



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2022/66

DECREE N 66

June 14, 2022

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
VAYOTS DZOR REGIONAL STATE COLLEGE**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Vayots Dzor Regional State College SNPO
Official Address: 3 Spandaryan Str., Yeghegnadzor, Vayots Dzor
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 Vayots Dzor Regional State College (hereinafter referred to as “VDRSC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on June 14, 2022.

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

Submission of application: February 10, 2021
Submission of the self-evaluation: June 8, 2021

Site visit by the expert panel: October 18-21, 2021
Submission of expert panel report: December 30, 2021
Submission of the follow-up plan February 15, 2022

The external review of the VDRSC'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, 3 of them — “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Academic Programmes**”, “**Faculty and Staff**”, “**Research and Development**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the VDRSC'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 VDRSC'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.

Being the only secondary vocational education institution in the region, the VDRSC has a great responsibility to provide the region's employers with staff, as well as to quickly respond to the demands of the labour market. Meanwhile, stakeholders consider it to be a body ensuring continuous education in the HEIs.

The VDRSC attaches importance to the outcomes of academic programmes (APs) and tries to demonstrate an outcome-based approach to the APs' development, both at the programme and module levels as well as separate course levels. A comprehensive study on the labour market and employers' requirements for the APs' modernization and localization has not been carried out. The expectations of external stakeholders are not clarified. The basis for the changes were general

perceptions of the people involved in the process and the opinions expressed in informal meetings with some stakeholders.

The introduction of methods for the ensurance of practical and analytical skills have not been fully carried out yet. However, the VDRSC has developed a policy for the selection of knowledge assessment, teaching and learning methods in line with outcomes, as well as a detailed description of these methods.

Many interactive teaching methods are used that were enriched during online teaching. Some are quite up-to-date and contribute to the creation of a student-centered environment.

However, clear mechanisms for the evaluation on the effectiveness of teaching methods' selection have not been introduced.

During the selection of the teaching staff, the VDRSC is guided by the main requirements set in the state academic standards. Steps are taken in the direction of the teaching staff's enhancement, exchange of practice and dissemination of best practice.

The VDRSC also attaches importance to the evaluation of the APs' implementation and has introduced some mechanisms that are not yet fully operational. An attempt is made to involve employers in the processes of the APs' development, implementation and enhancement. Sufficient mechanisms for the ensurance of the academic staff's stability have not yet been introduced.

There is an educational environment necessary for the APs' implementation. The classroom of an interactive learning also contributes to a more effective organization of the study process and the improvement of the educational process. Based on contractual relationships with employers, the VDRSC is able to partially use the employers' resource potential, which makes it possible to fill gaps in the TLI's resource base.

The existing APs, the academic staff and the material-technical base enable the preparation of qualified specialists.

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.

The VDRSC's goals and mission are in line with the RA NQF. Attaching importance to the strategic management and the quality assurance system, the VDRSC has created several mechanisms for quality assurance and governance that enable continuous enhancement of the governance system and ensurance of effectiveness. However, planning of the processes and development still does not arise from a clear evaluation of opportunities, resources and risks. There is a gap between planning and implementation. The monitoring mechanisms of the strategic plan (SP) are not clear.

The functional frameworks of the administrative subdivisions are defined according to the relevant documents. All this allows to ensure a regulated process.

The VDRSC attaches importance to quality assurance processes and has introduced some mechanisms for needs identification among various stakeholders. To a certain extent, it has been possible to ensure the involvement of teachers and administrative staff in quality assurance processes.

The quality assurance team has also been able to have an impact on the improvement of accountability mechanisms, but the impact of survey results on the processes is not yet visible.

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

The VDRSC has valued the research field and has identified goals. The research directions are not specific and there is no long-term and short-term research planning. The mechanisms for the connection between learning and research activities are weak.

The VDRSC has a bottom-up accountability system and provides accountability to stakeholders. The TLI works towards the transfer of values and knowledge to society.

The VDRSC's works are noticeable in the direction of establishing external relations and ensuring the development of resources through that.

The VDRSC is also able to get involved in international programmes, which also contributes to its development. There are precedents for the study of international practice, as well as the introduction of new APs. The testing of dual academic programmes, study visits to different

countries, the study and investment of effective and justified teaching practice allow to continuously improve the preparation quality of the staff.

The VDRSC has mechanisms for students' admission and recruitment. The students have the opportunity to speak about their educational needs. There is a strong relation between students and supervisor. The VDRSC strives to provide career enhancing services to students.

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 follow-up plan essentially includes main recommendations provided by the experts. The follow-up plan is quite comprehensive and realistic. In case of implementation that will lead to qualitative positive changes.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award conditional institutional accreditation to Vayots Dzor Regional State College SNPO for 2 /two/ years.**
 - a) 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”, “Academic Programmes”, “Faculty and Staff”, “Research and Development”**
2. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the use of clear mechanisms for the ensurance of the professional progress and stability of the teaching staff;
 - b) the data collection, analysis of results and their use in the decision-making process;
 - c) the implementation of PDCA cycle in all the processes;
 - d) the development of external relations and the design and implementation of a joint strategy with employers;
 - e) the APs' compliance with the needs of the region and the labor market;

- f) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills.
3. 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 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the VDRSC's activity, innovations and achievements.
 4. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the VDRSC in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

June 14, 2022

Yerevan