

# National Toolfair in Armenia



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## Contents

THE CONCEPT AND HISTORY .....	4
WHY A NATIONAL TOOL FAIR IN ARMENIA .....	5
THE EVENT .....	6
SETTING UP THE SCENE .....	7
MULTILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL TOOLS PORTAL AND THE TOOLS WORKSHOPS ....	9
THE FAIR .....	13
CONCLUSIONS .....	16
BEAUTIFUL THINGS THAT ARE COMING NEXT .....	17
PROGRAMME .....	19



# THE CONCEPT AND HISTORY

Educational tool development for non-formal education activities has created a need to have a shared space where the tool developers could present their work to a wider educator community. Thus from 2006 the International Tool Fairs (<http://educationaltoolsportal.eu>) have become the platform, where educators and youth workers can share their competences, tools, test them, analyse and assess for improvement, and importantly inspire creativity in non-formal education.

## Behind the event

Erasmus+ programme French National Agency, SALTO EuroMed & Good Practices Resource Centre have taken on the role of supporting quality, recognition and visibility of the youth field and non-formal education. This national tool fair is integral part of the international policy of consolidating non-formal educational methods and European strategy of creating multilingual educational tools and developing the multilingual educational tools portal.

For many years Armenian educators were participating in the International Tool Fair presenting their tools for learning and it was in Malta, in 2016, where KASA Foundation proposed to discuss the candidature of Armenia for the 2017 National Tool Fair and after negotiations, its candidacy has been successfully supported.

The first national educational fair in Armenia with the support of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of RA, SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed & Good Practices Resource Centre and SALTO EECA brought together youth work professionals, practitioners, experts, representatives of state structures. KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation took the responsibility and task of organising the event as well as creating the Armenian language version of the SALTO Educational Tools Portal.

Salto Toolbox  
for Trainers, <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox>  
is an online platform that exists for several years, which gives possibility to share educational tools as well as find new ones. But only having an online tool was not enough, as people wanted to present, test and discuss with colleagues the developed methods, so the initiative of International Education Tools Fairs was developed for youth workers and educators. From 2006, each year the 3-4 day ITF is organized in one of the European countries. Participants are given space to share their experiences.



# WHY A NATIONAL TOOL FAIR IN ARMENIA

For the past three years, national and regional Tool Fairs have been bringing together youth workers and leaders from the same country or sharing a common language apart from English, with the aim of presenting methods in different languages as well as developing the best practices for International Tool Fairs.

Taking into consideration the recent developments in youth work in Armenia, particularly the Government Decree (24.12.2015), the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs launched a number of initiatives aimed at the institutionalisation, establishment and development of the youth work and youth worker as a profession.

Based on years of youth work practice in various regions of the country, recognising the lack and the need of Armenian-language educational materials, KASA Foundation has developed the first Armenian manual and toolkit for beginner youth workers and 4 educational tools. The great interest towards these methods in Armenia and Europe was the basis of the idea of organizing the National Educational Tool Fair.

*The event aimed to improve the quality of youth work and non-formal education in Armenia, in particular to promote the creation and dissemination of Armenian-language educational tools. This quadrilateral collaboration also laid the foundation for the tradition of the annual National Tool Fairs in Armenia. The National Tool Fair can serve as a good practice example for other countries interested in supporting methodological and professional development of youth educators.*



## THE EVENT - facts and figures -

5 parallel  
educational tools  
workshops

Inputs from  
experts on non-  
formal education  
and educational tool  
development

Armenian version  
of the educational  
tools portal

13  
projects /  
organizations  
with their  
educational  
products

Personal  
and professional  
networking

On demand  
counselling for  
*educationaltoolsportal.eu*  
portal users

More than 175  
participants

Experts,  
practitioners  
and guest speakers  
from European  
countries

Social  
workers

Deputy  
minister and other  
representatives of  
the Ministry of Sport  
and youth Affairs of  
Republic of Armenia

Students

Leadership  
and  
representatives of  
various formal and non-  
formal educational  
establishments

Youth  
trainers

Teachers

Youth  
workers

Psychologists

## SETTING UP THE SCENE

**Arsen Qaramyan**

**Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of Republic of Armenia**



"Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Republic of Armenia gives great importance to the development of the non-formal education. It is not a secret, that our life has become so rapidly changing, that we are simply obliged to react to the transformation, and we cannot be late in this. Here is where non-formal educational methods are proved to be handy to give adequate and timely response. Moreover the 2018-2022 new state youth policy strategy touches issues of non-formal education and educational tools. The RA Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs attaches importance to the development of the institute of youth worker in Armenia, and the implementation of national educational tools is one of the steps in that process. Organizing the fair helps present the available tools, encourage professional development of youth workers, creation and localization of new tools. We welcome and attach importance to the participation of professionals, experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations from different spheres of youth work at the National Educational Tools Fair."

**Anahit Minassian**

**Director of KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation**



"We are in an era of big educational challenges. There are a number of emerging difficult topics to address, professional expertise is there, tools in English exist, but on national level our many years of experience in youth work all over the country has shown that there is lack and huge demand for Armenian language educational tools to be used by youth workers and educators. Since its creation, the KASA Foundation has always attached special importance to the work with the youth within its sustainable development programs. Our various programs aim at promoting youth harmonious personal and social development, welfare and self-expression by providing education, counselling and information. Many young people in Armenia are asking us to assist them in building their own youth clubs / events in the village and for their skills. For this purpose, the Foundation has paid special attention to the development of Armenian language educational manuals and games for the past few years. We have initiated this event with great joy and enthusiasm to create an area where young professionals can exchange with their educational methods to test, analyze and inspire new techniques. The event aims to improve the quality of youth work and non-formal education in Armenia. This quadrilateral collaboration aims to lay the foundation for the tradition of the annual National Tool Fairs."





**Bernard Abrigniani**  
Deputy director of the  
French National Agency  
of the Erasmus+ Youth  
& Sport Programme,  
Coordinator of Salto-  
Youth Euromed and Good  
Practices Resource Centre

"I saw light in the hearts and eyes of people in Armenia. For 2 years we were having a discussion to do the National Tool Fair in Armenia and now it is a reality. First in the region. If we do not support young people, they will not be able to grow and develop. I think that the Caucasus region is unique in its unique cultural diversity and incomparable wealth. I have met many educators from EECA countries who are distinguished by their high level of education and awareness. Each of them has their own individuality, attitudes, and national values that each of them presents in their own way.. This is the first Tool Fair in Armenia to show the specific quality of the youth work here, the structures in this area and their work that is being implemented for the benefit of young people."

**Andrij Pavlovich**  
Head of the Eastern Europe and Caucasus  
SALTO resource centre



"This is indeed a historical moment. In Armenia you have very dedicated people. You have been first in many things, and now are also 1st in the region to make the National Tool Fair and first language from the region in the Educational Tools Platform. Erasmus+ has a lot of international activities and Armenia is very active in the programme. You have a lot of bright human capital – activists, youth workers, trainers, you are a country who has a lot of strong activists from the regions. KASA made the dream of bridging the international and national dimensions of youth work a reality. It is good to see that there are a number of efforts from the government in its youth policy to recognise youth work and non-formal education. The National Tool Fair is an evolutionary step for the youth field in Armenia".



**Karine Stepanyan**  
Coordinator of the National Education Fair

The National Tool Fair in Armenia is organized for the first time. This one-day event brings together educators, youth workers, formal and non-formal educational systems as well as young people who are interested in educational tools. Tool Fair consists of parallel workshops and speeches by experts in youth work and non-formal education as well as. In addition, the Armenian version of the educational methods online system ([educationaltoolsportal.eu](http://educationaltoolsportal.eu)) will be presented. Participants have the opportunity to explore Armenian-language learning tools, to test them, discuss possible options for implementing the tools, and be inspired for the creation of new methods and collaborations.



# MULTILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL TOOLS PORTAL AND THE TOOLS WORKSHOPS

This multilingual educational portal is intended for all youth actors with no language or cultural barrier. It was developed by the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed and Good Practices Resource Centre in the framework of the European programme “Erasmus + Youth in Action” on behalf of the SALTO network. It is a platform where people working for and with youth can communicate, share their non-formal education and youth work methods, test, analyze and get inspired to create new tools. The portal is created in the framework of the European Training Strategy in the youth field. The tools uploaded on the platform undergo a quality check, which is made in the country. The platform having 8-language interfaces, aims to support competence development of youth workers and youth trainers, the youth field in general on national levels in national languages as well.

5 Armenian-language tools are already on the platform, many more are being prepared to be uploaded. Workshops using these tools were a big success and a practical way to get to know tools in action. Participants both had a chance to fully participate in a participant role, and also enter a meta reflection on the tool in the shoes of educators and youth workers, looking at how the tool can be used and adapted in their context, how it can be used, what modifications are possible, what one needs to know before using a similar tools, what types of tools they usually need in their work, which need to be developed.

## Gamification and digital tools for learning

### Youth Information Centre

#### Type of tool

Activity

#### Duration

60-90 min

#### Topics addressed

Digital

Group Dynamics

Recognition of Education

This interactive game has been created to emphasize the importance of gamification in learning and make the learning dynamic and enjoyable, with the German Actionbound application being the basis for this.

#### Aim

Identify the potential for the use of gamification and digital tools in non-formal learning. The tool is an interactive game by which the importance of gamification and digitalizing tools in learning is revealed.

#### Methodology

Collaborative learning with the use of gamification and digital tools.

#### Target group

2 or more groups consisting of at least 3 participants



## Palette of Spiritual Traditions

International Centre for Intercultural Research, Learning and Dialogue

### Type of tool

Activity

### Duration

60-90 min

### Topics addressed

Personal Development

Religion

Intercultural learning



The exercise was created by experts from the International Center for Intercultural Studies, Training and Dialogue to provide information on promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue and basic spiritual traditions.

### Aim

The main purpose of the exercise is to promote participatory inter-religious dialogue, as well as develop intercultural communication and ability to work with an unfamiliar cultural context. The specific objectives of the exercise are to get acquainted with the cultural heritage of world religions and spiritual traditions and check their own knowledge about them, to learn to work with unfamiliar cultural material and make conclusions and conclusions based on your own knowledge, experience and logic, to develop skills of group work with unfamiliar cultural material and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of "collective wisdom", to increase interest in other cultures and spiritual traditions and teach them a set of basic knowledge about them.

### Methodology

Group work, competition, training of peers

### Target group

The game is for 15-40 participants divided into 4-7 subgroups. Can also be played with larger groups.

## Mediamart - Media Literacy Computer Game

Media Initiatives Centre

### Type of tool

Activity

### Duration

30-60 min

### Topics addressed

Democracy

Communication

Human rights

A media-combat computer game is designed to provide media literacy skills to participants in a formal and non-formal learning environment by preparing more literate consumers who can navigate the information field.



## Aim

The goal of the tool is to form critically thinking, analytic, competent media consumers by presenting them the role of freedom of speech and media in society, the principles of media activity, possible manipulations and audience-media communication and interaction.

## Methodology

This is a computer game that includes learning, e-learning, and collaborative learning methods. The developed media literacy manual involves more activities and tasks, a variety of methods, group work, research and production, outdoor education, simulation, debate, etc.

## Target group

Young people from 14 to 18, any group size

## Enter! Dignity Land (In Armenian)

**KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation**

### Type of the tool

Activity

### Duration

60-90 min

### Topics addressed

Human rights

Citizenship

The Armenian version of the game, created in the framework of the ENTER! programme of the Council of Europe has been translated and adapted by the KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation. The goal of the activity is to be the educational resource through which young people can learn about social rights and social policies in the context of human rights.

This is a game with cards where players are members of the imaginary country parliament called Dignityland. They should decide on what will be the development plan of social rights for the next five years.



## Aim



1. Raise awareness of human rights indivisibility, interconnection and universality.
2. Increase the perception of participants about social rights and social policy.
3. Critically examine the situation, policies and developments in the field of social rights.
4. Reflect on the role of young people in the development of social policy.
5. Encourage participants to develop specific measures around social rights that reflect their reality.

## Methodology

Collaborative learning, simulation, peer education

## Target group

The game is played by groups of 3-5 participants and one player. Can be played with several groups consisting of 3-5 participants. In this case, each group must have a separate player and a sufficient number of cards for each player.

## "My theatre"

Children of Armenia Foundation

### Type of tool

Activity

### Duration

60-90 min

### Topics addressed

Personal development

School

Disability

"My Theater" is a social inclusion tool developed by the Children of Armenia Foundation, which has been operating in beneficiary rural communities since 2013. Its activities are a great opportunity to discover children's abilities, talents and overcome their issues. The events taking place in the life of the children and the community are presented and presented through art. It contributes to development, shapes self-reliance, self-esteem, sense of responsibility, fidelity and communication, reflects the typical issues of every age of the child, offering different ways to solve them. Various psychological tales, pedagogical tales / stories, myths, legends, scenarios of conflict situations that often occur in life are used in performances. Often the presentation scenario is created by children reflecting their challenges faced.



### Aim

It is aimed to provide an alternative method of responding to psychological problems children face.

## Methodology

Drama methodology

## Target group

Children



# THE FAIR

The Fair was the space where 13 organizations and projects presented their educational tools, manuals, programmes, methodological findings, know-how used in youth work and non-formal educational activities for, by and with children, youth, educators, teachers. The Tools presented touched various themes from refugee integration to violence, multicultural sensitivity to social rights, psychology to entrepreneurial and innovation education.

## Fair Participant projects



### **"GOY" Innovative Center on Scientific-Practical Complex Studies**

Tool presented: "Pyunik" ethno-cultural intellectual game for different age groups. "The Mask" psychological self-discovery psychological correction game.

Armenia's Cognitive Map for Youngster and adults



### **Children of Armenia Foundation**

Tool presented: "Safe Internet for Children", Collection of Professional Orientation Materials for Teachers, "Psychological Games and Exercises" manual for educators, educators and psychologists



### **Eiva Arts Foundation**

Tool presented: "Right and Liberty" – child-friendly publication on the Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. "I am a child" - a book on the Convention on the Rights of a Child



### **Pink Armenia**

Tool presented: Online courses on [inqnuus.pinkarmenia.org](https://inqnuus.pinkarmenia.org). The platform offers courses on sensitive issues such as sexuality, sexual health, human rights, discrimination, etc. In the self-contained platform, participants can remain anonymous and the trainers who address their questions also refer to anonymously.



### **British Council**

Tool presented: Online courses at <https://www.culturepartnership.eu/am/publishing/online-learning> 14 online trainings available in 8 languages. The online course is part of the "Culture and Creativity" program, which aims to provide support to cultural and creative fields as well as to contribute to their investment in sustainable humanitarian, socio-economic development.

Info Centre  
ARMENIA



### **Youth Information Centre**

The aim of the Info Centre is to provide information on opportunities for young people and youth organisations within the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union that supports stakeholders in implementation of their projects, assuring their quality and capacity building. Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" (YIC) is in charge of coordination of activities of the Info Centre in Armenia.



### **KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation**

Tool presented: "Percipio" is a game with illustrated cards aimed at facilitating discussions on social issues among young people, "Civic" is a card game aimed at identifying young people's perceptions, approaches and stereotypes, "Yalla" is a card game that gives get acquainted with the frequently used words and their meanings in Western Armenian and Eastern Armenian, with a purpose to facilitate communication between the Diaspora and the locals. "Youth for Development" is a manual for beginner youth workers.



### **EcoLab**

Tool presented: Sustainable development and active citizenship education toolkit. It presents the EcoLab's model of sustainable development and active citizenship education and includes general information about sustainable development, as well as descriptions of different educational methods used in the EcoLab workshops.



### **Society Without Violence**

Tool presented: "Women and Men - Different but Equal" Handbook for social sciences teachers. The purpose of the handbook is to develop a society and educational environment that is free from discrimination, gender-based and domestic violence through increasing pupils' awareness about gender equality.



### **Teach for Armenia**

Tool presented: Methodology on designing and implementing student centred lessons that are developing student knowledge/skills/values at the same time. The foundation of our approach is an educational model called "Teaching as Leadership" that has been built as a result of a thorough research of methodologies exceptional educators used in their classrooms.



### **World Vision Armenia**

Tool presented : "Sky" and "Impact" clubs' toolkits and trainings. IMPACT and SKY Club models draw upon experimental learning methodologies and are based on the principles of positive youth development. The curricula of the models have four learning pillars: active citizenship, employability, social entrepreneurship and leadership.



### **Tsur Khagh**

Tool presented: The "Tsur Khagh " is a new Armenian intellectual game based on the epic "Sasna Tsrer". It helps develop logic and memory, but also recall Armenian epic and have a little adventure with its heroes.



### **Innovative Solutions and Technologies Centre**

For ISTC Academy for students, for ISTC academy for professionals, the IBM Academic Initiative, which gives lecturers across the world the opportunity to use a wide range of IBM resources, which can be used in lectures and non-commercial research in computer and information technologies.





# CONCLUSIONS

*"It was something very powerful. I felt energy, dynamics, richness in diversity",  
Bernard Abrigniani*

## **Why have a National Educational Tool Fair?**

National Tool Fair creates space and field for cooperation, synergies, mutual help and very importantly continuous personal and professional development. The fair truly becomes a dynamic learning, sharing and experimenting ground, where in a safe environment, one can discuss professionally own educational products, get recommendations for improvement of existing ones and innovative ideas for new ones.

The TFArmenia brought together a large number and variety of youth and youth related sectoral actors from trainers to researchers, from governmental representatives to youth workers. It was the first time to meet in this format and context and people felt it was more than enriching.

## **Why have Armenian education tools?**

Non-formal education has become one of the main working tools for youth workers and it receives more recognition both from the government responsible for the youth field and from the young people themselves. This political and social recognition is quite enriching but also putting a lot of responsibility for quality and impact, accessibility, outreach, professional and ethical work of non-formal educational programmes. Tools in Armenian means they can be used by more youth leaders and youth workers, it means more youngsters will benefit for educational intervention even without having language competences, tools in Armenian means more adequate, adapted, close to reality and mentality methods, that work without a need for constant context adaptations.

There are a lot of talented educators working in the field in Armenia, many working on international youth work and non-formal educational activities, National and International Tool Fairs give a chance to present the educational solutions that experiences educators and youth workers have found to various challenges facing youth with colleagues on national and European levels.

## **What tools Armenian educators and youth worker need most?**

The different discussions during the whole tool fair showed that there are areas, where there is lack of non-formal educational tools in Armenian. The areas include professional orientation and career guidance, sexuality, language learning, quests, collaborative games, active learning methods for school subjects, more board games, online games, tools working with refugees and other specific groups, such as socio-economically disadvantaged youth, rural youth, etc.

## **What can and should be done next to maintain the energy and inspiration from the TFArmenia?**

Having educational tools is one thing, but being able to efficiently, professionally, impactfully and meaningfully, ethically use them is another. So, there is a need for educational activities, which will help educators and youth workers build capacity and competence to use the tools in the most suitable way. These initiatives can potentially include trainings of trainers, training for educational game development, development of training manual, joint development and testing of new tools or adapting existing ones, developing a platform for national meetings of educators from various spheres. Tool Fair is a good start and stimulus for further continuous work in this regard.

# BEAUTIFUL THINGS THAT ARE COMING NEXT

## National Educational Tool Fair 2018 and beyond

The idea of making the National Tool Fair an annual event, being part of the action plans and agendas on various level seems to be the natural harmonious way forward. The event seemed to create drive, vibes, inspirations and a clear understanding of its need, scope and importance for the whole youth field in the country.

- Negotiations are on the move with the MSY for holding an **International Francophone Tool Fair** in the framework of the Summit on Francophony which is going to be hosted by Armenia in 2018.
- **Towards Varna International Educational Tool Fair 2017**

It was discussed and agreed that **2 tools presented** at the Armenian Tool Fair will be invited to be presented at the Varna Fair.

Organizers of the National Tool Fairs will also come together for a working meeting to discuss the creation of a **Manual for National Tool Fair organizers** as well as possible best formats (a-day event, 1-week event with training elements, etc) for National tool fairs will also be discussed.

And eventually, very possibly, quite desirably...**International Tool Fair in Armenia**

Croatia 2018

Finland 2019

Armenia 2020?



"It seems often educators and educational institutions in Armenia tend to act like separate islands, but consolidation and synergies are needed. This event is to bring the educational tools sphere in the country from chaos to structure and cooperation."

Anahit Minassian, Director of the KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation

"SALTO EECA is ready and interested to be also part of the 2018 TFArmenia edition, inviting international experts and guest speakers. The consortium of organizations taking responsibility of the event is and should remain open for any new interested parties to come on board."

Andirj Pavlovich, head of SALTO EECA

"Feasibility of making the National Tool Fair a tradition is clear. And this was not only because of the number of people, tools presented, organizations in the Fair, but because of the interest in the faces of fair participants, the joy from what they were doing, learning, presenting."

Bernard Abrignani, Deputy Director of the French National Agency of the Erasmus+ Youth & Sport Programme, Coordinator of the SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed & Good Practices Resource Centre

"We are motivated to include all the tools presented here in our educational work within our programmes. And surely with the partners the potential to make the 2018 National Tool Fair is present."

David Hayrapetyan, Head of Youth events holding centre SNCO

# Programme

09:00 – 10:00

Arrival

10:00 – 10:30

Welcome notes

**Arsen Qaramyan**, Deputy minister, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Republic of Armenia

**Anahit Minassian**, Director of KASA Swiss humanitarian foundation

**Bernard Abrigniani**, Deputy Director of the French National Agency of the Erasmus+ Youth & Sport Programme, Coordinator of Salto-Youth Euromed and Good Practices Resource Centre

**Andrij Pavlovich**, Head of the Eastern Europe and Caucasus SALTO resource centre

10:30 – 10:45

What can we expect today?

10:45 – 11:15

Why are we organising a Tool Fair in Armenia?

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 – 12:15

Presentation of the multilingual educational tool platform

12:15 – 13:30

Presentation of European platforms and systems to find educational tools

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:30

Workshops

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee break

17:00 – 18:30

Tool Fair

18:30 – 19:00

Conclusions and closing



