

**LEPL -National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
Coordinating Council Session Minutes N1 (2020)**

Date of the session: 26.10.2020

On October 26, 2020, the Director of LEPL - National Center for Education Quality Enhancement (hereinafter -the center) met with the coordination council of the center. In order to eliminate distribution of Covid 19 pandemic, the center continues to work in Online regime, therefore, the coordination council meeting was also held Online. The meeting was attended by the Director of the Center Tamar Makharashvili, Deputy Director Lasha Margishvili, Deputy Director Kakhaber Eradze, Acting Head of the Planning, Research and International Relations Service of the center - Khatia Tsiramua and the members of the coordination council.

The coordination council meeting was attended by the following members of the council:

1. Nunu Mitskevich - Deputy Minister of the Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia;
2. Giorgi Sharvashidze- Rector of LEPL- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;
3. Giga Zedania - Rector of LEPL- Ilia State University;
4. Davit Gurgendidze - Rector of LEPL - Georgian Technical University
5. Roland Kopaliani - Rector of LEPL- Akaki Tsereteli State University;
6. Zurab Vadachkoria - Rector of LEPL- Tbilisi State Medical University
7. Davit Kereselidze - Chair of the Academic Board of NNLE - New Vision University
8. Ani Kitiashvili - Doctor of Philology, Associated Professor of LEPL - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University - Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences;
9. Giorgi Kurdiani - PhD student of LEPL – Apolon Kutateladze Tbilisi State Academy of Arts;
10. Nikoloz Meskhishvili - Representative of NNLE - Georgian Farmers' Association Nikoloz Meskhishvili; (Nikoloz Meskhishvili was attending the meeting on behalf of the chair of Georgian Farmers' Association Nino Zambakhidze. According to the current protocol, Nikoloz Meskhishvili did not participate in the review).

The meeting of the coordination council started at 16:00 and ended on 18:30. Agenda of the council meeting

16:00-16:30 Presentation of the strategic goals and objectives of the center for 2021-2025 - a rapporteur - Director of the Center Tamar Makharashvili;

16:30: 16:45 - Q&A;

16:45-17:15 - The proposals prepared by the center on consideration of the recommendations provided in the report of the expert panel of The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) - Deputy Director of the Center Lasha Margishvili.

17:15-17:30 -Q&A.

The director of the center, Tamar Makharashvili thanked the members of the coordination council for participating in the meeting. The first part of the presentation was dedicated to evaluation of the activities carried out by the center in 2016-2020. The director of the center spoke about institutional development of the center, the main results achieved in direction of assurance the quality of vocational and general education. The director of the center also spoke about the activities carried out by the center in direction of the support services of educational institutions and in the direction of assurance of development of the qualifications system based on the lifelong learning principles. Tamar Makharashvili talked about significance of improvement of education recognition services considering the best international practice; while speaking about the successful achievements of the recent years by the center, the director highlighted the achievements of the center in terms of internationalization. According to her, the main achievement of the center is a membership of ENQA and that also it represents a huge responsibility. She expressed her gratitude towards Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University for the fact that they were able to create internal quality assurance service unit. The director also talked about registration of the center in the EQAR and its significance, she pointed out that the center also has its own obligations. She also talked about the membership of CEENQA and its significance, also she talked about the cooperation agreements signed with the quality assurance services of Estonia and Ukraine. She talked about active engagement of the center in The Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) and in the thematic expert groups. The director of the center outlined the significance

of the EU funded Twinning project for the institutional enhancement of the center.

The second part of the institution was dedicated to the strategic goals and objectives of the center for 2021-2025. The director of the center pointed out that the center plans to carry out its activities in direction of six main strategic goals during upcoming years. The main strategic goals of the center are as follows: Institutional development of the center, internationalization, development of services, development of the quality system for general, vocational and higher education. During final part of the presentation, the director of the center pointed out that in terms of higher education quality assurance, one of the most priority issues of the center is transferring to the Cluster Accreditation, the piloting of which will start at the center in 2021. The main challenge of the center in terms of vocational education is increase of the programs of training-re-training and solid positioning in the process of development of informal education, the center is open for cooperation in the part of national qualifications framework. The director of the center also mentioned that, in terms of quality assurance of medical education, the center will take into consideration the recommendations of WFME, respective amendments will be made in the sectoral characteristics of the medical field. The director of the center pointed out that in the part of quality assurance of general education, very serious work needs to be done, which will be focused on support and development. She also outlined that the center will provide as much support for the institutions as possible in order for them to provide the future generation with quality education.

At the coordination council meeting, the Deputy Director Lasha Margishvili made a presentation on the proposals prepared by the center on consideration of the recommendations provided in the report of the expert panel of The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The deputy director spoke about ENQA recommendations in details. As he mentioned, taking into account these considerations, the center has become a subject to mandatory monitoring and that this will be done in 2021. He also pointed out that for the purposes of these recommendations by ENQA, a working group was created at the center by the order of the director and this group was tasked to elaborate proposals on how these considerations can be considered by the center. The deputy director also spoke about significance of taking into account the ENQA recommendations in the activities, policy and processes of quality assurance agency, about need for engagement of all stakeholders in the

process of center's management, also he spoke about increase of the authority of the coordination council and need for increasing its role in the system of the center's management, to change the function of the coordination council and transform it from the advisory body into the decision-making body. Lasha Margishvili also spoke about necessity of making changes to the existing criteria for selection of the authorization/accreditation/appeals councils. He talked about significance of increasing the authority of the center in the process of selection of the councils' members. The presentation focused on the center's approaches in terms of fulfillment of other recommendations by ENQA, which included usage of European Approach in the issues of quality assurance of joint programs, recognition of accreditations granted by foreign organizations, introduction of systemic approaches in the process of implementation of thematic analysis and definition of details of implementation of the monitoring processes - so called follow up procedures. Lasha Margishvili also spoke about the specific proposals elaborated by the working group, which aim at improvement of the appeals review procedures.

After discussion of the issues envisaged by the meeting agenda, the members of the coordination council expressed their opinions.

The member of the coordination council Giorgi Sharvashidze pointed out that the center carried out significant work and he talked about future measures to be taken by the center in terms of fulfillment of ENQA recommendations. He shared his view on funding of the center with the participants of the meeting and he outlined that more independence of the center in the part of funding would be welcomed. Furthermore, Giorgi Sharvashidze pointed out that issue of more independence of the center should be considered and work needs to be carried out in this direction. As for the Cluster Accreditation system, Giorgi Sharvashidze pointed out that Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University is ready to engage in the pilot process of the Cluster Accreditation. He also addressed the topic of reinforcement of the experts pool and outlined the significance of enhancement of the center's activities to this end.

The member of the coordination council Giga Zedania addressed the topic of Cluster Accreditation. He expressed his own opinion about the Cluster Accreditation and talked about the programs that have already been accredited. He mentioned that it is desirable for those programs which have been accredited during recent years not to become a subject of the cluster accreditation before expiration of the term.

In the final part of her speech, the director of the center Tamar Makharashvili expressed her gratitude towards everyone for their cooperation and support.

Annex: 2 (two) presentation

1. Presentation: The Center's Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2021-2025
2. Presentation: The proposals prepared by the center on consideration of the recommendations provided in the report of the expert panel of The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).