# Law of Georgia

# on Education Quality Enhancement

# Chapter I. General Provisions

# Article1. Purpose of the law

The purpose of this Law is to define the legal basis for the mechanisms, which facilitate education quality enhancement.

#### Article 2. Mechanisms facilitating education quality enhancement

1. Education quality enhancement shall be facilitated by means of internal and external mechanisms.

2. External facilitation mechanisms of the education quality enhancement are authorization and accreditation.

3. Internal mechanisms of the facilitation of education quality enhancement shall be applied by educational institutions, as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

#### Article 2<sup>1</sup>. Definition of terms

1. Terms used in this law for the purposes of this law, as well as for general education, professional education and higher education system, shall have the following meanings:

a) National Qualifications Framework - an instrument, that classifies the qualifications of learning outcomes considering education sub-systems' (general, vocational and higher education, informal education) integration and coordination, as well as improvement of qualification quality, transparency, availability and development, taking the labor market and social interests;

b) Qualification - a formal result of evaluation and approval of a learning outcome by authorized institution/ institutions that is confirmed with a State-recognized certificate, State document confirming higher or vocational education - diploma, or State document confirming general education.

c) Learning outcome - a declaration on "knowledge and awareness" (that implies a result of assimilation of information, facts, principles, theories, theoretical and practical methods linked with the learning or activity field), "skill" (ability to fulfill specific task and use knowledge necessary for problem solving) or/and regarding "responsibility and autonomy" (that implies application of knowledge and skills with relevant quality of values and independence) to be achieved by a person;

d) Classifier of the Fields of Study - an instrument that classifies the study fields existing in Georgia and connects relevant qualifications to them;

e) Formal education - a part of a lifelong education system that implies gaining "knowledge and awareness", "skill" or/and "responsibility and autonomy" within the framework of a qualification-awarding educational programme;

f) Non-formal education - part of the lifelong learning system, which implies the acquisition of "knowledge and awareness", "skills" and/or "responsibility and autonomy" outside of formal education;

g) Cluster of higher education programmes - for the purposes of the accreditation process of higher education programmes, educational programmes which are classified according to the "National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study" and grouped according to contents (content of the programme, learning objectives and outcomes), (except for the joint higher education programme envisaged under the Article 2 (gg<sup>48</sup>)of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education and the regulated academic higher education programme provided for in the Article 75, Paragraph 2, Subparagraph "b" of the same Law). The terms and conditions of grouping the educational programmes in cluster shall be determined by the regulations on accreditation of educational programmes of higher education institutions (hereinafter -. accreditation regulations).

2. Other terms used in this law, which are not defined in the first paragraph of this article, have the meaning determined by the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022* 

Chapter II. Body authorised to apply external mechanisms for the facilitation of education quality enhancement

# Article 3. National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement

1. A legal entity of public law (LEPL) – the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement ("the Center") within the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia ('the Ministry') shall be established for the facilitation of education quality enhancement.

2. The Center shall be independent in its activities. The Center shall perform activities on the principles of publicity and transparency, under the Constitution of Georgia, international agreements and treaties of Georgia, this Law, other legislative acts, the statute of the Center approved by the Ministry, and other legal acts.

3. Regarding the activities of the Center, under the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, the Ministry shall:

a) Approve the statute of the Center;

b) Approve the regulations ("the authorisation regulations") and fees for the authorisation of educational institutions;

c) Approve the accreditation regulations and accreditation fees;

d) Approve the procedure and fees for the verification of the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia and of the recognition of education acquired abroad; be authorised to set terms that are different from those determined by the General Administrative Code of Georgia for administrative procedures related to the verification of the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia and of the recognition of education acquired abroad;

e) (Removed - 20.09.2018, Nº3445)

 $e^{1}$ ) Approve the fee for the verification of linguistic accuracy of a strict accounting document – a State document certifying education;

f) Determine timeframes and/or fees for services rendered by the Center;

g) Exercise other rights determined by the legislation of Georgia.

Law of Georgia No. 4790 of June 17, 2011 - website, 28.06.2011 Law of Georgia No. 5348 of November 25, 2011 - website, 06.12.2011 Law of Georgia No347 of 20 March 2013 - website, 29.03.2013 Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016 Law of Georgia №3028 of 5 July 2018 - website, 11.07.2018 Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 350 of 16 March 2021 - website, 18.03.2021 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022

# Article 4. Legal status of the Center

1. The Center shall be a legal entity of public law within the Ministry, established by this Law.

2. The Center is managed by the Director, who shall be appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia (hereinafter - Minister) in agreement with the Prime-Minister of Georgia.

3. Rights and obligations of the Director of the Center, structure of the Center and the scope of authority of its structural units shall be determined by the statute of the Center.

4. Public control of the Center shall be performed by the Ministry, as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

Law of Georgia №3028 of 5 July 2018 - website, 11.07.2018 Law of Georgia No 350 of 16 March 2021 - website, 18.03.2021

#### Article 5. Basic areas of activities of the Center

1. The Center, within the scope of its authority, shall:

a) facilitate education quality enhancement and develop recommendations for this purpose;

b) perform authorisation of education institutions and accreditation of their educational programmes, (except for the Legal Entity under Public Law -Kutaisi International University (hereinafter -Kutaisi International University)).

b1) implement authorization of vocational education institutions;

b<sup>2</sup>) carry out institutional evaluation of higher education institutions operating abroad and evaluation of their educational programmes in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the authorization regulation and the accreditation regulation;

b<sup>3</sup>) implement authorization of General Education Institutions;

c) ensure verification of the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia;

d) provide recognition of education acquired abroad;

e) (Removed - 20.09.2018, Nº3445);

f) provide verification of linguistic accuracy of a strict accounting document – a State document certifying education;

# g) exercise other rights determined by <u>the statute of the Center</u>.

2. The Center shall forward information necessary for ensuring apostille certification/legalisation of documents issued by the Ministry and the bodies within its system, as well as of documents issued by the educational institutions within their authority to the Legal Entity under Public Law (LEPL) operating under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia – the Public Service Development Agency. Rules for requesting and forwarding information necessary for ensuring apostille certification/legalisation of documents issued by the Ministry and the bodies within its system, as well as of documents issued by the educational institutions within their authority shall be approved by a joint order of the Minister and the Minister of Justice of Georgia.

Law of Georgia № 5022 of April 27, 2016 - website, 13.05.2016 Law of Georgia № 3028 of 5 July 2018 - website, 11.07.2018 Law of Georgia № 3445 of 20 September 2018 - website, 09.10.2018 Law of Georgia № 5278 of 1 November 2019 - website, 04.11.2019 Law of Georgia № 350 of 16 March 2021 - website, 18.03.2021 Law of Georgia № 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia № 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

# Article 6. Property and financing of the Center

1. The Center shall have property for achieving its goals and performing its functions, which shall be formed as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

2. The property of the Center shall be comprised of fixed assets and current assets, as well as other material valuables and financial resources, which shall be reflected in the independent balance sheet of the Center.

3. Sources of financing of the Center shall be as follows:

a) Targeted resources allocated from the State Budget of Georgia;

b) Fees for services provided by the Center;

c) Purpose loans and grants;

d) Income from the work performed on the basis of a contract;

e) Income in the form of gifts and donations;

f) Other incomes allowed by the legislation of Georgia.

4. Funds and income determined by paragraph 3 of this article shall be completely used for achieving the goals and performing the functions of the Center.

# Chapter III. Authorization

# Article 7. The purpose and content of the Authorization standards

1. Authorization is the procedure of acquiring educational institution status in order to meet standards necessary for implementing appropriate activities for issuing a document certifying education recognized by the State.

2. Authorization standards for general education institutions refer to the following:

- a) School philosophy;
- b) School curriculum;
- c) Administrative and infrastructural support of the learning process;

d) Student support.

2<sup>1</sup>. Authorization standards of higher education institution refer to the following:

a) Mission and strategic development of higher education institution;

b) Organizational structure and management of HEI;

c) Educational programmes;

d) Staff of the HEI;

- e) Students and their support services;
- f) Research, development or/and other creative work;
- g) Material, information and financial resources.
- $2^2$ . Authorization standards for vocational education institutions refer to the following:
- a) Mission and strategic development of vocational education institution;

b) Educational programmes;

c) Vocational students and their support services;

d) Human resources;

e) Material, information and financial resources.

3. Conditions for meeting authorization standards and the rule of authorization shall be determined by authorization regulations.

4. For general education institutions established by the State or with its participation, including general education institutions provided for in Article 27 of the Law of Georgia "On General Education", the Ministry can determine different conditions of authorization by the authorization regulation.

Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016 Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

# Article 8. Institutions subject to authorization

1. The following institutions ('applicants') shall be subject to authorization:

a) Applicants for the status of a general education institution;

b) Applicants for the status of a vocational education institution;

c) Applicants for the status of a higher education institution

1<sup>1</sup>. Kutaisi International University shall obtain authorisation according to the Law of Georgia on Establishment of the Legal Entity under Public Law - Kutaisi International University.

2. An applicant shall state in the authorization application that in the case of acquiring authorization, it shall implement:

a) a primary general education programme;

b) a basic general education programme;

c) a secondary general education programme;

d) a basic vocational education programme;

d<sup>1</sup>) a secondary vocational education programme;

d<sup>2</sup>) a higher vocational education programme;

d<sup>3</sup>) Educational programme of short cycle;

e) An educational programme for Bachelor's studies;

e<sup>1</sup>) an integrated bachelor's and master's teacher training educational programme;

f) An educational programme for Master's studies;

g) An educational programme for Doctoral studies;

h) Any other educational programme, which require mandatory accreditation under the legislation of Georgia, and educational programmes, which are related to the issuance of documents certifying education recognized by the State.

3. A general education, vocational institution is authorized to carry out only the educational programme/programmes indicated in the authorization application, as well as the educational programme added by the educational institution during the authorization period, under the rule defined by the legislation.

3<sup>1</sup>. The higher education institution is authorized to implement only accredited higher education programme/programmes and Georgian language training programme.

4. The following shall not be subject to authorization:

a) Entity which carries out such educational activity:

a.a) which is not accompanied by the issuance of the document certifying qualification;

a.b) which is not a part of the educational programme conferring qualification;

a.c) which is neither directly nor indirectly related to the programme conferring qualification and has independent learning outcomes;

a.d) which is not ending with conferring qualification;

b) Individual educational activities of a physical person, including those in the field of vocational training.

5. Institution, which has obtained the status of general education institution, vocational education institution or higher education institution without establishing other independent legal entity, is not authorized to obtain other educational institution status. In case of obtaining the relevant right, the general education institution is authorized to carry out only basic vocational education programmes, secondary vocational education programmes, vocational training programmes and / or vocational re-training programmes without establishing an independent legal entity in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Vocational Education. Higher education institution is authorized to carry out any type of vocational education programme,

short cycle education programme, State language training programme, vocational training programme and / or vocational retraining programme without creating an independent legal entity. The Authorization Council of Vocational Education Institutions makes decisions on these issues.

 $5^1$ . Institution which has obtained a status of a higher education institution, is entitled to establish non-profit (noncommercial) legal entity for the implementation of vocational education programmes and / or short cycle educational programmes.

6. Failure to meet the requirements specified by paragraphs 3 and 5 of this article may cause revocation of authorization *Law of Georgia No347 of 20 March 2013 - website, 29.03.2013* 

*Law of Georgia No. 4559 of 25 November 2015 - website, 08.12.2015 Law of Georgia No. 4585 of 27 November 2015 - website, 10.12.2015 Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017 Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 - website, 09.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 5278 of 1 November 2019 - website, 04.11.2019 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022* 

#### Article 9. Self-evaluation of an applicant

The first stage of the authorisation process shall be a self-evaluation carried out by an applicant according to a form preliminarily provided by the Center.

Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

#### Article 10. Authorization experts' panel

To provide authorization of general, vocation and higher education institutions, the Center shall form authorization experts panel for general, vocation and higher education institutions respectively, the procedure for formation and activities of which shall be determined by the authorization regulations. An applicant shall be authorized to exercise its right to decline experts, as provided for by the authorization regulations.

Law of Georgia No347 of 20 March 2013 - website, 29.03.2013

#### Article 11. Decision with regards to authorization

1. Decisions concerning authorization of general education, vocational education and higher education institutions are made respectively by the Authorization Councils for General, Vocational, and Higher Education institutions (hereinafter – Authorization Councils). The members of Authorization Councils are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia upon the recommendation of the Ministry. The members of the Authorization Councils could not be public servants, except for the case indicated by paragraph 1<sup>2</sup> of this article. Powers and activity of the Authorisation Councils shall be determined by the authorisation regulations, which guarantee their functional independence from educational institutions and State bodies.

1<sup>1</sup>. Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions consists of permanent and invited members. Invited members participate in the activities of the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions only in the event that the regulated academic higher education programme provided for by Article 75, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph "b" of the law of Georgia "On Higher Education" is indicated in the authorization application submitted by the applicant for the status of a higher education institution. Invited members of the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions have the right to vote.

1<sup>2</sup>. Invited members of the Authorization Council of higher education institutions are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia on the proposal of the Ministry. In selecting candidates for the members of the Authorization Council of higher education institutions, the Ministry is guided by the requirements and criteria set by the World Federation of Medical Education in relation to the composition of the Council.

2. Based on the authorization documentation and the report of an appropriate authorization experts' panel, the Authorization Councils shall make one of the following decisions:

- a) on granting the authorization;
- b) on refusing the authorization;
- c) on terminating the authorization;

d) about the deprivation of the right to implement vocational education programme/programmes;

e) about the deprivation of the right to implement the general education programme/programmes for the general education institution established in the form of a legal entity under private law;

f) Regarding the appeal to the Ministry via motion about the feasibility of the functioning of the general education

programme of the general education institution founded by the State or with its participation.

2<sup>1</sup>. Authorization Council of higher education institutions is authorized within the process of authorization of higher education institution or the process of checking completion of authorization conditions to make a decision on the restriction of the right of students/vocational students' admission for the term no less than 1 year. The rule and conditions of this decision, as well as determination of maximum timeframe on the restriction of the right of students/vocational students' admission by a higher education institution, is defined by the Authorization Regulation.

2<sup>2</sup>. If the decision envisaged in the paragraph "b" or "c" of the second paragraph of this article is made during an academic year, the authorization council of the general education/higher education institutions is authorized, with mediation of respective educational institution and considering the lawful interests of the students, in order to maintain continuity of the academic process, despite the remaining term of the authorization, to allow students to complete the ongoing academic year at respective educational institution upon proper decision and indicate no later than the end of the ongoing academic year as the date of entering the decision on cancellation of authorization or refusal to re-authorization into force;

2<sup>3</sup>. Authorization council of general education institutions is authorized, in the event of cancellation of authorization/refusal of authorization for a general education institution established by the State or with its participation/cancelation of the general education programme of a general education institution established by the State or with its participation, to apply to the Ministry with a petition regarding the feasibility of functioning of the general education institution/general education programme.

3. Authorization councils must justify the decisions they render.

4. A decision on authorization or a decision on refusal of authorization is made within 180 calendar days after the document confirming the payment of the authorization fee has been officially submitted to the Center.

5. A decision specified in paragraph 2 of this article shall be published on the Center's website within 10 working days.

6. Timeframes for submission of an authorization application must provide for the continuity of the status of an educational institution. The legal entity under public law - the Education Management Information System is obliged to inform the educational institution about the expiration of the authorization period no earlier than 1 year and no later than 9 months before the expiration of the authorization period.

Law of Georgia No347 of 20 March 2013 - website, 29.03.2013 Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia No. 1933 of December 23, 2017 - website, 11.01.2018. Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

#### Article 12. Decision regarding granting authorization

1. Decisions to grant an authorization shall be made if an educational institution meets all authorization standards.

2. The term of authorization is six years.

3. If a decision to grant an authorisation is made, the Authorisation Councils shall determine the limit of the number of pupils, or students of an institution implementing vocational education programmes or students of higher education institutions for an appropriate educational institution within the term of the authorisation, as provided for by the authorisation regulations.

Law of Georgia No347 of 20 March 2013 - website, 29.03.2013 Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018.

#### Article 13. Legal consequences of authorization

1. As a result of the authorization, the general educational/vocational institution shall be entitled to admit pupils, vocational students and students, as provided for by the legislation of Georgia, and issue documents certifying qualification.

2. As a result of the authorization, the higher education institution is entitled to accept students to the accredited higher education programme, to the Georgian language preparation educational programme in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, and to issue a qualification document, except for the case provided by Article 11, paragraph  $2^1$  of this law.

3. In the case provided for by Article 11, paragraph 2<sup>3</sup> of this Law, when the Ministry makes a decision on the feasibility of

functioning of a general education institution/general education programme, the general education institution/general education programme continues to operate for the remaining period of authorization.

Law of Georgia No. 1933 of December 23, 2017 - website, 11.01.2018. Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

#### Article 14. Decisions on denial to authorisation

A decision on denial to authorization shall be made if an educational institution fails to meet one of the authorization standards, except for the case provided by Article 11, paragraph 2<sup>3</sup> of this Law. *Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022* 

#### Article 15. Verification of terms of authorization and revocation of authorization

1. The Center shall monitor the performance of the terms of authorization by an educational institution. In the event of non-compliance with the accreditation standard, the accreditation councils are authorized to set a period of not more than 60 days for the relevant educational institution to correct the deficiency, unless it is obvious that this will not be effective.

2. Authorization conditions are checked by submitting a self-evaluation report to the Center, as well as by the Center's initiative.

2<sup>1</sup>. The self-evaluation report of the higher education institution is submitted to the Center at least once every 3 years. The deadlines for submitting the self-evaluation report of the higher education institution to the Center are determined by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

 $2^2$ . A general education institution, a vocational education institution is obliged to carry out self-evaluation according to the procedure established by the authorization regulation.

3. Authorisation Councils shall be empowered to make a decision to revoke an authorisation based on the results of an inspection of an educational institution, if the educational institution violates authorisation standards or legislative norms of Georgia in the field of education regarding origination, suspension or termination of the status of a pupil, a vocational student or a student of an educational institution, except for the case provided by Article 11, paragraph  $2^3$  of this Law.

 $3^1$ . If, during the inspection of the fulfillment of the conditions of authorization, it is revealed that one of the two or more implemented vocational education programmess does not comply with the standard provided for in Article 7, paragraph  $2^2$ , subparagraph "b" of this law, the Council for the Authorization of Vocational Education Institutions is authorized, instead of the decision to cancel the authorization, to make the appropriate decision on deprivation of the right to implement vocational education programmes.

3<sup>2</sup>. If, during the verification of the fulfillment of the conditions of authorization, it is revealed that one of the two or more general education programmes implemented by the general education institution does not comply with the standard of authorization provided for in Article 7, paragraph 2, subparagraph "b" of this law, the Council for the Authorization of General Education Institutions is authorized, instead of the decision to cancel the authorization, to make a decision on depriving the general education institution of the right to implement the relevant general education programme/programmes, except for the case provided by Article 11, paragraph 2<sup>3</sup> of this Law.

4. The decision to revoke the authorization, and the decision to apply to the Ministry with a petition provided for in Article 11, paragraph  $2^3$  of this law, shall be made within 90 calendar days from the issuance of the order of the Director of the Center on the inspection of the fulfillment of the conditions of authorization by the educational institution. The expiration period is considered to be suspended during the timeframe given by authorization councils to a relevant educational institution on correcting an error.

Law of Georgia No. 5348 of November 25, 2011 - website, 06.12.2011 Law of Georgia No347 of 20 March 2013 - website, 29.03.2013 Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017. Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

#### Article 16. Legal consequences for refusing authorization or cancellation of authorization

1. In case of refusing authorization or cancellation of authorization:

a) an institution will not obtain a status of an higher education institution or will lose such status from the date when respective decision enters into force;

b) in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2<sup>2</sup> of this law, the educational institution continues its educational activities within the period established by the authorization council, within which the right to admit pupils/students/vocational students/entrants/master's degree candidates/doctorate candidates/applicants is restricted;

c) the pupil/student has the right, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2<sup>2</sup> of this law, to continue his/her studies in the same educational institution or to transfer to another relevant educational institution for the period determined by the authorization council;

d) in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2<sup>2</sup> of this law, the status of a student is suspended for 5 years from the expiration of the period established by the authorization council (if such a period exists), from the entry into force of the decision of the authorization council on refusal of authorization or cancellation of authorization, and he/she is entitled to use mobility by right;

e) within 5 years from the entry into force of the decision of the Authorization Council on refusal of authorization, cancellation of authorization or deprivation of the right to implement vocational education programme/programmes, the vocational student's status is suspended and he/she is entitled to exercise the right to mobility;

f) an entrant who successfully passed the Unified National Examinations and obtained a right to be enrolled to the higher education institution according to the ranking document approved by the LEPL National Assessment and Examinations Center, shall be authorized to exercise the right of mobility;

g) a candidate of MA, who has been listed in the ranking document with the coefficients of the master's exams shall be authorized to exercise the right of mobility;

h) an applicant, who has obtained the right to enroll in the educational institution implementing the relevant vocational education programme, is entitled to exercise the right of mobility.

2. In case of a decision to refuse authorization or a decision to revoke authorization, a legal entity is entitled to submit an authorization application to the Center to obtain the same status as an educational institution 1 year after the decision to refuse authorization or a decision to revoke authorization was made.

Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018. Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022

#### Article 16<sup>1.</sup> Adding an educational programme

1. An educational institution is authorized to add a vocational education programme/programmes, general education programme/programmes, short-cycle education programme/programmes or training programmes in the State language by submitting an application for adding an educational programme to the Center.

1<sup>1</sup>. Only an authorized general education institution has the right to submit an application for adding a general education programme/programmes.

2. The form of application about adding an educational programme to be submitted to the Center is approved by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

3. The rule for adding an educational programme, conditions, and the fee are determined by the Authorization Regulation.

4. A decision to add an educational programme or a decision to refuse to add an educational programme is made within 90 calendar days after submitting an application for adding an educational programme to the center.

Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017. Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018. Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

#### Article 162. Increase the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students

1. Educational institution is entitled to submit to the Center a written application about increase of the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students

2. The form of a written application about increase of the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students to be submitted to the Center is approved by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

3. The rules, conditions and fees for increase of the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students are determined by the authorization regulation.

4. The decision to increase the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students or the decision to refuse to increase the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students is made within 90 calendar days from the submission

of a written application to the Center to increase the number of places for pupils, vocational students and students. *Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017.* 

#### Chapter IV. Accreditation

#### Article 17. Purpose and content of accreditation

1. The purpose of accreditation is to establish systematic self-evaluation educational programmes of educational institutions (except, general education programmes, vocational education programmes and short cycle education programmes) and promote the development of quality assurance mechanisms to improve the quality of education through determining compliance of education programmes of educational institutions with accreditation standards.

2. The State grant and the State master's grant are issued to finance the educational programme of a higher education institution (except for an Orthodox theological higher education institution) that has undergone accreditation or is accredited by a foreign organization with relevant competence recognized by the Center and the accreditation granted by this organization is recognized by the Center in the manner established by the accreditation regulations.

3. Implementation of the higher education programme (except for the Orthodox theological higher education programmes of the Orthodox theological educational institution) and the Georgian language preparation educational programme is possible only in case of obtaining accreditation.

4. Educational programmes of Kutaisi International University are accredited in accordance with the Law of Georgia "On the creation of a legal entity under public law - Kutaisi International University".

5. A joint higher education programme can be implemented if it is accredited. Accreditation of joint higher education programme is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the Georgian legislation.

6. (Removed - 26.07.2017, №1224).

Law of Georgia No. 188 of December 28, 2012 - website, 29.12.2012 Law of Georgia No. 4559 of 25 November 2015 - website, 08.12.2015 Law of Georgia No. 4585 of 27 November 2015 - website, 10.12.2015 Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - website, 28.07.2017 Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 - website, 09.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 5278 of 1 November 2019 - website, 04.11.2019 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

#### Article 18. Accreditation Standards

Accreditation Standards are as following:

- a) Educational Programme Objectives, Learning Outcomes and their Compliance with the Programme;
- b) Teaching Methodology and Organization, Adequate Evaluation of Programme Mastering;
- c) Student Achievements, Individual Work with them;
- d) Providing Teaching Resources;
- e) Teaching Quality Enhancement Opportunities. *Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022*

#### Article 19. Carrying out accreditation

1. Carrying out accreditation is provided by the Center.

2. An Accreditation Council for Educational Programmes is established to make a decision on accreditation (hereinafter referred to as "Accreditation Council") that consists of permanent and invited members. A member of the Accreditation Council cannot be a public servant, except for the case provided for in paragraph 2<sup>2</sup> of this Article. The authority of the Accreditation Council and the manner of its activities are determined by the accreditation regulation which guarantees its functional independence from educational institutions and State bodies.

2<sup>1</sup>. Invited members of the Accreditation Council participate in its activities only in the event that the regulated academic higher education programme provided for in Article 75, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph "b" of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education" is indicated in the accreditation application submitted by the higher educational institution. Invited members of the Accreditation Council have the right to vote.

2<sup>2</sup>. The Prime Minister of Georgia appoints and dismiss permanent and invited members of the accreditation council upon

recommendation by the ministry. During the selection of candidates for invited members of the Accreditation Council, the Ministry is guided by the requirements and criteria established by the World Federation of Medical Education regarding the staffing of the Accreditation Council.

3. Accreditation of higher education programmes, including a joint higher education programme, may be carried out by a foreign organization with the relevant competence recognized by the Center. Recognition is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the accreditation regulation.

*Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017. Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018.* 

# Article 20. Self-evaluation of an accreditation applicant and determining compliance of documentation with appropriate requirements

1. The first stage of accreditation process shall be the self-evaluation carried out by an accreditation applicant according to a form preliminarily provided by the Center.

2. The Center shall, within 7 working days, verify the self-evaluation submitted by the accreditation applicant in relation to the educational programmes within the cluster of higher education programmes and the compliance of the attached documentation with the requirements set by the accreditation regulations.

Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022

#### Article 21. Accreditation experts' panel

In order to carry out accreditation, the Center shall form an experts' panel, whose formation and activities shall be determined by the accreditation regulations.

#### Article 22. Decisions regarding accreditation

1. The decision on accreditation of educational programmes of an educational institution (except for general education programmes, vocational education programmes and short cycle education programmes) shall be made by the Accreditation Council in accordance with the regulation of the accreditation, including, on the basis of the experts' panel report on accreditation, in accordance with procedure defined by the Georgian legislation.

2. With regard to accreditation there may be four types of decisions as follows:

- a) On accreditation;
- b) On conditional accreditation;
- c) On refusal of accreditation;
- d) On cancellation of accreditation.

3. The term of accreditation of an educational programme is seven years. The educational programme submitted to the Center for accreditation during the calendar year when educational programmes classified in the field of study of the said educational programme do not have to undergo re-accreditation, accreditation is granted until the next period of accreditation of educational programmes classified in the field of study of this educational programme.

4. In relation to the regulated academic higher education programme provided for in Article 75, paragraph 2, subparagraph "b" of the law of Georgia "On Higher Education", when making a decision provided for in paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs "a" or "b" of this Article, the Accreditation Council within the limits of the maximum number of student places established for the higher education institution, determines the maximum number of places for students during the accreditation period in accordance with the procedure established by the accreditation regulations.

5. Conditional accreditation term of the educational programme is no longer than 4 years. The educational programme submitted to the Center for accreditation during the calendar year when educational programmes classified in the field of study of the said educational programme do not have to undergo re-accreditation, conditional accreditation is granted until the next period of accreditation of educational programmes classified in the field of study of this educational programme, but not more than for 4 years.

6. A decision on the conditional accreditation of an educational programme may not be taken twice consecutively.

7. The accreditation is canceled in case of expiration of authorization term or cancellation of authorization.

8. In case of the first and every subsequent accreditation of an educational programme, the decision on accreditation is made according to the rule established under the accreditation regulation, if the educational programme fully and/or substantially meets the accreditation standards.

9. In case of first accreditation of the educational programme and for every subsequent accreditation, the decision on conditional accreditation shall be made according to the rule established under the accreditation regulation, if the educational programme partially meets the accreditation standard.

10. Decisions on accreditation or on denial of accreditation shall be made within 180 calendar days upon the official submission of the document confirming the payment of the accreditation fee to the Center.

11. If the decision envisaged in the sub-paragraph "c" and "d" of the first paragraph of this article is made during an academic year, the Accreditation Council is authorized, with mediation of respective educational institution and considering the lawful interests of the students, in order to maintain continuity of the academic process, despite the remaining term of the accreditation, to allow students to complete the ongoing academic year at the relevant educational programme under accredited mode (upon proper decision) and indicate no later than the end of the ongoing academic year as the date of entering the decision on cancellation of accreditation or refusal to re-accreditation into force.

12. Terms for the submission of accreditation application shall allow for the continuity of the accreditation of educational program.

Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016 Law of Georgia No. 1933 of December 23, 2017 - website, 11.01.2018 Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

# Article 22<sup>1</sup>. Increasing the threshold student quota in the regulated academic higher education programme envisaged by the Article 75, Paragraph 2, Subparagraph "b" of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education

1. Within the maximum number of student places established by the Authorization Council, a higher education institution is authorized to submit to the Center a written application on increasing the threshold student quota in the regulated academic higher education programme envisaged by the article 75, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph "b" of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education.

2. The form of the written application to be submitted to the Center regarding the increase of the maximum number of student places at the regulated academic higher education programme provided for by article 75, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph "b" of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education" is approved by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

3. The rules, conditions and fees for increasing the threshold number of student quota at the regulated academic higher education programme envisaged by the article 75, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph "b" of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education are determined by the accreditation regulation.

4. The Accreditation Council makes a decision to increase the maximum number of student places or to refuse to increase the maximum number of student places within 90 calendar days after submitting a written application to the Center to increase the maximum number of student places at the regulated academic higher education programme provided for by article 75, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph "b" of the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education". *Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022* 

# Article 23. Verification of accreditation conditions and cancellation of accreditation

1. The Center shall monitor the performance of the terms of accreditation by an educational institution. If a violation is identified, the Accreditation Council shall be empowered to define not more than 60 days for an educational institution to correct flaws, unless it is obvious that this will have no effect.

2. Accreditation conditions are checked by submitting a self-evaluation report to the Center, as well as by the Center's initiative.

2<sup>1</sup>. A self-evaluation report to be provided to the Center minimum once in every 3 years. The dates for providing a self-evaluation report to the Center are determined by the individual administrative act of the Director of Center.

3. The Accreditation Council is authorized, based on the results of the inspection of the higher education institution, to make a decision on the cancellation of accreditation if the higher education institution violates the terms of accreditation.

4. The decision on cancellation of accreditation is made within 90 calendar days from the issuance of the order of the Director of the Center on the inspection of the fulfillment of accreditation conditions by the higher education institution. This period is considered to be suspended during the period determined by the Accreditation Council for the relevant higher education institution to correct the deficiency.

Law of Georgia No. 5348 of November 25, 2011 - website, 06.12.2011 Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017. Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018. Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

# Article 24. Legal consequence of refusal, cancellation or expiry of accreditation

1. In case of refusal or revoking of accreditation for the higher education programme of a higher education institution:

a) The higher education institution is restricted from admitting students/entrants/aster's programme candidates/doctoral candidates to the higher education programme and Georgian language preparation educational programme, for which the accreditation has been refused, cancelled or expired;

b) According to the article 22, paragraph 11 of this law, a student who studies with State funding shall be entitled to continue the studies at the same higher education programme for the term (if any) established by the Accreditation Council and to receive State funding or exercise the right to mobility, transfer to other accredited educational programme and transfer the remaining funds allocated by the State to him/her to that higher education programme;

c) According to the article 22, paragraph 11 of this law, a student who studies on the accredited higher education programme or Georgian language preparation educational programme, after expiration of the term (if any) established by the Accreditation Council, or after the Accreditation Council's decision on refusing or canceling the accreditation enters into force, shall be subject to termination of the student status for 5 years and this student shall be entitled to exercise their right to mobility.

d) An entrant who successfully passed the Unified National Examinations and obtained a right to be enrolled to the higher education programme according to the ranking document approved by the LEPL National Assessment and Examinations Center, shall be authorized to exercise the right to mobility;

e) A candidate of the master's programme, who has been listed in the ranking document with the coefficients of the master's exams shall be authorized to exercise the right to mobility;

2. In case of expiration of the accreditation period for a higher education programme or a Georgian language preparation programme, based on the decision of the Accreditation Council, a student has the right to continue their studies in the same educational programme until the end of the ongoing semester and receive State funding. The status of a student is suspended for a period of 5 years after the end of the current academic semester, and he/she is entitled to exercise the right to mobility.

3. (Removed - 30.03.2022, No. 1464). Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022 Law of Georgia No 1464 of 30 March 2022 - website, 06.04.2022

# Chapter IV<sup>1</sup>. Dispute resolution body

Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016.

# Article 24<sup>1.</sup> The Council of Appeals

1. The decisions under article 11, paragraph 2 and article 22 paragraph 2 of this Law may be appealed to the Council of Appeals and/or to a court.

2. Members of the Council of Appeals shall be appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia upon the recommendation of the Ministry. Members of the Council of Appeals may not be public officials, members of authorisation and accreditation councils. The powers and rules of operation of the Council of Appeals shall be determined by the authorisation and accreditation regulations by which its functional independence from education institutions and State bodies is guaranteed. The Minister shall be authorised to set the terms that are different from those determined by the General Administrative Code of Georgia for submitting complaints to the Court of Appeals and for considering relevant complaints by the Council of Appeals.

- 3. There may be two types of decisions by the Council of Appeals on:
- a) Sharing authorisation/accreditation council decisions;
- b) Returning the decisions for the reconsideration by the authorisation/accreditation council.

4. Appealing the decisions of the authorisation/accreditation council to the Council of Appeals and/or to a court shall not cause the suspension of a relevant decision.

Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016.

# Chapter IV<sup>2</sup>. National Qualifications Framework and Classifier of Fields of Study

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018.

# Article 24<sup>2</sup> National Qualifications Framework and its goals

1. National Qualifications Framework consists of 8 levels. Each level of the National Qualifications Framework is a difficulty-determining element of the qualification, which combines generic learning outcomes - descriptors described by "knowledge and understanding", "skills" and "responsibility and autonomy".

2. The goals of the National Qualifications Framework are as follows:

a) Classification of adhering to basic principles of National Qualifications Framework (compliance with learning outcomes, quality assurance, availability of information related to qualifications);

b) Interconnection of general education, vocational education and higher education, its management and development;

c) Promoting a lifelong learning;

d) Supporting quality assurance system;

e) Ensuring compatibility, comparison ability and transparency of qualifications at international level;

f) Promoting mobility;

g) Supporting recognition of formal education obtained during learning period;

h) Supporting recognition of informal education;

i) Informing the public about the existing qualifications;

j) Reflection of permanently changing requirements in the education system and stimulation of renewable qualifications description relevant to them.

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018.

#### Article 243. Approval, management and development of National Qualifications Framework

1. The Minister approves the National Qualifications Framework presented by the Center.

2. The rules for the management, development and monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework, the creation and administration of the electronic register of qualifications, as well as the procedures and rules for the recognition of non-formal education, are approved by the Minister on the submission of the Center.

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018. Law of Georgia No 350 of 16 March 2021 - website, 18.03.2021

#### Article 24<sup>4</sup>. The Classifier of Fields of Study

1. The Classifier of Fields of Study classifies study fields existing in Georgia and identifies a qualification to be granted in each field.

2. The Classifier of Fields of Study is approved by the Minister upon submission of the Center.

3. The Director of the Center approves the rule of management, development and monitoring of the Classifier of Fields of Study by an individual administrative-legal act.

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – website, 05.10.2018 Law of Georgia No 350 of 16 March 2021 - website, 18.03.2021

# Chapter V. Authority of the Center in Verification of Authenticity of Educational Documents and Recognition of Acquired Education

# Article 25. Verification of authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia

When verifying the authenticity of the educational documents issued in Georgia, the Center establishes if a person has fully or partially undertaken the educational programme, as well as the fact of issuing relevant document on granting qualification to him/her and the compliance with the requirements of Georgian legislation. *Law of Georgia No. 5022 of April 27, 2016 - Website, 13.05.2016.* 

# Article 25<sup>1</sup>. Recognition of the education received in Georgia;

1. The Center shall recognize higher education acquired in the occupied territories, higher education acquired by persons admitted to licensed higher education institutions, education acquired by persons who cannot confirm their education or qualification acquired at educational institutions that have been liquidated or terminated their educational activities, as well

as education acquired by persons with international protection and internally displaced persons from the occupied territories of Georgia.

2. The Center is authorized to issue the document -diploma confirming recognition of the education provided for by the paragraph 1 of this article.

3. The Ministry is authorized to impose a fee for issuing the document provided for by the paragraph 2 of this Article.

Law of Georgia No. 5348 of November 25, 2011 - website, 06.12.2011 Law of Georgia No. 5639 of December 27, 2011 - website, 09.01.2012 Law of Georgia No. 52 of December 1, 2016 - website, 15.12.2016 Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 - website, 09.10.2018.

#### Article 26. Recognition of education/qualification acquired abroad

1. For the purpose of recognizing education/qualification received abroad, the Center establishes:

a) whether an educational document has been issued in the name of the person indicated in the document, and whether an educational institution issuing the document is recognized by the legislation of the country, where the educational institution carries out its educational activities (verification of authenticity);

b) compliance of a qualification acquired abroad with qualifications existing in Georgia (establishment of compliance).

2. The Center does not recognize the education received abroad, if the education was received abroad in a distance form, unless the distance education was received in the relevant foreign country as a result of the distance education carried out due to the pandemic and/or allowed to prevent the spread of the pandemic or eliminate its consequences. *Law of Georgia No 6289 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020* 

# Chapter VI. (Removed)

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018..

Article 27. (Removed)

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018.

Article 28. (Removed) Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018.

Article 29. (Removed)

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – website, 09.10.2018.

# Chapter VII. General principles for determining fees and terms for services provided by the Center

# Article 30. Fee for the service provided by the Center

1. The fee is a mandatory payment established by the act of the Ministry for the services provided by the Center, including the value added tax.

2. The fee shall be paid in advance, prior to rendering the service through non-cash transaction.

3. The fee will be transferred to the settlement account of the Center.

Law of Georgia No. 5348 of November 25, 2011 - website, 06.12.2011

# Article 31. Payment of fees for services rendered by the Center, commencement of time determined for services and refund of paid fees

1. The terms for the services provided by the Center and fee rates are determined by the act of the Ministry.

2. The interested person shall pay the fee determined by the act of the Ministry.

3. The calculation of term for the services set by the act of the Ministry starts from the day subsequent to application registration and expires by the last day of the term. If the last day of the term coincides with a holiday or weekend, the date of the expiration of the term shall be the next working day.

4. The procedure established by paragraph 3 of this article is not applicable to expedited services determined by the act of the Ministry.

5. The procedure for refunding the paid fee for the services provided by the Center is determined by the act of the Ministry.

#### Chapter VIII. Transitional Provisions

#### Article 32. Measures related to the enactment of the law

1. The Government of Georgia shall ensure the compliance of Resolution N. 37 of 21 May 2004 on the Approval of the Statute of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia with this Law, before 15 September 2010.

2. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall ensure the approval of legal acts provided for by sub-paragraphs "a" and "b" of paragraph 3 of Article 3 of this Law until September 15, 2010 and legal acts provided for by sub-paragraphs "c"-"e" of paragraph 3 of Article 3 of this Law until March 1, 2011.

3. The President of Georgia, the Government of Georgia, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and educational institutions shall ensure compliance with the relevant legal acts until March 1, 2011.

4. Legal Entity of Public Law – National Center for Educational Accreditation shall be reorganized into LEPL- National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. LEPL - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement shall be a legal successor of the Legal Entity of Public Law – National Center for Educational Accreditation.

5. To define the Legal Entity of Public Law - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement as a assignee of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, in the part of the implemented and ongoing activities of the Licensing, Legalisation and Apostille Division within the Legal Issues Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

6. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be assigned to implement procedures related to the reorganization of the LEPL National Center for Educational Accreditation into the LEPL National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. Until the completion of these measures, the functions of the LEPL – the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement shall be performed by the LEPL – the National Center for Education, while the functions of the Licensing, Legalisation and Apostille Division within the Legal Issues Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be performed by the Ministry.

#### Article 321. Authorization of Orthodox theological higher education institutions

Orthodox theological higher education institutions, established by the Georgian Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church on the basis of this Law, shall be considered authorized until 1 January 2015, under this Law. From 1 January 2015, the Orthodox theological higher education institutions shall be subject to authorisation, as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

Law of Georgia No. 188 of December 28, 2012 - website, 29.12.2012

#### Article 32<sup>2</sup>. Re-authorization of higher education institutions and accreditation of educational programmes

1. The higher education institution whose decision to authorize was adopted in 2011-2015, has 5 years authorization term extended by 1 year.

2. Higher education programmes accredited in 2011-2012 and educational programmes in Georgian language preparation shall be considered as accredited by the decree of the Government of Georgia in accordance with the stages for re-accreditation of these educational programmes. Prior to September 1, 2017, by the decree of Government of Georgia define the re-accreditation stages for 2018-2022 for higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation programmes accredited in 2011-2012, in accordance with directions envisaged by "list of directions, fields/specialties, sub-fields/specialties and professional specialties" (annex  $N^{\circ}4$ ) approved by the order  $N^{\circ}120/N$  of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of December 10, 2010 "On Approval of the National Qualification Framework ".

2<sup>1</sup>. Bachelor's higher education programmes for teacher training accredited in 2011-2012 and 2014-2015, (the bachelor's educational programme for the preparation of teachers of the primary level of general education and the educational programme for teacher training, which is a constituent part of the bachelor's educational programme) should be considered accredited before the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year.

2<sup>2</sup>. For the general education institution, whose current authorization period expires in 2020, this period should be extended until December 31, 2020.

2<sup>3</sup>. The higher education institution, whose current authorization period expires before March 1, 2021, this period should be extended until July 1, 2021.

2<sup>4</sup>. If the term of the accreditation of the educational programme (except for the educational programmes accredited in 2011-2012) expires in 2020, it shall be extended until 31 December 2020.

2<sup>5</sup>. If the term of the accreditation for the educational programme of Medical Doctor (except for the educational programmes accredited in 2011-2012) expires in 2020, it shall be extended until 1 July 2021.

3. Until January 1, 2018 the examination of the authorization conditions provided for in Article 15 of this Law for higher education institutions shall carry out in accordance with the authorization standards applicable as of 1 September 2016.

4. Higher education programmes and Georgian language preparation educational programmes accredited as of January 1, 2022, shall be considered as accredited by the order of the Minister in accordance with the stages for re-accreditation of these educational programmes. Before July 1, 2022, by order of the Minister, the stages of re-accreditation in 2022-2028 of higher education programmes and educational programmes in the Georgian language preparation accredited as of June 1, 2022 should be determined, according to the fields of study provided by the Classifier of Fields of Study.

5. The higher education institution is authorized to implement the higher education programme operating in the nonaccredited mode as of June 1, 2022 before the expiration of the accreditation period defined for the field of study under the paragraph 4 of this Article. After the expiration of the mentioned term, it is not allowed to carry out the higher education programme in non-accredited mode.

6. The higher education programme and the Georgian language preparation educational programme accredited as of June 1 2022, whose current accreditation period expires 2 years after the expiry of the period of the stage determined for reaccreditation by the order of the Minister provided for in paragraph 4 of this article, shall be considered accredited according to the relevant paragraph 4 of this article until the expiration of the next period of accreditation specified for the field of study.

7. By July 1, 2022, the list of higher education programmes and educational programmes in the Georgian language provided for in paragraphs 4 and 6 of this article shall be determined by order of the minister.

8. The terms stipulated in paragraphs 4 and 6 of this article do not apply to the higher education programme and the educational programme of preparation in the Georgian language functioning as of June 1, 2022, which have been granted conditional accreditation.

9. The terms provided for in paragraphs 4-6 of this article do not apply to the higher education programme, the accreditation of which was carried out by a foreign organization with relevant competence recognized by the Center, in addition, the accreditation granted by this organization is recognized by the Center in the manner established by the accreditation regulations.

Law of Georgia No. 4784 of February 19, 2016 - website, 07.03.2016. Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - website, 28.07.2017. Law of Georgia No 5568 of 13 December 2019 - website, 19.12.2019 Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020 Law of Georgia No 1429 of 16 March 2022 - website, 24.03.2022

#### Article 32<sup>3</sup>. Apositlle certification/legalisation of documents certifying education acquired after 1 September 2010

It is not permissible to approve with apostille / legalize the education documents certifying education, if the education is obtained at a licensed higher education institution after 1 September 2010. *Law of Georgia No. 5022 of April 27, 2016 - website, 13.05.2016.* 

# Article 32<sup>4</sup> Suspension of the period of administrative proceedings on the authorization application submitted to the Center from January 1, 2020 to October 1, 2020

The term of administrative proceedings for the authorisation application submitted to the Center from January 1, 2020 to October 1, 2020 to obtain the status of a higher education institution or the term of such administrative proceedings provided for in the authorization statute regarding the higher education institution, the implementation of which, according to the decision of the Director of the Center, is impossible without the visit of the relevant authorisation experts' panel to this higher education institution, shall be suspended until January 1, 2021.

Law of Georgia No 6284 of 12 June 2020 - website, 15.06.2020

#### Chapter IX. Final Provision

Article 33. Entry into force of the law This Law shall enter into force from 1 September 2010.

President of Georgia M. Saakashvili

Tbilisi

July 21, 2010

№3531-RS