

Minutes of the Meeting of the Coordination Council

Working Meeting

The Meeting Minutes N3

Tbilisi

08.10.2024

On October 8, 2024, another meeting of the Coordination Council of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (hereinafter referred to the Center) was held using the Zoom platform, which was attended by members of the Coordination Council and representatives of the Center (See: Annex 1).

The meeting of the Coordination Council was opened by the Head of Planning, Research and International Relations Department - Lasha Zivzivadze. He noted that the meeting was assembled in a short-notice due to the changes in the management of the Center.

According to Article 4, paragraph 3¹ of the order N89/n of 14 September 2010, issued by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia on the establishment of Legal Entity of Public Law - NCEQE and Approval of its Statute through Reorganization of LEPL - National Center for Education Accreditation, "In case of dismissal of the Director of the Center, in order to impose the duties of the Director, the Minister, in agreement with the Coordination Council, will propose to the Prime Minister one of the Deputy Directors of the Center". In accordance with this, the Chairperson of the Council, Rusudan Sanadze, presented Lasha Margishvili as the candidate for the position of Acting Director of the Center.

During the Q&A session, Heli Mattisen inquired why it was needed for the Coordination Council to choose the Acting Director of the Center. She also asked whether the candidate's agreement with the Coordination Council is mandatory or if the Minister of Education, Science and Youth can disagree or change the Council's decision.

Lasha Margishvili noted that according to the regulations of the Center, the NCEQE has two Deputy Directors, therefore, in case of dismissal of the Director, both candidates are submitted to the Coordination Council and the Coordination Council can make the appropriate decision. As for the second question, the decision of the Coordination Council is final in case of the Acting Director, while the appointment of the Director of the Center will be carried out by the Prime Minister of Georgia, based on the proposition of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia. The candidate for the Director's position will be selected through an open, transparent, public competition and the members of the Coordination Council participate in the selection process.

The Chairperson of the Coordination Council put the stated issue to the vote, and the members of the Council supported the candidacy of Lasha Margishvili.

Proponent: 10

Opponent: 0

After that, the Head of the Legal Department , Ketevan Kobakhidze, presented the Rules for the selection of the Coordination Council, and as a result of the feedback of the members of the Coordination Council, the rule was formed in the following edition.

Ketevan Kobakhidze, Head of the Legal Department of the Center, presented " the draft order of the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia "On making amendment to the order N89/n of 14 September 2010 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia on the establishment of LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement and Approval of its Statute through Reorganization of LEPL - National Center for Education Accreditation", which defines the procedure for the selection of the Coordination Council.

Ketevan Kobakhidze noted that the draft, along with the explanatory letter, was sent to the members of the Coordination Council a few days earlier and a written feedback was received. The draft was unanimously approved, and certain opinions and suggestions were presented by foreign experts with regards to the selection of foreign experts/specialists for the Council. In particular, they expressed their opinions regarding the last sentence of Article 5¹, paragraph 4¹, which provided for the selection of an International Expert/Specialist by the Director of the Center. According to the opinions expressed, it was recommended to indicate that the Director of the Center will select the candidate of the Expert/Specialist in close cooperation with ENQA and the other international organizations to which the Center is a member, without providing the list of these organizations, so that in case the Center joins new organizations, they too shall have the opportunity to participate in the process of candidate selection.

As a result of the received feedback, the above-mentioned part was corrected at the meeting and the final version of the draft was voted on.

Rusudan Sanadze put the draft of the selection rule of the Coordination Council to the vote.

Proponent: 10

Opponent: 0

The members also discussed the letter by the Educational Policy Researcher of Ilia State University, where the representatives of the Center noted that at the current stage, there is a defect on the portal, the error is due to the large number of documents uploaded by the Center. It should be noted that all Higher Educational Institutions were given the Minutes and decisions of the Council within the specified time frame. The Center works on eliminating the mentioned problem. However, until the error is corrected, the Center will display the information using the old method. Also, the risks and mitigation mechanisms of the possible fault elimination in the future were discussed. Tasks were given to relevant departments in this regard.

Additionally, regarding the issue of Ilia State University, the Coordination Council determined that it was not appropriate to discuss the matter in detail at this stage, as on the official website of the Center, the Minutes and decision of the Authorization Council of Higher Educational Institution are not published, which is related to the preparation and disclosure of documents in the relevant time frame. The session

also discussed the appeal procedures that the University may pursue in this case, based on the decision made by the Authorization Council.

At the end of the meeting, the members of the Coordination Council congratulated and wished success to Lasha Margishvili.

Chairperson of the Coordination Council:

Rusudan Sanadze

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rusudan Sanadze', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Secretary of the Coordination Council:

Tatia Uberi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tatia Uberi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Annex 1:

Name, surname	Position
Rusudan Sanadze	Head of Department of Education at (LEPL) - Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) at Department of Education, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences;
Cay Etzold	International expert of higher education;
Heli Mattisen	Director of Estonian Quality Agency for Education (HAKA);
Tamar Toloraia	Head of Preschool Education Division of Preschool and General Education Development Department at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;
Rusudan Rukhadze	Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of (LEPL) - Tbilisi State Medical University, Head of the Department of Histology, Cytology and Embryology, Professor;
Tatia Uberi	Representative of the Georgian Student Organizations Association, Doctoral student of the Law School of (LLC) - Caucasus University;
Irma Kurdadze	Professor of Samtskhe-Javakheti State University;
Maia Shukhoshvili	Head of Higher Education Division of the Department of Higher Education and Science Development at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;
Natia Jojua	Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the (LLC) - European University, professor;
Tea Gulua	Project Expert of United Nations Development Program Swiss Agricultural School "Caucasus".