



PRESS RELEASE

Computer Literacy for Everyone

Basic Computer Courses for Vulnerable Groups through Enhanced Computer Centers

March 27, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia. Today ten computer specialists completed a six-day Web Design and Management training course offered by the USAID-funded Competitive Armenian Private Sector (CAPS) Project and the Armenian Round Table Foundation (ART). The trained trainers will pass on the knowledge and skills they gained to vulnerable community groups (refugees, parentless children, socially underprivileged people, children and adults with special needs, the homeless, etc.) through 40 computer centers established by ART throughout the regions of Armenia in the framework of its “Computer Literacy for Everyone and Sustainable Development of Computer Centers” Project.

The Web Design training, which consisted of 12 comprehensive topics, enabled the trainers to create websites to be able to teach website creation to others. The training incorporated such topics as browsers, screen resolutions, advanced HTML editors, digital images, color modes, image processing software, DHTML, Flash technology, hyperlinks, encoding, web servers, etc. The Management training aimed to enhance the abilities of the trainers to work effectively with communities, assess their needs, teach them computer literacy, involve them in computer center-based activities and obtain tools and mechanisms for working in community computer center coordination, marketing, as well as to secure the sustainability of the computer centers.

“The training courses aim to address several important objectives. First, they will enhance the technological skills and abilities of the computer centers’ staff, thereby enabling them to offer more training and make computer center operations more effective. Second, increasing the supply of trained computer center specialists will make it easier to train more representatives of vulnerable groups contributing to increased employment in Armenia. And third, the training will enhance the abilities of trainers to work effectively with communities and involve them in computer center-based activities, thereby increasing the community focus of computer centers and securing their sustainability,” Armen Abrahamyan, CAPS Information Technology Cluster Coordinator said.

Today around 40 computer centers with a focus on rural and remote areas operate all over Armenia. The knowledge gained through these computer centers is expected to become an important tool for society and contribute to solving the increasing problem of unemployment and orientating youth for future career prospects.

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The USAID-funded Competitive Armenian Private Sector (CAPS) Project provides technical assistance to the Armenian private sector to help them better compete nationally, regionally and internationally. CAPS is currently working with the growing Armenian information technology, tourism, pharmaceutical and computer-aided engineering services clusters to identify globally competitive products and services, and to build robust companies around those products and services. CAPS technical assistance takes many forms and includes: firm level consulting, business association capacity building, policy research, public education, work force training and development of public / private initiatives.