

UNION OF EMPLOYERS OF ICT

Upon the initiative of a number of ICT companies, in September 2015 the Union of Employers of Information and Communication Technologies (UE ICT) has been established in Armenia with the aim of presenting and defending rights and interests of ICT employers.

As of February 2016, in total 32 companies and Universities preparing ICT professionals joined the Union, and the number of members keeps growing. It should be mentioned that among them companies with the biggest number of employees of ICT industry are involved.

The Union gives an opportunity to:

- strengthen mutual respect between ICT employers,
- reflect the emerging demands of the field in the applicable legislation,
- foster small and medium businesses,
- create favorable conditions for their development,
- encourage entrepreneurship in ICT sphere.

Among the objectives of the Union is the support to trainings of specialists matching the requirements of ICT and ICT-related fields, as well as modernization of ICT educational programs in schools, vocational and higher education institutions in accordance with the best international standards. Also trainings for lecturers in IT field will be supported. It is planned to contribute to the growth of local and foreign investments in the field, as well as to provide business and legal consultation, etc.

Taking into account the existing potential of Armenia, UE ICT pays special attention to education in schools and universities by undertaking ambitious projects and initiatives aimed at raising the level of teaching of fundamental knowledge. At the same time, the Union is committed to implement and to support initiatives with focus on integration and convergence of Science and Industry. Also, it will create a platform for closer cooperation with other industries and for wider application of ICT tools to significantly increase the labor productivity.

As of today, the following projects were initiated by the members of UE ICT:

- Annual Educational Award of the President of the Republic of Armenia in IT Sphere:
<https://www.synopsys.com/Company/Locations/Armenia/EducationalPrograms/Pages/RAAward.aspx>
- Global Award of the President of RA for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT: <http://www.globalitaward.am/>
- Annual International Microelectronics Olympiad in Armenia:
<http://www.microelectronicsolympiad.am/en/>
- Cooperation for modernization of educational programs with major universities of Armenia: National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA), Yerevan State

University (YSU), Armenian State Pedagogical University (ASPU) Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University (RAU), European Regional Academy (ERA)

- Pilot project on teaching Microelectronics, Information Technologies and Basics of Telecommunication disciplines in high schools, etc.

The Union will also concentrate on raising awareness about Armenia on international area, on Armenia's participation in international projects, as well as on involvement of organizations of global significance in Union's activities.

To meet the defined goals the Union works in close collaboration with the RA Government, local and state authorities, organizations in ICT and related spheres, international agencies and institutions, as well as state, public and ICT organizations of other countries.