NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/137

DECISION No. 137

July 11, 2025

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF GYUMRI STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Gyumri State Technical College (SNPO)
Official Address:	29 Tigran Metsi St., Gyumri, Shirak region, RA
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	**Not available**

Guided by the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes approved by the RA Government Decree No. 978-N as of June 30, 2011, the RA Government Decree No. 959-N as of June 30, 2011 on the Approval of 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's Expert Panel, ANQA's Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Gyumri State Technical College (hereinafter referred to as "GSTC", "TLI") in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on March 20, 2025.

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

Submission of application:	February 2, 2024
Submission of the revised self-evaluation:	August 8, 2024
Site visit by the expert panel:	December 9-11, 2024
Submission of the expert panel report:	April 29, 2025

The external review of the GSTC's institutional capacities was carried out by the following expert panel:

- **Armen Harutyunyan,** vice-rector for development of the Yerevan State Theatre and Film Institute, chair of the expert panel.
- **Anna Hayrapetyan,** teacher and head of the chair at the Kotayk Regional State College.
- **Elina Shamkhalova,** coordinator of Accreditation Processes at the Eurasia International University.
- **Albert Tadevosyan,** second-year student at the Department of Finances of the Armenian State University of Economics.

The evaluation was conducted according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree No. 959-N as of June 30, 2011. Evaluation against accreditation criteria:

Evaluation	Conclusion
1. Mission and Purpose	Satisfactory
2. Governance and Administration	Satisfactory
3. Academic Programmes	Satisfactory
4. Students	Satisfactory
5. Faculty and Staff	Satisfactory
6. Research and Development	Unsatisfactory
7. Infrastructure and Resources	Satisfactory
8. Societal Responsibility	Unsatisfactory
9. External Relations and Internationalization	Satisfactory
10. Internal Quality Assurance System	Unsatisfactory

Having examined the institution's self-evaluation of institutional capacities and comments on the preliminary version of the expert panel report, the expert panel report, the preliminary follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the two 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 institution's representatives; as well the comments

and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The institution ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The GSTC's academic programmes (APs), the teaching staff and material-technical resources generally ensure the credible award of qualifications. The APs have been developed with the employer engagement and aligned with labour market requirements, particularly in terms of practical skills development. The teaching staff consists of experienced and young teachers, including employer teachers. It is recommended that the GSTC revise its narrowly focused areas of specialisation and explore opportunities to introduce APs in fields related to the transport sector. To this end, it is advisable to conduct a benchmarking with international VET institutions that have successfully addressed similar challenges of diversification, thereby contributing to the modernisation of the institution's education provision and its alignment with the evolving needs of the labour market.

2. *Strategic management and the quality assurance system are still in the development stage. There are enhancement areas to ensure results-based governance.*

The GTSC's current governance system largely reactive, responding to individual situations without a long-term strategic direction or an established culture of data-driven decision-making. It is necessary to transition from situational management to a strategic, innovative and data-driven governance model based on well-defined strategic objectives and relevant measurable, results-based KPIs. This model should be supported by reliable and timely collected data, clearly defined monitoring and analysis mechanisms and transparent and evidence-based decision-making.

Meanwhile, the institution should develop a business plan grounded in an in-depth analysis of the sector and labour market. The plan should clearly define priorities for the AP modernisation, identify priority areas for the introduction of new fields of specialisation and outline concrete mechanisms for the efficient utilisation of human, material-technical and financial resources.

3. *Internationalisation and research/creative activities do not yet contribute to the credible award of qualifications.*

It is recommended that the institution develop and implement a well-defined research strategy that specifies:

- specific thematic priorities aligned with the institution's professions and regional needs;
- roles and forms of engagement of responsible persons for teachers and students;
- clear procedures for funding, presentation and evaluation of research outcomes.

The research component should include project-based, educational research and creative activities, ensuring their direct link to the educational process.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to revise the institution's external relations and internationalisation policy through the establishment of a systematic and strategic approach. It is recommended to:

- establish a clearly defined process for the engagement of partners (goal, format, responsible persons and expected outcomes);
- introduce practical mechanisms for the collection of stakeholder feedback, including regular surveys and joint discussions with employers and graduates;
- develop a plan for participation in international programmes, with clear description of specific objectives and activities (international mobility, joint programmes, exchange visits, benchmarking and other relevant activities).

The follow-up plan should give urgent solution to the identified issues, ensuring relevant mechanisms for the prevention and management of potential risks.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Gyumri State Technical College for 4 /four/ years with conditions, subject to an external review after 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. The plan should be approved by the institution's Governing Council and consider the need to give urgent solution to the issues identified in Points ***1, 2*** and ***3,*** ensuring relevant mechanisms for the prevention and management of potential risks.
3. Organise a self-audit of all APs prior to the next accreditation.
4. In accordance with the requirements set by Clause 12.1 of the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes, 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. The evaluation results should be discussed at the institution's Governing Council.
5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee: **V. Gabrielyan**

July 11, 2025

Yerevan