

YÖDAK
HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING, ACCREDITATION,
EVALUATION AND COORDINATION COUNCIL
NORTH CYPRUS

Prof.Dr.Olgun Çiçek
Executive Board Member

(a) a brief description of the quality assurance system in your country;

In North Cyprus, HEIs follow the Bologna Process and its practices by all means. YÖDAK's mission is to make the Higher Education in North Cyprus an integral part of the European Higher Education System. Therefore, one will receive quality higher education at International standards with relatively low tuition fees and various choices for programs. North Cyprus is an attractive place for international students with its climate, safety, accommodation, hospitality and bringing together international cultures and rendering quality services.

1. Higher Education Area in North Cyprus (NC);

- The current population of NC is 350.000 in 2019.
- HEIs constitutes 40% of the economy.
- The journey for HE started in 1979 with the first Institution. There are 20 Universities in operation in North Cyprus as of September 2019.
- Over 1500 programs at all three cycles
- The total number of students are 102.000. Only 10% of students are local. 50% comes from Turkey. The remaining 40% comes from 125 different countries.
- The medium of instruction is in English by Law. Therefore, majority of programs are thought in English. Some programs are in Turkish as per the demand (i.e. Law, Turkish Literature etc.).
- Majority of the Universities' programs are accredited by International Accreditation Bodies like ABET, ASIIN, FIBAA, IACBE, ECBE, AS, EQUALS, AACSB, ACPE, TEDQUAL, MIAK, MUDEK, YÖK, UK NARIC.
- Majority of the Universities are full members of EUA, IAU, FUIW, EURASHE, UK NARIC.
- All three cycle degrees offered in NC Universities are widely recognized and accepted all over the world to commence on further education or for employment.

2. QA System in NC;

- Each program has to be registered, approved, accredited and evaluated by YÖDAK.
- YÖDAK is responsible from both “Quality Assurance” as well as “Institutional Accreditation” and “Program Accreditation” for HEIs in North Cyprus.
- There is a specific Bylaw for the accreditation and Quality Assurance for Programs and HEIs in practice. It is compatible with ESG 2015 criteria and must be fulfilled by all the universities.
- Each program has to be evaluated internally by the Institution and externally by YÖDAK for a period of five years renewal on Quality Assurance.
- YÖDAK Executive Board (7 members) assesses the programs for licensing and accrediting based on the criteria cited as per the bylaw such as; Technical and Technological requirements, Academic infrastructure, Staff and Faculty qualifications /requirements, Curriculum etc.
- The Board prepares a detailed report for the university concerned (if institutional level) or program concerned (if program level) to identify the outcomes of the assessment and lists the actions to taken/corrected if needed.
- Accession criteria and quota for student placement through the Board decision.

(b) A brief description of the responsibilities and structure of your agency;

3. Introduction Guideline;

- YÖDAK, was established as an autonomous public agency (non-profit), with juristic personality for Quality Assurance in North Cyprus since 2005.
- It is an independent body which is responsible for developing and upholding the international standards in a large HE system in NC.
- YÖDAK is a body for academic governance.
- It is an Agency with its own Law, Legislation and pre-defined organisational structure. It is under the Presidency to ensure neutrality and an equal armslength relationship with HEIs and Government.
- YÖDAK was established to plan, organize, coordinate, audit, accredit and assure the quality among the HEIs in NC.
- YÖDAK is an Associate Member of ENQA, Full Member of CEENQA, INQAAHE and AQAIIW.

4. The Structure of YODAK;

- There are 18 permanent employees in total. 9 Administration staff, 1 Secretary General, 1 Legal Advisor(Lawyer), 1 President, 1 Vice-President and 5 Board Members

- All Board members are full time.
- 3 members of the Executive Board elected by the Rectors Conference and approved as well as appointed by the President.
- 3 members of the Executive Board elected by the Parliament and approved as well as appointed by the President.
- YÖDAK President is appointed directly by the President
- The Board meets at least once a month to discuss the agenda
- The decision is taken with majority voting (4/7)

5. Objectives of YODAK are;

- Internationalization of Higher Education
- Welfare of Society and Sustainable development via Higher Education
- Bring together international cultures and render quality services
- Intergrate higher education system with the Bologna Process

6. Functions and Scope of Activities of YÖDAK are;

- Planning
- Organizing
- Observing the new applications
- Evaluating (Auditing)
- Accrediting institutions and programs
- Coordinating institutions

7. The Role of YÖDAK are;

- Adapt and implement norms and standards to raise the quality in universities
- Evaluation process against set standards.
- Developing and upholding the international standards in a higher education system
- An official body for academic governance