



National Center For Professional  
Education Quality Assurance  
Foundation

## ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/55

DECREE N 55

24 July 2021

### ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

#### General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	"European University" Foundation /EU/
Official Address:	10 Davit Anhaght St., Yerevan 0037, Republic of Armer
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	conditional institutional accreditation, 2 years (12.04.2018-12.04.2020)

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 the “European University” Foundation (hereinafter referred to as EU, University) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on 24 July 2021.

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

Submission of application:	2 September 2019
Submission of revised self-evaluation:	31 January 2020
Site-visit by the expert panel:	2-7 November 2020
Submission of expert panel report:	24 February 2021
Submission of action plan on the elimination of shortcomings:	2 April 2021

The expertise of the “European University” Foundation 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**” and “**Societal Responsibility**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the EU's self-evaluation, remarks and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report, the HEI's reference letter on the works carried out, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation 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 University's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

In 2018, the EU was awarded conditional institutional accreditation for a period of 2 years. Taking into account the advice received under the processes, EU developed an action plan for improvement. The University has made enhancement-led changes in a number of fields.

**1. *The University mainly ensures the credible award of qualifications.***

Academic programmes are mainly based on the EU mission. After the previous accreditation, the University has carried out tangible work in the development of academic programmes. The programmes have been reorganized and redesigned in accordance with local and international quality assurance criteria and requirements, and their mechanism for quality assurance has been improved.

All academic programmes are compiled through outcome-based principle. Teaching and learning methods, practical component, quality assurance toolset for academic programmes have been clarified and improved. The HEI has an evaluation policy. Benchmarking of the academic programmes is carried out, regular monitoring and improvement works are periodically conducted. The University provided the branches with an opportunity to redefine the outcomes, taking into account the requirements and priorities of the region.

The HEI has experienced teaching staff, most of whom are candidates of sciences. The selection of the teaching and supporting staff is carried out according to the approved policy and procedures. General requirements for the professional qualities of the teaching staff are defined; headquarters are provided according to academic programmes, their sustainability. There are certain policy and procedures for regular evaluation of the teaching staff. However, there is no clear policy for ensuring professional development. There aren't any clear training programmes for the lecturers.

The resource base allows to ensure the credible award of qualifications.

## ***2. Governance and quality assurance systems mainly support the improvement of credibility of qualifications awarding***

Since the previous accreditation, some positive changes have been noticed in the field of the EU governance and administration. Basically, the institutional-normative basis has been completed. Structural-organizational transformations have been made, academic subdivisions have been optimized. However, governance and administration are not yet carried out by governance mechanisms and principles, decision-making is not based on data collection and analysis; the factors influencing the activity of the University are not identified and evaluated; the reporting system is not developed as well. The Board of Trustees does not clearly define the directions of the University's development, does not support the University to acquire appropriate financial and material-technical resources.

The governance system highlights the importance of quality improvement and is directed towards it. A number of reforms have been made to promote the quality assurance system. There is a corresponding subdivision, the EU has provided material and financial resources. The documents regulating the field, the quality assurance policy and manual have been developed. The internal stakeholders are involved to some extent in the quality assurance processes; and the EU has adopted the implementation of the PDCA cycle of quality management. However, the cooperation between the quality assurance department and the governance system is not clear yet.

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

After the previous accreditation, the institution carries out consistent activities in the direction of internationalization and development of foreign relations. The University attaches importance to the internationalization of education through the activities of external relations and internationalization infrastructure. The EU has developed certain mechanisms for the development of internationalization of education. It has cooperation with local and international partners and ensures the knowledge of a foreign language of internal stakeholders.

However, the work carried out towards internationalization of the research process is still insufficient. The University does not have a clear research policy; the research directions of the University are not revealed; and there is no long-term, medium-term and short-term planning. The link between learning and research process is weak.

The governance system of the EU has started to attach importance to the existing problems in this direction. The work envisaged within the framework of the improvement plan will allow the University to make progress, and especially the experienced staff will contribute to it.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have significant impact in terms of credible award of qualifications. Respective bases for improvement have been established.

5. The major part of expected the EU's action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report is realistic. The recommendations of the expert panel have generally been correctly perceived by the EU, and their implementation will contribute to the progress of the University.

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

### DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the “European University” Foundation for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the revised action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months taking into account the need to give urgent solutions to the problems existing in the fields of **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Research and Development”** and **“Societal Responsibility”** .
3. To pay special attention to:
  - the clarification of the measurability of key performance indicators for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the HEI's processes;
  - the improvement of result-based management;
  - active participation of external and internal stakeholders in defining and implementation of SP goals as well as quality assurance processes;
  - the improvement of mechanisms for data collection and analysis, emphasizing the component of qualitative analysis;
  - the decision-making based on data analysis;
  - the identification of research priorities and formation of strategy;
  - the reinforcement of the link between learning and research;
  - the introduction of quality assurance system in branches;
  - the introduction of mechanisms for revelation and dissemination of the HEI's best practice.
4. To organize internal audit of academic programmes provided by the EU by ensuring 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 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of improvement of the University's activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the European University's activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

24 July 2021

Yerevan