

An orange L-shaped line that starts with a horizontal segment and then turns 90 degrees downward to form a vertical segment.

ERASMUS+ BOOSTing Strategies and Marketing for Internationalisation of Higher Education in Armenia PROJECT

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Open Conference
Development of HE
Internationalisation Strategy for
Armenia



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GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- Bologna Process and European Higher Education Area
- EHEA Mobility 2020 Strategy: We call on higher education institutions
 - to adopt and implement their own strategy for their internationalisation and for the promotion of mobility in accordance with their respective profile involving the stakeholders (in particular students, early stage researchers, teachers and other staff in higher education);
 - to pay attention to the mobility and international competence of their staff, in particular to give fair and formal recognition for competences gained abroad, to offer attractive incentives for their greater participation in internationalisation and mobility measures as well as to ensure good working conditions for mobile staff;
 - to create mobility-friendly structures and framework conditions for mobility abroad;
 - to develop other possibilities for mobility such as virtual mobility and enable non-mobile students to have an "international experience at home";

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE & CHALLENGES

- Armenia joined Bologna Process in 2005 and is part of EHEA:
- New draft law on Higher Education of Armenia
- External funding sources strengthening the Mobility and Internationalisation of HEIs (Erasmus+, DAAD, Visegrad, US funds)
- Need for the improvement of the quality of study programs and research
- Need for raising the attractiveness of Armenia as a study destination

NEW DRAFT LAW

Objective of HE:

- *Ensure internationalization and competitiveness, as well as continuous introduction of innovation*

Objectives of state policy in higher education

- *Contribute to the development of and integration to the international cooperation in scientific research and education.*
- *Promote student and academic and teaching staff mobility, ensure compatibility of graduation documents and qualifications, and enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Armenian higher education internationally.*

General requirement: language issues

Instruction in foreign languages shall be possible also, if:

- 1) The content of the study program is associated with the foreign language;*
- 2) Lectures and other study events are taught by foreign lecturers;*
- 3) Study programs are delivered to foreigners, in manner set forth by the authorized public administration body for education;*
- 4) Study takes place within joint study programs or in programs, upon completion whereof double qualification degrees are awarded, and part of such program is delivered in another country.*
- 5) With permission of the authorized public administration body for education*

Elements to consider for developing a national strategy for Internationalisation of Universities

- ❖ ANQA is the QA agency in Armenia which is full member of ENQA
- ❖ Armenia has bilateral agreements with EU and Asian countries for student exchange (Poland, China, Russia, Bulgaria etc.)
- ❖ The HEIs cooperate with HEIs based on bilateral and multilateral agreements (with exhaustive list of not working agreements)
- ❖ The University fees vary from 250 000 AMD (~450 EUR) up to 1,500 000 AMD (~ 2700 EUR) (AUA, YSMU, YSU), plus 500 EUR monthly allowance
- ❖ Armenian HEIs are not available in major international rankings, except the Ranking Web of Universities (reliable, multidimensional, updated and useful information about the performance of universities from all over the world based on their web presence and impact)

- AM HEIs mainly follow the internationalisation agendas of EU and Bologna Process
- The degrees are comparable to those in EU (BA 180-240 ECTS, MA 60-120 ECTS, PhD 180-240 ECTS) described in the National Qualifications Framework of Armenia
- There is a capacity for the development of online trainings, however, external assistance is needed
- Level of competence: difficult to measure, however, the HEIs lack strategic management approaches in internationalisation
- There is a low level of interaction with companies for international projects, as well as capacity in generating Erasmus+ and Horizon2020 projects
- Low level of participation in regional innovation strategies

Some data from ERASMUS+ Harmony Project

- The Internationalisation processes at almost all HEIs are centralised (with some exceptions)
- Average percentage of outgoing students to overall number of students is **1%**
- Student staff ratio is **8:1** in average
- Student+academic staff vs international administrative staff ratio is **654:1** in average

- **Number of joint degrees:** 51 ? (mainly NPUA, YSU, French University of Armenia, RAU)
- **Education rate in English and other foreign languages:** Most of the AM HEIs provide education in one of the following languages: Russian, English and French

Study programs fully or partially in foreign language:

- AUA- English language
- RAU- Russian language
- UFAR- French language
- Others: Modules in Russian, English (mostly in the frame of English language and Literature study program)

HE Internationalisation strategy outline

1. Introduction
2. Global Perspective
3. National Perspective
4. Vision
5. Objectives
6. Stakeholders
7. Activity plan
8. Implementation plan
9. Monitoring and Quality Assurance
 - a. Body responsible for Quality Assurance of the HE Internationalisation Strategy
 - b. Quality Assurance Methodology
 - c. Monitoring and Quality Assurance plan
 - d. Interpretation and implementation of findings

Strategic objectives of the HE Internationalisation in Armenia

1. Development of external networks for cooperation at national level
2. Creation of an international environment and integration of an international dimension into the curriculum (joint degree programs, joint delivery of modules with foreign partners, language proficiency...)
3. Creation of a virtual environment for cooperation at an international level through online learning and the use of ICTs
4. Strengthening the ties with the Universities and research organisations in the EU, CIS and the countries in the targeted geographical area
5. Increase in the number of international students by raising the attractiveness of Armenian HE
6. Provision of incentives to increase the number of short-term and long-term mobilities
7. Provision of incentives for the inclusion of Armenian Universities in global rankings

BRAINSTORMING THROUGH WORLD CAFE METHOD

1. Creation of an international environment and integration of an international dimension into the curriculum (joint degree programs, joint delivery of modules with foreign partners, language proficiency...)

Is this a high priority for Internationalization of the Armenian HE?

How would you rate this within the scale of 1-5 as a priority?

How do you see the creation of international environment and integration of the international dimension into the curriculum?

State why would you prioritize those ones? What is the added value?

What kind of programs can support the internationalization at home culture?

How would they support the creation of an international environment?

What are the obstacles for that? What are the opportunities for that?

Are there methodological and technological competences at the HEIs to develop joint degree programs?

What are the geographical areas that Armenia would be interested in to cooperate with?

How do you see the creation of virtual environment for cooperation at an international level through online learning and the use of ICTs?

What is the capacity for legal, methodological and technological development in online training?

Where do you see the role of the RA Government for this objective? What kind of support is needed at national level?

What kind of support is needed at institutional level?

2. Strengthening the ties with the Universities and research organizations outside Armenia

- o Is this a high priority for Internationalization of Armenian HE?
- o How would you rate this within the scale of 1-5 as a priority?
- o What kind of activities should be undertaken to strengthen the ties with the HEIs and research organizations outside Armenia?
- o State why you would prioritize those ones? What is the added value?
- o What are the specific areas and departments that Armenia is mostly developed in R&D? Please, provide some examples.
- o Do the Armenian HEIs participate in regional innovation strategies? Does the country have any national strategy on that?
- o What are the obstacles for the development of R&D? What are the opportunities for that?
- o What are the geographical areas that Armenia would be interested in to cooperate with?
- o How can the Government support those initiatives?
- o What kind of support is needed at institutional level?

3. Provision of incentives to increase the number of short-term and long-term inbound and outbound mobilities for University staff and students

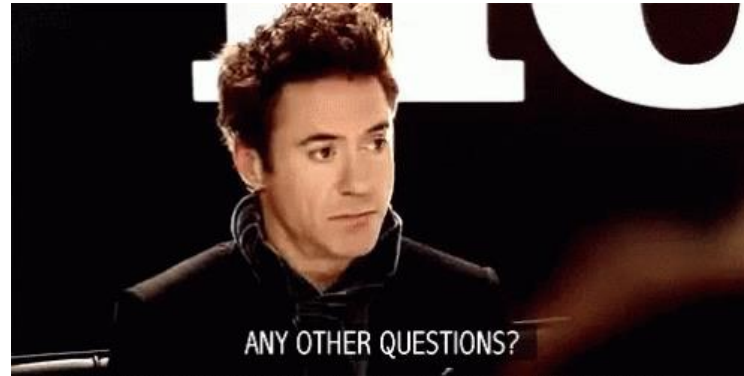
- o Is this a high priority for Internationalization of Armenian HE?
 - o How would you rate this within the scale of 1-5 as a priority?
 - o What kind of incentives would support the increase in the number of short-term and long-term inbound and outbound mobilities?
 - o State why would you prioritize those ones? What is the added value?
 - o What is the level of quality in teaching the local and foreign students?
 - o Is there any interest at national or institutional levels to attract talents from abroad? What strategies might help? How is it supported? Is there a necessity for that?
 - o How does the University/country value the graduates/teachers abroad? What area of education is mostly valued?
 - o What areas might be of interest to foreigners to come to study in Armenia? Please, list some of them.
 - o What are the geographical areas that Armenia would be interested in to cooperate with?
 - o What are the obstacles for that? What are the opportunities for that?
 - o How can the Government support those initiatives?
 - o Do you think that there should be a target to reach for inbound and outbound mobilities? What would be the percentage for that?
- What kind of support is needed at institutional level?

4. Strategic management of Internationalization and provision of incentives for the inclusion of Armenian Universities in global rankings

- o Is this a high priority for Internationalization of the Armenia HE?
- o How would you rate this within the scale of 1-5 as a priority?
- o Which steering documents shall manage the process of internationalization at the university level?
- o How the internationalization process can/shall be anchored at the level of the university management?
- o What activities support the internationalization of HE?
- o Should the strategic management of HE in internationalization target specific geographic areas? If yes, which ones?
- o What kind of incentives should there be for inclusion of Armenian Universities in global rankings?
- o How the visibility of Armenian HEIs can be ensured at national and international levels (participation in major conferences, being part of networks, having country ambassadors delivering lectures abroad, etc.)
- o What are the obstacles for that? What are the opportunities for that?
- o How can QA of the Internationalization of HE be ensured? External QA or Internal QA, any other tool supporting the quality of the activities undertaken?
- o Where do you see the role of the RA Government for this objective? What kind of support is needed at national level?
- o What kind of support is needed at institutional level?



THANK YOU



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