

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Adult Education in Armenia: Analysis of the State of Affairs and Developing Recommendations for Integration in Policy Framework and Practice

Assignment: International expert to support the elaboration of respective ToR, the development and review of a concept document

Focus: The concept itself should be developed by local experts while the international consultant should set the research and analytical framework in the ToR and then support the document development through advising the local experts and reviewing the emerging document

Period: Between 20th April and 30th June, 2020

1. Introduction

DVV International is the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV), the German Adult Education Association. DVV represents the interests of the approximately 900 adult education centres (Volkshochschulen) and their state associations, the largest further education providers in Germany. As the leading professional organisation in the field of adult learning and education (ALE) and development cooperation, DVV International has committed itself to supporting lifelong learning (LLL) for more than 50 years. DVV International provides worldwide support for the establishment and development of sustainable structures for youth and adult education.

With support from the side of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), DVV International, Country Office Armenia, is requesting

expertise to support the elaboration of ToR, the development and review of a concept document "Adult Education in Armenia: Analysis of the State of Affairs and Developing Recommendations for Integration in Policy Framework and Practice".

2. Background

DVV International Armenia was established in 2002 and since then it has evolved into a key player with respect to advocacy and promotion of Adult Education in Armenia, through policy and systematic change, capacity building of institutions and professionals, as well as pilot testing of ALE initiatives.

In 2014-2017 there were some notable developments with respect to ALE on policy level. The revised law of the Republic of Armenia (RA) on "Making Amendments and Addenda to the RA Law on Education", adopted in 2014, provided the definitions of adult, non-formal and informal education. This law also served as a basis for the 1st Governmental Decision, accepted in 2015 on the "Organization and Implementation of Additional Educational Programs" as well as the "Evaluation and Recognition of Results of Non-formal and Informal Learning". A relevant Division within the Ministry of Education and Science has been established that deals with the continuous and additional education (a term used in Armenia) policies and programs.

Since 2015 ALE policy in RA has been implemented based on the document "RA Supplementary and Continuing Education Strategy and Action Plan for 2014-2017", adopted by the order N 1163-A/Q of the RA Minister of Education and Science. Based on the decision N 1062-N of the RA Government of 10th September 2015, the "Procedure for Maintaining the National Register of Trainings" was adopted by the order N 84-N of 5th February 2016 of the RA Minister of Education and Science. The National Training Fund (NTF) was selected in a competition procedure for the organization and implementation of ALE, coordination, operation, organization, and supporting of the systems of the assessment and recognition of the learning outcomes of non-formal and informal education. The NTF is an organization established by the RA Government in the framework of the EU-Armenia Partnership and Assistance Programs.

However, it should be noted that due to its under-funding, the NTF has not be able to fulfill several aspects of its operations. DVV International has collaborated with the NTF to develop and publish a manual on Continuous and Supplementary Education and to introduce short-term non-formal courses to vocational education and training

(VET) institutions. As to the above noted strategy, once its timeframe was completed, no new guiding policy document was introduced due to developments in Armenia in 2018 (Velvet Revolution) and the reconstruction of the Ministry of Education.

Thus, since the revolutionary developments of 2018 in Armenia that resulted in the new Government and restructuring of the Cabinet, most of the positive developments described above have been on hold for almost two years now. This is due to a number of factors including the restructuring of the Ministry of Education and Science into the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports. Additionally, once the process was almost completed, two of the Deputy-Ministers resigned, one of them responsible for Additional and Continuous Education. There is uncertainty about the future of the Ministry Division responsible for these sub-sectors and there is no strategy or other paper regulating those sub-sectors currently. The Ministry is considering incorporating ALE and LLL in the Youth Strategy that is in progress.

The plan of DVV International Armenia for the years 2019-2021 defines the identification of ALE strategic priorities in discussions with the Government and other ALE stakeholders as one of the key objectives for the period.

Given the above situation, DVV International Armenia considers that it should be taking pro-active steps to draw the Ministry's and Government's attention to the issues of ALE and LLL and the need to define its position and policies with respect to these areas.

While the global pandemic of Coronavirus has most probably diverted the attention of policy and decision makers from the areas that do not require an immediate response, DVV International Armenia suggests that the time could be used for creating a solid document that analyses the ALE status in Armenia, including legislation, policies, programmes, practices, and provide recommendations to enhancing ALE in the country. Once the time is right, it could be shared with the Government. At this point, the role of ALE in crisis management could also be an important aspect of the assignment.

3. Goal and Objectives of the Assignment

The overall goal of this assignment is to support DVV International Armenia in documenting the ALE developments - generally since independence and more specifically from 2014 onwards - and identifying strategic options and opportunities

for its further sustainability in line with the objectives formulated in the plan for 2019-2021, for which ALE strategic priorities have been identified in discussions with the Government and other ALE stakeholders.

More specific objectives are:

- Developing ToR that will guide local experts in elaborating the concept "Adult Education in Armenia: Analysis of the State of Affairs and Developing Recommendations for Integration in Policy Framework and Practice". The ToR should define the main areas of research and analysis, including the international and local context, policies and practices.
- Reviewing the drafts and final concept document and providing recommendations for its improvement.
- Using the consulting and review process as a capacity building to strengthen ALE expertise in Armenia.

4. Scope of Work

It is expected that the International Consultant's level of effort for the preparation and delivery of the activities in support of the above goal and objectives will be 10 days, of which 2 days are allocated to the ToR development, and 8 days to advising the local expert in documentation and research of ALE in Armenia, considering the European context and global ALE commitments, creating a content template for the Concept and reviewing drafts and the final version of the document.

More specific tasks are:

1. Develop ToR for DVV International Armenia, on the basis of which independent local expert will develop the Concept. The ToR should define the scope and the analytical framework for the assignment, including international and local contexts, and review of legal, policy and strategy settings.
2. Finalization of the ToR in collaboration with DVV International Armenia team, addressing comments, incorporating any additional suggestions.
3. Online discussion of the ToR in collaboration with DVV International team with the selected local expert and providing guidance.
4. Review, analyse, advise and make recommendations for the draft version of the Concept.

5. Collaborate and maintain constant communication with the DVV International Armenia team as well as with the local expert during the above operations.
6. All activities within the scope of this assignment - document development, submission, consulting, and feedback - are carried out online.

The below chart represents the tentative schedule of the Consultants' involvement:

Assignments	April / 2 days		May - June / 8 days							
Preparation ToR and communication with DVV International Armenia office										
Review draft, final versions of Concept and consultancy.										

5. Qualification Requirements

The international expert should have excellent practical and academic knowledge of global, European and German frameworks of ALE and LLL, both on policy and implementation level. The competencies and experiences of the international expert should therefore include:

- Substantial knowledge of ALE and LLL systems internationally
- Academic and research experience on ALE and LLL
- Analyzing and drafting ALE and LLL policies and laws
- Consulting Governments in respect to ALE and LLL policies and strategies
- Implementation of projects in support of ALE and LLL
- Knowledge of Armenia and the Caucasus region
- Fluency in English

6. Application Procedure

The deadline for sending the application is 17th April 2020. Interested applicants send their proposal package (motivation letter, samples of experiences, CV) in electronic form in English to:

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