

Minutes of the Meeting of the Coordination Council

Working Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting №4

Tbilisi

16.12.2024

On December 16, 2024, the first meeting of the renewed Coordination Council of the LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, (hereinafter - the Center) was held using the Zoom platform; The meeting was attended by the members of the Coordination Council and representatives of the Center (see Appendix 1).

The meeting of the Coordination Council was opened by the Acting Director of the Center, Lasha Margishvili. He congratulated the members of the Council on their election as members of the Coordination Council of the Center and noted that the Council is an important body for both the Center and the education quality assurance system, with which the Center will have active cooperation over the next four years.

In accordance with the agenda, Lasha Margishvili handed over the floor to the Acting Deputy Director - Ketevan Kobakhidze and the Center's employees and members of the Coordination Council. In addition, each member of the meeting introduced themselves.

After the greetings, the members of the Coordination Council nominated Irma Grdzeldize for the position of Chairperson, and student member Tatia Uberi for the position of Secretary. After the approval of the nominated candidates, the Coordination Council unanimously supported the election of the candidates for the position of Chairperson and Secretary of the Coordination Council for a 4-year term.

In favor: 11

Opponent: 0

In accordance with the agenda, Lasha Margishvili introduced the members of the Coordination Council to the issue of joining ENQA and renewing registration in EQAR. He briefly introduced the procedures. He noted that the Center obtained the status of a full member of ENQA in 2019 and the Center was registered in EQAR in the same year. The Center was re-evaluated in 2023 and a visit by ENQA experts to the Center was carried out in October. As a result, according to the assessment of the expert group, the Center demonstrated full compliance in the assessment of 11 standards of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG -2015) and partial compliance in standards 3.3 and 2.5. One of the reasons for the assessment of partial compliance with standard 3.3 was that the director of the center, for a certain period of time, held the position of Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia. In this regard, ENQA issued a recommendation, in response to which the Director of the Center resigned in January of this year. The ENQA Agency Review Committee (ARC) found the Center to be non-compliant with Standard 3.3 when validating the expert assessment report. Following the results, the Center initiated amendments to the law in July 2024 according to which the Director of the

Center may not simultaneously hold another position in the executive branch, and the Director must be elected and dismissed with the involvement of the Coordination Council. ENQA and EQAR were informed about the aforementioned amendments. On October 10 of this year, an anonymous complaint was sent to EQAR regarding the Center, which stated that the Center's independence was not in compliance with the standards. In December of this year, the Center received a final conclusion from EQAR, which explained that standard 3.3 was not compliant, and standard 2.5 was partially-compliant.

He also noted that the Center does not agree with the assessment of standard 3.3, because the independence part includes organizational, operational and financial independence. the Center has achieved significant success in the direction of operational and financial independence; the role and functions of the Coordination Council have increased. In recent years, the Center's financial independence has increased and, in the future, it is planned that the Center will be fully financially independent. This achievement is also noted in the report of the ENQA experts.

According to Lasha Margishvili, the Center will consider an appeal and/or focused assessment request regarding the part of the EQAR decision. According to the focused assessment, the center will be assessed in standards 3.3 and 2.5, and if ENQA shares the EQAR's assessment, the agency is given a 2-year period to demonstrate progress.

Lasha Margishvili noted that the ENQA assessments and EQAR letter will be shared with the members of the Coordination Council via email immediately after the meeting.

In a question-and-answer format, the Chairperson of the Coordination Council, Irma Grdzeldze, emphasized the importance of this issue and the work done by the Center, noting that reasonable and consistent steps should be taken over the next two years to ensure that the process is both procedurally and legally sound as well as properly documented.

Natia Gabitashvili, a member of the Coordination Council, suggested that the Center develop an action plan to implement ENQA's recommendations, which would allow the Center to measure progress.

Lasha Margishvili agreed with the proposal and noted that an action plan will be created to implement the recommendations of ENQA and EQAR.

In accordance with the agenda, the Head of the Center's Planning, Research and International Relations Service, Lasha Zivzivadze, introduced the members of the Coordination Council to the main functions of the Council and the issues to be discussed at the Coordination Council, which, among other things, are defined in the Administrative Rules of the Coordination Council of the NCEQE and are approved by the order of the Director of the Center.

Lasha Zivzivadze also presented the Center's draft Action Plan for 2025 in detail to the Coordination Council. He noted that work on the Action Plan began in September of this year and all structural units of the Center and persons subordinate to the Director were involved in the process. Public discussions were held in each direction and the feedback received was reflected in the draft Action Plan as much as possible. For ten days, the draft Action Plan was posted on the Center's website and all interested parties had the opportunity to provide feedback. Lasha Zivzivadze noted that the Center's Action Plan activities are based on international obligations, the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy, ENQA recommendations, challenges and areas for improvement arising from various studies.

In the question-and-answer format, Irma Grdzeldze mentioned one of the issues presented in the presentation, the review of fees. She emphasized the importance and complexity of service fees for higher education institutions, and therefore focused on the need to discuss this issue with the institutions. The second question of the Council Chairperson concerned the institutional development and reorganization of the Center. She was interested in the stage of the reorganization process and what was planned in the direction of increasing the staff at the Center.

In response to the first comment, Lasha Zivzivadze noted that at this stage there has been no communication with higher education institutions regarding fees, however, fees will not be changed without this communication. This year, an interim assessment of the Center's strategy was carried out by international experts, and their recommendation was that service fees should be periodically reviewed. It is also important that the Center maintains financial sustainability and independence and is less dependent on the budget financial resources. In this regard, it is important to periodically review the fees for the services provided by the Center. He also noted that the increase in the Center's financial independence is in line with ESG 3.3 -One of the important components of the standard on independence. In response to the second question, Lasha Zivzivadze noted that the reorganization process has been postponed until February 2025 and the Center is waiting for the appointment of a director, who will definitely be agreed with the Coordination Council and will be appointed for a term of 5 years. In addition, he explained that the Center plans to take appropriate steps to ensure the sustainability of its personnel policy and the 2025 action plan includes the development of a long-term development concept for human resources management.

Natia Gabitashvili had technical comments on the action plan. She also suggested that the Center add a corresponding field to the action plan, where it would be written which international recommendation the activities correspond to. Natia Gabitashvili also proposed to find out about the possibilities of cooperation with the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (United States of America) and asked about the developed subject benchmark. As a recommendation, she suggested that the Center make links to existing strategies, including the Vocational Education Strategy, in the Center's action plan.

Lasha Zivzivadze explained that the action plan has a field for notes where relevant international or local recommendations and commitments are reflected, which stems from the Center's approach to adopting evidence-based decisions.

The Head of the Qualifications Development Department, Ketevan Panchulidze, spoke about the development of subject benchmarks and noted that the center developed 16 subject benchmarks in 2024 and added one regulated profession. Also, according to her, human rights education was integrated into the teacher training program.

The Chairman of the Coordination Council put the draft action plan to a vote and the members of the Council supported the presented draft.

In favor: 11

Opponent: 0

In accordance with the agenda, Ketevan Panchulidze presented the monitoring report of the Classification of Fields of Study and the National Qualifications Framework to the members of the Council. She spoke in detail about the monitoring stages and the implementation plan. According to her, the monitoring document was sent to stakeholders and their recommendations and feedback were taken into account and reflected in the report.

The Chairman of the Coordination Council put the issue to a vote and the members of the Council unanimously supported it.

In favor: 11

Opponent: 0

At the end of the meeting, Lasha Zivzivadze reminded the members of the Coordination Council that the Center will begin work on the 2026-2030 strategy next year; He stated that in accordance with the procedure for developing, monitoring and evaluating the Center's strategy and the strategy implementation action plan, a working group is established by an individual administrative-legal act of the Center Director 12 months before the expiration of the Center's current strategy, in which it is advisable to include a member of the Coordination Council. He asked the members of the Council to submit a candidacy for the working group. The participants of the meeting submitted the candidacy of the Chairperson of the Council, Irma Grdzelidze, for participation in the working group and voted for the said candidacy.

In favor: 10

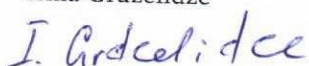
Opponent: 0

Lasha Zivzivadze briefly summarized the meeting and noted that the Center will definitely take the presented recommendations and proposals into account and consider them as much as possible. He also noted that an outreach event to strengthen the capacity of the Coordination Council is planned for the first and second quarters of 2025, about which the members of the Council will be notified in advance.

Lasha Zivzivadze once again congratulated the members of the Council on their election as members of the Coordination Council and wished them success.

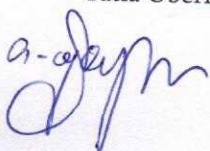
Chairperson of the Coordination Council:

Irma Grdzelidze



Secretary of the Coordination Council:

Tatia Uberi



Appendix 1:

Name, surname	Position	Coordination Council
Irma Grdzelidze	Head of the Strategic Development and International Accreditation Service at LLC Caucasus University;	Chairperson of the council
Tatia Uberi	Representative of the Association of Student Organizations of Georgia N(N)LE, PhD student at Caucasus University's School of Law;	The Secretary of the Council
Diana Freiburger	Executive Director of the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA);	Member of the Council
David Gordon	Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manchester;	Member of the Council
Natia Gabitashvili	Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations and Strategic Development of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia;	Member of the Council
Tamta Grigolia	Manager of the sub-programme of the Designing of the National Curriculum and Implementation of State Standards in Preschool and School Institutions of National Minorities of the programme on "National Curriculum and Textbook Development" of the Department of Preschool and General Education Development of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia.	Member of the Council
Levan Kereselidze	Head of the Finance Department, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business at LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;	Member of the Council
Maia Akhvlediani	Associate Professor, Faculty of Pedagogy, Akaki Tsereteli State University - LEPL;	Member of the Council
Maia Rukhadze	Chemistry teacher at Tbilisi Public School No. 221 LEPL;	Member of the Council

Sopho Londaridze	Administrative Team Leader of the Vocational Skills Agency;	Member of the Council
Liana Kolchitashvili	Director of Training Lab LLC.	Member of the Council

სსიპ - განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრის საკოორდინაციო საბჭოს ონლაინ სამუშაო შეხვედრა

Working Meeting of the Coordination Council of the LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement

შეხვედრის ბმული / Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81806799520?pwd=dlwueJtqQMhMvDLq9bdUhvaYbzOUh9.1>

Meeting ID: 818 0679 9520

Passcode: 905175

15:00-17:00 საათი, 16 დეკემბერი, 2024 წელი

15:00-17:00, December 16, 2024

დღის წესრიგი / Agenda

დრო/Time	განსახილველი საკითხი / Discussion topic	მომხსენებელი/ Presenter	პოზიცია, ორგანიზაცია / Position, Organization
15:00 - 15:25	მისალმება Introduction	ლაშა მარგიშვილი Lasha Margishvili	დირექტორის მოვალეობის შემსრულებელი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი Acting Director, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
		ქეთევან კობახიძე Ketevan Kobakhidze	დირექტორის მოადგილის მოვალეობის შემსრულებელი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი Acting Deputy Director, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
		საკოორდინაციო საბჭოს წევრები Members of the Coordination Council	

15:25 – 15:30	საკოორდინაციო საბჭოს თავმჯდომარის და მდივნის განსაზღვრა Selection of the Head and Secretary for the Coordination Council	ლაშა მარგიშვილი Lasha Margishvili	დირექტორის მოვალეობის შემსრულებელი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი Acting Director, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
15:30 – 15:45	ENQA-ში გაწევრიანებისა და EQAR-ში რეგისტრაციის განახლებაზე მსჯელობა Discussion on renewal of ENQA membership and EQAR registration	ლაშა მარგიშვილი Lasha Margishvili	დირექტორის მოვალეობის შემსრულებელი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი Acting Director, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
15:45 – 15:55	საკოორდინაციო საბჭოს ძირითადი ფუნქციების წარდგენა Introduction of the main functions of the Coordination Council	ლაშა ზივზივაძე Lasha Zivzivadze	დაგეგმვის, კვლევის და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების სამსახურის უფროსი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი Head of Planning, Research and Internatioanl Relations Department, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
15:55 – 16:25	2021-2025 წლების სტრატეგიის 2025 წლის სამოქმედო გეგმის პროექტის წარდგენა - ძირითადი აქტივობები Introduction of the 2025 Action Plan Project for 2021-2025 Strategy - Key Activities	ლაშა ზივზივაძე Lasha Zivzivadze	დაგეგმვის, კვლევის და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების სამსახურის უფროსი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი Head of Planning, Research and Internatioanl Relations Department, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
16:25 – 16:30	კითხვა-პასუხი / Questions and Answers		

16:30 – 16:45	<p>სწავლის სფეროების კლასიფიკატორის და ეროვნული კვალიფიკაციების ჩარჩოს მონიტორინგის ანგარიშის წარდგენა</p> <p>Introduction of Monitoring Report on the National Qualifications Framework and Learning Fields Classifier</p>	<p>ქეთევან ფანჭულიძე</p> <p>Ketevan Panchulidze</p>	<p>კვალიფიკაციების განვითარების სამსახურის უფროსი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი</p> <p>Head of Qualifications Development Department, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement</p>
16:45 – 16:50	კითხვა-პასუხი / Questions and Answers		
16:50 – 17:00	<p>სამუშაო შეხვედრის შეჯამება</p> <p>Wrap Up</p>	<p>ლაშა მარგიშვილი</p> <p>Lasha Margishvili</p>	<p>დირექტორის მოვალეობის შემსრულებელი, სსიპ განათლების ხარისხის განვითარების ეროვნული ცენტრი</p> <p>Acting Director, LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement</p>