



National Center For Professional  
Education Quality Assurance  
Foundation

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

**ANQA-2023/94**

**DECREE N 94**

December 26, 2023

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF  
ARTIK STATE COLLEGE**

**General Information about the Institution**

Full name of the Institution: Artik State College SNPO  
Official Address: 33 Tonakanyan St., Artik, Shirak province, RA  
Previous Accreditation **Not available**  
decision and date:

Guided by the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs 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 Artik State College SNPO (hereinafter referred to as “ASC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on December 26, 2023.

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

Submission of application: January 13, 2023  
Submission of the self-evaluation: April 13, 2023  
Site visit by the expert panel: May 22–25, 2023  
Submission of the expert panel report: August 3, 2023

The external review of the ASC's institutional capacities 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. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, "**Governance and Administration**", "**Academic Programmes**", "**Research and Development**" and "**Internal Quality Assurance**" were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the ASC'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 three 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 ASC's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

***1. The ASC generally ensures the credible award of qualifications.***

The ASC implements eight secondary vocational academic programmes (APs). The AP directions are shaped by the needs of the region (Artik city and nearby villages).

The Aps are based on state academic standards. The TLI has revised its curricula within the permitted limits to localise the state academic standards. Labour market and other sector representatives are not generally engaged in the APs' development and review processes. The implemented enhancements are not supported by objective data. Sometimes the link between learning outcomes, teaching and assessment methods does not contribute to the achievement of the defined outcomes. The student assignments do not develop analytical or creative thinking.

The ASC has a qualified teaching staff with relevant qualifications for the AP implementation. The TLI has mechanisms for the rejuvenation of the teaching staff. In recent years, industry professionals have been employed either on an hourly basis or as adjuncts.

The selection of teaching staff is carried out through a competitive process. The ASC conducts trainings for the enhancement of the teaching staff's skills. The TLI carries out mentoring activities to support novice teachers.

The ASC has a relevant infrastructure for the AP implementation. In recent years, the TLI has carried out activities for the upgrading and replenishment of resources. The TLI has relevant facilities, professionally equipped classrooms, laboratories and furnishings that meet the minimum requirements. The ASC generally ensures safe environment with certain adaptations for those with special needs.

## ***2. Governance and quality assurance systems generally support the enhancement of the credible award of qualifications.***

The ASC is of great educational, social and strategic significance in the region. The implemented Aps address the regional needs. The TLI has a mission supported by stakeholders.

The strategic development plan defines the ASC's core principles and values, key issues and development goals. The TLI has prepared a schedule for the achievement of the development plan's goals, outlining the necessary steps. However, the timelines are not clearly defined, and the KPIs for evaluating the outcomes are not set.

The long- and short-term plannings are not connected.

The ASC's decision-making processes are not regulated. The decision-making is not informed by analysed data. The teachers and students have limited participation in the decision-making process. There are inconsistencies between the documents and the implemented processes.

In 2021, the ASC introduced internal quality assurance processes. In February 2023, the TLI developed the Policy on Internal Quality Assurance, outlining the goals and objectives of the system, incorporating the PDCA cycle as the basis of all processes, and etc. The ASC's processes are still in the stages of planning and implementation. The evaluation tools often lack. The PDCA cycle is not fully operational. The mechanisms for quality assurance do not contribute to the enhancement of governance and administration processes.

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

The ASC has a regulated student recruitment process. The number of admissions has increased. The supervisors have been appointed for the identification of student needs. The TLI offers career

support services to students. The percentage of alumni employed in their profession has been significantly increased. The ASC has a Student Council that helps shape the student environment.

Although the ASC conducts some research activities, research is not a priority for the institution. There is no clear policy for research activities. The students' works lack analytical component and independence. The teaching staff generally does not conduct research activities.

It is positive that some student assignments involve analytical component. However, they lack an institutional basis. The link between research activities and learning is weak. There are no clear mechanisms to foster research activities.

The ASC has a well-established accountability system. The TLI has started developing and launching an official website. The TLI's activities are also covered on social media platforms. There are certain mechanisms and responsible persons for providing feedback.

The ASC has active cooperation with regional employers, contributing to the introduction of a work-based learning (WBL) academic programme and the organisation of student internships. In recent years, interactions with NGOs have increased, resulting in the enhancement of resources and learning environment, as well as the organisation of short-term programmes.

The ASC is eager to participate in international programmes. However, tangible results are not yet visible.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is realistic and its 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 Artik State College SNPO 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, taking into account the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Academic Programmes”**, **“Research and Development”** and **“Internal Quality Assurance”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
  - a) the introduction of feasible mechanisms for evaluating the development plan;
  - b) the ensurance of a link between research and educational processes, the incorporation of research-oriented assignments and activities into the Aps;
  - c) the organisation of a teaching process aimed at the development of students’ analytical, creative and critical thinking skills;
  - d) the need to enrich the library with professional, modern and digitized literature;
  - e) the need to introduce additional classes, considering the identified needs;
  - f) the organisation of professional trainings for teachers;
  - g) the introduction of mechanisms for transferring knowledge to society;
  - h) the continuous development of quality culture;
  - i) the implementation of the PDCA cycle in all processes.
4. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to 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 effectiveness of the TLI’s activities in accordance with the KPIs.

**Chair of the Accreditation Committee:**

**A. Saghyan**

**December 26, 2023**

**Yerevan**