



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/53

DECREE N 53

June 19, 2021

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF YEREVAN STATE CONSERVATORY AFTER KOMITAS

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas SNPO /YSC/
Official Address:	1/a Sayat-Nova av., Yerevan, Armenia
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	institutional accreditation for 4 years, (11.04.2015- 11.04.2019)

Guided by the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs” approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011; by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on the “Approval of RA Standards for Professional Education Accreditation”; by the procedure on the “Formation and Functioning 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 the Expert Panel of ANQA”, the ANQA Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas (hereinafter referred to as SNPO or YSC) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on June 19, 2021.

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

Submission of application:	March 5, 2019
Submission of the revised self-evaluation:	September 20, 2019
Site-visit by the expert panel:	December 9-13, 2019
Submission of expert panel report:	March 10, 2020
Submission of the follow-up plan:	February 19, 2021

The expertise of Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas SNPO was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the regulation on the

“Formation of the Expert Panel of the ANQA”. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**Infrastructure and Resources**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the YSC's self-evaluation, remarks and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the HEI which were made by the three members selected by the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the YSC's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

While carrying out the evaluation, the expert panel took into consideration that Yerevan State Conservatory is an educational, scientific and creative institution of a musical culture. YSC is the only state HEI of Armenia that provides music education at all levels of higher education.

In 2014, the YSC underwent an institutional accreditation process, and taking into account the recommendations provided within the process, developed a follow-up plan. The progress of the Conservatory after the previous accreditation process was also evaluated.

1. The YSC mainly provides the credible award of qualifications.

The Conservatory's academic programmes and teaching staff provide preparation of graduates with modern, practical skills, in accordance with the requirements of the NQF and employers. However, there are no mechanisms in place to monitor, evaluate, and improve the effectiveness of the academic programmes. There is no policy for teaching and choosing teaching methods in accordance with the learning results.

At the same time, the available material and financial resources are not sufficient to ensure the stability of the Conservatory's educational processes in the near future.

2. The governance and quality assurance systems mainly support the improvement of the awarded qualifications' credibility.

In the strategic plan 2019-2024, taking into account the recommendations given during the previous accreditation, the Conservatory's mission was clarified. Also, the mission of the Gyumri branch of the Yerevan State Conservatory was defined.

The strategic goals of the YSC and the published mission generally reflect the needs of internal and external stakeholders. However, in the strategic plan 2019-2024 the action plan for the implementation of its goals and objectives lacks the time-schedule; the responsables and key

performance indicators (KPI) are not defined which makes it difficult to organize the implementation of the strategic plan.

The lack of mid-term and short-term planning indicates that the Conservatory's management is not guided by the approved strategic plan, and the reports are not based on it. The data collection mechanisms are not coordinated, and do not contribute to the strategic management.

Quality assurance is not considered an integral part of the Conservatory's governance system. The quality assurance policy for all directions of the YSC's activity is not formulated; the internal quality assurance procedures and toolset are not set. All this puts the Conservatory's purposefulness, efficiency and continuous improvement at risk.

The quality assurance system is not yet engaged in the identification of target issue. It is mainly engaged in supporting the functions of other subdivisions.

3. Internationalization and research /creative activities have trends for development.

Both research aspirations and interests are defined in the strategic plan, but the Conservatory does not have any separate strategic plan for the development of research activities. There is no institutional mid-term and short-term research planning, policy for the conduct of research. Internationalization of research activities is not highlighted. Generally, there are no mechanisms for the link between research activities and the educational process.

The research and creative activities carried out at the Conservatory are the result of the individual initiative of the teachers and are not coordinated institutionally.

Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of research work are not used.

The Conservatory is a member of the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC). YSC has numerous international contracts with various HEIs of music, culture and art located in the former USSR and European countries, as well as the USA. The Conservatory cooperates with all local music educational institutions (colleges, schools, etc.), as well as scientific, public, charity and other organizations.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have a key impact in terms of credible award of qualifications, and grounds for improvement have been laid.

5. The YSC's follow-up plan is mainly realistic. The identified issues were mainly perceived correctly and the improvements will lead to changes.

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

DECIDED

1. To award institutional accreditation to Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas SNPO for 4 /four/ years.
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the revised follow-up plan and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months taking into account:
 - a) the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**Infrastructure and Resources**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**”.
 - b) the improvement, interconnection and introduction of the governance and internal quality assurance systems as a priority;
 - c) the necessity to clarify the planned time-schedule for the implementation of processes and evaluation, responsables, necessary resources as well as key performance indicators (KPI).
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the distribution of powers, and clear division of labour between the governing bodies;
 - b) the introduction of PDCA cycle of quality management in YSC;
 - c) the raising of financial resources to improve the learning environment;
 - d) the optimization and rejuvenation of the number of the academic and supporting staff;
 - e) the reinforcement of the link between learning and research;
 - f) recommendations provided by the international experts.
4. To organize internal audit of the academic programmes with the involvement of external experts.
5. In accordance with the requirements set by the Clause 12 of the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs”, every 2 year to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of improvement of the Conservatory’s activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of efficiency of the YSC's activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

June 19, 2021

Yerevan