



IMPROVET-AM

Newsletter

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Career Counselors from CEPFA and GSMC Visit Lyon

As part of the Erasmus+ IMPROVET_AM program, career counselors Anush Stepanyan (French-Armenian Vocational Education Center"/CEPFA) and Karine Hakobyan (Gyumri State Medical College/ GSMC) had the opportunity to visit the SFPR Campus in Lyon, France, last summer. This enriching experience allowed them to gain insights into the diverse activities of SFPR, particularly the work carried out by its Career Center. Throughout their visit, they engaged in professional exchanges, attended the year-end evening event, and had the chance to meet with graduates and employers. A key part of the visit focused on exploring career guidance

methodologies. They also visited regional and state guidance centers such as Centre Regional d'Information des Jeunes (C.R.I.J), the Centre d'Information et d'Orientation (CIO) Lyon Nord, and Mission Local de Lyon, among others. This provided them with valuable perspectives on best practices in career counseling. Additionally, they delved into the structure of alumni networks and learned about the various skills required for working with children with special needs, enhancing their overall professional expertise. The visit was a significant step forward in improving career counseling approaches and developing a deeper understanding of diverse career development practices in France.



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Dissimination Event: Capacity Building Projects in Apro Formazione

On Tuesday, November 5th, 2024, a special evening was held at Apro Formazione in Alba. Capacity Building projects in which Apro Formazione is involved were presented, highlighting how joint efforts can create synergies and the development of new opportunities to enhance skills in non-EU areas of the world, in particular Armenia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Cameroon, Rwanda, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Healthcare, sustainable development, mobility, internationalisation, lifelong learning, social entrepreneurship, gastronomy and tourism are the thematic areas Apro Formazione and its partners work on in order to respond to local needs and generate long lasting impacts. A key part of the event was the detailed presentation of IMPROVET-AM project by APRO team through

videos, presentations, pictures and anecdotes, at the presence of some local healthcare institutions that will cooperate with APRO in delivering the Training of Trainers modules during year 2 (i.e. Cooperativa Emmaus). Several materials with IMPROVET-AM logo and details were produced and distributed to the audience: pins, stickers, handbooks, flyers, both in English and in Italian. The audience expressed interest for the innovative approach of the project, and the importance of sharing italian best practices and knowledge in key profiles that can have a great impact and make a difference in socially challenged context such as Armenia. The event was disseminated through APRO Formazione social network pages, and a short article on the event was even published on the local newspaper La voce di Alba.



Strengthening Career Guidance: Workshop in Armenia Meeting with Policy Makers

On December 11th, the French-Armenian Vocational Education Centre Foundation (CEPFA) hosted representatives from SEPR Campus (France), APRO Formazione Training Center (Italy), the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport (SCS), and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA) to discuss key issues in career guidance. Gyumri State Medical College (GSMC) also participated in the event.

Deputy Minister of ESCS, Araksia Svajyan, opened the event, highlighting the importance of involving vocational education and training (VET) institutions in Erasmus+ programs. Representatives from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region of France and the Piedmont region of Italy joined online, sharing their expertise in career guidance services.

On December 12th, discussions continued at CEPFA, where EU partners presented innovative online tools and shared best practices in career guidance. The Italian and French partners introduced their regional and national approaches. Among the participants, a school manager and career counselors from Armenia were highly engaged in the workshop, testing new tools and participating in peer exchanges.

The events were marked by productive discussions on improving career guidance services, leveraging digital tools, and fostering international cooperation.

These efforts aim to equip students and professionals with the skills needed to succeed in a competitive global job market, showcasing the commitment of all participating institutions to advancing vocational education and training.



Fine–Tuning Modules For Dental Technicians: Workshop in Armenia

As part of the Erasmus+ IMPROVET_AM project, "Dental Technology" teachers from the SEPR Campus Lyon, CEPFA, GSMC, and the director of the HovakimyanLab dental technical laboratory, Sarkis Hovakimyan, had intensive professional workshops. Ann Laure Grillet, the pedagogical coordinator of the SEPR "Dental Technology" department, together with the Armenian colleagues, discussed the benchmarking results of the dental technology educational programs.

The workshop was aimed at fine-tuning the Armenian program, matching it with labor market demands, and ensuring compliance with international standards. Particularly, it was proposed to work on the hours and the content of modules, resulting in the integration of basic digital skills, up-to-date criteria for theory and practice. During the meetings, the participants of the workshop addressed continuing education topics and upcoming tasks for the development of short-term courses.



Strengthening international collaboration through job shadowing & training at the SEPR in LYON

From January 27 to 31, the SEPR in Lyon had the pleasure of welcoming a delegation from Armenia as part of the IMPROVET project. This initiative aimed to strengthen the skills and expertise of Armenian vocational schools CEPFA (Centre d'Enseignement Professionnel Franco-Arménien) and the Gyumri State Medical College (GSMC). The delegation consisted of two school directors, four dental prosthetics trainers, and four students, who participated in an intensive week of pro-fessional immersion. Throughout the week, participants engaged in job shadowing, training sessions, and study visits, gaining first-hand experience with cutting-edge dental technologies and best practices. Visits to two leading dental laboratories, ARTDENTECK and Laboratoire Abbou, provided exposure to digital workflows, custom prosthetics, and high-quality materials. Trainers and students also took part in specialized workshops and job shadowing sessions on EXOCAD & 3DShape software, resin printing, ceramic layering, and advanced prosthetic design. Meanwhile, school managers attended thematic sessions on digitalization, innovative pedagogy, entrepreneurship, health, safety and environment, inclusion, gender equality, engagement, internationalisation strategy and work-based-learning. These discussions fostered valuable insights into modern vocational training approaches at the SEPR. The exchange not only enhanced technical expertise but also strengthened our international cooperation. We look forward to furthering this collaboration and continuing the inspiring journey of the IMPROVET project!



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Job Shadowing by Apro Formazione in Alba

From January 27 to 31, 2025, the Erasmus+ IMPROVET_AM program brought together healthcare professionals and educators in Alba, Italy, for a dynamic five-day session to foster international collaboration and professional development. Teachers from GSMC and CEPFA actively participated in discussions, workshops, and hands-on experiences.



Day 1 was focused on issues of supporting individuals with disabilities, with experts from Casa Maria Rosa Community sharing tailored care methods.

Day 2 included a visit to Apro Formazione healthcare laboratory, where cutting-edge equipment was showcased, followed by a workshop on sustainability and career guidance strategies for healthcare students.

Day 3 featured a meeting with Teresa Valentino, a manager of the Piedmont Region, to discuss the VET system. Expert David Tedesco from Progetto Emmaus delivered a presentation on stress and burnout in healthcare, while a tour round the Cottolengo healthcare center provided real-world insights.



Day 4 The Armenian partners had an introductory tour in UPO University Nursing Training Center in Alba, were shown an innovative simulation lab and a new software on medical emergency training. The human rights approach in healthcare was presented by Domenico Massano (expert) and Giulio Ronco (peer educator and a volunteer) from Progetto Emmaus.

Day 5 was targeted on the activities to shape the training module and plan future steps. Emanuela Iacono, HC

Training module design coordinator, discussed teaching methods, talked about possible enrollment process and guidance, discussed how to evaluate the results of training, including the final paper.

The job shadowing not only strengthened the international ties but also equipped participants with

Other sources about IMPROVET_AM

[Armenian community in Rome](#)

[Gazzetta d'Alba](#)

[Gazzetta d'Alba facebookk page](#)

[Radio Armenie: Radio Bridge Projects](#)

Join Our Network of Stakeholders

We welcome individuals and organizations sharing our vision to become part of the IMPROVET-AM community. Together, we can drive positive change and create a brighter future for the vocational education in Armenia.



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