



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/67

DECREE N 67

July 21, 2022

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
YEREVAN STATE COLLEGE OF LIGHT INDUSTRY**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Yerevan State College of Light Industry SNPO

Official Address: 2 Glinka Str., Yerevan, 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 Accreditation Criteria for the 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 “ANQA”) as well as by ANQA’s Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter the “Committee”) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Northern University SNCO (hereinafter “YSCLI,” “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on July21, 2022.

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

Submission of application: February 11, 2021

Submission of the self-evaluation: September 20, 2021

Site visit by the expert panel: November 22-25, 2021

Submission of the preliminary expert panel report: December 30, 2021

The external review of the YSCLI's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by 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, 4 of them — **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Research and Development”**, **“External Relations and Internationalization”**, **“Internal Quality Assurance”** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the YSCLI'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 YSCLI's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. There are some problems in terms of the credible award of qualifications. However, there are trends and examples of development.

YSCLI's activities in the field of education. The policies aimed at it generally correspond to the YSCLI's adopted mission and align with the NQF level 5. The TLI implements some academic programmes (APs) related to light industry.

The APs are based on the state academic standards and have their own modules corresponding to them. Generally, the modules' content fully complies with the state academic standards.

The expected outcomes are largely consistent with the choice of teaching, learning and assessment methods. There are examples of the APs' enhancement. In some APs, the labour market requirements have been taken into account and modern modules in line with employers' demands have been included.

There is good practice in the assignments' development and the use of modern teaching methods that help students achieve practical skills and relevant outcomes in the direction of some professions. However, this does not apply to all APs.

To achieve its goals, the YSCLI has a stable teaching, administrative and supporting staffs. The TLI carries out processes towards the attraction of young staff and their promotion.

Appropriate regulations and procedures have been developed and approved for the ensurance of the teaching staff's activities. Though the YSCLI has not developed a policy for the teaching staff's selection, 13 teachers have been recruited over the recent three years. The YSCLI organizes open classes, class observations. There are analyzes of class observations. Though the teaching staff participates in the NCVETD's trainings, there is no internal initiative in this matter.

The YSCLI provides the necessary and sufficient conditions for the implementation of the APs, makes efforts in the direction of improvement and renewal of resources. Generally, a safe environment has been formed for the organization of the educational process.

Though these classrooms and laboratories have the necessary and sufficient furnishings, there is still a need for machinery and materials in accordance with modern requirements. Another problem is the fact that the lack of clear mechanisms for evaluating the availability and effectiveness of the resource base does not make visible the resources subject to improvement.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems are at the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and the governance is aimed at quality enhancement and the credible award of qualifications.

Generally, the YSCLI's activities correspond to its mission, which is in line with the RA NQF.

Goals and objectives generally reflect the stakeholders' needs.

As a long-term planning, strategic plan (SP) 2019-2024 has been developed and operates. The strategic plan is almost completely the same as the SP 2017-2022. These two SPs are identical, as well as have the same strategic core issues and descriptions of actions necessary for their solution. The SP's change is not based on the evaluation and analysis of the activity's effectiveness. That was conditioned by the election of a new director.

Though relevant regulations and procedures have been developed and are in place to regulate the YSCLI's governance processes, most of them have been approved upon necessity, with the same date and protocol.

There is a problem with the YSCLI's effectiveness of the governance system, particularly strategic management and planning are incomplete, monitoring mechanisms for long-term and short-term plannings are not effective, management decision-making is not based on reliable data. Generally, there is a lack of mechanisms on data collection, analysis and subsequent use for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the APs and other processes. With its long-term, short-term planings and their reports, which are mostly descriptive and do not include quantitative and qualitative analyses, the YSCLI is unable to evaluate the effectiveness of its educational activity.

The YSCLI tries to introduce a quality assurance system, as well as set a policy. The TLI has created a Quality Assurance Center. However, YSCLI's internal quality assurance system is still at the stage of introduction. So the policy, regulation, functions are not clearly defined, the vision for quality assurance lacks. The Center still has no influence on the TLI's processes does not contribute to the continuous enhancement of all the processes and the formation of quality culture.

3. Internationalization and research/creative activities do not sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications.

The YSCLI has set a high benchmark in the research field, which does not correspond to its peculiarities. Thus, the strategy is not realistic, the resources are not enough to carry out research activities. The link between research activities and learning is weak as well. Generally the teaching staff does not carry out research activities. There are no mechanisms encouraging research activities.

The YSCLI has a number of memoranda and contracts with various organizations, the main activity of which is limited to the conduct of student internships. Contracts have also been signed with Armenian HEIs, which is aimed at the creation of opportunities for high achieving graduates to continue their studies in the second year of the HEI.

The cooperation with partners and employers is also limited to the organization of internships. There are no systematic processes to encourage external relations. The level of foreign language proficiency is low and there are not any processes contributing to its increase.

The TLI has mechanisms for the introduction of students' recruitment, selection and admission. The number of applicants and students has increased in recent years. Students receive the necessary

recommendations and have the opportunity for additional classes. The TLI has the Student Council that protects students' rights i.e. However, the mechanisms for the identification of the students' needs do not work sufficiently effective yet. The students receive some recommendations from the Career Center as well.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Meanwhile, grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The TLI with its follow-up plan, taking into account the recommendations mentioned in the expert panel report, has committed to reform most of the fields of its activity for the solution to the identified core problems. However, not all recommendations are included in the follow-up plan and there are recommendations that have not been correctly understood by the TLI.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award conditional institutional accreditation to Yerevan State College of Light Industry SNPO for 2 /two/ 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 **“Governance and Administration”, “Research and Development”, “External Relations and Internationalization”, “Internal Quality Assurance”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the need to have a joint policy and procedures for the APs' monitoring, making the alumni and employer partners participants in the processes;
 - b) the need to have clear and measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators for evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented processes;
 - c) the decision-making based on previously collected and analyzed data;
 - d) the organization of regular professional trainings for evaluating the teaching staff based on the need identification;

- e) the replenishment of professional classrooms and laboratories with modern machineries and materials;
 - f) the link between education and research;
 - g) the connection of research and educational processes, the acquisition of practical skills;
 - h) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills;
 - i) the development of external relations, as well as design and conduct of a joint strategy with employers;
 - j) the formation and continuous development of the quality culture, the implementation of the PDCA cycle in all the processes of the TLI.
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 effectiveness of the activities of the TLI in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

August 19, 2022

Yerevan