

Develop Armenia Together (DAT) - Vanadzor Team

July 3 - August 3, 2017

DAT COMMUNITY WORK: REPORT & EVALUATION

July 9 - 20

Recap, Analysis and Planning for the Future

Each location presents its activities and projects, analyzes the impact of their work, and proposes a follow-up plan to keep in touch during the academic year, supporting ongoing projects.

Work process and management guideline: Give a name to each of your projects (for example, EduMA or EMA-Educational Material for Armenia). It is extremely important to allow people to talk about your projects. By naming them, they become a real thing.

1. Upon Completion of the DAT 2017, please follow-up:

- Provide the names of the people responsible for the coordination of each location and project.

N	Name	Category	Project name
1	Arsen Vasilyan	Education (Vanadzor Technology Center, aka` VTC)	Mathematics for CS (MIT GTL)
2	Armen Samurkashian		Orbital Mechanics (MIT GTL)
3	Ani Chilingirian		Genetics (MIT GTL)
4	Davit Aslanyan		Data Science
5	Nelli Petikyan		Free Software and Operating Systems
6	Alexander Petrosyan		Introduction to Physics
7	Narek Khachatryan		
8	Vardan Mangasaryan		
9	Hovhannes Tamoyan		
10	Vahe Gharakhanyan		Matlab for Future Scientists and Engineers

11	Hayk Tepanyan	Sport (VTC, Albert Azaryan School)	Champions Challenge
12	Sarah Halejian		Youth Sport for Development

- Provide the names of the people responsible for online follow-up.
 1. Vahe Gharakhanyan (CC) (Daily Blog, Vanadzor website).
 2. Davit Aslanyan (Daily Blog).
 3. Hovhannes Tamoyan (LC).
- Provide the names of the people responsible for regular communication with the Luys team (local kids, teachers or others).

N	Name	Position	Contact
1	Patvakan Kakhinyan	Business Development Manager, VTC	093 384 548
2	Samvel	Driver	093 437 787
3	Lusine	Meal at Technology Center	094 400 760
4	Gayane	Administrator, Laguna Hotel	093 877 222

- Describe in detail the local requirements and people’s needs, as well as the constraints of the field.

Vanadzor is a decently large city that has covered people’s basic needs. However, we discovered through interviews and research that the main unfulfilled need is lack of opportunities both educationally and professionally. That is why our work in Vanadzor was so successful; it not only fulfilled people’s need for cutting-edge education but also showed them avenues for expanding on what was done and obtaining those opportunities that are lacking in Vanadzor.
- Describe the proposed possible solutions with regard to the above-described constraints, including your support and distance guidance, frequency of communications, means of communications, etc.

As mentioned above our projects were so successful because people here needed what we offered them. Vanadzor is definitely a great place to concentrate Armenia’s education and sport.

- Foresee backup solutions if the above fails to satisfy your requirements for success.
 - I am sure that any project related to this areas will work quite smoothly in Vanadzor.
- Describe what you consider a successful follow-up until your next visit.
 - Keeping in touch with all the people we were connected to during this program.

2. How to Explore a Field, Identify the Emerging Needs and Set Up Projects

- Describe the method you used in your team
 - Our team used a multi-pronged approach. First of all, we did some initial research on history, culture and development of Vanadzor. Second, we talked with experts, such as the head of Vanadzor Technology Center. Third, we interviewed the general population. Even though we did talk with older population, are primary focus was on children, teenagers, and young adults.
 - Facebook was a great tool for us to get in touch with people. Additionally, we used flyers. And finally, the deep connection that we formed with people wouldn't be possible without directly coming up and talking to them.
- Describe the difficulties you experienced in forming your own group, as well as carrying out fieldwork.

We did not have any difficulties forming our group. Maybe we were not well aware about the projects that were run in other locations than VTC.

Please describe the implementation of your projects in terms of:

- Manpower (human input and resources);
 - Manpower resources were abundant and we used it a lot.
- Logistics (timeline, organization of work, delivery time, and so forth);
 - We had a daily timeline and it worked quite well.
- Financial needs and management (administration, control, and monitoring).
 - Hayk was the one who needed financial support for his project and he managed to do that by collaborating with Luys staff.

3. Dissemination of Information and Future Deployment

- Describe the communication tools you used to let people know about your work and invite collaborations.
 - We advertised our courses through social media and VTC center. We ran several sport events as well so as to make kids aware about Sarah's and Hayk's projects.

1. YOUR COMMUNITY PROFILE

Give a short description of your Community in all aspect - geographic, demography, size, social, economics, mentalities etc.

Vanadzor is the capital of Lori region and is located in the northern part of Armenia. The weather up there is pretty chill, which we liked a lot. The nature is wonderful with a lot of mountains around. Population is around 85,000 people. Vanadzor is considered the third largest city of Armenia (~ 10 sq mi). The most active part of the city is the city center, which is basically one long street that divides Vanadzor into two halves of same size. Economics is not different from that of other cities of Armenia (like Gyumri, Hrazdan). They really need some investors so as to start running their chemical industry up there. People here are nice and the mentality is like all around Armenia: you can find any kind of a person here and that is good. All in all, Vanadzor was an interesting place to be for all of us.

2. TEAMWORK

A) Challenges during the community work: point out 10 main challenges you experienced personally and as a team during the community work.

1. Student Recruitment: We had students from other regions who wished to participate in the program that we could not accommodate. At the same time, local schools were not initially aware of the courses that we were offering.
2. It was hard to track each other's projects as we were working at two different locations.
3. It was hard to get in touch with school principals.
4. Lack of information about local schools.
5. Lack of high enthusiasm to help us with our projects among several officials.
6. General discipline: Being in the right place on time
7. We could have created connections among courses but we had little time to get to know other courses.
8. The overall daily schedule was not properly managed.
9. Communicating with the local driver: Setting up the exact pick-up time.
10. We could have collaborated better with the nearest communities.

B) Best qualities of your team and teammates (don't mention a name): point out 10 best qualities of your team and teammates that is important for teamwork.

Hard working, dedicated, full of enthusiasm, motivated, helpful, friendly, cooperative, determined, impactful, funny.

C) Improving your teamwork: what kind of improvements would you suggest for your team and teammates?

- Meeting up before actually moving to the community.

D) Evaluation of each teammate: make a list of your teammates (full name and position) and attach an evaluation number from **1 to 7** in the order of the most active, supportive, creative etc., whose name will be at the top of the list. e.g. Cecile Adamyan (Luys student) – 7

Arsen Vasilyan (Luys student) - 7
Armen Samurkashian (Luys student) - 7
Ani Chilingirian (MIT student) - 7
Davit Aslanyan (Luys mentee) - 7
Nelli Petikyan (Luys student) - 7
Alexander Petrosyan (Luys student) - 7
Narek Khachatryan (Luys intern) - 7
Vardan Mangasaryan (Luys intern) - 7
Hovhannes Tamoyan (Luys intern) - 7
Vahe Gharakhanyan (Luys student) - 7
Hayk Tepanyan (Luys student) - 7
Sarah Halejian (Luys student) - 7

3. ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

B) PROJECTS: how many projects did you run? Give a detailed description for each project:

Project #1

1. MIT Global Teaching Lab at Vanadzor Technology Center
(Arsen Vasilyan - Math for CS,
Armen Samurkashian - Orbital Mechanics,
Ani Chilingirian - Genetics)
2. Goal of the project and targeted group:
The Goal of GTL is to provide students with advanced technical education that goes beyond their classroom education. When applicable, GTL courses also have the objective of introducing new teaching methods that will be more effective in accomplishing the course objectives.
3. Description of the project:
This year, GTL Armenia consisted of three courses at the Vanadzor technology center. The courses were orbital mechanics, genetics, and mathematics for computer science. The courses were taught by Armen Samurkashian, Ani Chilingirian, and Arsen Vasilyan, respectively. Instruction lasted for 8 days.
4. Outcomes of the project:
Students were introduced to new topics that have relevant and impactful real-world applications. All students who took the various courses now have the understanding and familiarity with the subjects to further pursue them if they wish.
5. What improvements would you suggest?

Recruiting more students should be a top priority. We had the capacity to easily handle 2-3 times more students on our part. More time would also be nice. 10 days of instruction was acceptable but we lost a lot when it was curtailed to 8.

6. Follow up strategies and established contacts:

We are all in touch with our previous students. Their feedback is invaluable for future instruction. Ideally, we will be able to repeat GTL next year. A list of contacts is available in the appropriate section.

7. Yes.

Project #2

1. Additional Summer Courses at Vanadzor Technology Center

(Vahe Gharakhanyan - Matlab for future scientists and engineers,
Alexander Petrosyan - Free Software and Operating Systems,
Nelli Petikyan - Data Science,
Narek Khachatryan, Vardan Mangasaryan, Hovhannes Tamoyan - Introduction to Physics)

2. Goal of the project and targeted group:

These additional courses aimed to advance students education and to provide additional background on contemporary branches of science and engineering.

3. Description of the project:

Four courses were offered at the Vanadzor technology center. Instructions lasted for 8 days.

4. Outcomes of the project:

Students were introduced to new topics that have relevant and impactful real-world applications.

5. What improvements would you suggest?

Recruiting more students should be a top priority.

6. Follow up strategies and established contacts:

Keep in touch with our students. A list of contacts is available in the appropriate section.

7. Yes.

Project #3

1. Champions Challenge

2. Goal of the project and targeted group:

The goal of this project is to help the kids in the villages to spend their spare time on morally and physically enriching experiences.

3. Description of the project:

Being raised in a small town in Armenia, I could see how the lack of opportunities can lead to ignorance and countless empty hours spent in the streets for the majority of kids. While opening various sport and arts schools and/or building complex infrastructures is a long-term task and much larger in scale than any small group of creative thinkers, there are steps we can take now to tackle this issue in a fun and efficient way. The idea is to build an environment of competition and respect that will shape strong communities while giving kids morally and physically enriching experiences. To achieve this, we go to the village where we want to start the "Champion's Challenge" movement and install a small, cheap set of gear to setup sport challenges. Each challenge is a simple act that may require weeks of effort to get something done. For example one challenge is "hit the goal bars with a soccer ball from 100 feet". Whoever does it, and catches it on camera, gets a prize from us (like boots or a soccer ball, to encourage even more involvement). The next goal is to get these challenges go viral, so that kids over whole country start working to pass the challenges. While they think they are just competing to pass a challenge, in reality each one of them learns a bunch of useful skills, becomes more disciplined and goal-oriented, and together they form a great community of like-minded and motivated young people. Afterwards we can move beyond, and have virtual challenges online that have more educational and less physical/sports components.

4. Outcomes of the project:

We were able to install the first champions challenge in Lori Stadium. WE also ran a website where you can find more information about the challenge and what my project is about in general.

<http://championschallenge.life/>

5. What improvements would you suggest?

I would suggest incorporating more people into this project so as it can go more viral.

6. Follow up strategies and established contacts:

Establish a non-profit organization, get funding and go viral. Established contacts with local engineers, football coaches and a lot of other people.

7. Yes.

Project #4

1. Youth Sport for Development

2. Goal of the project and targeted group:

The goal of this sport for development project was to increase physical activity and the level of excitement surrounding sport in Vanadzor (primarily with females). Another goal was to increase usage of the outdoor Vanadzor Technology Center Sport Complex. The targeted group

was youth in Vanadzor, mainly females seeing as they appear to have less of a desire to participate in sport in comparison to males.

3. Description of the project:

The Youth Sport for Development Project consisted of youth basketball clinics and training sessions at the VTC Sport Complex and the Albert Azaryan School. There was a session each day consisting of basketball skill work and drills focusing on the development of life skills such as teamwork, communication, and perseverance.

4. Outcomes of the project:

Sport participation increased (and will hopefully remain more consistent) over the course of the ten days. Local youth were able to develop their basketball skills and increase their physical health through exercise.

5. What improvements would you suggest?

I would suggest incorporating an educational component to the program with a primary focus on health and nutrition. Off the court, youth could be instructed about how to eat properly and the importance of healthy eating. It could be effective to also organize a summer basketball tournament during DAT in corporation with the clinics.

6. Follow up strategies and established contacts:

Establishing contact with coaches throughout the year and hopefully having a scholar work with these youth next summer. Also, these clinics can somehow coincide or combine with Champions Challenge in future years. Contact at Albert Azaryan School: Arthur Khazhakyan, Contact at VTC Sports Complex: Nelson Mamulyan

7. Yes.

4. SUGGESTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

What improvements would you suggest for the Develop Armenia Together program?

- Making sure that team members already got acquainted with the community before actually moving there.

5. GUIDELINES AND ADVICE

Make a guideline for the teams for the DAT 2018.

- Contact Vanadzor Technology Center as soon as you arrive to Vanadzor.
- Be sure to advertise your project in local schools so as more youth can be included in your programs.

6. ESTABLISHED CONTACTS IN THE COMMUNITIES

Fill in the contacts (in Armenian or English) established during the community work:

Full name	Organization	Position	Mobile	Email	Notes
Patvakan Kakhinyan	Vanadzor Technology Center	Business Development Manager	093 384 548	p.kahkinyan@eif.am	
Nelson Mamulyan	VTC	Training Coordinator	091771695	n.mamulyan@eif.am	
Arthur Khazhakyan	Albert Azaryan School	Basketball Coach			waiting on contact info

7. PHOTO & VIDEO DATABASE

Choose the best photos and video materials of your community work, and put them in the Luys hard drive.

Photos: [Link](#).

Video coverages: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#).