

SLIDE 1 — Armenia & EU Integration

Armenia's Path Toward the European Union

Geopolitical and Security

Hovsep Khurshudyan



SLIDE 2 — Russia's Policy

- **Russia's Revisionist Strategy**
- **Seeks to reassert control over post-Soviet space**
- **Treats Armenia as a sphere of influence, not a sovereign actor**
- **Failed to act as a security guarantor in Nagorno-Karabakh**
- **Uses hybrid tools: military, political, economic, energy**
- **Structural dependency:**
 - *Economic and energy reliance on Russia*
- **Impact of Russo-Ukrainian War:**
 - *Increased unpredictability of Russian behavior*
- **Reconfiguration of regional power projection**

Former Soviet Periphery



SLIDE 3 — Authoritarian Environment

Authoritarian Belt Around Armenia

- 1 Surrounded by non-democratic regimes
- 2 Key actors:
 - Russia
 - Turkey
 - Iran
 - Azerbaijan
- 3 Shared objective:
 - Limit EU and US influence in the region
- 4 Alternative regional formats exclude the West
- 5 Political shifts in Georgia affect regional balance



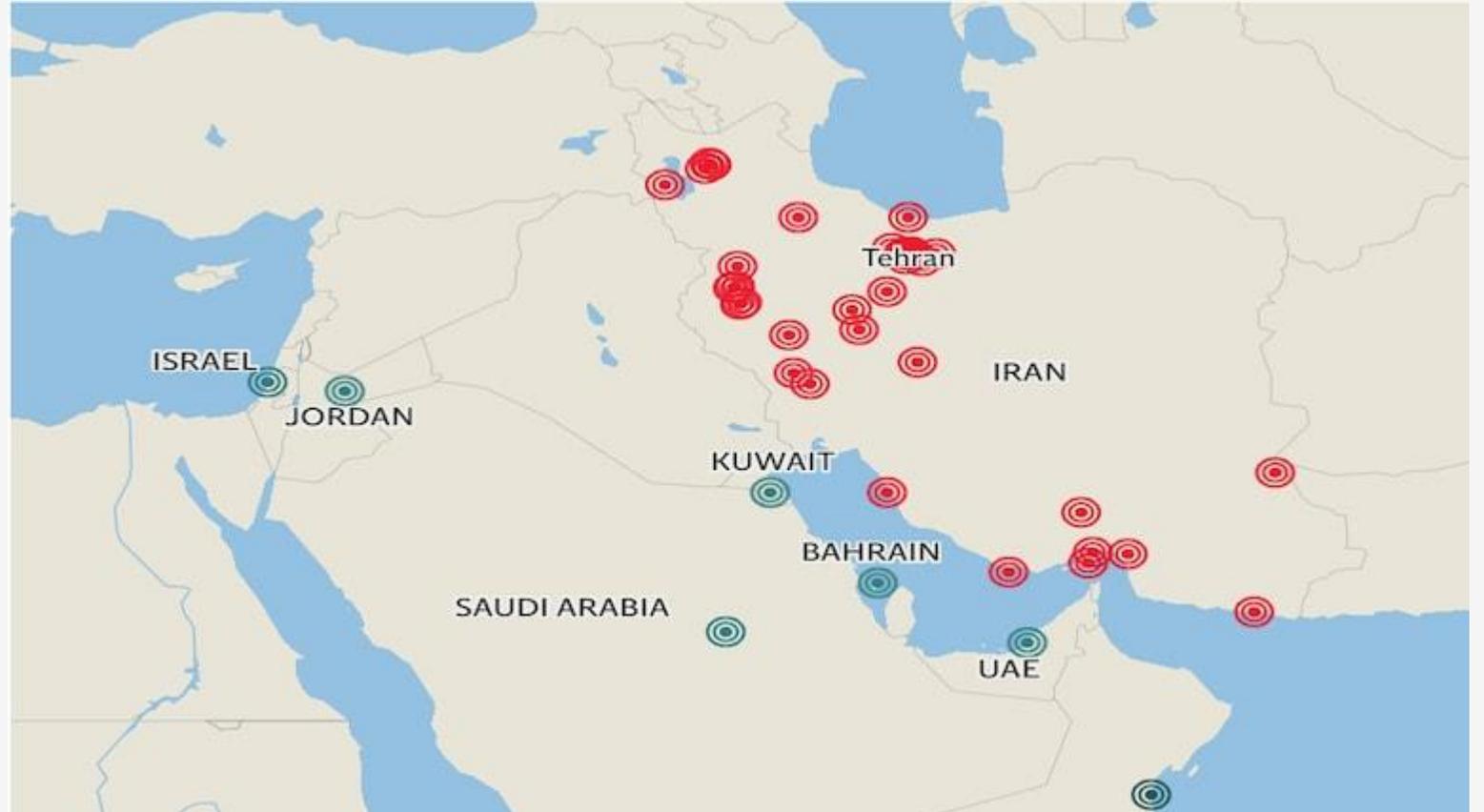
SLIDE 4 — Regional Instability

Escalation Risks in the Wider Region

- Rising tensions in the Middle East
 - Confrontation:
 - United States & Israel vs Iran
- Potential spillover into South Caucasus

Implications:

- Refugee flows
- Economic disruption
- Energy instability
- Security deterioration



SLIDE 5 — Azerbaijan Risk

1 Risk of Renewed Escalation

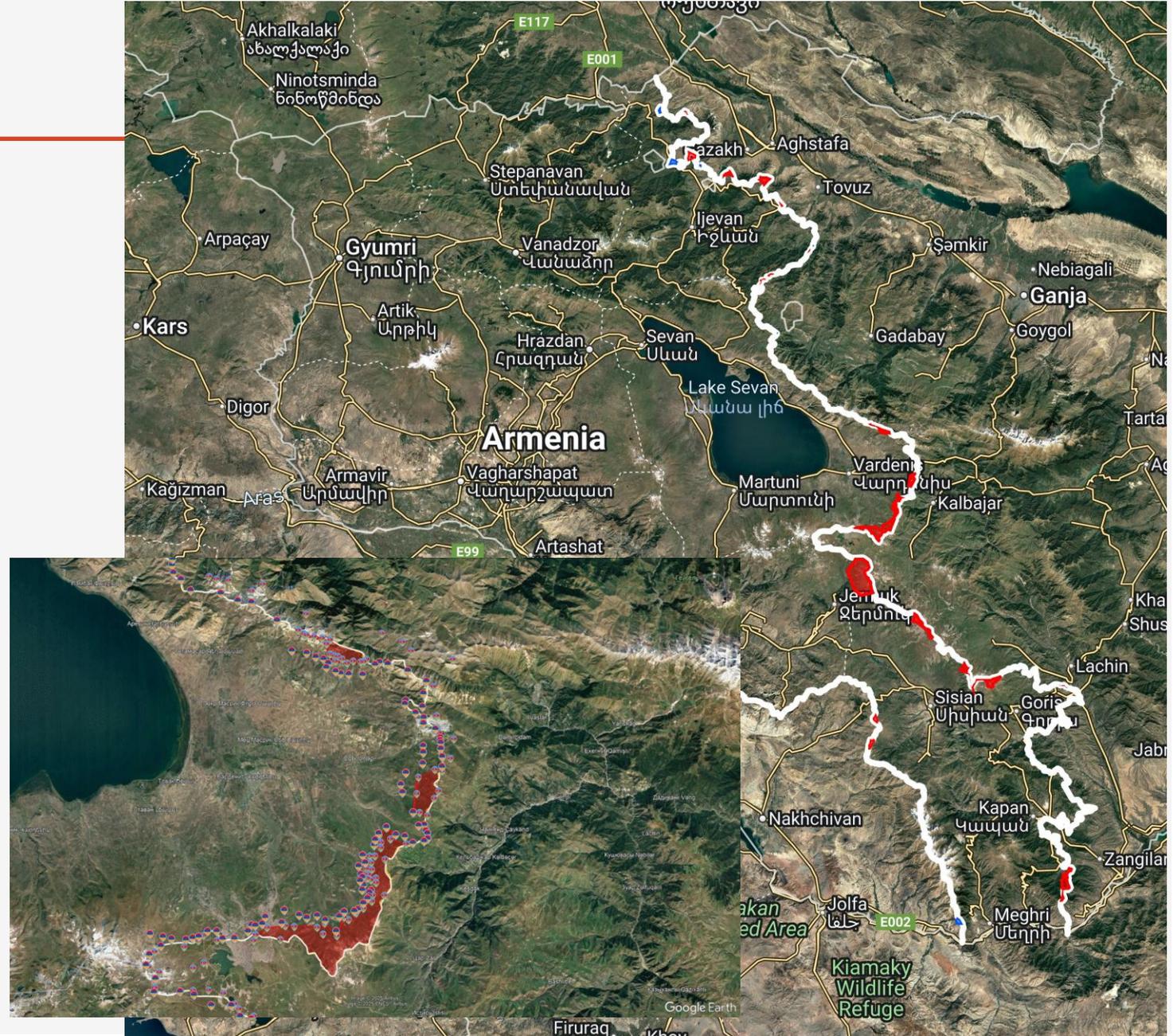
- Fragile peace process with Azerbaijan
- Escalation remains a realistic scenario

2 Trigger factors:

- Geopolitical shifts in the region
- Closer Russia–Azerbaijan alignment

3 Risks:

- Military confrontation
- Territorial pressure
- External manipulation of conflict dynamics



SLIDE 6 — Internal Destabilization

Internal Political Pressure & Disinformation

External influence via internal actors

Systematic anti-European narratives



Key narratives:

- "Threat to traditional values"
- "Loss of national identity"
- "Imposition of Western norms"

Consequences:

- Polarization
- Decline in public trust
- Institutional weakening

• Strategic risk:

- Political destabilization
- Possible shift away from EU integration

SLIDE 7 — Closed Border

Armenia–Turkey Border Closure

- Border with Turkey remains closed
- Long-term economic and logistical constraint

Effects:

- 1 Limited trade and connectivity
- 2 Reinforced dependency on alternative routes
- 3 Obstacle to regional integration



Challenges Within Europe

- Rising Euroscepticism
- Fragmentation of political consensus
- Enlargement fatigue

Risks:



1 Slower or stalled enlargement

2 Reduced strategic focus on Eastern Partnership

3 Uncertainty for candidate countries

SLIDE 9 — Strategic Reality



↳ European integration =
Security + Sovereignty + Resilience



Key Takeaways



Armenia operates in a contested geopolitical space



Challenges are interconnected and systemic



External pressure + internal vulnerability

SLIDE 10 — Strategic Imperatives: What Needs to Be Done

For Armenia

Reduce structural dependency

Strengthen institutions and resilience

Accelerate reforms

For EU & Partners

Increase engagement

Treat Armenia as a strategic actor

Maintain political and security presence in South Caucasus

For Regional Stability

Prevent escalation

Support connectivity and integration

Strengthen resilience mechanisms

SLIDE 11 — Greece's Role



Why Greece Matters

EU member with geopolitical awareness
Understands pressure at Europe's borders

Potential role:

Advocate for Armenia within EU structures
Bridge Armenia–EU political engagement
Support institutional and academic cooperation

☞ Greece as a **strategic partner and multiplier**

