



ANQA-2022/71

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

DECREE № 29

September 15, 2022 No. 71:

On Accreditation of Institutional Capacities of "EREBUNI" Medical Academy Foundation Secondary Vocational Educational Degree

General information about the institution

Full name of the institution **"Erebuni"** Medical Academy Foundation

Official address: 133 Titogradyan str., Erebuni, Yerevan, RA

Previous accreditation decree and date: Not available

Guided by the regulation on “State Accreditation of the RA Institutions and their Educational Programmes” approved by the RA Government on 30 June, 2011 N 978-Ն decree; by RA Government decree N 959-Ն (30 June, 2011) on “Approval of the RA Standards for the Accreditation of Professional Education”; by the Procedure on the Formation and Functioning of Accreditation Committee of “National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance” foundation (ANQA) as well as by ANQA Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel, on 15 September, 2022 the Accreditation Committee of “National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance” foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of "Erebuni" **Medical Academy Foundation secondary vocational educational degree** (hereinafter referred to as the EMA, Academy).

The main stages of accreditation process were carried out as follows:

Submission of application	25 August 2021
Submission of self-evaluation report	19 May 2022
Expert panel site-visit	06 - 08 July 2022
Submission of expert panel report	30 August 2022
Submission of follow-up plan	05 September 2022

The expertise was carried out by an independent expert panel formed according to the requirements of the Regulation on “The Formation of Expert Panel at “National Center for Professional Education Quality

Assurance" Foundation. The evaluation was carried out based on the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by RA Government decree N 959-Ն as of June 30, 2011.

2 out of the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation: "**Societal Responsibility** " and "**Internal quality Assurance System** " were assessed as unsatisfactory.

Studying self-evaluation of institutional capacities of secondary vocational educational degree presented by "Erebuni" Medical Academy, remarks and recommendations of EMA on the draft report, expert panel report, the action plan for eliminating the shortcomings mentioned in the report, listening to the conclusions of the three members chosen by the President of the Committee regarding the expert assessment of the Academy, formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the representatives of the educational institution, as well as observations and suggestions of the members of the Committee, the Committee, stipulated the following .

1. EMA mainly ensures the credible award of qualifications

Academic programs (APs) operating at EMA are in line with state educational standards. Various teaching and learning methods are used, some of which are quite modern and advanced. The current APs have been revised, the number of hours allocated to practical training and internships has increased, which ensures the preparation of professionals with practical abilities and skills in accordance with the requirements of the labor market. EMA has clear policies and established procedures for student assessment and appeals.

Academy has an effective mechanism for selecting teaching staff with the necessary professional qualities to implement the APs: the teaching staff members are hired through an interview. Besides, the main teaching staff members, also practitioners of the field from different medical and other specialized institutions with extensive practical experience are invited as part-time teachers (double jobbers) to teach at the Academy. Visiting professors are also often employers. In order to acquire teaching skills, the Academy operates a "School of Beginner Teachers", where beginner teachers and practising doctors are given advice on the organization of the educational process, teaching and document administration.

For the regular evaluation of the teaching staff evaluation criteria and a rating system were developed, and the "Guide for the Incentive and Evaluation of Management and Pedagogical Staffs of the EMA" was also introduced. However, most of the teachers are not aware of the results of the ranking assessment and have not received financial incentives. The frequency of the evaluation of the teaching staff is not clearly regulated. The Academy's administrative and teaching support staff is small and there is an uneven distribution of responsibilities.

There is an educational environment necessary for the implementation of APs, and the resource base creates favorable conditions for the implementation of the mission and strategic plan.

The academic programs operating in the Academy, the teaching staff, material and technical equipment generally ensure the preparation of graduates with up-to-date, practical skills, in accordance with the requirements of NQF and employers .

2. *The management and quality assurance system is in the stage of formation, but there are tendencies for development and the management is aimed at quality improvement, reliable awarding of qualifications.*

The EMA Foundation has developed and is implementing its first strategic plan, in which the mission and issues are defined. The mission and goals of the EMA Foundation correspond to the NQF, appropriate actions are being taken for their implementation. The activities carried out by the EMA Foundation correspond to the adopted mission. The Academy, being a newly established educational institution, has not yet implemented strategic management based on key performance indicators.

EMA is well equipped with human and material resources, has a fundamental base, external stakeholders are actively involved in the management and educational process of the institution. However, the structure of the Academy needs to be improved in terms of clarifying the connections between departments and introducing new positions in the administrative structure.

Internal Quality Assurance policies and procedures have not yet been implemented in EMA, there is incompleteness of mechanisms of data collection and analysis. There is a lack of research and analysis of the effectiveness of EMA processes, as well as insufficient access to information on their quality. The quality assurance system has not yet been developed enough to be able to raise issues and contribute to the development of the institution.

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

There is a research and creative environment in the Academy to a certain extent. EMA has developed a strategy expressing its own interests and ambitions in the field of research and development, it has short-term programs, it takes steps to involve students and teachers in research works. The Academy emphasizes the discussion and incorporation of medical innovations into the educational process.

The EMA needs to improve the established order of accountability, there is a low accessibility of society to the transparency of procedures and processes.

Feedback mechanisms contributing to the formation of public relations are not specified, the directions of cooperation with the society are not clarified, therefore the chance to respond to the needs of internal and external stakeholders is reduced by the Academy. Although certain measures are implemented within the framework of the process of transferring knowledge to society, these processes are not regulated, clear mechanisms are not identified. EMA implements clear processes aimed at internationalization, has defined goals.

The Academy ensures the active participation of internal stakeholders in internationally organized online seminars, webinars and conferences. International relations are used to make the organization of teaching processes more effective. Feedback from employers provides an opportunity to transfer more practical knowledge. For the exchange of teachers' experience, implementation of internships the Academy cooperates with local Medical Centers and specialized structures, plans to sign contracts with foreign structures and realizes the need to know a foreign language.

EBA has clear mechanisms for recruitment, selection, admission of students, mechanisms and ways of highlighting students' educational needs, students have the opportunity to contact both the teaching staff and the administrative staff for advice. The Academy has a Student Council as well as a Career Guidance Center.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert report do not have a key impact from the point of view of the reliable awarding of the qualification, grounds are created for improvements.

5 . The program for the elimination of shortcomings essentially involves the main recommendations given by the expert panel. The program is realistic and in case of implementation it will lead to qualitative improvements.

Based on the above mentioned, as a result of open voting the Accreditation Committee

DECIDED

1. To award **"Erebuni" Medical Academy Foundation an Institutional Accreditation with a 4 /four/ year period.**
2. Within two months after the publication of the Decree on Awarding Institutional Accreditation to submit a program on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the Expert Panel report and corresponding time schedule to ANQA taking into account giving a priority solution to the problems available in the fields of **"Societal Responsibility "** and **" Internal Quality Assurance System "**.
3. **Pay special attention to:**
 - the necessity of having clear and measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators to evaluate the efficiency of the implemented processes,
 - data collection, analysis of results and their application in the decision-making process,
 - creation of information based on the employment of graduates,
 - diversification and implementation of preferable and elective courses,
 - raising alternative financial means,
 - introduction of research component in all APs and the promotion of research,
 - creation of quality culture and its continuous development, the use of the PDCA cycle in all processes of the Academy,
 - internationalization and development of external relations,
 - organization of education aimed at the development of analytical, creative and critical skills of students.
4. According to the requirements of clause 12 of the Regulation on “State Accreditation of RA Institutions and their Educational Programmes” every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to ANQA on the results of the carried-out activities evaluating the improvements, innovations and achievements of EMA.
5. To assign ANQA to monitor the effectiveness of EMA activities based on the KPIs.

President of the Accreditation Committee

A. Saghyan

September 23, 2022, Yerevan