



National Center For Professional  
Education Quality Assurance  
Foundation

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

**ANQA-2021/51**

**DECREE N 51**

June 2, 2021

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF**

**Kotayk Regional State College**

**General Information about the Institution**

Full name of the Institution: Kotayk Regional State College  
Official Address: 96 Kentron, Hrazdan, Kotayk, 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 30 June 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on Approval of the 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 “ANQA”) as well as by ANQA’s Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter the “Committee”) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of Kotayk Regional State College (hereinafter “KRSC, TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on June 2, 2021.

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

Submission of application: October 10, 2020  
Submission of the self-evaluation: October 30, 2020  
Site visit by the expert panel: November 24-27, 2020  
Submission of expert panel report: February 4, 2021  
Submission of the follow-up plan: February 16, 2021

The external review of the KRSC's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by ANQA's 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-N as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, 4 of them — **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Research and Development”**, **“External Relations and Internationalization”**, **“Internal Quality Assurance”**, were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the KRSC's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, remarks and suggestions on the preliminary version of the expert panel report, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the KRSC, 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 KRSC's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

*1. There are shortcomings in terms of the credible award of qualifications. However, there are trends and examples of development.*

The TLI's academic programmes (APs) have been made in accordance with the NQF and are generally based on the outcomes set forth in the state academic standards. When creating academic programmes or introducing new programmes, regional labour market requirements are taken into account. Benchmarking experience is limited. There is some kind of cooperation with employers, generally in the direction of organizing internships. However, the involvement of employers in the processes of the AP's development, implementation and enhancement is insufficient.

The teaching staff is replenished with both teachers having years of teaching experience and young teachers with practical experience, who generally provide the outcomes required by the APs. The main problems are in the field of mechanisms for the teaching staff's training and enhancement.

The TLI has sufficiently enriched its own resources. Meanwhile, the employers' resources are successfully used in the direction of some academic programmes. Mechanisms for identifying resource needs and planning according to strategy are still incomplete.

***2. Governance and quality assurance systems are in the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and governance is aimed at quality enhancement and the credible award of qualifications.***

The TLI has a strategic plan (SP) with goals and objectives. However, it has not yet turned into a tool for the achievement of long-term goals. The developed SP does not have a schedule plan, there is no sequence of specific steps that would lead to the solution of the specified problem. There are no certain responsible persons, period and indicators for the solution to the problem. In other words, these programmes are not included in the KRSC's activity. There is no mechanism for strategic management.

The subdivisions' work plans arise from the main functions of the regulations, but are not connected with the SP. Therefore, they do not guarantee the SP's implementation. The management staff is focused on the TLI'S day to day processes rather than on the problems and their solutions.

There are no mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy's and other processes' effectiveness.

The quality assurance system is still in the stage of formation and does not have a crucial impact on the effectiveness of the TLI's governance, the enhancement and development of effectiveness of APs and other areas. The data collected is not aimed at identifying problems and finding ways for enhancement.

The involvement of stakeholders (particularly, employers) in the processes is weakly expressed.

Governance and quality assurance systems are in the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and governance is aimed at quality enhancement and the credible awarding of qualifications.

***3. Internationalization and research/creative activities do not sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications.***

The TLI's research is generally limited to the personal initiatives of some teachers. Systematic approaches are not yet available in terms of research and development, as well as ensurance of the

link between research and learning. Initiatives in the direction of internationalization are also limited and still unsystematic. They do not have a key impact on the development of the TLI's activities. Internationalization and research/creative activities do not yet support the credible award of qualifications.

4. The shortcomings do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications.

5. Taking into consideration the recommendations in the follow-up plan, the TLI has committed to reform most of its areas of activity for the solution to the identified problems. However, not all recommendations are included in the follow-up plan and there are recommendations that were not correctly understood by the TLI.

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

#### DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Kotayk Regional State College for 2 /two/ 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 solutions to the problems in the fields of **“Governance and Administration”, “Research and Development”, “External Relations and Internationalization”, “Internal Quality Assurance”;**
  - b) the need to develop a governance system that will enable the conduct of the TLI's important strategic initiatives;
  - c) the requirement to have a clear schedule for the implementation of the SP's objectives, as well as measurable KPIs for the evaluation of the achievement of results;
  - d) the need to clarify the TLI's interests and directions in the field of research, connecting them with curricula and their reform, as well as with the demands of the labour market.
3. To pay special attention to:
  - a) the expansion of the scope of cooperation with employers;
  - b) the development of the professional and pedagogical capacities of the teaching staff;

- c) the introduction of clear systems of internal and external accountability;
- d) the use of the PDCA cycle in all the processes of the TLI;
- e) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills.

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, once every 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the 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 the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the KRSC in accordance with the KPIs.

**Chair of the Accreditation Committee:**

**A. Saghyan**

**June 2, 2021**

**Yerevan**