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Biodiversity Assessment and DNA Barcoding of Mycorrhizal and Xylotrophic Fungi in Forested Regions of Armenia | BioBarFungArm A partnership between Armenia and Austria

# PROJECT COORDINATOR:

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### COORDINATING INSTITUTION:

Yerevan State University

# PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research, University of Vienna (Irmgard Greilhuber) Scientific and Production Center "Armbiotechnology" of the National Academy of Sciences Republic of Armenia (Valeri Bagiyan)

### PARTNER COUNTRY:

Armenia

# PROJECT DURATION:

1 March 2025 – 28 February 2027 (24 months)

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The BioBarFungArm project promotes collaboration between Austrian and Armenian institutions to advance fungal diversity research and DNA barcoding. It enhances research capacity, promotes higher education, and supports sustainable development through dissemination strategies such as scientific publications, conferences, workshops, and public outreach. The project strengthens partnerships among universities, trains young researchers in cutting-edge mycological and botanical methods while prioritizing open-access research.

Committed to gender inclusion, BioBarFungArm ensures equal opportunities, particularly for women and underrepresented groups. As part of the APPEAR programme, it aligns with SDGs 4, 5, and 15, contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use. The initiative supports STEM education, which is crucial for addressing global challenges such as climate change and digitalization and helps strengthen the life sciences in Armenia.

A key focus is capacity building in mycology and forest ecosystem preservation, addressing Armenia's urgent need for experts. It updates curricula at YSU, enhancing employability and modernizing laboratory facilities. By facilitating international collaboration, BioBarFungArm support research and education, empowering future generations with high-quality, globally recognized education.

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