



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/39

DECREE N 39

15 April 2021

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT STATE ACADEMY OF THE MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	"Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia" state non-profit organization /CMSA of RA MES/
Official Address:	1 Ajaryan, Yerevan, 0040, Republic of Armenia
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	2 years (20.10.2017-20.10.2019)

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 the Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as CMSA of RA MES or the Academy) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on 15 January 2021.

Having examined the Academy's self-evaluation, comments and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, the CMSA's action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the Academy 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 CMSA's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

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

Submission of application: 13 December 2018
Submission of revised self-evaluation of the Academy: 28 October 2019
Site-visit by the expert panel: 9-12 December 2019
Submission of expert panel report: 5 March 2020
Submission of action plan on the elimination of shortcomings: 11 May 2020

The CMSA's expertise 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.

While carrying out the evaluation, the expert panel took into consideration that the CMSA is a state higher education institution the main mission of which is to implement educational, scientific, methodical, expertise, publishing and learning activities in the field of civil defense and protection of population in emergency situations. The expert panel also took into consideration that the CMSA is a structural unit of the RA MES and it does not have full freedom in decision making in a number of aspects.

In the previous accreditation processes (in 2017), the Academy formed a time-schedule of the action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the previous accreditation expert panel report, and in 2017-2019 the Academy had a progress in almost all fields of its activity.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, two of them – **"Research and Development"** and **"Internal Quality Assurance System"** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

1. Currently the academic programs are mainly in compliance with the mission of the Academy and they are described in details according to the awarded qualifications and measurable outcomes defined by the components of knowledge, skills and competences. Some subjects having research direction have also been integrated, in particular, the "Methodology of Science" has been integrated, the hours allocated to internship and the practical activities under emergency regime have been added. The Academy has taken steps to ensure respective selection of teaching and learning methods in accordance with anticipated learning outcomes, and it realizes the importance of efficient policy of knowledge assessment. However, in terms of ensuring development of practical skills, the teaching, learning and assessment methods need to be improved.

The Academy ensures academic honesty and gives importance to the mobility of students and teachers and respectively takes measures in this direction. The CMSA practices a policy on monitoring, efficient evaluation and improvement of academic programs which allows to further ensure coordinated implementation of activities in the practical field. Besides, it fosters the involvement of both students and teachers as well employers in the mentioned processes.

As it can be concluded from the availability of material-technical base which is necessary for the efficient implementation of academic programs and which is being regularly updated, from the teaching staff with high professional qualification, their sustainability as well as from the comparatively high level of employment rates of graduates, ***the Academy mainly ensures awarding of reliable qualifications.***

2. After the first accreditation, the Academy has made improvement in the direction of governance and has clarified its key performance indicators (KPIs). However, the targeted indicators as well as KPIs having strategic significance are still missing which the Academy should keep in the center of attention.

The data collection mechanisms are still in the phase of formation; some electronic platforms of content management are being practiced (Moodle) through which the Academy has made attempts to automate the assessment system. The documentation circulation process is also automated, but the rest of the processes of management and provision of educational services are not automated yet, and they need to be upgraded.

The leadership of the Academy is led by the clearly set strategic plans, and the accountability is ensured.

The managers give importance to the quality assurance (QA) system, however, the procedures are partially practiced in the practical field, and the analyses are mostly made without statistics. The QA policy and procedures have not been revised since 2014. The Academy lacks leadership for the formation of human resources and QA culture.

The management and QA systems mainly support the improvement of reliability of qualifications awarding.

3. In general, at strategic level, some problems have been observed in the coordination of scientific-research activities, internationalization of research, development and application of promotion mechanisms and provision of respective resources. In this area the Academy had shortcomings in terms of following the recommendations provided by the expert panel in 2017. Nevertheless, in the last year the CMSA has taken some actions, in particular, the research activities have been activated, the institute of the Vice-rector for Science has been formed, a new laboratory has been established, there is a progressive tendency of changes (especially in the post-war period; the role and significance of the Academy in the development of the country have been re-appreciated).

In terms of internationalization and development of external relations, the activities have become more directed after the first accreditation. Based on the recommendations provided by the expert panel, the Division of International Relations and Cooperation has been established within the structure of the Academy. Due to the international cooperation, the material-technical resources have been enhanced. Although the scope of the CMSA's cooperation did not ensure internal and external mobility for students and teachers, the international cooperation has had some impact on the internationalization of education content and replenishment of resources.

The internationalization and research/creative activity have development tendencies and they support the awarding of reliable qualifications.

4. The current partial shortcomings do not have significant impact on the reliable qualification awarding, and respective bases for improvement have been established.
5. The major part of expected outcomes defined by the CMSA's action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report are in compliance with the improvement anticipated by the expert panel.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the “Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia” state non-profit organization for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the reviewed 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:
 - a) the urgent need to give solutions primarily to the problems existing in the fields of **"Research and Development"**, and **"Internal Quality Assurance System"**;
 - b) the requirement to ensure targeted goals and quantitative indicators for the evaluation of progress and efficiency of the Academy's ongoing processes;
 - c) the necessity to clarify the mid-term results directed to the acquisition of expected outcome;
 - d) the requirement to clarify the mid-term results directed to the acquisition of expected outcome specified in the plan, and the mechanisms for their evaluation;
 - e) the necessity to clarify the amount of financial means allocated to the ongoing processes taken by the Academy;
 - f) the international expert's peer-review results regarding the CMSA's ambitions to be integrated into the European Higher Education Area.

3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the monitoring, efficiency evaluation and improvement of academic programs and carried out processes;
 - b) the reinforcement of the link between learning and research;
 - c) the enhancement of outcome-based management system;
 - d) the establishment of an internal QA sustainable system and the creation of culture of continuous improvement.
4. To organize internal audit of academic programs provided by the Academy 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 Academy’s activity, innovations and achievements.
6. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of efficiency of the CMSA's activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

15 January 2021

Yerevan