TOURISM-RELATED TRAINING PROGRAMS IN ARMENIA

ARMENIAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM
Susanna Aghajanyan
Education is our passport to the future

The goal of education for sustainable development is to develop individual’s knowledge, skills, mentality and value base to make informed decisions and act for well-being currently and in the future.

Education is supporting and promoting visions on sustainability which should be introduced as both pre-school and vocational training.
Tourism–related training programs have major opportunity for achieving sustainability and ensure that tourism contributes effectively.

Tourism-related training programs deal to sustainable tourism with all four dimensions of sustainability:

- Environment,
- Society,
- Culture,
- Economy.
Tourism-related training programs in Armenia aimed at:

- Collaboration between tourism institution and practitioners to research, educate, build and strengthen capacity within the context of sustainable development;

- Improvement of professional education quality,

- Enhancement of capacities required for development of professionals.

- Thinking creatively and informing and supporting tourism educators and students to transform the world for the better.
Tourism related education in Armenia is provided in the following fields and specialties

- specialties of college vocational training,
- Specialties of higher professional education (bachelor, specialist, master),
- programs of post-graduate professional education (Ph.D programs),
- A wide range of programs for supplementary professional training and development.

These courses offer professional development opportunities, certificates, and diplomas to help individuals and the tourism industry to take the next step toward excellence.
The basic educational programs are aimed at training of competitive, socially adapted specialists of tourism management for hospitality and tour operating and masters of tourism management in accordance with the modern requirements of the tourism industry and labor market.

The study programs enable graduates to work in the institutions dealing with tourism such as: government agencies, travel agencies, hotels, restaurants and other organizations and companies in this field.
Tour Operators make investments in the best projects, proposals which are researched by the students.
students’ scientific-tourism expeditions with priority participation of Institutes of Higher Professional Tourism Education are carried out. A new tour product is presented therefore.
Educational tours are organized which are inspirational and flexible learning environment that is conducive to creativity.
To support the sustainability of tourism and initiatives on the Bologna declaration principles implementation with a view of step-by-step building of unified European educational area Armenian Institute of Tourism verified membership with:

- Association of Leading Hospitality Schools of Europe (EURHODIP) in integration of educational programs and standards into hospitality sphere on the basis of the Bologna process principles.
Meanwhile, Association of Leading Hospitality Schools of Europe declared 2016 as the EURHODIP year in Armenia.
This membership allows:

- to implement bilateral educational programs and develop a variety of new forms of cooperation.
- to emphasize positive trends in Armenia tourism development, its scientific maintenance and innovative orientation of professional tourism education system.

Armenian Institute of Tourism acts as the consolidating center of scientific development in tourism sphere, introduction of innovative technologies in professional tourism education and application of the international experience in tourism staff training.
What we need?

- To expand and coordinate scientific researches in tourism and professional tourism education,
- to establish sustainable tourism branch development at various territorial levels;
- to recommend the tour operators (employers) in connection with scientific and educational establishments to take more active participation in elaboration and implementation of up-to-date educational programs and standards of professional tourism education of the third generation,
- to coordinate efforts in the field of forward planning the qualified specialists training,
- the internship providing and further employment of Higher Schools and Colleges graduates in tourism branch, creation of system for raising the professional skills level and retraining of the working tourism staff.