

National Center For Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation

ANQA's Approaches to Institutional Accreditation of VET Institutions and Expected Outcomes

ANQA's Approaches to Institutional Accreditation

Recognising that the primary mission of VET institutions is to meet the needs of the local labour market, thereby contributing to balanced socio-economic development across the regions of the Republic of Armenia, ANQA encourages VET institutions to conduct analyses in the following areas to support the development of specialists required by their respective regions:

- the alignment of VET institutions' professions with the economic potential, sectoral priorities and socio-economic development needs and prospects of the respective region;
- a comparative analysis of competing institutions in cases where the number of employers is insufficient to provide employment opportunities for VET graduates;
- the alignment of a significant proportion of academic programmes (APs) with the institutions' sectoral focus, including a clear distinction between the profiles of the awarded qualifications.
- the involvement of regional employers in VET institutions' strategic management, with a focus on:
  - the extent to which the institution's strategy is aligned with the needs of specific employers;
  - the stages of employer engagement;
  - the extent of joint decision-making;
  - the forms, frequency and effectiveness of cooperation with employers.
- the alignment of institutions' educational resources with current modern labour market requirements, with an emphasis on:
  - the extent to which the institutions' resources enable students to develop the practical competences in line with employer requirements;
  - whether the employer resources are utilised for this purpose;
  - the effectiveness of cooperation with organisations providing internship opportunities in this regard.
- the autonomy required for the dynamic development of VET institutions;
- the stakeholders' perceptions of VET institutions from a career planning perspective, particularly whether they are viewed as stepping stones to HEIs or as institutions that prepare fully qualified specialists ready to enter the labour market.

Expected Key Outcomes of Institutional Accreditation

Institutional accreditation as a tool for effective strategic management and performance-based funding of VET institutions.

✓ ANQA's approach to the institutional accreditation of VET institutions will primarily focus on the development of mechanisms that foster alignment between the professions offered and the economic potential and needs of their respective regions. This will involve the establishment of foundations for joint strategic management with sectoral employers, the effectiveness of which will be evaluated through the institutions' internal quality assurance (IQA) systems.

Thus, upon the completion of the first cycle of institutional accreditation of VET institutions, national level analyses will be available on the alignment between the professions offered and the economic potential and needs of respective regions. Furthermore, accredited institutions will assume

responsibility for the solution of the identified issues through their follow-up plans.

The first cycle of institutional accreditation may provide data on VET institutions' professions:

- for which there are no relevant employers in the respective region;
- that are not aligned with national priorities;
- for which potential labour market demand has not been evaluated through well-defined mechanisms;
- whose graduates demonstrate high unemployment rates.

In light of such data, the relevant authorised body may review its funding policy for these professions, thereby promoting more efficient use of public funds, while VET institutions will be guided towards the implementation of optimal strategies.

- **Institutional accreditation as a tool for the revision of policies on sectoral development.**

✓ By the end of the first cycle of institutional accreditation, VET institutions that have undergone institutional accreditation will have developed follow-up plans, aimed at:

1. the effective employment planning for human capital equipped with the skills required for the country's economic development;
2. the transformation of VET institutions' strategic management model;
3. the establishment of more effective mechanisms for cooperation with the labour market;
4. the adoption of more effective work-based learning approaches.

The analysis of the above-mentioned data may contribute to the revision of VET development policies.

- **Institutional accreditation as a tool for strengthening the transparency, accountability, visibility and autonomy of VET institutions, as well as increasing the recognition of the awarded qualifications.**

<u>ANQA's Priorities for Institutional Accreditation</u>

✓ To encourage VET institutions to respond to local labour market needs through the implementation of joint strategic management with employers.
✓ To align the VET institutions' APs with the needs and economic potential of their respective regions.
✓ To promote the collaborative use of sectoral employers' resources for the effective AP implementation, thus helping institutions overcome resource constraints and foster the development of students' practical skills.
✓ To encourage VET institutions to engage employers in joint workforce planning and preparation, thereby helping enterprises meet their short-term workforce needs and address future challenges;
✓ To foster greater involvement of employer teachers.
✓ To promote the systematic collection and analysis of data to support evidence-based decision-making.