Fall 2024 O'Neill MPA Program Global Capstone
Innovative and Participatory Policymaking in Armenia

Client: UNDP Armenia / [SDG Innovation Lab](#)
O'Neill Professor: Jennifer Brass (brassj@iu.edu)

About the Capstone

In this Capstone, students will work with one of the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) cutting-edge programs, the Armenia National SDG Innovation Lab, which is a joint venture with the Government of Armenia (GOAM) to mainstream evidence-based policymaking and contribute to the progress toward the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the support of OECD's Observatory for Public Sector Innovation (OECD OPSI) the project aims to support GOAM with a systemic approach to public sector innovation and participatory processes in general in government, as well as in selected sectoral policy areas and participatory budgeting. To date, OECD OPSI, along with SDG Innovation Lab, has conducted a scoping mission in Armenia to identify the main players of the public sector innovation ecosystem. OECD, with support from the Lab, is in the process of completing an innovation capacity assessment identifying the most feasible models of enhancing national innovation capacity in the country. When O'Neill MPA students join the process in August 2024, these models will have been enacted in several areas. Students will work with the Innovation Lab team members on several aspects of the project, including such things as creating and analyzing monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) metrics, helping to conceptualize the design of additional Lab interventions in the medium term, and conducting research on behavioral interventions as the program unfolds. The exact contours of MPA student involvement will be determined during Summer 2024, based on the needs of the Lab.

There may be an opportunity for students to travel to Armenia during Thanksgiving Break 2024 to work directly with SDG Innovation Lab team, interact with Armenian students, and visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country. Travel is not required for enrollment in the Capstone.