

The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey

## Some research findings on economic cooperation opportunities between Turkey & Armenia



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## Outline

#### **TEPAV** research summarized in this presentation:

- → Final report of "Strengthening Connectivity and Business Synergies in the Southern Caucasus" project (supported by the Foreign Ministy of Switzerland) – March 2014
- → Initial findings from "Support to Armenia Turkey Normalization Process" (support by the EU) -- ongoing
- Diagnostics
  - → Regional development perspective
  - → Potential trade complementarities,
  - → Armenian economic priorities
  - → Regional and sectoral dimensions -> high synergy areas
- Emerging opportunities and project ideas
  - Tourism and ICT sectors

## Turkey's rank in the neighborhood country's major trade partners list (2007-2011 Average)

|            | IMPORTS |
|------------|---------|
| Georgia    | 1       |
| Bulgaria   | 4       |
| Romania    | 5       |
| Greece     | 12      |
| Syria      | 3       |
| Iran       | 7       |
| Russia     | 14      |
| Azerbaijan | 2       |
| Iraq       | 1       |
| Armenia    | 4       |

## Turkey's rank in the neighborhood country's major trade partners list (2007-2011 Average)

|            | EXPORTS |
|------------|---------|
| Georgia    | 1       |
| Bulgaria   | 2       |
| Romania    | 4       |
| Greece     | 5       |
| Syria      | 6       |
| Iran       | 8       |
| Russia     | 9       |
| Azerbaijan | 9       |
| Iraq       | 10      |
| Armenia    | ?       |

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|            | EXPORTS | IMPORTS |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Georgia    | 1       | 1       |
| Bulgaria   | 2       | 4       |
| Romania    | 4       | 5       |
| Greece     | 5       | 12      |
| Syria      | 6       | 3       |
| Iran       | 8       | 7       |
| Russia     | 9       | 14      |
| Azerbaijan | 9       | 2       |
| Iraq       | 10      | 1       |
| Armenia    | 39      | 4       |

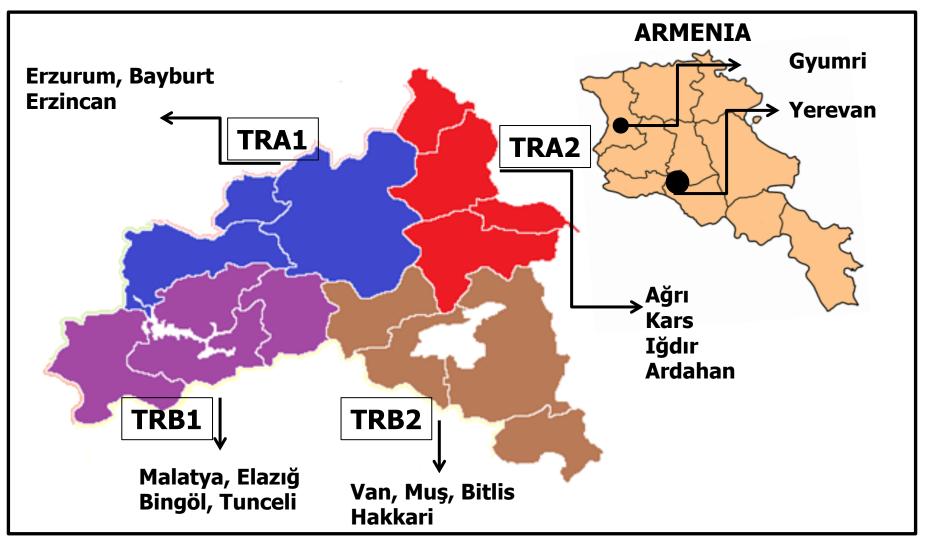
## So, what if ???

| Rank | Armenia's Top Export<br>Partners (2007-2011) | Share | Export Volume<br>(million USD) |
|------|--|-------|--------------------------------|
| 1    | Russia                                       | 16 %  | 184                            |
| 2    | Germany                                      | 14 %  | 161 🤧                          |
| 3    | Netherlands                                  | 9 %   | 100 -                          |
| 4    | Bulgaria                                     | 8 %   | 91                             |
| 5    | Yemen  | 6 %   | 72                             |
| 6    | Belgium-Luxembourg                           | 6 %   | 69                             |
| 7    | USA  | 6 %   | 67                             |
| 8    | Georgia                                      | 5 %   | 62                             |
| 9    | Canada                                       | 4 %   | 47                             |
| 10   | Spain  | 3 %   | 36                             |
|      | Other  | 21 %  | 238                            |
| 39   | Turkey                                       | 1 %   | 14                             |
|      | TOTAL  |       | 1.127                          |

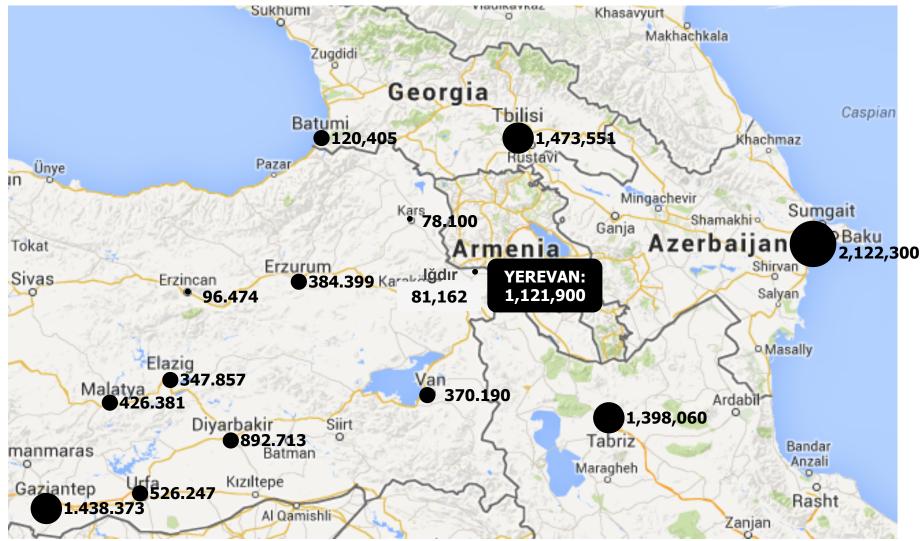
Full normalization could imply a direct increase of 10 % for Armenia's exports, and around 1 % of its GDP

(neglecting transport costs!)

#### **Regional perspective: Jointly looking at the Eastern Turkish Economy and Armenia**

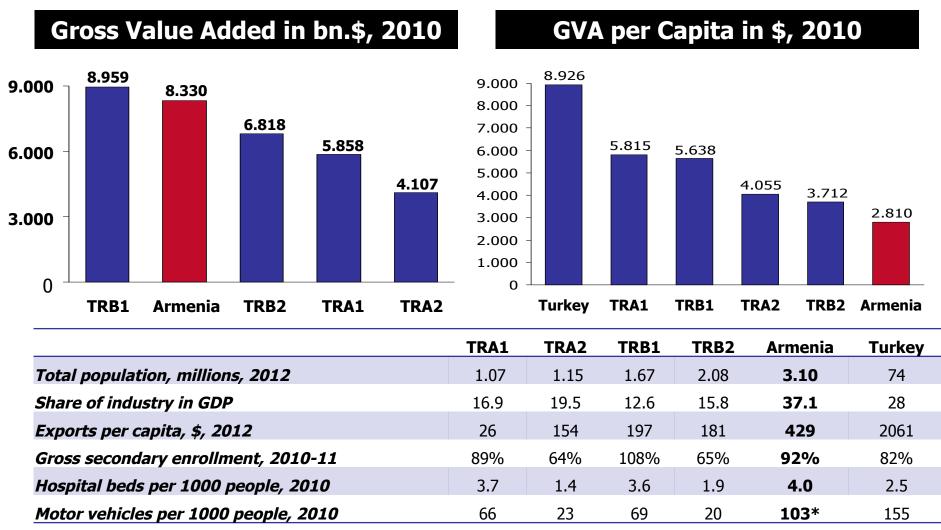


## (1) Yerevan is larger than all the Turkish cities east of Gaziantep: A center of attraction?





## (2) Armenia appears to be poorer but interestingly, more developed than Turkey's eastern regions



Sources: World Bank, TUİK, TEPAV calculations

TR

#### Any product complementarities at the regional level? (1) For Turkish products in Armenian market

#### Armenia's imports vs TR A – TRB – Turkey exports, million USD, top 10 products

| HS2 | HS2_Name   | Armenia's<br>imports | 2002-2012<br>Change | Turkey's<br>exports | TRATRB TR                             |
|-----|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 27  | MINERAL FUELS MINERAL OILS AND PRODUCTS OF<br>THEIR DISTILLATION | 902,9                | 434.99%             | 7,708               |                                       |
| 84  | MACHINERY, BOILERS,  | 385,5                | 636.40%             | 11,999              | $\bigcirc$                            |
| 85  | ELECTRICAL TELEVISION IMAGE AND SOUND                            | 212,8                | 337.86%             | 9,373               |                                       |
| 99  | COMPLETE INDUSTRIAL PLANT  | 186,5                | 941.58%             | 148,2               | 000                                   |
| 71  | NATURAL OR CULTURED PEARLS                                       | 178,7                | -15.27%             | 16,325              | $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$          |
| 87  | VEHICLES OTHER THAN RAILWAY OR TRAMWAY                           | 169,4                | 617.09%             | 15,148              | $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$ |
| 10  | CEREALS  | 152,5                | 211.75%             | 170,3               | 000                                   |
| 39  | PLASTICS AND ARTICLES THEREOF                                    | 119,9                | 650.26%             | 5,012               | 000                                   |
| 30  | PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS  | 110,9                | 361.11%             | 661,7               |                                       |
| 72  | IRON AND STEEL   | 102,4                | 593.62%             | 11,332              |                                       |

BACI ,Comtrade, Tepav Calculations, 2012

#### Any product complementarities at the regional level? (2) For Armenian products in the Turkish market

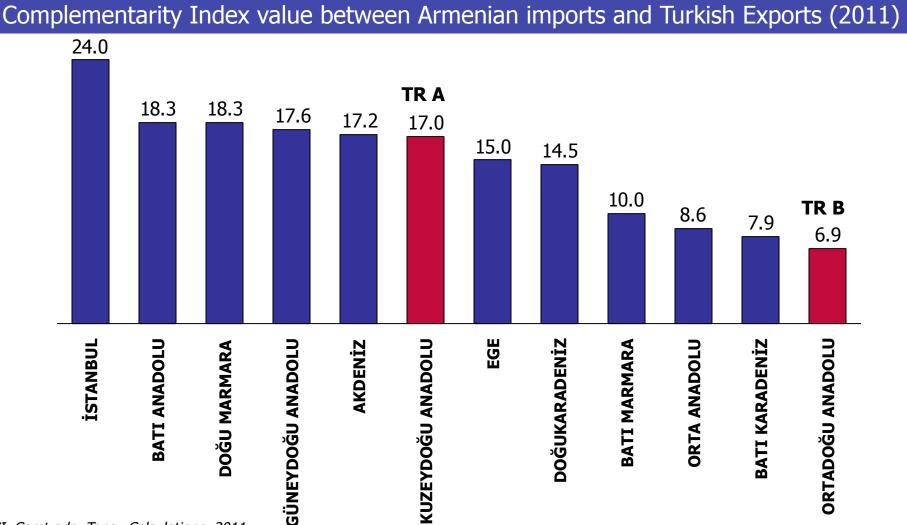
Armenia's exports vs TR A – TRB – Turkey imports, million USD, top 10 products

| HS2 | HS2_Name   | Armenia's<br>Export | 2002-2012<br>Change | Turkey's<br>Import | TRATRB TR                             |
|-----|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 26  | ORESSLAG AND ASH   | 279                 | 316,2%              | 1.260              | $\mathbf{OOO}$                        |
| 22  | BEVERAGES SPIRITS AND VINEGAR                                    | 187                 | 1343,9%             | 213                | 000                                   |
| 71  | NATURAL OR CULTURED PEARLS                                       | 173                 | 889,1%              | 8.529              | 000                                   |
| 72  | IRON AND STEEL   | 119                 | 702,7%              | 19.642             | $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$ |
| 74  | COPPER AND ARTICLES THEREOF                                      | 111                 | -33,2%              | 3.878              | $\mathbf{O}\mathbf{O}\mathbf{O}$      |
| 27  | MINERAL FUELS MINERAL OILS AND PRODUCTS<br>OF THEIR DISTILLATION | 108                 | 930,1%              | 20.646             |                                       |
| 76  | ALUMINIUM AND ARTICLES THEREOF                                   | 88                  | 849,1%              | 2.984              | $\mathbf{OOO}$                        |
| 88  | AIRCRAFT SPACECRAFT AND PARTS THEREOF                            | 48.8                | 397,3%              | 3.153              | $\mathbf{OOO}$                        |
| 24  | TOBACCOAND MANUFACTURED TOBACCO<br>SUBSTITUTES                   | 41.9                | 162,8%              | 487                | $\mathbf{OOO}$                        |
| 84  | NUCLEAR REACTORS BOILERS   | 24.3                | 19783,6%            | 26.213             |                                       |

BACI ,Comtrade, Tepav Calculations, 2012



#### (3) Indeed, most of the economic opportunities for Armenia are «currently» in the Istanbul market



BACI ,Comtrade, Tepav Calculations, 2011

### (4) Overview of the Armenian policy framework – recent issues

#### Search for a new growth model

- Accumulation, competition, connectivity
- → High value products, air freight: a new Israel emerging?
- National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia
- Benefiting from Diaspora networks in ICT, Tourism, Life Sciences (nuclear medicine)

#### EurAsEc Customs Union

- → Upside: easier access to CIS markets
- Downside: rates for Turkish goods may go up

#### Open skies

- → Air transport opening up to full competition
- Lower transport costs, expected increase in passengers (tourism) and freight (exports)

# Where and how can we find the business synergies?

- At the product level, complementarities are not directly visible at the industrial product level
  - Manufacturing structure of Armenia landlocked country with problematic borders
- Taking a look at the broader, sectoral areas, with a dynamic perspective?
  - ➔ Including the services and agricultural sectors.
- Four main categories of assessment:
  - (1) How closed border affect business interaction?
  - (2) Does the sector carry political priority in Armenia?
  - (3) Is the sector open to SMEs?
  - (4) How relevant for Turkish economic policy?



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### **Results from our sectoral assessment**

|                |                              | Border<br>problem? | Armenia<br>Policy<br>Priority? | SME<br>Orientation? | Policy<br>relevance for<br>Turkey? |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| : High level   | GOODS                        |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
| : Medium level | Primary Goods (mining)       | $\bigcirc$         |                                | $\bigcirc$          | $\bigcirc$                         |
| : Low level    | Food and Agricultural        | $\bigcirc$         |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | Construction Materials       | $\bigcirc$         |                                | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                | Pharmaceuticals              |                    |                                | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                | Textiles and Apparel         | $\bigcirc$         |                                |                     | $\bigcirc$                         |
|                | Machinery and Electronics    |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | Other Man. (Jewelery etc.)   |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | <u>SERVICES</u>              |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | ICT                          |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | Energy                       |                    |                                | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                | Construction and Engineering |                    |                                | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                | Retail                       |                    | $\bigcirc$                     |                     | $\bigcirc$                         |
|                | Education                    |                    |                                | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                | Finance                      |                    | $\bigcirc$                     | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                | Health                       |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | Tourism and Hospitality      |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                | Transport and Logistics      | $\bigcirc$         |                                |                     |                                    |

#### (5) Two sectors stand out: ICT and tourism

|                  |                              | Border<br>problem? | Armenia<br>Policy<br>Priority? | SME<br>Orientation? | Policy<br>relevance for<br>Turkey? |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| : High level     | GOODS                        |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
| C : Medium level | Primary Goods (mining)       |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
| ): Low level     | Food and Agricultural        |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Construction Materials       |                    |                                | $\bigcirc$          |                                    |
|                  | Pharmaceuticals              |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Textiles and Apparel         |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Machinery and Electronics    |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Other Man. (Jewelery etc.)   |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | <u>SERVICES</u>              |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | ICT                          |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Energy                       |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Construction and Engineering |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Retail                       |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Education                    |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Finance                      |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Health                       |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Tourism and Hospitality      |                    |                                |                     |                                    |
|                  | Transport and Logistics      | $\bigcirc$         |                                |                     |                                    |

## **Shortlisted sector (2): ICT**

#### **Current State**

- One of the leading sectors in Armenia
  - → Total share of IT, Telecom, Systems development and Engineering Sectors in GDP
    > 6% (higher than of US & India)
  - → 22% CAGR (2008-11)
  - Export-oriented sector
    - Not negatively affected by connectivity problem
    - Share of ICT exports in total =8.5%
    - → 8.9% CAGR (2008-2011)

#### **Relevance for Turkey**

- Centers of excellence in Armenia, human capital
  - → Key constraint in Turkish ICT
- Tapping entrepreneurial potential in Armenia
  - → Demand of prosperous and commercializable business plans
  - Raising capacity of technoparks & innovation centers & incubators

#### Enablers

- Public incentives for ICT sector
  - Spur of investment, Support to startups, Copyright protection, Streamlining business registration
- Diaspora links with US & Russia
- Soviet manufacturing inheritance
- Better connectivity with Turkey

## **Shortlisted sector (1): Tourism**

#### **Current State**

- Fast growing sector in Armenia
  - → 24% CAGR in revenues (2002-10)
  - → 15% CAGR in visitors (2007-11)
- 400,000 visitors per year from Diaspora
- 70.000 Armenian tourists to Turkey in 2012
  - Connectivity problem: flights are rare and expensive

#### **Relevance for Turkey**

- Turning Eastern Anatolia into a tourism destination
  - → South Caucasus Tours
- Potential areas of cooperation
  - Marketing Yerevan as a destination for Turkish upper middle class, similar to Greek Islands
  - → VIP and health tourism with helicopters across the border

#### Enablers

- Open skies agreement
  - chance for new/increased flights
  - → 10% reduction in prices, 20-25% increase in tourists
- Van-Yerevan flights, raised high interest but got cancelled



## **Open Skies: A shift in air transport?**

Era of monopoly recently ended

- → Armenia had a monopolistic airlines market, presence of one national airline (Armavia), (Until April 2013)
- Passengers used to prefer other routes to travel to Armenia

Very recent Open Skies impact on flights

→ Air France: 3 to 7 ; Emirates: 7 to 11

Very high prices on TR-ARM Flights:

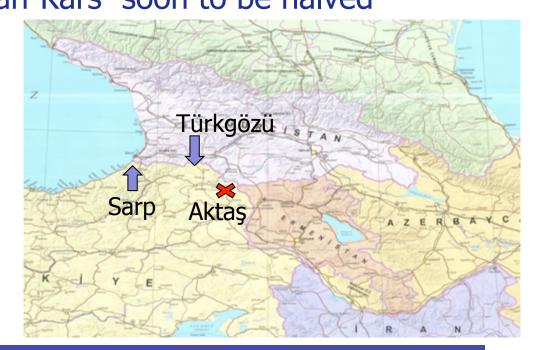
|            | Istanbul - Yerevan | Istanbul - Tbilisi           |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Round-trip | Armavia: 403 €     | THY: 166 €<br>Pegasus: 152 € |

Source: THY & Pegasus

#### **Opening of the Çıldır-Aktaş border gate:** Distance between Yerevan-Kars soon to be halved

#### Sarpy

- → Main transportation gate
- Posof Türkgözü:
  - ➔ It remains limited in the winter months.
- Çıldır Aktaş: De jure open, de facto closed since 1995
  - Construction started (2013)
  - → Convenient winter climate



#### Distances of selected routes through border gates (in km)

|                                    | Gyumri – Kars | Yerevan- Kars | Tblisi- Kars |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Over Sarpy                         | 462           | 507           | 527          |
| Over Posof- Türkgözü               | 325           | 470           | 440          |
| Over Aktaş                         | 235           | 375           | 390          |
| Assuming open borders with Armenia | 85            | 230           | 265          |

Source: Calculations based on maps provided by General Commandership for Cartography

## Modern Silk Road: Routes over Southern Caucasus in the Middle Corridor



# Opportunities & challenges on using transport routes

- In 2010 BSEC entry permits were granted for transit of Armenian trucks via Turkey
- Development of Rize port can potentially create competition to Poti
- But challenges remain:
  - Another issue is the issuance of work visas for Armenian truck drivers entering Turkey.
  - The excise cargo deposit applied by Turkey.
- Other admin barriers:
  - "AM" code issue
  - Risk of "one-window" border crossing

