

FLASH REPORT

Event name

National dissemination seminar on progress of work-based learning (WBL) in Armenia in 2020-2021, 12 May 2021, Online Event

Main objective/s

- To share with key stakeholders strategic and policy developments related to WBL progress in Armenia;
- To deepen understanding of the challenges and opportunities for further development of work-based learning/apprenticeships systems;
- To share experiences of implementation of work-based learning programmes and learn from current practices and examples.

Background

Work-based learning (WBL) has great potential to ease the transition from education and training to work. Evidence suggests that countries with a strong VET and work-based learning / apprenticeship system have lower levels of youth unemployment. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia has been implementing the “Concept Paper and road map for development of work-based learning (WBL) in Armenia for 2019-2025” which were developed in cooperation with different stakeholders and with the support of the ETF.

Short description of the event

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the latest developments in the area of work-based learning in Armenia, to share experiences that are being implemented and to prepare for next steps. The programme of the event included

- updates from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport on the implementation of the concept for WBL development; As soon as the legislative reform will be implemented, WBL will be formally in the legal framework.
- updates from the EU Delegation on the support to the VET sector in Armenia through two ongoing budget support interventions. Further EU support to the education sector is planned. The importance of the adoption of the new Education Strategy was also stressed.
- presentations by the ETF National Expert of the two studies: “Feasibility study on creation and development of the Armenian form of WBL type 2: Commercial activities of VET institutions” and “Incentives for apprenticeship / dual education”;
- presentations of three pilot projects, respectively the ‘Agriculture project Stepanavan (Strategic Development Agency), the Swiss project in Gyumri, (Foundation “Miassine”) and the “Private Sector Development and Technical Vocational Education and Training in South Caucasus” (GIZ).

Key outcomes/conclusions

- A good conceptual basis for further development of WBL has been established with the “Concept paper and road map for development of the work-based learning (WBL) in Armenia for 2019-2025” supported by the ETF and approved by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training Development in 2019;
- A good experience of piloting dual education has been developed. It is important to discuss how to scale it up at system level;
- A set of amendments to legislation is under preparation and will be discussed with stakeholders
- Involvement of relevant stakeholders, especially from the private sector is crucial. A discussion on challenges and priorities is planned for the coming days;
- GIZ is engaged in the development of new mechanisms for VET financing;
- It is planned to pilot the concept of WBL form 2 (commercial activities of VET institutions)

The discussion touched on the following points:

- Interest of big companies in cooperation with VET institutions to be explored, given their own systems of recruitment of graduates. Essentially, SMEs are interested in cooperation with VET institutions;
- It is important to stress the benefits that WBL programmes can provide to companies (the introduction of financial incentives could be considered at a later stage).
- As for the implementation of WBL, currently the difficulties are linked to legal regulations concerning insurance, confidentiality, protection of students’ rights, etc. There is a need of a package of appropriate legal regulation.
- In the framework of the country-wide awareness raising on WBL it is important to organize the image reinforcement of incentives
- The key challenges faced during the piloting relate to involvement of private sector, signature of contracts for preserving the interests of companies; the importance of public awareness on WBL.

ETF contact person/s

Pirita Vuorinen, Content Coordinator, pirita.vuorinen@etf.europa.eu

Inna Dergunova, Project Manager, Inna.Dergunova@etf.europa.eu

ETF Country Liaison

Cristiana Burzio, Country Liaison for Armenia, Cristiana.Burzio@etf.europa.eu