ENV PRO

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

SWOT ANALYSIS

NAS RA
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Arusyak Harutyunyan

Tbilisi,
07 – 09 October, 2019

GENERAL POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLIMATE

➤ Following an initial spike in early 2018, Armenia's economic performance slowed during the rest of the year, mostly due to weakening external conditions, the lower execution of public capital expenditures, and slowing investment.

➤ The statistical analysis of the admission figures for 2017-2018 academic year in all HEIs in Armenia shows that Environmental Sciences are among the professions with the lowest demand and lowest admission figures with evident dominance of humanities and social sciences.
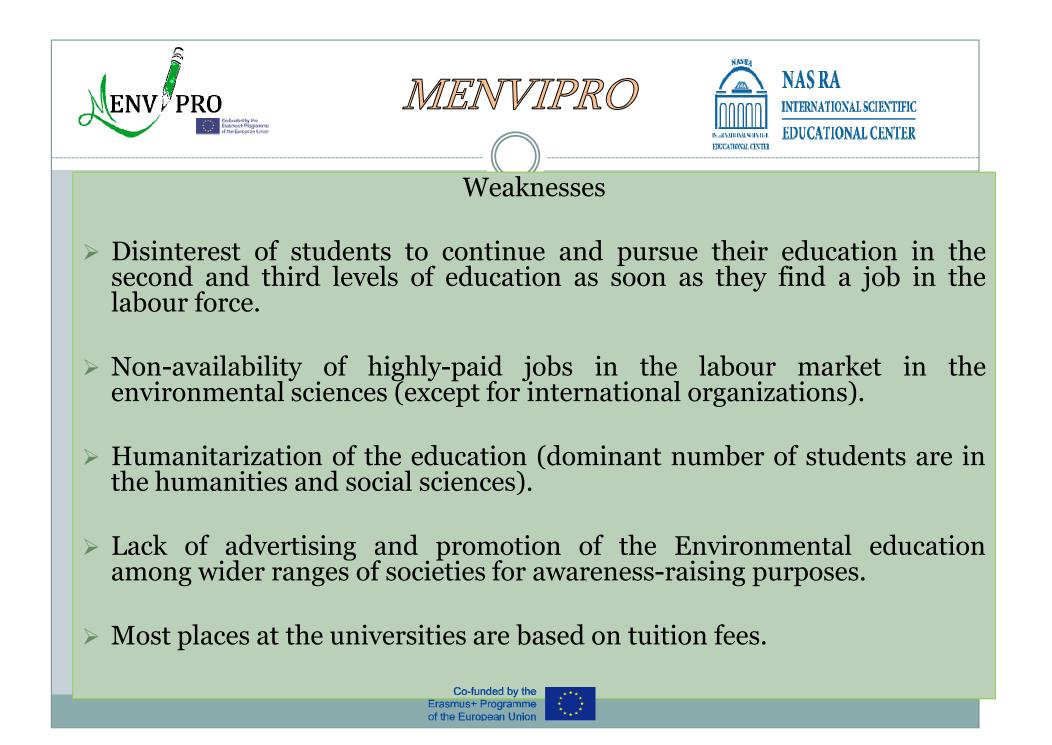
MENVIPRO

NAS RA
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Strengths

➢ Very slow but gradual reduction in the poverty

➢ Availability of the allowances, scholarships, tuition fee waivers, discounts of tuition fee

➢ Availability of governmentally funded places for students in the natural sciences

Weaknesses

➢ Disinterest of students to continue and pursue their education in the second and third levels of education as soon as they find a job in the labour force.

➢ Non-availability of highly-paid jobs in the labour market in the environmental sciences (except for international organizations).

➢ Humanitarization of the education (dominant number of students are in the humanities and social sciences).

➢ Lack of advertising and promotion of the Environmental education among wider ranges of societies for awareness-raising purposes.

➢ Most places at the universities are based on tuition fees.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

- The draft law "On Higher Education" has undergone an amendment leading to a new edition of the law on "Higher Education and Science" in the form of a single legislative document.

- Strategic Perspective Development Program of the Armenian Government from 2014 to 2025

- Governmental program for 2018-2022

- Strategy on Development of Environmental Education and Upbringing adopted in 2018

Weaknesses

➢ The current Governmental program lays down a very vague notion about the need to boost or promote environmental education in all the circles of education through informative TV programs and non formal education.

➢ The main law governing education and science is still in the stage of development so it is still unclear what this draft law envisages for the development of promotion of environmental education in Armenia.

➢ There are no specific governmental funding schemes available to modernize environmental education in Armenia

MENVIPRO

Demand for specialists in EP with postgraduate degrees

➢ One of the major employers for ISEC NAS RA is the research organizations themselves where the professional departments of ISEC NAS RA are located. One of the ISEC's missions is to provide young specialists to the Academy of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and ensure the integration of education and science.

➢ Starting from 2010 up to now, 9 master graduates have been working at the research departments of the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of NAS RA and 4 Master students have continued their education as PhD students. A total of 65 ISEC graduates are employed at different research organizations at NA RA
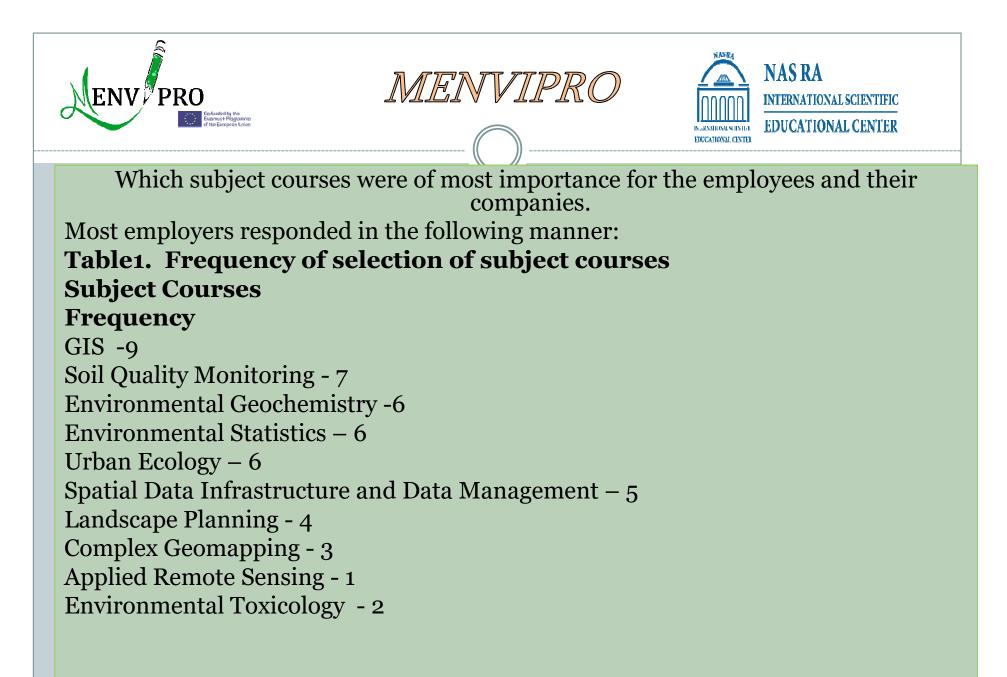
- As a result of the data analysis it was found out that employers have emphasized the analytical capacity of their employees, their willingness to constantly learn and gain new knowledge, the capacity to plan and conduct research on environmental protection, since the average value for the mentioned features was the highest 4.91 out of the possible 5 scores.

Which subject courses were of most importance for the employees and their companies.

Most employers responded in the following manner:

Table1. Frequency of selection of subject courses

Subject Courses

Frequency

GIS -9

Soil Quality Monitoring - 7

Environmental Geochemistry -6

Environmental Statistics – 6

Urban Ecology – 6

Spatial Data Infrastructure and Data Management – 5

Landscape Planning - 4

Complex Geomapping - 3

Applied Remote Sensing - 1

Environmental Toxicology - 2

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

*Unlike other points, **research planning and implementation in the EP** are considered to be very important with 90.9% of the employees and only 9.1% consider it to be important:*

What about **3 most important abilities**, the employers mentioned the following options:

- ✓ Ability to digest and provide information quickly,
- ✓ Ability and willingness to work in a team
- ✓ Creative approach,
- ✓ Being willing and kind - this is what I can say based on my own experience
- ✓ Promptness
- ✓ Diligence
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Professional knowledge
- ✓ Language knowledge
- ✓ Ethics
- ✓ Field trips

What about **3 most important skills**, the employers mentioned the following options:

➢ Computer skills
➢ Skills in writing in different genres
➢ Filming and editing skills
➢ Application of cutting-edge IT,
➢ Relevant qualifications,
➢ Application of knowledge in the specific field,
➢ English
➢ Mapping skills
➢ Creative thinking
➢ Communication skills
➢ Skills on conducting examinations on the spot and drafting reports,
➢ Ability to give realistic solutions to the problems based on the facts,
➢ Ability to prioritize working processes,
➢ Decision-making after evaluation of all probable solutions.

- **Internal factors: Existing baseline**

- **Main Universities providing environmental education**

- **YSU -** "Ecology and Management of Bioresources" Master's degree program

- **ASPU -** "Environmental Chemistry (Environmental Protection and Nature Management)" Master's degree program and

- "Environmental Sciences" Master's degree program