



# **GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATED TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ARMENIA**

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# EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Glossary contains English versions of the education and training related terms used in Armenia, with special focus on vocational education. For every term, its official definition, as it appears in the corresponding legal act, is presented. Where necessary, additional explanations and/or comments are provided.

The Glossary is addressed to non-Armenian speakers who study the Armenian education system and is intended to support more correct perception of the meaning of the local terms while reading different materials (reports, research papers, articles, etc.) or participating in discussions or events accompanied by interpretation.

In the glossary, for some cases two options of the term are presented, e.g.:

11	<b>Continuing education (training)</b>	[Supplementary education (training)]
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Both can occur in the speech, but the first (bold) is considered more correct while the other (in square brackets and wavy underlined) is merely the literal translation of the corresponding Armenian term.

# G L O S S A R Y

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | S | T | U | V

## 1 Academy (educational)

Higher education institution the activities whereof are aimed at developing education, science, technology and culture in a particular field; which carries out preparation and re-qualification of highly qualified specialists in a certain branch (sector) and implements postgraduate educational programmes. [1]<sup>1</sup>

## 2 Academic leave

A leave granted for one calendar year (except the cases stipulated by the legislation) to the preliminary, middle, higher and post-graduate educational programmes' students and researchers of doctoral studies, based on the conclusions of the medico-sociological expertise. [*Order of the Minister of Education and Science, № 997-N, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006*]

## 3 Adult Learning and Education [Adult Education and Training]

*This term is mentioned in the Law “On Preliminary Vocational (Craftsmanship) and Middle Vocational Education” but is not defined by any legal act.*

**Comment.** The Concept and the Strategy of Adult Education<sup>2</sup> endorsed by the Government in 2005, provides a definition for the Adult learning, which however, seems outdated.

## 4 Attendee

Person enrolled in, and studying upon supplementary (continuing) educational programme. [1]

Person studying, in a prescribed manner, upon supplementary (continuing) programme (curricula) of craftsmanship or middle

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<sup>1</sup> Law “On Education”

<sup>2</sup> This type of documents are not considered in Armenia as legal acts and mainly have no legal implications.

vocational education and (or) person attending a qualification upgrade (training, re-qualification) course. [2]<sup>3</sup>

**5 Attestation**

Evaluation of the activities of an educational institution and that of the quality, content and level of preparation of the graduates thereof, against the requirements of state educational standards. [1]

**6 Bachelor**

Person holding [Bachelor's Degree](#).

**7 Bachelor's Degree**

Qualification degree of higher professional education, which is awarded to persons with secondary education having passed attestation in accordance with at least four-year higher professional education programmes (in case of police or military professions — in accordance with at least three-year programmes on the basis of police or military middle vocational education). [1]

**8 Branch**

A territorial separated subdivision of an educational institution, which implements one or various educational programmes. [1]

**9 College**

Organisation with the status of legal person or a subdivision thereof implementing a middle vocational educational programme. [1], [2]

**10 Continuing Education (Training)**

[[Supplementary education \(training\)](#)]

Non-formal learning with the maximum duration of five months, implemented in the framework of a supplementary (continuing) educational programme. [1]

Education process beyond the framework of main (initial) vocational educational programmes, improving professional qualities, ensuring

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<sup>3</sup> Law "On Preliminary Vocational (Craftsmanship) and Middle Vocational Education".

professional re-qualification, upgrading and complementing the qualification of a person. [2]

Education, implemented on the basis of professional education beyond the framework of main (initial) educational programmes, aimed at improving professional qualities, ensuring professional re-qualification, continuously complementing the professional qualification of a person. [3]<sup>4</sup>

**Comment.** These definitions contain a number of conceptual mistakes or at least uncertainties. Thus, the concepts of ‘*professional qualities*’ or ‘*professional re-qualification*’ are not defined anywhere and their meanings are unknown. If, however, ‘*professional re-qualification*’ is expected to be understood as awarding a new qualification, the legislation does not make it impossible to achieve through supplementary (continuing) education. It is unclear also what ‘*complementing the qualification*’ shall mean. ‘*Upgrading the qualification*’ is another unknown (undefined) concept.

## 11 Craftsman

Level of qualification degree of preliminary vocational (craftsmanship) education, which is awarded to persons having passed state final attestation in accordance with preliminary vocational (craftsmanship) educational programme and (or) regulation on qualification. [1]

Level of qualification degree of craftsmanship education, which is awarded to persons having passed state final attestation in accordance with craftsmanship educational programme and (or) regulation on qualification. [2]

## 12 Craftsmanship Education

Implementation of craftsmanship education programmes, except for Master training, on the basis of at least basic general education. [2]

**Comment:** This official definition is a tautology and does not effectively define anything. “*Craftsmanship Education*” is the first (lower) level of the Vocational Education which is called also “Preliminary Vocational Education”.

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<sup>4</sup> Law “On Higher and Post-graduate Education”

13	<p><b>Craftsmanship school</b></p> <p>Organisation with the status of a legal person or a subdivision thereof implementing a preliminary vocational (craftsmanship) educational programme. [1]</p> <p>Organisation with the status of a legal person or a subdivision thereof implementing a craftsmanship educational programme. [2]</p>
14	<p><b>Credit</b> [Credit (criteria)]</p> <p>The volumes of academic load and knowledge mastering. [2]</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The meaning of “<i>volume of knowledge mastering</i>” is not clear.</li> <li>2. In [3], a term “<i>academic credit (standard)</i>” is used. It is defined as ‘<i>conventional unit of measuring the academic workload, expressed in the terms of time</i>’. Thus, this refers only to the time spent for learning but not to “<i>knowledge mastering</i>”.</li> </ol>
15	<p><b>Credit System</b> [Credit (criteria) system]</p> <p>System of organising the education process and that of measuring, recording and transferring the learning outcomes in terms of credits. This system includes teaching, practical and individual classes, consultations, preparation of term papers, other works, preparation to final testing, assessment, etc. [2]</p> <p>System of organising the education process and that of measuring, recording and transferring the learning outcomes in terms of academic credits. This system includes teaching, practical and individual classes, consultations, preparation of term papers, other works, preparation to exams, assessment, etc. [3]</p>
16	<p><b>Curriculum</b> – see “<a href="#"><i>Educational (including military) programme</i></a>”</p>
17	<p><b>Diploma (of preliminary vocational (craftsmanship) education, of middle vocational education, of Bachelor, of Master, of Specialist with Diploma, etc.)</b></p> <p>Graduation document of educational institution. [1]</p> <p>Graduation document of higher educational institution or organisation providing post-graduate professional education. [3]</p>

18	<b>Diploma Specialist</b> Qualification degree of higher professional education, which is awarded to persons with secondary education or vocational education upon attestation results of at least five-year higher professional education programme. [1]
19	<b>Distance Learning</b> Systematic form of instruction, when the process of direct and indirect instruction between a student or attendee and a lecturer is conducted mainly through information technologies and by means of telecommunication. [2]
20	<b>Education</b> Training and upbringing process in the interests of a person, society and the state, aimed at preserving the knowledge and transferring it to the generations. [1]
	<b>Comment.</b> Definition of this term is extremely narrow and in general, is completely outdated. Particularly it only refers to knowledge and does not consider e.g. skills, competences and the system of values which in other definitions given by the same Law, are appreciated as elements of the education outcomes. However, even if to consider only the knowledge, its <i>'preservation and transferring to generations'</i> cannot be the only aim of education.
21	<b>Education by Correspondence – see “<a href="#">Part-time education (studies)</a>”</b>
22	<b>Educational centre</b> An organisation (including an educational institution) implementing supplementary (continuing) educational programme(s). [1]
23	<b>Educational Complex</b> An association of educational institutions implementing different educational programmes (curricula). [1]



24	<b>Educational Institution</b> Organisation with the status of legal person or a subdivision thereof implementing one or more educational programmes and ensuring the instruction and upbringing of learners in accordance with the requirements of those programmes. [1]
25	<b>Educational Institution Quality Assessment (Attestation)</b> Assessment of effectiveness of professions, educational programmes (curricula), instruction methods, staff and structure of higher educational institution. [3]
	<b>Comment.</b> See also the terms “ <i>Quality Assessment</i> ” and “ <i>Attestation</i> ”.
26	<b>Educational (Including Military) Programme</b> The content and the field of the relevant level of education. [1]
27	<b>External Studies (Externship)</b> A form of education implemented through self-education and formative and summative assessment of knowledge and competences at the craftsmanship and middle vocational educational institutions. [2]
	A form of education implemented at the educational institution through self-education and summative assessment of knowledge and competences. [3]
	<b>Comment:</b> In the two above definitions, different places of the phrase “ <i>at the educational institution</i> ” in the sentence, affect the meaning.
28	<b>Extramural Studies – see “<i>Part-time education (studies)</i>”</b>
29	<b>Formal Education</b> A certain level or the aggregate of the main educational programmes of general and professional education which are implemented by relevant educational institution(s) and lead to awarding a qualification degree and diploma. [1]
30	<b>Full-time (Stationary) Studies</b> Form of usually institution-based education provision when the studies are mostly implemented through the direct contact between the

teacher (trainer) and the learner. *Is not defined by any legal act but used in many of them.*

**31 | General Educational Institution**

An educational institution implementing one or more main (initial) programmes (curricula) of general education. [1]

**32 | Informal Learning**

Learning outcomes achieved as a result of daily and family life, rest, leisure, work and other different activities that, as a rule, are unintentional from the person's perspective as targeted learning, are not organised and coordinated in terms of time or resources, do not lead to official recognition of the outcomes, except for the cases provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. [1]

**Comment:** the literal translation from Armenian would mean "*Informal education*" which is an incorrect concept. Only *learning* should be used for informal.

**33 | Institute**

A higher education institution implementing professional and postgraduate educational programmes and scientific studies in a number of directions of science, economy and culture. [1]

**34 | Instructor – see "*Master of Practical Training*"**

**35 | Institution of General Education – see "*General educational institution*"**

**36 | Kindergarten**

An educational and upbringing institution implementing a preschool education programme. [1]

**37 | Learner**

Person enrolled in the educational institution according to the defined procedure and studying upon main (initial) educational programme(s) (curricula). [1]

### 38 | **Licencing**

The process of authorisation of activities of an educational institution. [1]

**Comment.** The RA Law “On Licencing” defines the *Licencing* as ‘*process connected with the issuance, renewal, conversion, suspension and withdrawal of licences*’, and the *Licence* as ‘*official authorisation attesting the right to carry out an activity subject to licencing, as well as an official document attesting such right*’. Thus, in the RA Law “On Education”, it is attempted to adapt the term “*Licencing*” to the education context, but evidently mutilating the meaning of the term.

### 39 | **Lifelong Learning**

Learning outcomes achieved through participation in formal, non-formal and informal education throughout the entire life of a person, by which the individual forms or improves his or her knowledge, skills, competences and the system of values. [1]

### 40 | **Master of Practical Training**

A pedagogical worker of the system of preliminary and middle vocational education and/or vocational training, who ensures vocational skills of a person. [2]

### 41 | **Master’s degree**

Qualification degree of higher professional education, which is awarded to persons with bachelor’s degree or degree of a Diploma Specialist, upon attestation results of at least one-year higher professional education programme. [1]

### 42 | **Master Training**

In the field of vocational education, a structured form of training when the direct and indirect instruction is implemented according with the individual training schedule. Can be implemented at educational institution, at organisation or at the masters’ workshop. [RA Government Decision № 1254-N, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008]

43	<b>Middle Vocational Education</b>
	<p>Implementation of middle vocational educational programmes on the basis of at least basic general education. [2]</p> <p><b>Comment.</b> This official definition is a tautology and does not effectively define anything. “<i>Middle Vocational Education</i>” is the second (upper) level of the Vocational Education.</p>
44	<b>Military Educational Institution</b>
	<p>An educational institution implementing general or middle vocational or higher and post-graduate professional education and ensuring the instruction and upbringing of learners in accordance with the requirements for military education programmes. [1]</p>
45	<b>National Qualifications Framework</b>
	<p>The integrity of characteristics (descriptions) of the qualification levels of professional education, which includes generalised descriptions of learning outcomes at each level of learning, and those of knowledge, skills and competences required for performing professional activities. [1]</p>
46	<b>Non-formal Education (Training)</b>
	<p>A supplementary (continuing) educational programme or the aggregate of those programmes which is implemented by relevant educational institution(s) or by organisation and/or service authorised to perform that function, which however does not lead to awarding a qualification degree and official recognition of the learning outcomes, except for the cases provided for by laws of the Republic of Armenia. [1]</p>
47	<b>Off-site Education – see “<a href="#">Part-time education (studies)</a>”</b>
48	<b>Part-time Education (studies)</b>
	<p>Form of education (instruction) provision. <i>Is not defined by any legal act.</i></p>
49	<b>Practical Trainer – see “<a href="#">Master of Practical Training</a>”</b>
50	<b>Professional Training – see “<a href="#">Vocational training</a>”</b>

**51 | Qualification**

A status certifying the compliance of a person with the professional (vocational) qualification description in the result of final attestation, which is awarded via relevant document. [1]

**52 | Quality Assessment (Attestation)**

Assessment of effectiveness of professions, educational programmes (curricula), instruction methods, staff and structure of craftsmanship and middle vocational educational institutions. [2]

**Comment.** See also the terms “[\*Educational Institution Quality Assessment\*](#)” and “[\*Attestation\*](#)”.

**53 | Quality of Education**

A measurable result of organisation of education targeted at reaching the objectives and the tasks defined by the education policy. It is assessed by consideration of the individual needs of the learner, the environment where education is organised, the programmatic content of education, the process of education organisation and the learning outcomes assessed according to the defined criteria. [1]

**49 | Social Partner**

Organisation or union of organisations particularly unions of employers, trade unions and other public associations, as well as any organisation, state and community bodies implementing educational and academic programmes, who support, collaborate with, and are interested in, the development of the system of professional (vocational) education and training. [1]

Organisation or union of organisations, including any type of educational institution which support, collaborate with, and are interested in, the development of the system of craftsmanship and middle vocational education and training. [2]

**54 | Special Education**

A system of training and education of persons in need of special conditions for education as well as that of children having demonstrated antisocial conduct, which, on the basis of one or several educational programmes (curricula), may be implemented in special or

common institutions of general education, those of vocational education. [1]

**55 Specialist**

A qualification degree of middle vocational education, which is awarded to persons having passed final attestation in accordance with middle vocational education programme. [1]

A qualification degree of middle vocational education, which is awarded to persons having passed state final attestation in accordance with middle vocational education programmes. [2]

**56 Specialist with Diploma – see “[\*Diploma Specialist\*](#)”**

**57 State Accreditation**

Recognition by the state, of compliance of the quality of preparation of specialists with the state educational standards. [1]

Recognition by the State, of compliance of the higher education institution, educational programme and quality of preparation of specialists with the state educational standards. [3]

**58 State Educational Standard**

A norm which defines the mandatory minimum content of educational programmes, the maximum academic load of learners and quality requirements towards graduates. [1]

**59 Student**

Person enrolled in the appropriate educational institution according to the defined procedure and studying upon main (initial) programmes (curricula) of craftsmanship or middle vocational education. [2]

Person enrolled in the appropriate higher educational institution according to the defined procedure and studying upon any main programme (curricula) of higher professional education. [3]

**60 Student Benefit**

Refund of the tuition fee of a student at the expense of the state budget, allocations from vocational educational institution, other legal and natural persons. [2]

Refund of the tuition fee of a student at the expense of the state budget, allocations from higher educational institution, foundations and other organisations as well as natural persons. [3]

**61 Targeted Education**

Education implemented upon professional (vocational) educational programmes (curricula) with a purpose to provide the sectors of priority and importance for the state, as well as RA regions including the border and mountainous localities with specialists with appropriate qualification. [1]

Education implemented upon higher and post-graduate professional educational programmes (curricula) with a purpose to provide the sectors of priority and importance for the state, as well as RA regions including the border and mountainous localities with specialists with appropriate qualification. [3]

**62 Time Period of Studies**

Minimum duration of studies defined by the given vocational educational standard. [2]

**63 Training**

A process carried out through an educational programme that is directly or indirectly aimed at organising, implementing or assisting the learning of an individual. [1]

**64 University**

Higher education institution, the activities whereof are aimed at organising higher, post-graduate and continuing education, fundamental scientific research and studies in different fields of natural sciences, sociology, science and technology, and culture. [1]

**65 Vocational Training**

Process of instruction aimed at mastering and using knowledge and skills necessary for performing professional activities. [2]