Pastor	

## Humanitarian/Social Services

City	Organization name in Armenian	Organization name in English	Affiliation	Established	Mission	Contact person	Title
Athens	Յունաստանի Կապույտ Խաչի Շրջանային Վարչություն	Blue Cross District Office of Greece				Liza Avakian	chairperson
Athens	Հայկական Բարեգործական Ընդհանուր Միություն	AGBU				Aris Khachadourian	
Athens	Համահայկական Հիմնադրամի Հունաստանի հանձնախումբ	Greece Committee of Pan Armenian Fund				Vatche Der Garabedian	
Athens	Հայ-հունական Բարեկամության միություն	Armenian-Greek Friendship Union				Anthonis Bavlitis	
Thessaloniki	Հ. Գթ. Խաչի Մակեդոնիայի և Թրակիայի Շրջանային Վարչություն	ARS of Greek Macedonia & Thrace				Hovig Gassapian	

## Cultural Associations

City	Organization name in Armenian	Organization name in English	Affiliation	Established	Field	Mission	Contact Person	Title
Athens	«ՀՈՒՅՆՆՈՒԲՐԱՅՈՒՄ» բարեկամության միություն	"GreekRussianArmenian" Friendship Association					Aghavni Mgrdtchian	
Athens	Նայիրի պարախումբ	Nairi Dance Group	National Cultural Society of Athens		Culture		Edgar Ekiyan	Dance teacher
Athens	Մարալո պարախումբ	Maralo Dance Group	National Cultural Society of Athens		Culture			
Thessaloniki	Սալոնիկ Մասիս պարախումբ համագգայինի	Masis Dance Group of Thessaloniki	National Cultural Society of Athens		Culture			
Athens	Համագգային Հայ Կրթական և Մշակութային Միություն	National Armenian Educational and Cultural Association			Culture		Houliana Manoukian	chairperson
Athens	Արարատ Մշակութային Մարզական Միություն	Ararat Cultural and Sports Union			Culture		Aris Khachadourian	
Athens	ԱԶԱՏԱՄԱՐՏ մշակութային միություն	AZATAMART cultural association			Culture			
Thessaloniki	Սալոնիկի Համագգայինի «Ղ. Սարյան» միություն	Thessaloniki "Gh. Saryan" union			Culture		Satenig Simonian	
Alexandrou polis	Համագգայինի «Արամ Խաչատուրյան» վարչություն	Aram "Khachaturyan" department			Culture			

## Political Associations

City	Organization name in Armenian	Organization name in English	Affiliation	Established	Mission	Contact Person	Title
Athens	Հ.Յ.Դ. Հունաստանի Կենտրոնական Կոմիտե	ARF Central Committee of Greece				Hripsime Haroutiounian	
Athens	Հ.Յ.Դ. Հունաստանի Երիտասարդական Միություն	ARF Youth Union of Greece				Vazken Savoulian	chairperson
Athens	Ռամկավար Ազատական Կուսակցություն	Armenian Democratic Liberal Party				Hagop Destchian	
Athens	Սոցիալ Դեմոկրատ Հնչակյան Կուսակցություն	Social Democrat Hunchakian Party				Hovhannes Shahinian	
Athens	ՀՕՄ-ի Մակեդոնիոյ եւ Թրակիոյ Շրջանային Վարչություն	ARS of Greek Macedonia and Thrace				Nvart Ghalilias Kalfaian	chairperson
Thessaloniki	Հ.Յ.Դ. «Ս. Թեհլերյան» Երիտասարդական խումբ	"S. Tehleryan" youth group of ARF	ARS			Arpine Mosinian	
Thessaloniki	Հ.Յ.Դ. «Լ. Շանթ» Պատանեկան խումբ	"L. Shant" Youth group of ARS	ARS			Satenig Simonian	

## Other Associations

City	Organization name in Armenian	Organization name in English	Affiliation	Established year	Field	Mission	Note	Contact Person	Title
Thessaloniki	Հայ-Հունական Առևտրարդյունաբերական Պալատ	Armenian-Greek Chamber of Commerce and Industry			Economic Development			Agis Takazian	
Athens	Հունաստանի Հայ Դատի Հանձնախումբ	Armenian National Committee of Greece			Lobbying		Advocacy	Haroutioun Spartalian	chairperson
Athens	«Ազատ Օր»	Azad or	ARF		Media		Daily Newspaper		Principal
Athens	«Նոր Աշխարհ»	New World	ADL		Media		Fortnightly Newspaper	Aris Khachadrian	
Athens	«Հայ Կեանք»	Armenian Life			Media		national, traditional, cultural electronic periodical		
Athens	Հունաստանի Հայոց Թեմի Ազգային Վարչություն	National Administration of the Armenian Diocese			Religious			Takvor Hovakimian	chairperson
Thessaloniki	Եկեղեցու Թաղային Խորհուրդ	Church District Council			Religious			Vartkes Kontaxian	
Athens	Հայ Մարմնակրթական Ընդհանուր Միություն (ՀՄԸՄ)	Armenian General Athletic Union (Homenetmen)			Sport			Kevork Boghosian	chairperson
Athens	Արարատ Մարզական Մշակութային Միություն	Ararat Sports and Cultural Union			Sport			Hagop Glnchian	



# Enterprises

City	Company name	Established year	Revenues	Field	Specialty	Type	Products	Website	Contact Person	Position
Athens	AJB	1983	1M – 10M	Industry & Distribution	Engineering		Extra Low Voltage products			
Athens	Pipework L. Jirakian Profil S.A	1967	1M – 10M	Industry & Distribution	Manufacturing		Steel pipes	<a href="https://tzirakian.com/profil/">https://tzirakian.com/profil/</a>	Aris Jirakian of Limbaret	Vice President and CEO, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Elevsina	Ovakimia S.A.	1930	100K - 1M	Industry & Distribution	Manufacturing		Nuts	<a href="https://www.ovakimian.gr/">https://www.ovakimian.gr/</a>		
Kifisia	Avakian Ltd	1950		Industry & Distribution	Footwear and leather goods	Manufacturing		<a href="https://avakian.eu/">https://avakian.eu/</a>		
Acharnai	Grena SMPC			Industry & Distribution	Textiles & Garments	Textile Fabrics		<a href="https://grena.gr/">https://grena.gr/</a>	Gregory Hatsatourian	
Athens	Orofasma	1988		Services & Commerce	Jewelry and watches	Jewelry	Gold	<a href="https://orofasma.gr/">https://orofasma.gr/</a>	Kevork Kolanian	Owner
Athens	Hellenic Opportunity fund			Services & Commerce	Real Estate				Kirk saris K. Kazazian	

## Example

AJB

### Manufacturing/Wholesales

**Owner:** Shant Nercessian and Partners

**Established:** 1983

**Country:** Greece

**Field:** Engineering products and services

**Product:** Extra Low Voltage products

**Activity:** Design, Engineering and Commissioning

**Branches:** Greece, Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia

**Website:** <http://ajbautomation.com>, <http://eliteautomationteam.com>, <http://ajbcx.com>



### Profile

AJB is a group of companies in the field of engineering, founded in 1983 by a group of ex-Honeywell (HW) managers. Originally in the field of automation, AJB now offers a broad range of Extra-Low Voltage (ELV) products and services across the Middle East and North Africa. Today, AJB has offices in 5 countries, with approximately 100 employees. Over the years, AJB has executed projects in dozens of countries all the way from the Far East to Europe. The core market has been the Middle East, where the company has successfully completed over 1000 projects, in both the commercial and industrial fields. Commercial customers include all major hotel brands (i.e. Marriott, Intercontinental, Hilton etc), numerous airports (i.e. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan), shopping centres, hospitals, football stadiums and many more. Industrial customers include major players such as Aramco and Sabic to name but a few. AJB has also completed a number of projects in Armenia itself including the Yerevan Marriott, Yerevan Mall and Avedissian High School.

# Hospitality and Tourism

City	Company name	Established	Field	Specialty	Products	Website	Contact Person	Position
Athens	Quality Fruit Wines	2015	Hospitality and Tourism	Wine & Spirits	Wine	<a href="https://www.qualitywines.gr/index.php/el/quality-wines">https://www.qualitywines.gr/index.php/el/quality-wines</a>		
Kallithea	Big House		Hospitality and Tourism	Armenian, Caucasian Restaurant				
Koropi	Batanian	1922	Hospitality and Tourism	Catering	Cold meat	<a href="https://batanian.gr/">https://batanian.gr/</a>		
Kos	Armenian		Hospitality and Tourism	Snack (Armenian, Caucasian)				
Thessaloniki	Ani		Hospitality and Tourism	Restaurant (Greek, Armenian, Caucasian)				
Thessaloniki	Tonir		Hospitality and Tourism	Fast food (Greek, Middle Eastern, Armenian, Caucasian)		<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tonirfoodwithattitude/">https://www.facebook.com/tonirfoodwithattitude/</a>		

## Key persons

City	Full name	Field	Scale of influence	Title	Notes	Affiliation	Languages
Athens	Minasyan Haykanush	Education	National	Principal	AGBU "Artaki Galpakyan" College	AGBU	WA,Gr
Thessaloniki	Dagazian Akis	Entrepreneur	International	Honorary Consul of Armenia, President	Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Greece		WA,Gr,En
Athens	Minasyan Quin	Historian	National		Teacher, Freelance researcher on Armenians in Greece since 1922		WA,Gr,German Turkish,
Athens	Maik Tsiligirian	Media	National	Editor	Armenika Magazine, Azat or	ARF	WA,Gr
Athens	Boghosian Kevork	Political	National	Chairperson	Armenian General Gymnastic Union (Homenetmen)	ARF	WA,Gr,En
Athens	Cholakian, Boghos	Political	International		Advisor of Athens Mayor		
Athens	Haroutiounian Hripsime	Political	National	chairperson	ARF Central Committee of Greece/ Government relation	ARF	WA,Gr,En
	Petrosyan David		International		Principal Researcher at Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas, Quantum Optics, Quantum Technologies		
	Apikian Daniel	Fundraising	International	Chairman	Greece Committee of Armenia Pan-Armenian Fund		
	Aloyan Arsen		National	Chairperson	Ararat Union		
Thessaloniki	Kontaxian Vartkes	Religious	Local		Church District Council		

## Example

Gikas Hardouvelis

Country	Greece
Country of birth	Greece
Practiced Languages	Greek, English
Field of Influence	Finance
Positions held	Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Greece (NBG), Emeritus Professor at University of Piraeus



Gikas Hardouvelis, a distinguished Greek economist and former Minister of Finance (2014-2015), was born in Greece in 1955. His notable contributions include the formulation of the "Hardouvelis law," which played a crucial role in rescuing the Greek banking system from bankruptcy, thus preventing Greece from a catastrophic collapse and its citizens from undue suffering during the challenging times of the Greek economic crisis.

Hardouvelis attended Anatolia College in Thessaloniki before pursuing studies in the United States. He earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master's degree in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University and subsequently a Ph.D. in Economics from U.C. Berkeley. He became Assistant Professor of Economics at Barnard College, Columbia University, and then Associate and Full Professor of Finance at the Business School of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He also served as an adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. In 1994, he returned to Greece to contribute to his homeland with his expertise.

Hardouvelis is happily married to Susan Bezjian, who is a direct descendant of a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Their union has been blessed with two sons.

Sources: <https://hardouvelis.gr/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gikas\\_Hardouvelis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gikas_Hardouvelis)

## Example

Rev. Vicken Cholakian

Country	Greece
Country of birth	Syria
Practiced Languages	Western armenian, Greek, Arabic, English
Field of Influence	Religion, Community, Art
Positions held	Pastor at Armenian Evangelical Church



Rev. Vicken Cholakian has a multifaceted background, engaging in both spiritual and community leadership, enriched by an artistic flair. Born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1959, he relocated in his early teens to Beirut, Lebanon, where he pursued his studies at the Armenian Evangelical College before graduating from the Near East School of Theology. Finally, he was invited to Greece and has been the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Athens since 1994.

Rev. Cholakian, deeply engaged in preserving Armenian culture, founded [Arevig](#) in 2002, the only Armenian bookstore in Greece. Moreover, he has played a pivotal role in unifying the Armenian community in Greece, hosting meetings that include all Armenian churches, parties, and nonprofit associations. He also hosts the All-Armenian Fund, in which he plays an important role.

Beyond his spiritual and community leadership, Rev. Cholakian is a talented artist with a passion for photography and graphic arts (see [here](#)). His keen eye for capturing the beauty of both humanity and nature is evident in his work, reflecting a deep appreciation for the world's wonders. He views photography as a gift from God and has put it in service of various non-profit organizations such as [Houshamadyan](#). Through his leadership, artistic endeavors, and unwavering faith, Rev. Cholakian embodies a commitment to both spiritual and cultural enrichment within the Armenian community and beyond.

Sources: <https://www.vicken-photos.com/>

# THANK YOU

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