

## **Armenia**

**(699)**

### **UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme**

#### **Progress report**

**Period of activity: 2006**

#### **UNESCO Chair in Education Planning and Management**

**Report established by:** Professor Nerses Gevorgyan, UNESCO Chairholder, the National Institute of Education

### **I. Activities**

#### **1. Education/Training/Research**

##### *Education*

The chair started piloting 2 academic courses:

- “Philosophy of Education”  
Duration: 36 academic hours  
Target groups: Education professionals  
Geographical coverage: National, 60 participants
  
- “Academic course “Effective Communication”  
Duration: 36 academic hours  
Target groups: Education professionals, 60  
Geographical coverage: National

##### *Training*

- “School management”  
Duration: 7 days  
Target groups: Headmasters and teachers of Secondary schools, 250  
Geographical coverage: National
  
- “Peace and Democracy through Education: Managing Conflicts”  
Duration: 7 days  
Target groups: History teachers from Secondary schools, 40  
Geographical coverage: International, Armenia and Georgia

##### *Research*

Taking into consideration of reform priorities in Education in Armenia, namely Higher Education reform and participation in Bologna Process, Chair focus activities in research activities to support reforms underway.

- Initiative of development of National Vision and Strategic Plan for the Education System of Armenia  
Objective: to provide support to the Ministry’s initiative to produce a strategic plan for the development of Armenia’s education system.

The strategic plan is expected:

- to provide a strong national vision for the development of the education system
- to unify and rationalize different reform efforts and discreet projects in the MoES and related agencies and institutions
- to potentially launch initiatives targeting both the education system and institutional changes in the MoES in line with the national vision

Partners: US Aid/ Armenia

Intended results: recommendations for the implementation of new approaches of Quality Assurance Assessment of Higher Education Institutions, preschool education renewed database.

- Development of Training course on intra-institutional Conflict management  
Chair has developed the training course for history teachers on “Peace Education” and conducted 5 days seminar with the participation of 40 teachers-multipliers from range of secondary schools of Armenia. 5 training and consultation days for teachers have taken place during which training has been offered in the teaching of controversial issues, identities, image of others and problem solving approaches

## **2. Conferences/ Meetings**

- “Education 2015”

Place: Yerevan, Armenia

Participants (*number and geographical coverage*): 250, Countrywide

- ” **Peace Trough Education**”, lecture given by the UNESCO Chair holder, with the collaboration of US Institute of Peace (USIP).

Dates/ Place: the 6 February of 2006 at Tbilisi, Georgia

Participants: 40 Schoolteachers, Professionals.

Geographical coverage: International

## **3. Publication:**

*Book*

“Higher Education”

Authors: N. Ghukasyan, N. Gevorgyan and others

Publisher: National Institute of Education, Armenia

Year: 2006

Languages: Armenian

## **II. Outcomes**

The UNESCO Chair conducted research and awareness rising campaign aiming to set the new educational policy in the framework of reforms initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia. Both the theoretical framework and the advice for implementation of policies presented in the recommendations will contribute to the establishment of the new system for Armenian education.

The following areas was covered:

- **Legislative**

With the support of UNESCO Chair, Ministry of Education and Science would have renewed Law on Higher education with emphasis on Bologna developments and new Law on General education.

- **Policy setting**

Chair have been involved in development of Vision and Strategic Planning for Education system of Armenia. The MoES has formed a working group to spearhead this program and has committed to taking a very consultative and outreach-conscious approach with stakeholders.

The short term expected results from the project are the following.

- MoES strategic vision developed and articulated through an internal and external consensus building process. A national strategy for education developed and adopted by the MoES as a successor to the 2001-2005 State Program for Educational Development.
- Capacity building interventions (HICD needs assessment, strategic planning exercises, and others) implemented to initiate the long-term change processes. An institutional capacity development plan for the MoES and related recommendations developed and shared with major players within the Government and the international donor community.

In the long term, these interventions are expected to produce the following results at the individual, organizational and institutional levels:

- A more competitive and higher quality education systems resulting from better coordinated and more effective reforms, coupled with increased confidence of citizens and investors in Armenia's education system.
- Improved and streamlined organizational structures and systems to support strategic planning, policymaking and program implementation, monitoring, budgeting and other related functions.

- **Awareness rising**

“Armenia” TV has produced “IT Express”, a series of 20-minute programmes to support the IT sphere in Armenia. The programmes include the “IT in Education”, the “Innovation”, “Vision for Education”, where main contributors were Char staff.

The presentations on Educational reforms in TV and Radio also was conducted

Chair participated on development of PR strategy within the institutional capacity development plan for the MoES and related recommendations developed and shared with major players within the Government and the international donor community. Result of the activity will reflect on:

- Better understanding by the international development community and more transparency regarding the structures, systems, capabilities and needs within the MoES as the major counterpart for future education sector support programs.

In the long term, these interventions are expected to produce the following results at the individual, organizational and institutional levels:

- Improved MoES ability to carry out successful and transparent internal and external negotiations and communication in support of the Ministry initiated and implemented strategy, policies and programs.

### **III. Forthcoming activities**

The core activities will continue to be research to support to Educational reforms in Armenia, Support for development of high level human resources in the field of education management and planning through relevant programs development and teaching.

The action plan of the UNESCO Chair for the current biennium 2007-2008 has the following main directions:

Support for reform process implementation by communication of reforms in higher education both with academic community and society at large;

- Development of new courses of MA in Management and planning of Education;
- Conducting the academic program;
- Conducting training for education professionals on Governance, strategic planning and resource management;
- Recruit visiting Professor;
- Initiate a seminar series for educators and policy makers on aspects of Bologna Process;
- Initiate new research programmes in the area of Conflict management and teaching peace;
- Develop international cooperation;
- Continue to advice the MoES and Universities on Quality Assurance issues;
- Liaise with parallel Chairs;
- Explore opportunities for further cooperation with UNESCO-CEPES

### **IV. Development prospects**

Agreement between UNESCO and the National Institute of Education is the framework defining the status and operation of the UNESCO Chair as a department of the Institute. This fact will affect the stability of the Chair's existence in the long term. The Chair was expanded academic activities and shifted this part of activities into partner University (YSLU) establishing an academic Chair. Operating in the University would give it a stable and permanent status and would ensure the sustainable operation of the Chair in the University organizational structure. This will allow to multiple resource usage and expansion.

#### **Short and medium term**

- To complete Educational standard on Master Qualification of Management and planning of Education;
- To submit Standard to the Ministry for consideration;

- Develop concept papers related to the:
  - Universities Governance;
  - Internal Quality Assurance System
  - Qualification framework
  - University Management
- In order to Disseminate UNESCO, CoE policies, Chair will initiate translation of main document on issue concern into Armenian.

### **Long term**

Fulfilling the mission to support the reforms underway the Chair will continue research and expertise in the field of legislation and development of Vision and Strategy for the Ministry of Education and Science and provide methodological support to the Universities in Armenia.

Establishment of joint and interuniversity partnership is one of the main areas of Chair's activity: Discussed and agreed to start partnership with:

- Innovative schools in Armenia, providing methodological support;
- Negotiations on cooperation of UNESCO Chair with the UNESCO Chair on Higher education management in Friendship University of Russia is underway.
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs in related field of education;