



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**USAID ARMENIA, SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS
STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

**ԱՄՆ ՄԶԳ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ, ՍՈՑԻԱԼԱԿԱՆ ԴԱՇՏՊԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ
ՀԱՍՏԱԿԱՐԳԵՐԻ ՀՁՈՐԱՑՄԱՆ ԾՐԱԳԻՐ**

SUCCESS STORY

On the Way to a Better Career



Photos: SPSS

Regular trainings help the youth to gain deeper understanding and knowledge on the job market and its requirements



Building a network of individuals helps the job seekers to be aware of job search methods applied by others and share job information

As in many transition countries, youth unemployment is widespread in Armenia. An analysis of the labor market in Armenia shows that youth are highly vulnerable, due to lack of skills, work-experience, and qualifications required by employers. According to the RA National Statistical Service and World Bank data, the youth unemployment rate several times exceeds the average rate of overall unemployment in Armenia. According to the Armenian Youth National Report, 22% of Armenian youth are unemployed (students, disabled, or people on vacation were not considered). As a reason for unemployment, 13,2% of the respondents mentioned “no work”, 3,6% said “there is no work in my specialty”, and 1,1% mentioned “problems in having my own business”.

Young people have fresh ideas, degrees, and knowledge but most do not know how to apply what they have learned to the process of getting a job. To rectify these issues, during July 31 - August 12, 2008 25 young people from around the country attended a Job Search Workshop held during the Youth Summer School organized by the Youth Professional Orientation Center operating within the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues (MLSI) and supported by the World Armenian Congress, the RA Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the USAID/Social Protection Systems Strengthening (SPSS) Project. The art and skill of effective interviewing, preparing what to say when meeting with employers and the importance of a well designed CV that sells strengths and minimize weakness was discussed and practiced during the workshop. The topics presented during these days helped participants understand the demand and supply side of labor market information, the requirements of the rapidly changing labor market, and the need for life-long learning to be competitive in labor market and methods for job search skills.

One student trained, Yerevan State University student Marianna Galoyan, believed her lack of work experience would hinder her find job in the market; however, her attendance in the Job Search Workshop taught her how to use her college experiences, special interests, and knowledge to build an impressive CV. Eager students learned the importance of setting goals, the motto of the training. USAID/SPSS Project expert Tom Ivory provided the participants with a unique set of planning techniques, elaborating on a methodology previously implemented for integrating ex-military people into civil society. “Looking for job is a full time job”, Tom Ivory said, meaning that career planning is successful only in the case of a systematic approach.

As the majority of the participants mentioned in their feedback, after the Youth Summer School workshops they have better vision how to plan their further job-search, implementing newly learned techniques and planning skills.

USAID Social Protection Systems Strengthening Project supports USAID Strategic Objective - Investing in People, Program Element 3, Social Services and Protection of Especially Vulnerable Populations. As such, this intervention supports the RA MLSI State Employment Service Agency (including local and regional agencies) and the Youth Professional Orientation Center.