



29 June-30 Aug 2011

WHV – Geghard/ WHV – Zvartnots

◆ **Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley, Kotyak, Armenia**

◆ **Cathedral and Churches of Echmiatsin and the Archaeological Site of Zvartnots, Armavir, Armenia**

The projects were organized in 2 different sites: Geghard and Zvartnots, both with the aim of contributing to the preservation WH sites and its surroundings.

Volunteers enthusiastically and actively cleaned and maintained the territory surrounding the monastery of Geghard. The branches of trees and bushes at the site were covered by handkerchiefs and tissues placed by visitors following an old Armenian belief that visitors' wishes may come true if they hang a piece of cloth. With the rains and wind, these tissues and handkerchiefs had become shabby and their presence spoiled the beauty of the nature and the monastery itself. After the project, 80% of the handkerchiefs and tissues were removed. A special sign was installed prohibiting the visitors from hanging tissues on the branches. The "spaces for picnics" were also cleaned.



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The clergymen of the monastery expressed their profound gratitude to HUI and to the young volunteers from different countries of the world. The Minister of Culture of Armenia invited HUI and the camp leaders of all 7 international work camps to the ministry to express her personal gratitude for their aid. She also offered the Ministry's support in enlarging the scope of project in order to concentrate not only on World Heritage Sites, but also on restoration, renovation and protection of other national heritage sites and monuments of cultural and historical significance.

Organization:

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Partners:

Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations; UNESCO/ (CCIVS); Ministry of Culture; "Museum-Reserve".

World Heritage Volunteers – "Patrimonito Voluntary Action 2011"

Sources: for the description of the World Heritage site: UNESCO World Heritage List, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

For the description of the activities: www.whvolunteers.org and www.ccivs.org