

# Armenian Salzburg Principles SWOT Analysis

## Group 2:

Yerevan State University

Yerevan State Linguistic University

Armenian State University of  
Economics

Yerevan State University of  
Architecture and Construction

Facilitated by Bath Spa University



# Strengths

- Armenia already has a formulation for originality, which is 'novelty' combined with 'independence'
- Very strong in supervision for PhDs in natural sciences
- (6) PhD students have opportunities to combine teaching with research, and a route to future tenure
- Already compliant with Principle 7 (duration)
- Strength in mobility (9): Armenians are free-minded so many students apply for international programmes/funding for international conferences/grants.
- Strong language skills in young (e.g. English)
- Academics willing to work with minimal funding

# Weaknesses

- Insufficient QA processes to ensure that outcome of each PhD is original knowledge
- Less strong in supervision of social sciences/ humanities (where demand is) leading to potential dilution of quality
- Lack of funding for practical science research so tending towards theoretical PhDs
- Some Masters' courses do not prepare students adequately for PhD research
- Admission processes focusing on formal requirements only can lead to low-quality theses
- Assigned supervisors and dictated topics can undermine student motivation/independence

# Opportunities

- To clarify what we mean by originality in our different disciplines
- Some universities have funds to implement Salzburg Principles (e.g. 5 by paying supervisors more) if government regulations allow
- To develop formal and informal selection processes involving professors
- With appropriate funding, all Salzburg principles can be achieved because of the strength of students and supervision resources

# Threats

- Lack of distinction between disciplines within Salzburg Principles
- Insufficient mechanisms specified by Salzburg Principles to enable detailed implementation
- Using journal publication as a proxy for originality can be problematic
- Young professors in natural sciences may emigrate through lack of funding, weakening the excellent supervision base
- Threat of military service after 3 years' study may pressure male PhD students into premature submission of theses
- Are the Ministry of Education and Supreme Certifying Commission really willing to introduce changes?