



ADVANCED
SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGIES

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ORGANIZATION PROFILE

ADVANCED SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES
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ADVANCED SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES IN BRIEF

Advanced Social Technologies (AST), an independent center for applied social research, was established in 2003 with a mission to contribute to Armenia's development and democratization by means of accumulating reliable data on key social issues, designing strategies to address those issues and implementing the designed strategies in cooperation with local civil society organizations, government agencies, international organizations and think tanks.

AST has implemented a number of quantitative and qualitative studies covering various topics of social concern, such as migration and trafficking, urban and rural development, regional conflicts and regional integration, labor market, criminal law reforms, alternative dispute resolution, economic development, education and healthcare. AST experts and volunteers have accumulated extensive experience of data collection on sensitive issues, mastering methods of structured and in-depth interviews, focus groups and participatory appraisals.

In 2007, AST established a sister company Mosaic.AM that provides comprehensive market research services with a particular focus on telecom sector.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPERTISE

- ✓ Network of over 40 trained fieldworkers in Yerevan and almost all regions of Armenia, allowing for time-efficient implementation of nationwide surveys
- ✓ Proven quality control standards and project monitoring methodology
- ✓ Expertise in quantitative methods of data processing and analysis: key staff, data input operators and quantitative data analysts participated to an advanced training course in statistics and SPSS software, held by Mr. Ashot Kakosyan, PHD, Faculty of Mathematical Modelling and Econometrics of the Yerevan State University
- ✓ Expertise in qualitative methods of data collection and analysis: President and Vice-President participated to an 80-hour Master-Class on Focus Groups, held by Dr. Olga Melnikova, Faculty of Psychology of the Moscow State University
- ✓ Innovative approach: use of a wide range of modern social-psychological techniques of qualitative data collection and analysis (such as laddering, mind-mapping, verbal and non-verbal associations, personification, "bubbles", expressive pictures) to get to the bottom roots of the public opinion
- ✓ Extensive work experience with difficult and hard-to-reach auditoriums: children, refugees, trafficking victims, juvenile and adult offenders, government, large business owners
- ✓ We deliver quality results and never violate deadlines; over 70% of our clients have chosen to work with us more than once

SUMMARY OF RECENT PROJECTS

Project title: North-South Corridor Tranche 3 Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan

Period: October 2012 – April 2013

Location: 11 affected communities on Talin - Gyumri section of the road

Client: Appraisal Society CJSC

Contact: Gevorg Avagyan, Director (gnahatum@gmail.com)

Description: Public consultations, census of affected households, social-economic survey

Project title: Improving Public Expenditure Accountability in Armenia

Period: June 2009 – June 2013

Location: Nationwide

Client: Global Development Network

Contact: Ramona Angelesku, Programme Officer (rangelesku@gdnet.org)

Description: Program budgeting analysis, benefit incidence analysis and cost effectiveness analysis of selected state programs in health, education and water sectors; communication of the results and recommendations to line ministries; data for benefit incidence analysis collected through nationwide panel survey of 1,600 households.

Project title: Cross-regional information system on reintegration of migrants in their home countries

Period: December 2011 – June 2012

Location: Nationwide

Client: European University Institute

Contact: Annett Fleischer, Research Assistant (Annett.Fleischer@EUI.eu)

Description: Semi-structured interviews with 350 returned migrants

Project title: End-line assessment of Yerevan Water and Wastewater Project and Municipal Water and Wastewater project

Period: December 2011 – January 2012

Location: Nationwide

Client: The World Bank

Contact: Zaruhi Tokhmakhyan, Operations Officer (Ztokhmakhian@worldbank.org)

Description: End-line surveys of water users (sample size: 400 for each project) in Yerevan and 14 regional towns covered by the project.

Project title: Data collection for International Business Reports (IBR) 2006-2013

Period: October 2006 – December 2013

Location: Yerevan

Client: Grant Thornton International/Experian UK

Contact: Sachin Dodhia, Senior Economist (Sachin.Dodhia@uk.experian.com)

Description: The IBR is produced by Grant Thornton International based on surveys among business owners in 48 countries. The report outlines and compares the business trends in participating countries. Since 2006, AST has been acting as fieldwork agent for Grant Thornton in Armenia. The survey is being carried out annually among 200 large business owners.

Project title: Public awareness and perceptions on violence against children

Period: June – September 2010 (baseline), November 2012 (endline)

Location: Nationwide

Client: Save the Children/OSI Assistance foundation

Contact: David Amiryan, Programme Officer (adavid@osi.am)

Description: Baseline and end-line surveys of general population (sample size: 800 for each wave) in Yerevan and 16 regional towns, where Save the Children is implementing an awareness raising campaign.

Project title: Assessing the demand for catastrophe risk insurance products in Armenia

Period: August 2010

Location: Yerevan

Client: The World Bank

Contact: Eugene Gurenko, Lead Insurance and Risk Assessment Specialist (egurenko@worldbank.org)

Description: Desk research and survey of general population (sample size: 400) and SMEs (sample size: 50) in Yerevan.

Project title: Court Users Survey

Period: October – November 2009 (baseline), end-line study in 2013

Location: Nationwide

Client: AM Partners/Judicial Reforms PIU

Contact: Vahe Mambreyan, Director (vmampreyan@ampartners.am)

Description: Nationwide survey of general population and court services users (sample size – 1183)

Project title: Baseline and Follow-up Assessments on the Impacts of the Financial Crisis on Vulnerable Households in Armenia

Period: February – March 2009, February - March 2010

Location: Nationwide

Client: UN World Food Programme

Contact: Eduard Shirinyan, Programme Officer (VAM) (eduard.shirinyan@wfp.org)

Description: Gender disaggregated focus groups with 12 vulnerable livelihood groups; interviews with key informants; semi-structured household interviews

Project title: Explaining international seasonal labour migration: An empirical study on the role of wage differentials

Period: February 2009 - June 2011 (first two waves completed)

Location: Nationwide

Client: Vienna University of Economics

Contact: Christian Bellak, Professor (bellak@wu-wien.ac.at)

Description: Three-year panel survey of 2750 households

Project title: Return Migration to Armenia in 2002-2008

Period: February 2008 - November 2008

Location: Nationwide

Client: OSCE Office in Yerevan

Contact: Sven Holdar, Democratization Program Manager (sven.holdar@osce.org)

Description: Nationwide household survey (sample size – 2500) and in-depth-interviews with returnees (sample size – 100).

Project title: Armenia: Migration and Development

Period: February 2008 - September 2008

Location: Nationwide

Client: International Labour Organization

Contact: Nilim Baruah, Chief Technical Advisor (baruah@ilo.org)

Description: Desk research, interviews with key informants (state authorities, NGOs and INGOs, Diaspora organizations), structured interviews with major Armenian employers (sample size – 100), representatives of vocational and tertiary education institutions (sample size – 60), focus groups with young professionals and skilled returnees.

Project title: Public Opinion about the Central Bank of Armenia

Period: June 2006 - September 2008

Location: Yerevan

Client: Central Bank of Armenia

Contact: Zaruhi Barseghyan, Press Secretary (mcba@cba.am)

Description: Series of surveys of general population (sample size – 1300) and target groups (national authorities, business community, financial service providers, experts of economic field, and media; sample size - 1100); content-analysis of print and electronic Mass Media.

Project title: Labour Migration from Armenia in 2002-2005 and 2005-2007

Period: February-June 2005, February – June 2007

Location: Nationwide

Client: OSCE Office in Yerevan

Contact: Blanka Hancilova, Former Democratization Program Manager (blankahancil@gmail.com)

Description: Nationwide household surveys (sample size – 1750 per wave) and in-depth interviews with labour migrants (sample size – 100; 2007 wave only).

Project title: Rapid Assessment of Avian Flu Prevention and Testing of Communication Materials on Avian Flu

Period: April 2006 – June 2006

Location: Nationwide

Client: UNICEF Yerevan Office

Contact: Emil Sahakyan, Information & Communication Project Officer (esahakyan@unicef.org)

Description: Nationwide survey of general population (sample size – 1100) and risk groups (sample size – 1650).

Selected smaller/earlier studies by Advanced Social Technologies:

- Juvenile Justice in Armenia: Perspectives of Children in Conflict with Law (2009, OSCE Yerevan Office)
- Current Situation and Development Perspectives of Amasia region (2008, Caritas Armenia)
- Evaluation of Print Media Distribution Program (2006, Eurasia Partnership Foundation)
- Evaluation of Curriculum Development Component of Higher Education Strengthening Project (2006, OSI AF)
- Promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Armenia (2005, Eurasia Partnership Foundation)
- Assessment of Alternative Sentencing in Armenia (2004, OSI AF)
- Current Situation and Development Perspectives of Vardenis and Chambarak Regions (2004, Shen NGO)
- Current Situation and Development Perspectives of Karakert, Armavir (2004, COAF)

Sector expertise of Mosaic.AM:

- Telecom
- Mass media
- Dairy products
- Alcohol and tobacco

For more information about our projects and to download copies of our analytical reports, please visit www.ast.am