FACT FINDING FOR THE 3rd CYCLE OF THE YEREVAN STATE ACADEMY OF FINE-ARTS (YSAFA)
BASED ON THE SWOT ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO THE SALZBURG PRINCIPLES

Salzburg Principles	Plan of Action	Deadline
Originality of research	1. Articulate criteria to measure originality and applicability of an artistic research based on the general criteria of the Supreme Committee of Qualification (SCQ). Note that the research requirements in humanities must be different from those of exact sciences. In the field of artistic research, originality should imply at least one of these criteria: - New topic - New analysis - New methodological approach - Unknown or unpublished facts and documents - Unknown or unpublished art works	31 December 2014
	2. Create mechanisms for publication of best theses within two years of their defense. a) jury's choice b) external expertise c) c. funding (sponsorship)	January 2016
Institutional strategies and policies	1. Create a research center within the YSAFA structure which will improve the research environment and foster research culture. The center will work in close connection with the YSAFA Art library which must refit and be modernized.	From 31.08.2014 to 31.07.2015
	2. Change the curriculum of the PhD program.	June 2015
	3. Create a guideline for PhD theses preparation and defense	
	4. Collect data on the operations of different PhD programs at various European art institutions.	September 2015
	5. Develop criteria to make a distinction in the study of art and art history in PhD curricula and in theses topics.	June 2015
	6. Make annual strategic plan for the research Center of YSAFA	December of each year
Diversity	Introduce joint doctoral programs with European Art institutions.	2015-2016
Doctoral candidates as early stage researchers	Suggest to the SCQ to: 1. Change the current mandatory teaching responsibilities of PhD student to optional. 2. Reduce the mandatory number of publications from 3 to 1. 3. Increase the number of pages of the theses to up to 200 pages from the current 120-150.	December 2014

The crucial role of supervision and assessment	1. Add the following components to the existing SCQ criteria for PhD supervisors: a. The supervisor has to present an individual strategy for each of his/her advisee. b. The supervisor has to provide an annual progress report on the work with each of his/her advisee. Increase the annual amount of time each advisor allocates to his/her advisee from the current 50 hours to at least 70. 2. Suggest that the SCQ introduce an evaluation system (eg. pass, pass with distinction, etc.) for successful defended theses.	June 2015
Achieving critical mass	Make English translated abstracts of successfully defended theses available online for an international audience.	
Duration of PhD studies	Suggest to the SCQ to either: 1. reduce required parallel activities (teaching responsibilities, publications etc.) of PhD students to allow them time to focus on their research. 2. exclude administrative procedures (thesis assessment and defense) from the overall duration of the PhD program completion.	
Innovative structures	1. Introduce specialized summer school programs for PhD students. 2. Organize trainings and workshops in transferable skills. 3. Promote interdisciplinary research	December 2016
Increasing mobility	1. Find research and travel grants for PhD students. 2. Introduce joint research system with other Armenian or European universities. 3. Introduce trainings in foreign languages within or parallel to the PhD programs.	September 2015
Funding	1. The creation of the research center will coordinate not only the work of graduate students but will also provide research support to scholars conducting research in related fields. 2. Other than available state funds, find alternative sources of funding such as from the tourist industry.	

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