



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/122

DECISION No. 122

March 20, 2025

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF SHIRAK REGIONAL STATE COLLEGE

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Shirak Regional State College (SNCO)
Official Address: 30 Antaran St., 4 district, Gyumri, Shirak region, RA

Previous Accreditation **Conditional institutional accreditation for a period of**
decision and date: **two years, Decision No. 49 of June 2, 2021**

Guided by the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of June 30, 2011, the RA Government Decree N 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 Shirak Regional State College (hereinafter referred to as “SRSC”, “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 1, 2024
Submission of self-evaluation: April 26, 2024
Site visit by the expert panel: June 19-21, 2024

Submission of the expert panel report: September 4, 2024

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan October 4, 2024

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

- **Gagik Ktryan**, teacher at the European University of Armenia, Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, chair of the expert panel.
- **Olya Avetisyan**, teacher at the Yerevan State College of Light Industry.
- **Marina Potikyan**, teacher at the Yerevan State College of Informatics and the Crisis Management State Academy of the RA Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- **Artak Khachatryan**, student at the Ararat Regional State College.

The evaluation was conducted according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011. Evaluation according to accreditation criteria:

Evaluation	Conclusion
1. Mission and Purpose	Satisfactory
2. Governance and Administration	Unsatisfactory
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	Satisfactory
9. External Relations and Internationalization	Satisfactory
10. Internal Quality Assurance System	Satisfactory

Having examined the institution's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the 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 SRSC's academic programmes (APs), the teaching staff and the material- technical resources generally ensure the credible award of qualifications, supporting the development of practical skills in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and employer requirements.

The SRSC's Employers' Council supports the AP enhancement, particularly through its contribution to the development of practical competences and the organisation of student internships.

Meanwhile, the external review identified a number of issues that require a targeted strategy, including the introduction of a self-audit mechanism for APs across all professions. Particular emphasis should be placed on AP planning to ensure the alignment of learning outcomes with teaching and assessment methods. There is also a need to strengthen teachers' capacities to enable them, during programme review, to effectively implement outcomes-based teaching, with a focus on practical and research components.

2. Strategic management and the QA system are in the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and the governance is aimed at quality enhancement and credible award of qualifications.

The SRSC attaches importance to the governance stability and the role of the internal quality assurance system. However, systematic enhancement measures are needed to increase governance effectiveness and make data-informed decisions. The governance system does not yet reflect the application of contemporary governance models, and decisions are often made without sufficient analytical evidence. It is therefore advisable to review governance processes on the basis of data analysis, ensuring transparency, accountability and regular evaluation. The SRSC is recommended to introduce a KPI-based monitoring system to foster a results-oriented culture. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between governance and QA structures, clearly defining the operational independence of the QA system and its role in strategic decision-making.

3. Internationalisation and research activities have development trends.

The SRSC takes steps to promote research and internationalisation. However, to ensure a more systematic and effective development of research activities, it is necessary to clarify the institutional mechanisms for research activities and introduce tools for the evaluation of the students' independence in research. In addition, relevant support policy should be developed and favourable conditions created to strengthen the teachers' research potential. Positive developments in internationalisation are visible, especially through participation in international programmes and initiatives to improve foreign language proficiency. However, institutional mechanisms need to be developed and implemented to establish KPIs for internationalisation. In this regard, it would also be beneficial to recruit additional staff with foreign language proficiency and the capacity to develop grant proposals.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Shirak Regional State College 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. The plan should be approved by the institution's Governing Council and consider the need to give urgent solution to the existing problems.
3. The follow-up plan should include urgent solution of the issues identified in Points **1, 2 and 3**, ensuring relevant mechanisms for the prevention and management of potential risks.
4. Particular emphasis should be placed on the credible award of qualifications across the APs, conducting a self-audit of all APs prior to the next accreditation.
5. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 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.
6. 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

March 20, 2025

Yerevan