



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/118

DECISION No. 118

March 1, 2025

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 (SNCO)
Official Address: 3 Spandaryan St., Yeghegnadzor, Vayots Dzor, RA

Previous Accreditation **Conditional institutional accreditation for a period of**
decision and date: **two years, Decision No. 66 of June 14, 2022**

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 Vayots Dzor Regional State College (hereinafter referred to as “VDRSC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on March 1, 2025.

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

Submission of application: February 2, 2024
Submission of self-evaluation: May 7, 2024
Site visit by the expert panel: June 17-19, 2024

Submission of the expert panel report: October 18, 2024
Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan December 4, 2024

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

- **Armen Harutyunyan**, vice rector for development at the Yerevan State Theatre and Film Institute, chair of the expert panel.
- **Yasaman Avagyan**, the chief specialist at the Quality Assurance Division of the Armenian State University of Economics.
- **Sudarik Petrosyan**, head of the Craft Chair of the Yerevan Regional State College №1.
- **Angelina Tonoyan**, student at the Department of Tourism of the Kotayk 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	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	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 ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The VDRSC's academic programmes (APs) are designed in accordance with the state academic standards. The institution implements dual APs, ensuring the link between theoretical and practical components. Elective courses are also incorporated into the APs. The APs are subject to regular monitoring and enhancement. However, benchmarking against comparable programmes offered by similar education institutions remains necessary.

The teaching staff includes teachers with relevant qualifications and teaching experience, as well as employers. The employer engagement supports the development of students' professional skills. Teaching staff's recruitment is conducted through a competitive selection process. Young specialists are also represented among the staff. However, diversification of teaching methods and evaluation of the effectiveness of staff training activities are needed.

The VDRSC is equipped with relevant infrastructure and material-technical resources. During internships, students have access to the resources of partner organisations, while employers have the opportunity to identify and select potential future employees.

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

The VDRSC is governed through a team-based approach, with a focus on the preparation of regional specialists. The VDRSC's management staff attaches importance to the QA system and supports the development of human resources.

Meanwhile, the governance remains largely situational. There is no sustainable system for data collection and analysis. The strategic plans do not fully guide the activities of the governance structures. The quality culture is still under development, while the involvement of students and external stakeholders remains limited. The evaluation mechanisms do not ensure effective analysis.

To support the institution's sustainable development and continuous enhancement, it is necessary to strengthen strategic management and ensure the full implementation of the QA system.

3. Internationalisation and research activities have development trends and support the credible award of qualifications.

The VDRSC cooperates with regional employers to provide internship opportunities and facilitate the exchange of practice. It also promotes practice-sharing through local and international partners. However, the internationalisation process is not systematically planned. The institution does not conduct benchmarking of its APs against comparable programmes offered by other education institutions.

The research component is rarely integrated into the teaching and learning process. Mechanisms for research implementation have not yet been developed.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is generally realistic and does not contain any risks. The implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Vayots Dzor 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. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the implementation of KPI-based strategic management;
 - b) the organisation of internal evaluation of all APs;

- c) the strengthening of the QA system, including the clarification of the quality assurance policy within one year, the ensurance of the institutional independence of the QA unit and the development of a quality assurance action plan;
 - d) the clear planning of internationalisation and the implementation of benchmarking;
 - e) the integration of the research component into the APS and the promotion of research activities.
4. 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.
5. To assign 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 1, 2025

Yerevan