EC5 Vanik Arakelyan

Proposers:
Agenda item: 6. Executive Committee Candidates

Introduction

Dear friends,

I am Vanik (he/him) and I am from Yerevan, Armenia. I work as the Senior Project Manager at Evergreens, a youth-led nonprofit that my friends and I co-founded last year with the aim of increasing youth engagement in nature conservation and climate action in Armenia.

I am running for the CDN EC to further amplify youth voices, particularly from the South Caucasus, and ensure their representation and active participation in shaping CDN's agenda. With over four years of experience in youth-led initiatives and environmental activism through work, initiatives, and projects, I am motivated to foster deeper collaboration among CDN MOs and relevant actors to address pressing challenges in Eastern Europe. As a member of the CDN EC, I aim to leverage my skills and network to promote inclusivity, drive impactful projects, and empower young leaders to drive positive change in our region. Thank you.

Heartfelt wishes,

Vanik

Age:
23

Gender:
Male

Organisation:
Evergreens

Your E-mail Address:
yvainmore@gmail.com

April 6, 2024
Yerevan, Armenia

Re: Letter of Motivation

Dear Presidency, CDN Office, and Delegates:

I am writing this letter in support of my application for joining the CDN Executive Committee. Having been actively involved with CDN for the past two years, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact of our collective efforts in empowering young people and driving positive change in Eastern Europe. Inspired by these experiences, I am deeply motivated to take on a more proactive role within the organization.

My journey with CDN began in November 2022 when I attended a study session, “Green Cities for Sustainable Planet,” in Budapest, Hungary. This experience served as a pivotal moment in my life, igniting my passion for youth-driven activism and showcasing how transformative change can be achieved through collaboration and active youth participation. Witnessing the collective impact we can have on pressing environmental issues has inspired me to deepen my involvement with CDN and contribute to its mission in meaningful ways.

Last year, I had the privilege of being part of the prep-team for the Climate Summer Camp in Ulcinj, Montenegro, where I got the opportunity to further immerse myself in climate advocacy and gained invaluable insights into youth engagement and empowerment, as well as green politics. The Climate Summer Camp was a resounding success, with participants learning about the climate crisis within the Eastern European context and being provided with a platform and capacity-building tools to develop local action initiatives. One of the remarkable outcomes following the camp was the initiation of several local action initiatives by participants that allowed them to mobilize around the climate issues in their communities and bring about positive and long-lasting impact.

As the member of the CDN Executive Committee, I am deeply committed to ensuring that the perspectives, voices, and concerns of youth from South Caucasus are heard and prioritized within CDN's agenda and represented in the broader Eastern European context. Recognizing the unique challenges and opportunities faced by young people in Eastern Europe, including the concerning threats posed by external forces, it is crucial to take concrete actions in raising youth voices in politics and engage with relevant stakeholders. By actively advocating youth perspectives and facilitating their meaningful participation in political discourse, we can

strengthen our collective resilience against such threats and empower the next generation of leaders to safeguard our region's sovereignty and democratic values.

My experience with different international and local non-profit organizations, youth initiatives, research work, as well as that of policy-making and analysis has equipped me with the skills and insights needed to effectively contribute to CDN. I aim to utilize my strong partnerships to facilitate collaboration with other organizations and stakeholders, amplifying CDN's impact and reach. Additionally, I am committed to spearheading projects that focus on youth empowerment and civic engagement within the scopes of nature conservation and climate action. These initiatives will aim to empower young people in Eastern Europe to become active agents of change in environmental advocacy, conservation efforts, and community development. I intend to actively involve CDN Member Organizations and relevant actors in these projects, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing pressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development across our region.

I strongly believe that together we can harness the collective potential and passion of youth from Eastern Europe to drive positive change and create a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Truly yours,

Vanik Arakelyan

Vanik Arakelyan

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Democratic Institute – Yerevan, Armenia
Young Parliamentary Professional at the Armenian Parliament (March 2024 - Present)

- Advises and guides the MP on policy issues;
- Conducts research and data analysis to ensure key policy and regulation issues are identified;
- Conduct research on economic development and environmental sustainability;
- Ensures effective communication with different government bodies, including Ministries and local self-government bodies to address issues raised by constituents;
- Organizes community-engagement meetings with the MP.

Evergreens – Yerevan, Armenia
Senior Project Manager (March 2023 - Present)

- Leads and manages diverse projects from initiation to successful completion, ensuring adherence to project goals, timelines, and budgets;
- Collaborates closely with stakeholders, including board members, partner organizations, and cross-functional teams to define project scopes, objectives, and deliverables;
- Develops comprehensive project plans, including resource allocation, risk assessment, and mitigation strategies;
- Implements robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure project impact and ensure transparency in reporting to donors and key stakeholders.

SuperAnnotate – Yerevan, Armenia
Business Development Specialist (May 2022 – September 2023)

- Conducted in-depth market research and market analysis to identify target ICPs, new market trends, and opportunities;
- Worked with and handled intro and discovery calls with C-Level Executives, IT and Lines of Businesses;
- Led and implemented targeted lead generation campaigns that increased qualified leads by 35%, utilizing advanced CRM analytics to identify and (re)engage high-potential prospects;
- Prepared reports on Business Development Representatives, sales, and marketing KPIs, such as leads, users, conversion rates, and other relevant performance metrics;
- Collaborated with Business Development Manager and Marketing Manager to develop and execute sales and marketing campaigns;
- Led sales operation efforts and projects, including in-house sales automation software development;
- Led the onboarding and training of new SDR hires.

National Geographic Society and The Nature Conservancy – Washington, DC, US
Freshwater Conservation Researcher (September 2022 – November 2022)

- Learned about various freshwater conservation issues and approaches, including protected areas, through resources and case studies provided by National Geographic (NGS) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC);
- Learned and applied various primary and secondary research methods to identify freshwater conservation issues in Armenia and the region;
- Spoke to local leaders, conservationists, community members, and experts from NGS/TNC to gain a deep understanding of freshwater conservation issues and their impact on the local community;
- Conducted a landscape/gap analysis to identify gaps and propose solutions;
- Used compelling written and visual storytelling to communicate freshwater conservation issues and the ways in which communities can help.

Startup Armenia Foundation - Yerevan, Armenia
Market Research Assistant (Apr. 2021 – May 2021)

- Carried out qualitative market research on high-technology trends;
- Provided detailed reports on high-tech market trends, buying trends, business growth opportunities, competitors, and market share;
- Conducted analysis on Armenia's startup ecosystem and prepared weekly reports and presentations.

EDUCATION

American University of Armenia - Yerevan, Armenia
BAB, Bachelor of Arts in Business (2018 – 2023)

- BAB track in Economics
- Undergraduate minor in Environmental Studies

OTHER

Languages	Fluent: English, Armenian, and Russian
Hard Skills	Stata (working knowledge), R (working knowledge), SQL (working knowledge), Microsoft Product Series, Google Product Series

CERTIFICATIONS

Business Analysis Fundamentals - ECBA, CCBA, CBAP
Issued Jul 2023 by Udemy
Credential ID: UC-06dc028b-2£77-43d1-8fdf-9df3c495bca9

Conservation Project Planning
Issued Jul 2023 by the National Geographic Society
Credential ID: 6583-2916835

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საიდენტიფიკაციო კოდი: 432551936
გორგასლის ქ. N20ა, კასპი საქართველო
younggreensofgeorgia@gmail.ge

Letter of Support

Young Greens of Georgia is is happy to support the candidacy of Vanik Arakelyan as a next EC member of CDN for 2024-25 years.

Vanik Arakelyan holds a BA in Business with a specialization in Economics and a minor in Environmental Studies from the American University of Armenia. He is the co-founder and the Senior Project Manager of Evergreens—a youth-led environmentally focused nonprofit organization working toward nature conservation through education, youth work and climate action. He has worked with the National Geographic Society and The Nature Conservancy on a freshwater conservation community engagement research project. Vanik is currently engaged in a joint research publications development with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on different models and scenarios of positive futures and visions of nature and people. As part of a program facilitated by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Vanik also works at the Parliament of Armenia as a Young Parliamentary Professional and primarily engages in policy research and analysis.
Vanik is an active member of the local environmental and climate youth movement and is a member of GYBN Europe.

We highly encourage everyone to support Vanik to become the EC member of CDN.

06.04.2024, Tbilisi, Georgia

Young Greens of Georgia (S/C 432551936):

Meri Natroshvili, EC member

Signature