



The first stage of the project "Mutual visits of painters" has launched in Armenia, focused on the role of the art in the improvement of the Armenian-Turkish relations.

The groups of four young participants from Armenia and Turkey have quite a strict agenda. During seven days they will participate in different events taking place in Armenia. The Armenian stage of the project will end on September 7, after which the Armenian painters will leave for Turkey in the first week of October.

"The same groups of the painters will participate in the first and second stages of the project. We have adopted that approach, as we consider the continuous cooperation of the groups to be very important. Thus they will be able to deepen their cooperation. We encourage the new ideas and the programs that will arise during this exchange program", - said Seda Muradyan, the Head of the Public Journalism Club.

In her opinion Art does not need any kind of translation, moreover it promotes to recognize yourself and the others better, as well as to make dialogues with each other.

"I have always wanted to come to Armenia, but the closed borders were always keeping me back. In general, I always associate Armenia and the Armenian culture to Sergei Parajanov, because I followed almost all his works, starting from the film devoted to Sayat-Nova." said Serdar Yilmaz, the head of the Turkish group.

In his turn, the head of the Armenian group, Gagik Charchyan noted that the borders are not only from the geographical point of view, they exist in each individual, and art can help to eliminate them.

This program is implemented by "the Public Journalism Club" and "Anadolu Kültür" NGOs in the framework of "Support to the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relationships" project.

## **Mutual visits' project of Armenian-Turkish painters launched in Yerevan**

Գրել է armenians.hu

Երեքշաբթի, 02 Մեպտեմբեր 2014 08:49

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The 18-month program was launched in January 2014, carried out by the Turkish consortium consisting of eight non-governmental organizations. It is implemented by the financial assistance of the European Union in the framework of "Instrument for Stability" program, aiming to support the efforts of the civil society, through cultural and educational programs, to normalize the Armenian-Turkish relations and to open the borders.