



National Center For Professional  
Education Quality Assurance  
Foundation

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

**ANQA-2023/82**

**DECREE N 82**

April 14, 2023

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF  
ARARAT REGIONAL STATE COLLEGE  
General Information about the Institution**

Full name of the Institution: Ararat Regional State College SNCO  
Official Address: 156 Atarbekyan Str., Artashat, Ararat province, RA

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 the Ararat Regional State College (hereinafter referred to as “ARSC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on April 14, 2023.

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

Submission of application: February 28, 2022  
Submission of the self-evaluation: June 24, 2022  
Site visit by the expert panel: October 17-20, 2022  
Submission of expert panel report: January 11, 2023

The external review of the ARSC's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the 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, 2 of them — “**Research and Development**” and “**External Relations and Internationalization**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the TLI's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, remarks and suggestions on the preliminary version of the expert panel report, 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 TLI's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

*1. The ARSC generally ensures the credible award of qualifications.*

As a regional college, the ARSC implements customized academic programmes (Aps), which helps to meet the labour market's needs within the region. The Aps correspond to the TLI's mission, the NQF descriptors and are compiled in accordance with the state academic standards. The Aps have descriptions that specify goals and include detailed presentations of teaching methods. Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and enhancement of the Aps' effectiveness are implemented. The ARSC has assessment policies and procedures in place. The TLI's efforts are aimed at the formation and development of students' practical skills, but the number of internships is low.

The ARSC has teaching and supporting staff with the necessary professional qualities. For the ensurance of the teaching staff's stability, clear steps are taken to attract and promote young staff. An attempt is made to create a staff reserve in line with the TLI's needs. Teaching portfolios have been introduced. Teachers' evaluation and incentive mechanisms are in place.

The ARSC's resource base corresponds to the educational goals and ensures the implementation of the educational process. A learning environment has been formed. The TLI is provided with the necessary financial resources. Students and teaching staff are satisfied with the usefulness and

accessibility of the learning resources. The TLI ensures the security of students and teachers. However, it is necessary to create appropriate conditions for those with special needs.

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

The ARSC's activities are in accordance with its mission and goals and are aligned with the NQF. The TLI's goals and objectives fully reflect the stakeholders' needs. The TLI has consultative bodies necessary for governance, which is represented by stakeholders. However, students' active participation in terms of decision-making within governing bodies remains weak.

The governance processes are supported by necessary documents. The ARSC has short-term and long-term planning, which arise from its strategic plans. The TLI's mechanisms for data collection and evaluation of activities' effectiveness are in place. The TLI is accountable to its stakeholders.

The internal quality assurance system has been in operation since 2020. Documents regulating quality assurance processes have been developed. Surveys, class observations, participation in examinations and other activities are carried out. Various monitoring tools for the identification of key issues are used. Quality assurance processes aimed at education quality assurance are continuous. The TLI has made significant progress in the implementation and dissemination of quality culture.

The governance system attaches importance to quality assurance and considers it as a primary strategic goal.

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

Research interests and priorities are not defined in the ARSC's mission and strategic plan (SP). In 2020, a Policy on Research Performance was approved, which describes the TLI's goals in the research field, the formats of individual works, master's thesis and graduation papers. However, the region's research needs are not identified and analysed. Research priorities are not aligned with these needs.

The link between research and learning is weak. The Aps include almost no works with research component. There are works that involve some research elements. For the assessment of the graduation paper, an attempt has been made to form KPIs. However, assignments, individual works, course papers do not develop research and analytical skills among students.

The KPIs in research field are not comprehensive.

The ARSC is accountable to the state, internal stakeholders and society for the education it provides and the resources it uses. The TLI has platforms to inform about its activities. Accountability tools are in place. There are also feedback mechanisms that involve the participation of students, teachers, alumni and quality assurance manager. For transferring knowledge to society, short-term, as well as additional programmes are implemented.

The ARSC's SP has not set as a goal the development of external relations and internationalization. There are not any policies promoting external relations and internationalization. The platform for external cooperation with other TLIs is not active. The analysis and evaluation of the opportunities for partnership cooperation are not conducted. The TLI's possibilities, existing problems and the ways for their solution are not highlighted and studied. The TLI does not fully use the potential of external cooperation to address its problems and improve the educational processes.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The follow-up plan actually involves the main recommendations provided by the expert panel. The follow-up plan is realistic and in case of implementation, will lead to qualitative enhancements.

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

#### **DECIDED**

- 1. To award institutional accreditation to the Ararat Regional State College SNCO 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 solutions to the problems existing in the fields of “**Research and Development**”, “**External relations and Internationalization**”.

3. To pay special attention to:
  - a) the improvement of the mechanisms for the identification of the stakeholders’ needs;
  - b) the active participation of stakeholders in the TLI’s governance processes;
  - c) the improvement of mechanisms that promote the involvement of external stakeholders in the Aps’ enhancement;
  - d) the increase in the number of internships and introduction of mechanisms that ensure their effectiveness;
  - e) the development and implementation of benchmarking policies and procedures;
  - f) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills;
  - g) the use of clear mechanisms for the evaluation of the teaching staff’s effectiveness and professional progress;
  - h) the connection between research and educational processes, formation of practical skills.
4. 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 TLI’s activity, innovations and achievements.
5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the activities of the TLI in accordance with the KPIs.

**Chair of the Accreditation Committee:**

**A. Saghyan**

**April 28, 2023**

**Yerevan**