



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/73

DECREE N 73

October 10, 2022

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF

Grigor Narekatsi University

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Grigor Narekatsi University
Official Address: 44 Azatamartikneri Str., Stepanakert, Republic of Artsal

Previous Accreditation **Not available**

decision and date:

Guided by the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on approval of Establishing Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance foundation (hereinafter referred to as ANQA)” as well as by the Regulation on the Formation of ANQA Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of Grigor Narekatsi University (hereinafter “GNU, TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on October 10, 2022.

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

Submission of application: December 24, 2019
Submission of the self-evaluation: January 13, 2022
Site visit by the expert panel: May 2-5, 2022
Submission of expert panel report: July 25, 2022

The external review of the GNU's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the ANQA's Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, "**Research and Development**", "**External Relations and Internationalization**", were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the GNU's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the three members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the GNU's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The GNU generally ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The GNU has carried out works in the direction of reforming academic programmes (Aps) and aligning them with the RA NQF's levels. All APs describe outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods. Though these methods are still not diverse and are repeated, there are sufficient grounds for further development of the AP's according to professions.

The component of optional subjects has also been included in the Aps. The proportion of practical classes has been increased.

In the conditions of the pandemic and during the post-war period, the GNU managed to maintain the continuity of education. The option of distance education was successfully applied. Database of recorded lectures was created.

Highly qualified academic and supporting staff work at the TLI. Most of the academic staff members are quite young, which is a promising factor for the TLI's future. On the other hand, it is not positive that there is actually no clear scientific potential. Taking into consideration the ongoing number of students, the GNU carries out optimization of the administrative and academic staff. Caused by the post-war situation, there was a turnover of the TLI's staff, which remains as a

primary issue on the agenda of the TLI's governance. Appropriate steps are taken to ensure the stability of the teaching staff.

The GNU has created appropriate conditions for the implementation of the academic programmes as much as possible. In its strategic plan (SP), the GNU has attached importance to the modernization of infrastructures, ensurance of effective learning environment and resources for the implementation of the APs. The GNU has a financial management policy. The annual budget has included the necessary expenses in the direction of resources. However, they have not yet been specified according to the SP's goals and the AP's implementation.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems generally support the enhancement of the credible award of qualifications.

The GNU has a mission with the specified priorities of the region. The GNU's policies and activities generally correspond to the TLI's adopted mission.

The GNU has created the necessary documentation base to ensure result-based management with clear mechanisms for accountability.

An attempt is made to ensure collegial management, but there are dangers of sole management. The rector leads not only the rectorate, the academic council, but also the general meeting of participants, which is the GNU's highest governing body and has the right to final settlement of any issue of the TLI's governance and activity.

The administration's principle is based on quality management, which was contributed by the quality assurance center established in 2018. The TLI has quality assurance policies and processes that are included in the strategic plan.

The GNU has a scope of core processes and internal quality assurance tools, but most of them are still in the stages of planning or implementation.

3. Internationalization and research activities have development trends and support the credible award of qualifications.

The GNU implements clear mechanisms for student recruitment, selection and admission. As a result, the number of students has increased. The TLI established an Alumni, Career and Internship centre, which actively operates. Though the research component is included in the APs, the research and analytical skills are weakly developed among students.

In its SP, the GNU has attached importance to the development of modern research directions, the increase of teachers' and students' involvement in them, the internationalization of research works. However, the GNU's ambitions in research direction have a high benchmark. The GNU's potential — human and financial resources — is not taken into account.

The research component in bachelor's and master's APs is a mechanism that ensures the GNU's interrelation of research activities and educational process. However, the research, implementation and analytical component in graduation papers, individual works and master's theses is weak. The Student Scientific Society's activity and involvement in scientific research process is important. However, it does not fully operate as well.

The TLI does not have clear policies, procedures, necessary resources, as well as vision to achieve the ambitions set in the SP's research field. There are no mid-term plans. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the existing processes is not carried out. There is no internationalization policy in the direction of research field.

The TLI has problems in the direction of internationalization and development of external relations, as their benchmark is also set high. The Republic of Artsakh's status, the lack of a clear policy and procedures are obstacles for the development of mobility, active international relations, as well as scientific and educational activities.

The GNU has formed an external relations division, which has a charter and defined functions. However, in the absence of mid-term and short-term plans, clear procedures, study of international practice, as well as human resources, the external relations division will not be able to provide expected results. Nonetheless, the GNU cooperates with various HEIs and institutions of Artsakh.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is generally realistic and its implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements. However, the dependence on objective and subjective factors is quite high.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Grigor Narekatsi University for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months, taking into account the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of **“Research and Development”, “External Relations and Internationalization”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the need to develop a risk management plan with clear scenarios and solutions for risk management in different situations;
 - b) the need to have clearly measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators;
 - c) the decision-making and preparation of reports based on evaluations, clear quantitative and qualitative data;
 - d) the development of interaction between different divisions to increase the effective governance;
 - e) the enhancement of the Aps’s curriculum, review of the credit distribution policy, increase in the proportion of practical classes;
 - f) the introduction of a policy for the selection of teaching, learning and assessment methods, ensuring the correlation of these methods with the Aps’ outcomes;
 - g) organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills;
 - h) the implementation of PDCA cycle in all the processes;
 - i) the strengthening of the link between learning and research;
 - j) the increase in the impact of the quality assurance system on the TLI’s governance.
4. To organize an internal audit of the GNU’s Aps with the involvement of external experts.

5. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the GNU's activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the ArSU in accordance with the KPIs.
7. The decision enters into force from the moment of registration in the State Accreditation Register.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

October 31, 2022

Yerevan