



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/42

DECREE N 42

15 March 2021

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF ARMENIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	"Armenian National Agrarian University" foundation
Official Address:	74 Teryan St, Yerevan, 0009 Republic of Armenia
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	institutional accreditation for 4 years (21.03.2015-21.03.2019)

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 discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of "Armenian National Agrarian University" foundation (hereinafter referred to as ANAU or the University) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on 15 March 2021.

Having examined the ANAU'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, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the University 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 ANAU'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:	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 review of Armenian National Agrarian University 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.

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 – **“Academic Programmes”**, **“Research and Development”** and **“Infrastructure and Resources”** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Taking into consideration advice on the previous evaluation, the ANAU has made enhancement-led changes in a number of fields.

1. There are fundamental problems and risks in terms of credible award of qualifications, but there are also trends for progress trends and examples.

The ANAU’s package of academic programme, its implementation including teaching, learning and assessment methodologies, are not yet fully interconnected and do not fully ensure the preparation of graduates with up-to-date, practical skills in compliance with the requirements of employers and NQF. The outcome-teaching-assessment interconnected process is still at the stage of implementation, the research component is weak, in separate cases there are repetitions of Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes.

Requirements arising from the academic programmes are not set for the teaching staff. Although there is a qualified teaching staff with rich practical experience, the staff’s ideas about outcome-based academic programmes are new. Therefore, the implementation of the programmes and the achievement of the goals are risky. Despite the rather positive trends for the development of the resource base in a short period of time, the material and technical base of the University generally is still old and the need for modernization is quite visible. The improvements in separate academic programmes and technical re-equipment can play a significant role in the training of staff in the future, only when these laboratory and scientific-production bases will be put into full use and be implemented in accordance with the needs of students in academic programs.

2. Management quality assurance systems mainly help to improve the credibility of awarding qualifications.

Management is the strong point of ANAU. It ensures the formation of the strategy and is implemented on the principles of quality management. The management of the University is aimed at satisfying the market demand. It is quite effective in terms of the implementation of internal reforms. The University leadership are also accountable to stakeholders for long-term and short-term work.

Management of quality is very prioritized at ANAU and is considered to be one of the driving forces of change – having all the necessary resources and independence to carry out its work.

3. Internationalization and research / creative activities have development tendencies to support the credible award of qualifications

The research environment of ANAU is not yet in line with the development goals, but the created environment and trends for development testify about the achievement of tangible results in this

direction in the near future. Internationalization is one of the strengths of the TLI which not only contributes to the institutional development of the TLI, but also provides significant resources (also financial) for that development. The University also ensures societal responsibility, the involvement of external and internal stakeholders. All this creates opportunities for serious development, provided that the pace of reforms does not slow down.

4. The existing shortcomings do not have a key impact on the credible award of qualifications, and there are bases for improvement.

5. The action plan on elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert report submitted by the HEI is mostly realistic and does not contain any risks. The reforms planned by the Plan will lead to qualitative changes.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the “Armenian National Agrarian 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:
 - a) the necessity to give urgent solutions to the problems existing in the fields of “Academic Programs”, **"Research and Development"**, and **"Infrastructure and Resources"**;
 - b) the necessity to clarify the measurability of key performance indicators for the evaluation of progress and efficiency of the HEI's processes;
 - c) the necessity to clarify the human and financial resources, the scheduled timeframe for the evaluation and implementation of the processes carried out by the HEI
 - d) the international expert's peer-review results regarding the University's ambitions to be integrated into the European Higher Education Area.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the improvement of all academic programmes making them in line with the mission adopted by the University;
 - b) the reinforcement of the research component of of the academic programmes, contributing to the formation of students' analytical skills;
 - c) the reinforcement of the capacities of the teaching staff for the effective implementation of the goals of newly introduced academic programmes;
 - d) sustainable ensurance of newly introduced academic programmes' resources and the adoption of a policy about the joint use of resources with employers;
 - e) the conduct of systematic analysis of the external environment;
 - f) the improvement of the result-based management and the ensurance of sustainability;
 - g) the development of the quality assurance system and dissemination of good practice.
4. To organize internal audit of academic programmes implemented by the ANAU with 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 efficiency of the ANAU's activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

15 March 2021

Yerevan