



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/130

DECISION No. 130

May 7, 2025

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF SYUNIK REGIONAL STATE COLLEGE

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Syunik Regional State College (SNCO)
Official Address: 11a Arzumanyan St., Kapan, Syunik region, RA

Previous Accreditation **Not available**
decision and date:

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 Syunik Regional State College (hereinafter referred to as “SRSC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on May 7, 2025.

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

Submission of application: February 28, 2024
Submission of the revised self-evaluation: June 30, 2024
Site visit by the expert panel: September 29 – October 2, 2024

Submission of the expert panel report: January 14, 2025

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan March 18, 2025

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

- **Gagik Qtryan**, Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, teacher at the European University of Armenia, head of the Quality Assurance Department at the Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture and Sports, chair of the expert panel.
- **Gayane Avetisyan**, Candidate of Geographical Sciences, head of the Quality Assurance Department at the M. Nalbandyan State University of Shirak.
- **Narine Sirakanyan**, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, head of the Teacher Professional Development Department at the National Center for Education Development and Innovations.
- **Arevik Hovhannisyan**, student at 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	Unsatisfactory
8. Societal Responsibility	Satisfactory
9. External Relations and Internationalization	Satisfactory
10. Internal Quality Assurance System	Unsatisfactory

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 has enhancement areas related to the credible award of qualifications.

The SRSC's academic programmes (APs) are generally aligned with its mission. The SRSC has a relatively stable teaching staff, including teachers from the Kapan Branch of the National Polytechnic University of Armenia.

Meanwhile, the continuous modernisation of APs and their closer alignment with employer requirements call for an in-depth analysis of labour market needs with the involvement of external stakeholders. Internships should be organised in field-relevant settings, particularly at employer organisations, to strengthen students' practical preparedness. The procedures for student assessment should also be revised to incorporate clear mechanisms for the assessment of practical skills. In addition, the development of procedures for AP monitoring and benchmarking is an essential prerequisite for continuous enhancement. To promote the teachers' professional development and increase their motivation, it is necessary to develop an incentive policy and establish a reserve pool of qualified staff to mitigate the risk of staff turnover associated with low salary levels. To improve the SRSC's material-technical resources, it is advisable to evaluate the existing resources and determine the minimum resources and conditions required for the effective AP implementation.

2. Strategic management and the QA system are in the stage of formation. There are enhancement areas to ensure results-based governance.

The strategic management is currently conducted largely on a situational basis. It is advisable to ensure strategic management grounded in data-driven decision-making and develop sustainable mechanisms for data collection and analysis that can enhance the effectiveness of planning and monitoring processes. It is recommended that the strategic plan include a clear schedule of actions to ensure realistic steps for the solution of identified issues. It is also advisable to ensure the systematic stakeholder engagement in the development of strategic documents to increase their

feasibility and alignment with community needs. To foster a culture of accountability and increase transparency, it is advisable to ensure the public availability of information on decisions taken and processes implemented, making such information accessible to stakeholders. It is important for the SRSC to establish a QA system with clearly specified functions, including the introduction of mechanisms for process evaluation and documented analysis of stakeholder needs.

3. Internationalisation and research activities do not yet support the credible award of qualifications.

International cooperation initiatives are in place. However, these require more systematic coordination. Internationalisation is not defined as a strategic priority in the institutional documents. There is no clear policy for international cooperation. It is recommended that the SRSC further develop its internationalisation agenda through the definition of relevant goals in its strategic documents and the preparation of an action plan, specifying potential partners, forms of cooperation and the distribution of responsibilities. It is also advisable to facilitate foreign language teaching to support the participation of teaching staff and students in international cooperation activities.

There is no requirement for teaching staff or students to engage in research activities. Research is reflected neither in the strategic plans nor in the educational process. It is recommended that actions aimed at the development of the research component be incorporated at the strategic level, including small-scale studies involving students and the teachers' engagement in research initiatives.

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

DECIDED

- 1. To award institutional accreditation to the Syunik Regional State 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 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. Evaluation results should be discussed at the institution's Governing Council.
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

May 7, 2025

Yerevan