

# The Activities of the Chair of Social Work and Social Technologies in the Frames of Tempus Project

## The aim of Tempus project and its activities

TEMPUS is the European Union's programme which supports the modernisation of higher education in the EU's surrounding area (Eastern Europe countries, Central Asia, the Western Balkans regions) mainly through university cooperation projects. Tempus project started in 1990 and since that period has been implemented through 4 phases covering the following periods:

**Tempus I - 1990-1994;**

**Tempus II - 1994-1998;**

**Tempus II bis - 1998-2000;**

**Tempus III - 2000-2006;**

**Tempus IV - 2007-2013.**

The programme aims to promote the voluntary convergence with EU developments in the field of higher education deriving from the Lisbon agenda and the Bologna process.

TEMPUS supports projects aiming to restructure and develop curricula and teaching materials, upgrade teaching facilities, and/or improve university administration in higher education institutions. TEMPUS does this by providing financial grants for co-operation projects between higher education establishments in the EU and the Partner Countries.

## The Priorities of the Project

Priority themes under Tempus are defined around the main components of the EU's higher education modernisation agenda and are therefore structured in the following three building blocks:

- **Curricular Reform**

Modernisation of curricula in academic disciplines identified as priorities by the Partner Countries, using the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), the three cycle system and the recognition of degrees

- **Governance Reform**

- University management and services for students
- Introduction of quality assurance
- Institutional and financial autonomy and accountability
- Equal and transparent access to higher education
- Development of international relations

- **Higher Education and Society**

- Training of non-university teachers
- Development of partnerships with enterprises
- Knowledge triangle education-research-innovation
- Training courses for public services (ministries, regional/local authorities)
- Development of lifelong learning in society at large

- Qualifications frameworks

The main information can be found at <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus> or at National Tempus Office.

## Tempus in Armenia

Armenia has been participating in the Tempus programme since the year 1995. Up to 2011 45 projects of one- three year duration have been founded for the total about 9.3 million Euro.

Since Tempus programme started its activities in Armenia many Armenian universities were involved in different projects. Some of those universities are: YerevanState university, YerevanStateMedicalUniversity, Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction, ArmenianStateAgrareianUniversity, Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University, GorisStateUniversity, GyumriStatePedagogicalUniversity, Vanadzor branch of State Engineering University of Armenia, State Engineering University of Armenia, Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts. We should also note that not only universities but also state and educational other organizations have been involved in the projects which were conducted by Tempus programme during the different periods of the time. Those organizations are Ministry of Education and Science of RA, NationalCenter for Professional Education Quality Assurance, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Yerevan, State Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration. The main directions of Tempus projects in Armenia are Higher education system development, investment of the new methodology in the teaching and learning processes.

Tempus provided opportunity for Armenian universities to start long-lasting cooperation and strengthen strategy for mobility of academic staff and students. The Programme also creates opportunity for cooperation on a local-level.

In the light of Bologna Process with Tempus support Armenian universities improve their administrative and organizational structures, which include study programs, promotion of teacher trainings, student mobility, consultation with entrepreneurial world, cooperation with stakeholders.

Find more detailed information at [www.Tempus.am](http://www.Tempus.am)

## Participation of the Chair of Social Work and Social Technologies, YerevanStateUniversity in Tempus Programme

The Chair of Social Work and Social Technologies was established in 2004. The development of the chair was greatly promoted by international contributions with different european and american universities. The social work education system at YSU was developed owing to the collaborations between the Sociology Department at YerevanStateUniversity, London School of Economics, Social Work School of Connechicuf and High Professional School of Frankfurt am Main. Those universities from 1999-2002 were involved in Tempus/Tacis project as a partner universitie. Due to those international collaborations the Bachelor level and Master level of Social Work education system were developed at YSU.

From 2001-2002 taking part in Tempus/Tacis 2 project and cooperating with London Open University the departament of Sociology established the distance learning laboratory of Social Work

at YSU, which was the first and the only one in Republic of Armenia. The distance learning laboratory still operates in this field very actively.

Now the department of Social Work has almost 300 students. 260 of them are the students of Social Work bachelor level and 40 of master level.

Now the international and local cooperations still have a great influence on the development and improvement of Social work educational system in Armenia. That can be proved by the fact that the Chair of Social Work and Social Technologies at YSU which is the leader of Social Work education in Armenia is taking part in Tempus 4 programme, particularly in “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR ” project and in the frames of this programme in 2012 it has developed “Social Policy and Social Administration” new specialization in Social Work master level at YSU.

The development of the new master programme in Social Policy and Social Administration is compliance with the goals of “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR ” project, which is directed towards assisting the Partner Universities for developing new master programmes in Public Health and Social Services.

The necessity of the development of that new specialization was designed by the obvious demand of the armenian society for having such a specialization, by the necessity for promoting the connections between social work and social policy and by the demand of the specialists in this field. the aim of the new master programme established in the frames of Tempus 4 project is to prepare high qualified specialists in social policy and social services administration.

Nowdays the new master programme is operating in accordance with the Tempus project’s goals and the demands of YerevanStateUniversity for organizing education in master level. The students enrolled in that programme should study 4 groups of courses.

1. *Required Professional Courses*
2. *Additional Required Courses*
3. *General Courses*
4. *Elective Courses.*

Those courses which are directed towards promoting professional knowledge and skills of the students are called **Required Professional Courses**. They include the following subjects: *The History of Social Policy, Social Theories, The Models of Social Management, The Strategical Planning of Social Policy, The Management of Social Risk, The Social Security System of Armenia, The Research Methods of Social Policy, The Modern Social Policy of Armenia, Social Policy and Social Work, Poverty and Social Inequality, Macropractice, European Social Policy, The Psychology of the management, The Programme Management.*

**Additional Required Courses:** English Language, The Issues of the Philosophy of the Profession

**General Courses** are those courses that students of YSU master level should study regardless of their profession. Those courses are: *IT Technologies in the Professional Researches, The Modern Issues of the Profession.*

**Elective Courses** are the courses which the students can choose based on their professional interests and ability. For “Social Policy and Social Administration” master programme those courses are:

- Community Development/ The Theory of Development of Social State*
- Social Partnership/Social Right*
- Social Welfare in the 2 world/ European Social Policy.*

The students of “Social Policy and Social Administration” master programme can also choose and study the courses which are from the related fields. Those courses are called **Related Courses**. For “Social Policy and Social Administration” master programme the courses in economy, law, art and some other fields can be considered as related.

Students of the new master course of “Social Policy and Social Administration” will have an opportunity to be enrolled in on-line course on “Social Welfare Policy in US and the Second World”,

which is organized by YerevanStateUniversity and the University of Connecticut (US), School of Social Work. The course also gives an opportunity for participating in students exchange programme. At the end of the course students will receive joint certificate of YerevanStateUniversity and University of Connecticut which verifies their participation and successful finish of the course.

## **The Academic Staff of “Social Policy and Social Administration” Master Course**

“Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR ” is the project which has an aim to develop new masters level programmes in Public Health and social services. The project brings together educators and professionals from different fields who have a role to play in development and delivery of high quality, efficient and effective public health and social service provision. So the project is directed towards developing new masters programmes that will educate and equip students with knowledge and skills they require in order to develop their professional careers and contribute to current and future developments in public health and social services interventions that respond to local, national and regional needs. In the frames of this project the Chair of Social work and Social Technologies at YSU established new specialization in “Social Policy and Social Administration”.

One of the objectives of the project was to organize different trainings for the academic staff enrolled in new master programmes. It was planned to organize 3 trainings and 2 international conferences in the frames “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR” project.

The trainings of YSU lecturers enrolled in the new master programme “Social Policy and Social Administration” were organized in University of Cumbria, UK (May 2011), Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden (October 2011) and in university of Babeş-Bolyai, Romania (February 2012).

Each training had its own direction and was organized with a certain purpose. Particularly, trainings in University of Cumbria (UK) were directed towards developing professional knowledge and skills of the participants.

The trainings organized by University of Babeş-Bolyai (Romania) had a purpose to assist the members of Partner Country universities to develop syllabus and educational programmes. And the trainings which were held in Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden) were organized to assist the participants in using the IT Technologies in teaching and learning processes. Those trainings were also directed towards helping the Partner Country universities to develop resource-centers.

In 27-28 of June, 2012 the international conference was held in the frames of “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR ” project. The conference was attended not only by the members of the project Partner Country universities but also the representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

So the trainings for the staff members of the Partner Country universities involved in “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR ” project had already took place and the lecturers who took those trainings had already been enrolled in the new master programme developed in the frames of that project.

## **Resource center for “Social Policy and Social Administration” Master Programme**

One of the purposes of Tempus programme is to support the Partner Countries universities in reforming the higher education system. The reforms are also directed towards organizing the professional education in universities by applying the newest technologies. So the objective of Tempus programme is to promote the application of newest technologies in higher education system. The same objective have to meet the PC universities of the “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR” project. It is expected that with the assistance of Tempus programme the PC universities will develop resource-centers parallel with developing new master programmes in Public Health and Social Services. Those centers should be equipped with the necessary technical resources and will give an opportunity to organize teaching and learning processes in the technically equipped auditorium.

The administration of YSU has already provided the space for resource center, which has been repaired and furnished for serving to the students and lecturers of “Social Policy and Social Administration” Master course. The Chair of Social Work and Social Technologies at YSU plans to provide the resource center with the technical resources which are widely used in education system. Those technical resources are: electronical blackboard, note-books, devices for printing, scanning and xerox, projector etc.

The administrative staff of the Chair of Social work and Social Technologies plans to finish the development of resource center before the end of “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR” project, which will give an excellent opportunity to the students and lecturers of “Social Policy and Social Administration” master course to organize the teaching and learning processes by applying the newest technologies so widely used in higher education system.

## **The Challenges and the Perspectives of the Development of “Social Policy and Social Administration” Master Programme**

International collaborations have always played an important role for developing higher education systems in national levels. Tempus programme provides a wide range of opportunities for such collaborations. In behalf of participating in Tempus programme the Chair of Social Work and Social Technologies at YSU established a new master programme in “Social Policy and Social Administration”. The necessity of the development of that master programme is the demand of the time because the current reforms which take place in the system of Armenian modern social policy development and implementation demands to recruit the system with the professionals who are able combine the formal education and theoretical knowledge with practical skills and experience.

The further development of “Social Policy and Social Administration” master programme depends on the further functioning of “Master Programmes in Public Health and Social Services: 511303-Tempus-1-2010-1-UK-Tempus-JPCR” project. But one thing can be persisted for sure: both the staff of YSU and the representatives of Tempus project introduces all their efforts for supporting the further development of the programme.

In order to get more detailed information on “Social Policy and Social Administration” new master programme at YSU and on how to apply for that programme please call (37410)552803, (37410)555779 or visit the official web-site of YerevanStateUniversity – [www.ysu.am](http://www.ysu.am)

*Trainings and Meetings in UK, 2011*

*Trainings and Meetings in Romania, 2012*

*European Day in Yerevan, 2012*

*International Conference in Tbilisi, 2012*

*Meetings and Discussions in Yerevan, 2011*

*Resource –center at the department of Social Work, YerevanStateUniversity*

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