

“Educating for the rule of law: Inspire. Change. Together”

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*Creative approaches to strengthening the rule of law through education: Good practices
from around the world*

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Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed. (UNESCO Constitution)

Education transforms lives and it is fundamental for the prevention of crime and for the promotion of the rule of law and human rights. Education is placed at the centre of the UN crime prevention efforts and its work towards building strong, inclusive and resilient societies. We believe that only through promoting education we can make our democracy irreversible and can achieve sustainable economic growth.

Armenia’s Government is empowered with the very strong mandate of our people, which entails confidence, as much as overwhelming responsibility to deliver on the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and sustainable development in Armenia. Recent democratic changes in our country undertaken by the people of Armenia, are aimed at eradicating corruption, creating transparent, accountable and efficient governance, safeguarding human rights and the rule of law, improving the culture of lawfulness and facilitate access to quality education on sustainable development at all levels and in all social contexts. The Government of Armenia strongly believes that Education is a key national asset of our country and joins UN and UNODC in the noble mission to build peace, eradicate poverty, drive sustainable development and promote a culture of lawfulness.

The Republic of Armenia has actively been involved in drafting the Education 2030 Agenda. Building on this momentum and the main principles set forth by the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4- Education, Armenia drafted its “State Program

on the Development of Education until 2030”, which is currently being amended to fully reflect the priorities in the field and meet the Agenda with a key tool- a strong and efficient education system.

The role of education in building just and peaceful societies and trust in public institutions is increasingly recognized across the world. The world needs responsible youth equipped with global and intercultural competence, possessing the sense of collective identity and capable of practicing global citizenship. The 2030 Agenda acknowledged the necessity for education that calls for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

The most important part of Armenia’s institutional reforms is education. Our vision is to make life-long education a nationwide activity for all layers of our society from children to adults, to help citizens to understand and respect just laws, be aware of their function, know how to engage with them constructively and how to challenge them, as needed, within the appropriate mechanisms and institutions. The benefits of effective multilateralism reflect strongly in our global efforts to advance cooperation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. In Armenia, the process of the nationalization of the SDGs complements the launch of an ambitious transformational national strategy for 2050, which involves 16 mega goals contextualizing the SDGs.

The priorities of advancing education, innovation and smart development, inclusive and participatory political and economic environment underline the inter-linkages between the development and human rights. Further advancing the role of women and youth is of critical importance for Armenia. We will continue to focus on all these issues both domestically and in our international agenda.

By accepting new challenges, the strategic goal of the current stage of Armenia's education system is to record the results of the solutions to key issues that will ensure education sustainable development and strengthen the reputation of Armenia in educational and scientific space.

Today, in order to strengthen the link between education and rule of law, the education system is being improved. In this context, in the curricula, from 8th to 12th grades, the subject "Social Science" is studied, which covers a number of important topics such as human and social relationship, fundamental values, justice, tolerance, , basic laws, rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedoms, civil society, etc. The subject is intended to help students to be aware of their responsibilities and be prepared to fight for their rights and freedoms and teaches them to become global responsible citizens. It also helps to develop learners’ ability to critically understand essential elements such as equality, fairness, rights, freedoms which are essential to develop culture of lawfulness of the society.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia is currently also focusing on building a competitive and inclusive society benefiting from technological, industrial, ecological high standards. And one of the most important preconditions of the competitiveness is the establishment of innovative technologies in education. The priority is also given to the leveraging the information communication technologies in teaching and learning processes, as well as building capacity and improving skills of learners and teachers in digital technology and also to formation of information society.

Armenia is intended to be a highly technological and industrial country. To achieve this goal and to ensure the development of high technology, steps are taken to establishing and developing technological centers. There are a number of organizations operating in Armenia, which have great achievements in the field of information technology and provide creative approaches to strengthening the culture of lawfulness. Free of charge the students acquire professional level technical know-how while equally being formed as individuals, becoming self-confident and socially responsible global citizens with a sound moral and ethical compass, who are prepared to tackle the world's challenges. We place high priority on empowerment and capacity building of our youth providing digital technology training. Organizations like TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, Synopsys Armenia, PicsArt Photo Studio, more than 300 Armath engineering laboratories and many others give the teenagers the opportunities to be introduced to science, technology, engineering and other innovative approaches. In addition to dramatically improving students' worth on the labour market by equipping them with the latest technological skills, these centres play an instrumental role in transforming how Armenian youth view their role in society.

TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, started out in Yerevan, and has already expanded to a number of other countries like France and Lebanon, and coming soon in Albania. The methodology employed, mixes e-learning activities with hands-on workshops while equally including industry-relevant project labs, providing a multi-faceted educational experience, which has a profound impact on students' professional and social development. This pro-active approach is subsequently transposed to society at large as students start taking ownership for the political, social and environmental developments in their country. The "Tales of Neto" computer game, which has enjoyed substantial popularity on the Armenian market, brilliantly exemplifies this transformative influence. Created by a group of TUMO students, the game's hero grapples with environmental degradation as a result of corruption, and dedicates his efforts to saving the planet from evil by sustaining the rule of law.

The future of the world belongs to the younger generation. Education is indispensable in preserving and promoting fundamental values of freedom, tolerance and mutual respect. Our Government's strategy is to empower learners of all ages to assume active roles, both locally and globally, in building more peaceful, tolerant,

and inclusive and secure societies, where the culture of lawfulness would prevail.