

Armenia: Establishing internationally recognised qualifications

Cambridge International Examinations is working with the Ayb Foundation to provide assessments for the new Araratian Baccalaureate.

The challenge

The Ayb Foundation, a privately owned education foundation, set out to establish an Araratian Baccalaureate Examination Center (ABEC) capable of designing and delivering qualifications recognised by academic institutions and employers worldwide. Its objective is to develop a Baccalaureate-style qualification comprising both Armenian and Cambridge-accredited A Level equivalent subjects.

The Armenian Ministry of Education is working with the Foundation as part of the National Program of Educational Excellence (NPEE) on this ambitious project with a view to introducing this new qualification into all state schools over the course of 10 years.

Our response

We first undertook a benchmarking exercise to ensure Armenian curricula were a good basis for Cambridge-style examinations. A small group of volunteer Ayb School students then took mock Cambridge exams (translated into Armenian) in maths, biology, chemistry and physics in November 2015. They went on to sit live exams seven months later, with successful candidates gaining a joint ABEC and Cambridge certificate. We have also provided training and support to help Ayb develop an international recognition strategy so that higher education institutions around the world accept the subjects offered by the new exam board.

Over five years, Cambridge will provide training for Ayb Foundation staff in the skills and knowledge required to design and deliver assessments in the four subjects accredited by Cambridge within the Araratian Baccalaureate, with the option to add more subjects if desired. We are currently working with Ayb to create assessment

“ Working with Cambridge was a turning point for our efforts. Cambridge helped us clarify our strategy, improve our processes, launch our educational reforms, and put our efforts on a solid international footing. ”

Dr Thomas Samuelian, Head, Araratian Baccalaureate Examination Center, Armenia

materials for the 2017 and 2018 exams. With Cambridge support, ABEC will gradually move towards autonomy in the production and administration of their new qualification. We will continue to monitor and gather evidence to ensure that standards are equivalent to Cambridge International A Levels, and this annual accreditation of specific qualifications with joint certification will also support international recognition.

Why Cambridge?

We can deliver specialised skills, knowledge and expertise including:

- strategic curriculum development
- curriculum mapping
- new qualification development and implementation
- accreditation of equivalence to Cambridge qualifications and quality assurance
- international recognition strategies.

We also have the capacity to provide collaborative support over the longer term, working closely with colleagues in Armenia on every aspect of project design, delivery and evaluation.

Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/educationservices or email educationservices@cie.org.uk