

### ***Armenia: Independent Career Planning Module***

*Facilitating student exploration of post-secondary plans through a mandatory independent research project.*

The *Independent Career Planning Module* is a mandatory programme for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students (age 17) within general education in Armenia. Within the module, students independently research their plans for their future careers, articulating their plan for securing the knowledge, skills and qualifications which will enable access to their desired adult employment. All students are required to present their planning in a public setting, either within their school or at an event taking place within their local community. Students are required to spend one hour each week for 15 weeks conducting research and creating their presentation. The module is designed to help students deepen their understanding of their professional goals in light of their interests, preferences, constraints and abilities. The main objective of the module is for students to comprehend who they are, what they want to achieve, and to develop a sense of agency over their own future. The timing of the module – coming during the penultimate year of compulsory secondary education in Armenia – provides students with the opportunity to modify their expectations and/or to engage in different ways in school to enhance academic performance in order to pursue their intended career.

During the module, students participate in a number of different self-assessments, including a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis and psychometric testing, using the RIASEC framework first developed by John Holland to build self-awareness. Students are provided with access to a range of online resources related to admissions into post-secondary education programmes, including education requirements and scholarships, as well as details of jobs in high demand and labour market projections in Armenia as well as within the European Union (EU). They are also supported by a career coach in each school whose role is to facilitate student progression through their research project.

At the end of the semester, students typically present their one or more professional choices within their research presentation. Alternatively, students can choose to highlight their own skill development during the process. The method in which presentation are undertaken is determined by each school.

The *Independent Career Planning Module* is only required of students attending general education in high school and who are commonly expected to proceed to higher education. Instead, students pursuing Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Armenia continue to receive career guidance at VET institutions, where mandatory career guidance is also implemented.

For further details about career guidance in Armenia, watch the presentation by [Haykuhi Gevorgyan](#) at the 2023 OECD Disrupted Futures conference. See also the 2022 report by the European Training Foundation: [Career development support system review – Armenia](#).