

**LEPL -National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement  
Coordinating Council Session Minutes N1 (2019)**

**City of Tbilisi**

**Date of the session: 05.06.2019**

**Starting time of the session: 16:00**

**Completion time of the session: 19:00**

**Address: #1M. Aleksidze St.Tbilisi (National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement)**

Composition of the Coordinating Council of LEPL -National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement was approved by the Order #386 of 1 November 2018 issued by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia. The session of this Council was conducted on 5 June 2019.

**The following persons participated in the Coordinating Council session:**

**Members of the Council**

1. Giorgi Sharvashidze- Rector of LEPL- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;
2. Giga Zedania - Rector of LEPL- Ilia State University;
3. Roland Kopaliani - Rector of LEPL- Akaki Tsereteli State University;
4. Zurab Vadachkoria - Rector of LEPL- Tbilisi State Medical University;
5. Davit Kereselidze - Chair of the Academic Board of NNLE - New Vision University;
6. Ani Kitiashvili - Doctor of Psychology, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at LEPL - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;
7. Nino Zambakhidze - Founder of Georgian Farmers' Association;
8. Giorgi Kurdiani - PhD student of LEPL – Apolon Kutateladze Tbilisi State Academy of Arts;

**Representatives of LEPL -National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement**

1. Giorgi Vashakidze - Director of National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement;
2. Tamar Makharashvili - Deputy Director of National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement;
3. Lali Giorgidze - Head of HEI Authorization Division of National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement;

**The Council session started at: 16:00pm**

Giorgi Vashakidze, Director of National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement greeted the members of the Council, introduced the goal of creation of the Coordinating Council by the Center and its functions, also he presented the issues envisaged by the agenda of the session:

1. Election of the Council Chair;
2. Introduction of the report and recommendations drawn up by The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA);
3. Determining the further steps of the Council's activities.

**Subject matter 1: Election of the Council Chair**

Giorgi Vashakidze, Director of National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement noted that the Coordinating Council was a collegial body that represented the interests of the stakeholders in the management of the Center and provided advice to the management of the Center about its activities. It was necessary to elect a chair in order for the Council to function. He asked the members of the Council to nominate a candidate for the position of the chair, who would lead the council session. Giorgi Sharvashidze, Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University was elected as the chair of the Coordinating Council by the majority of attendees. Upon decision of the Chair of the Council the duty of the session secretary was imposed on Giorgi Kurdiani.

## **Subject matter 2. Introduction of the report and recommendations drawn up by The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).**

Lali Giorgidze, Head of HEI Authorization Division presented the results of external evaluation conducted by The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) to the Council members and discussed about the importance of compliance of the current quality assurance mechanisms of higher education in Georgia with the Standards and of Guideline for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG -2015).

She reviewed the recommendations provided for the Center by ENQA within its external evaluation (see annex 1) and presented the changes planned by the Center in order to fulfill the recommendations. She noted that the Center was planning to initiate amendments to the law, where terms and rules for appointment and dismissal of the Director of the Center would have been stipulated in detail. She also mentioned that the Center was planning to increase managerial power of the Coordinating Council over the issues of appointment and dismissal of the Director of the Center and selection of the Councils, which would have enhanced the quality of independence of the Center.

## **Subject matter 3. Determining the further steps of the Council's activities and the changes planned by the Center**

Giorgi Vashakidze, Director of the Center pointed out that the Center was planning to initiate necessary amendments to the law. The Council members noted that it was advisable to review the composition of the Coordinating Council and ensure that it was not composed by the members of senior management of the higher education institutions. The Council members also discussed about increasing the number of persons with international expertise in the composition of the Coordinating Council and positive aspects of increasing the managerial authority of the Coordinating Council for long-term period.

The Director of the Center also approached about shifting to the cluster accreditation system. He indicated that in the context of the introduction of the cluster accreditation, only programmes of a specific field would be evaluated during the accreditation process for one year. Therefore, only the programmes of a specific field(s) would be submitted by the universities during a specific year which would give them a possibility to consolidate their financial and human resources for specific fields and not for the programmes of all fields. He mentioned that the cluster accreditation model would enable the Center to see the overall picture in individual areas at the system level. The Council members noted whether switching to the cluster accreditation system would lead to re-accreditation of the programmes that received accreditation one or two years ago. Giorgi Vashakidze responded that the mentioned issue would be taken into account when developing the cluster accreditation schedule.

Giorgi Vashakidze, Director of the Center also highlighted the need for making amendments to the Law of Georgia on Education Quality Improvement in order for it to include an entry that European approaches, active in the European higher education area, elaborated about quality assurance of joint higher education programmes would have been used for accreditation of international joint higher education programmes. This would have encouraged and simplified cooperation of Georgian and European universities in terms of elaboration of joint programmes.

The Council members commended the proposed planned changes and agreed that the next session would take place in 2020. During next meeting the Center would present a report on fulfillment of the activities envisaged by the action plan to the Coordinating Council.