

Law of Georgia
On the Educational Quality Enhancement
Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. 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 through internal and external mechanisms.
2. External mechanisms of the facilitation of 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 2¹. Definition of terms

1. The terms used in this law have the following meaning for the law purposes as well as for general, vocational and higher education system:

a) National qualifications framework - An instrument that classifies the qualification 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 - an individual's declaration for achieving „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 the application of knowledge and skills with relevant quality of values and independence);

d) Classifiers of 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 learning system that implies gaining „knowledge and understanding”, „skill” or/and „responsibility and autonomy” within the framework of a qualification-awarding educational program;

f) non - formal education - a part of a lifelong learning system that implies obtaining „knowledge and awareness”, „skill” or/and „responsibility and autonomy” beyond formal education.

2. Other terms used in the law that are not explained in the first paragraph of the article have the meaning defined by the legislation of Georgia.

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Chapter II. Authorized body for implementing external supporting mechanisms of the educational quality enhancement

Article 3. National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement

1. A legal entity under public law (LEPL) – the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement ('the Centre') within the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia ('the Ministry') shall be established for the facilitation of educational quality enhancement.

2. The Centre shall be independent in its activities. The Centre 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 Centre approved by the Ministry, and other legal acts.

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

- a) Approve the statute of the Centre;
- b) Approve the regulations ('the authorization provision') and fees for the authorization of educational institutions;
- c) Approve fees and the provision of accreditation (hereinafter - accreditation provision) of educational programs of General educational institutions and higher education institutions;
- 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 authorized 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) (Deleted - 20.09.2018, №3445)
- e¹) 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 Centre;
- 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 No. 347 of March 20, 20113 - website, 29.03.2013.

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

Law of Georgia No. 3028 of 5 July 2018 - web-site, 11.07.2018.

Law of Georgia No. 3445 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 4. Legal status of the Center

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

2. The head of the Centre shall be a director appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia in coordination with the Prime Minister of Georgia.

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

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

Law of Georgia №3028 of 5 July 2018 - web-site, 11.07.2018.

Article 5. Basic areas of activities of the Centre

1. Within the scope of its authority, the Centre shall:
 - a) Facilitate educational quality enhancement and develop recommendations for this purpose;
 - b) Implements authorization of general educational institutions and higher education institutions and accreditation of their educational programs (except for legal entity of public law – Technological Institute (hereinafter - Technological Institute));
 - b¹) Implements authorization of vocational educational institutions;
 - c) Ensure verification of the authenticity of educational documents issued in Georgia;
 - d) Provide recognition of education acquired abroad;
 - e) (Deleted - 20.09.2018, №3445);
 - f) Provide verification of linguistic accuracy of a strict accounting document – a state document certifying education;
 - g) Exercise other rights determined by the statute of the Centre.
2. The Centre shall forward information necessary for ensuring apostille certification/legalization 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/legalization 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 of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia and the Minister of Justice of Georgia.

Law of Georgia No. 5022 of April 27, 2016 - Website, 13.05.2010.

Law of Georgia №3028 of 5 July 2018 - web-site, 11.07.2018

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 6. Property and financing of the Centre

1. The Centre 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 Centre 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 Centre.
3. Sources of financing of the Centre shall be:
 - a) Targeted resources allocated from the State Budget of Georgia;
 - b) Fees for services provided by the Centre;
 - 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 income 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 Centre.

Chapter III. Authorization

Article 7. The purpose and content of authorization. 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 educational institutions refer to:

- A) Educational programs;
- B) Material resources;
- C) Human resources.

2¹. Authorization standards for higher education institution shall apply to:

- a) Mission and Strategic Development of the HEI;
- b) Organizational Structure and Management of the HEI;
- c) Educational Programmes;
- d) The staff of the HEI;
- e) Students and their Support Services;
- f) Research, Development or/and Other Creative Activities;
- g) Material, Information and Financial Resources.

2². Authorization standards for vocational educational institutions refer to:

- a) The mission and strategic development of the 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.

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

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

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.

1¹. The Technology Institute shall obtain authorization according to the Law of Georgia on Establishment of the Legal Entity under Public Law – the Technology Institute.

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

- a) A primary general educational programme;
- b) A basic general educational programme;
- c) A secondary general educational programme;
- d) A general vocational educational programme;
- d¹) Secondary vocational education programme;
- d²) Higher vocational education programme;
- d³) Short cycle educational programme;
- e) An educational programme for Bachelor's studies;
- e¹) An integrated teacher bachelor's and master's education training programme;

f) An educational programme for Master's studies;
g) An educational programme for Doctoral studies;
h) Another educational programme, which requires 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. An educational institution is empowered to carry out only educational program/programs indicated in the authorization application, as well as the educational program added by the educational institution during the authorization period by applying to the Center.

4. The following shall not be subject to authorization:

a) The 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 program conferring qualification;
a.c) which is neither directly nor indirectly related to the program conferring qualification and has independent study outcomes;
a.d) which is not ending with conferring qualification;
b) Individual educational activities of a natural person, including those in the field of vocational training.

5. An institution, which has obtained the status of general education institution, professional educational institution or higher educational institution without establishing another independent legal entity, is not authorized to obtain another educational institution status. In case of obtaining the relevant right, the general education institution is authorized to carry out only basic vocational education programs, secondary vocational education programs, vocational training programs and / or Vocational re-training programs without establishing an independent legal entity by the Law of Georgia on Vocational Education. Higher education institution is authorized to carry out any vocational educational programs, short cycle educational programs, state language training programs, vocational training programs and / or vocational re-training programs without creating an independent legal entity. The Authorization Board of Vocational Educational Institutions makes decisions on these issues.

5¹. The institution which has obtained a status of a higher education institution is entitled to establish a non-profit (non-commercial) legal entity for the implementation of vocational education programs and/or short cycle educational programs.

6. Failure to meet the requirements specified by paragraphs 3 and 5 of this article may cause revocation of authorization.

Law of Georgia No. 347 of March 20, 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 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 9. Self-evaluation of an applicant

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

Article 10. A group of authorization experts

To provide authorization of general, vocation and higher educational institutions, the Centre shall form groups of authorization experts 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 No. 347 of March 20, 2013 - website, 29.03.2013.

Article 11. Decision regarding granting 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 1² of this article. The terms of reference of the authorization councils are determined by the authorization statute, which guarantees their functional independence from educational and state institutions.

1¹. Authorization Council of higher educational institutions consists of constant members and invited members. Invited members are participating in the Authorization Council of higher education institutions only in case when provided by the higher education institution status seeker application for authorization indicated regulated academic higher educational program provided by the article 75, paragraph 2, subparagraph “b” of the Law of Georgia “On higher education.” Invited members of the Authorization Council of higher education institutions have the right to vote.

1². Invited members of the Authorization Council of higher educational institutions are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia on the proposal of the Ministry. Selecting the candidates for invited members of the Authorization Council of higher educational institutions the Ministry is guided by the requirements and criteria established by the World Federation of Medical Education.

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

- a) To grant an authorization;
- b) To deny an authorization;
- c) To revoke an authorization.

2¹. Authorization Council of higher educational institutions is authorized within the process of authorization of higher educational institution or the process of checking completion of authorization conditions to decide 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 educational institution, is defined by the Authorization Statute.

3. Authorization Councils must justify the decisions they render.

4. Decisions on authorization or denial of authorization shall be made within 180 calendar days after recognition of an institution as an applicant.

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

6. Times for submission of an authorization application must provide for the continuity of the status of an educational institution. The Centre must notify the educational institution on the expiry of the term of authorization nine months prior to its expiry.

Law of Georgia No. 347 of March 20, 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.

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 shall be six years.

3. If making a decision, the authorization boards shall define the limited number of students, vocational students and students through the authorization term in accordance with the rule set out by the provision on the authorization.

Law of Georgia No. 347 of March 20, 2013 - website, 29.03.2013.

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

Law of Georgia No. 3437 of September 20, 2018 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Article 13. Legal consequences of authorization

As a result of authorization educational institution has right to admit pupils, vocational students, students and issue document confirming qualification as provided for by the legislation of Georgia, except the case provided by the paragraph 2¹ of the article 11.

Law of Georgia No. 1933 of December 23, 2017 - website, 11.01.2018.

Article 14. Decisions to deny an authorization

A decision to deny an authorization shall be made if an educational institution fails to meet one of the authorization standards.

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

1. The Centre shall monitor the performance of the terms of authorization by an educational institution. If a violation is identified, the Authorization Councils shall be empowered to provide up not more than 60 days for the educational institution to correct flaws, unless it is obvious that this will have no effect.

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

2¹. A self-assessment report is provided to the Center minimum once in every 3 years. The dates for providing a self-assessment report to the Center are determined by the individual administrative act of the Director of Center.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Centre, the Authorization Councils shall be empowered to make a decision to revoke an authorization based on the results of an inspection of an educational institution, if the educational institution violates authorization 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.

4. The decision on cancellation of authorization will be accepted within 90 calendar days after the order of the Center's Director on checking conditions of authorization of educational institution is issued. The expiration period is considered to be suspended during the time frame 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 No. 347 of March 20, 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.

Article 16. Legal Results for refusing authorization or cancellation of the authorization

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

a) The institution cannot obtain or loses the status of an educational

- institution;
- b) Students have the right to transfer to other relevant institutions;
 - c) Vocational students/ students shall have students status suspended for 5 years and are entitled to use mobility rights.
2. In case of deciding on refusal to authorization or cancellation of the authorization, a legal entity is entitled to submit an authorization application to the Center after 1 year after a denial to authorize or after a decision to revoke an authorization is taken.

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

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 16¹. Adding an educational program

1. Educational Institution is entitled to add academic higher education programs / programs, Vocational education program / programs, short cycle educational program / programs or state language program (except regulated, teacher training, veterinary training, Georgian language training and doctoral programs) via application about adding of educational programs submitted to the Centre.

2. The application form to be submitted to the Center to add an educational program is approved by the individual administrative-legal act of the Center's Director.

3. The Authorization statute determines the rule for adding an educational program, conditions, and the fee.

4. Decision on adding of an educational program or refusal to add educational program shall be made within 90 calendar days after submission of an application about adding of the educational program for the Center.

Law of Georgia No. 1224 of July 26, 2017 - Website, 28.07.2017.

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 16². Increase number of pupils, vocational students, and students

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

2. The form of a written application about the increase of the number of seats 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 the increase of the number of seats for pupils, vocational students and students are determined by the authorization provision.

4. Decision on the increase of the number of seats for pupils, vocational students and students or refusal to increase of the number of seats for pupils, vocational students and students is made within 90 calendar days after submission of a written application to the center about increase of the number of seats 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-assessment educational programs of educational institutions (other than vocational educational programs and short cycle educational programs) and promote the development of quality assurance mechanisms to improve the quality of education through determining compliance of educational programs of educational institutions with accreditation standards.

2. State education grants and state Master's education grants shall be awarded to finance an educational programme of a higher education institution (except for an Orthodox theological education institution) that underwent accreditation, or whose accreditation was performed by an appropriately competent foreign organization recognized by the Centre.

3. Regulated, teacher training and Georgian language educational programs, as well as PhD programs, except for the PhD of Orthodox theological educational institution, can only be carried out after going through accreditation.

4. Educational programs of the Technological Institute go through accreditation in accordance with the Law of Georgia "On the Establishment of legal entity of public law - Technological Institute".

5. Implementation of a Joint Higher Education Program for which, according to the Georgian legislation, is obligatory to get accreditation, is only allowed after going through accreditation. Accreditation of Joint Higher Education Program 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 November 27, 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 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 18. Accreditation Standards

Accreditation Standards are:

- a) purpose of the educational program, learning outcomes and their compliance with the program;
- b) Teaching methodology and organization, adequacy of the program achievement assessment;
- c) Achievements of pupils / students, individual work with them;
- d) Provision with learning resources;
- e) Opportunities for learning quality development.

Article 19. Carrying out Accreditation

1. Carrying out Accreditation is provided by the Center.

2. An Accreditation Board for Educational Programs is established to make a decision on accreditation (hereinafter mentioned as 'Accreditation Board') that consists of permanent and invited members. A public servant is not allowed to be the board member except the cases envisaged in the 2nd section of the article. The authority and procedure of activities of the Accreditation Board shall be determined by the accreditation provision, which guarantees its functional independence from educational institutions and state bodies.

2¹. Members invited to the Accreditation Council shall only participate in its activities if in the accreditation application submitted by the higher education institution is indicated adjustable academic higher education program envisaged by subparagraph "b" of paragraph 2 of Article 75 of the law of Georgia on Higher education. The accreditation board invited members have right to vote.

2². The Prime Minister of Georgia appoints and dismiss permanent and invited members of the accreditation board according to presentation by the Ministry. While selecting the candidate invited members of the accreditation board the ministry follows the requirements and criteria set out by Medical Educational World Federation regarding creation of the board.

3. Accreditation of higher education programs, including a joint higher education program, 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 provision.

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. 3437 of September 20, 2018 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Article 20. Self-assessment of accreditation applicant

The first step of the accreditation process is self-assessment conducted by the accreditation applicant in accordance with the form provided in advance by the Center to the accreditation applicant.

Article 21. A group of accreditation experts

For the purpose to carry out accreditation, the Center creates an experts group of accreditation, the creation and procedure of which is determined by the provision of accreditation.

Article 22. The decision regarding granting authorization

1. The decision on accreditation of educational programs of educational institution (other than vocational educational programs and short cycle educational programs) shall be made by the Accreditation board in accordance with the provisions of the accreditation, including, on the basis of the report of the experts group of accreditation, in accordance with procedure defined by the Georgian legislation.

2. The decision on accreditation may be of four types:

- A) Accreditation;
- B) Conditional accreditation;
- C) Refusing accreditation;
- D) Revoking accreditation.

3. The first accreditation term for the educational program (except for the educational program which the institution undertakes continuously for the last two years in an authorized mode) is 4 years. Every subsequent accreditation term of the educational program acting in the accreditation mode, as well as accreditation period of such an educational program, which is undertaken by the institution continuously for the last two years in an authorized mode, is 7 years. Conditional accreditation term of the educational program is no longer than 2 years. Accreditation is canceled in case of expiration of authorization term or cancellation of authorization.

3¹. In the case of the first and every subsequent accreditation of the educational program, the decision on accreditation will be taken if the educational program fully meets all accreditation standards.

3². In the case of first accreditation of the educational program and for every subsequent accreditation, the decision on conditional accreditation shall be made in the case established by the accreditation provision and in accordance with the procedure, if educational program does not fully meet the accreditation standards.

3³. The decision on conditional accreditation may not be taken twice in a row.

3⁴. The decision on accreditation is made within 180 calendar days from the payment of accreditation fee.

4. Terms for the submission of accreditation application shall allow for the continuity of the accreditation of the 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 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 23. Verification of accreditation conditions and revocation of accreditation

1. The center controls the fulfillment of accreditation conditions by general education institution/ higher educational institution. In case of occurrence of violation of accreditation terms, accreditation board is authorized to define no more than 60 days for appropriate general education institution/ higher educational institution. To correct the deficiency, unless it is evident that it will not have a result.

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

2¹. A self-assessment report is provided to the Center minimum once in every 3 years. The terms for the submission of the self-evaluation report to the center are determined by the individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.

3. From examination results of the general education institution/ higher educational institution, accreditation board is authorized to make a decision on canceling accreditation with the submission of the Center, if the general education institution/ higher educational institution violates accreditation conditions.

4. A decision on the revocation of accreditation shall be taken within 90 calendar days from the issue of an order of the Director of the Center regarding the examination of the fulfillment of accreditation conditions by the general education institution/ higher educational institution. The expiration period is considered to be suspended during the time frame given by the accreditation council for correcting an error.

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 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 24. Legal consequences of refusal of accreditation or revocation of accreditation

In the case of refusing or revocation of accreditation:

a) Higher education institution loses the right to receive state education grants and state educational grants for Master's on relevant educational programs;

b) students, who have studied with state funding, are entitled to transfer to another accredited educational program and transfer the remaining amount of state funding allocated for them to this educational program;

c) Higher education institution terminates the implementation of regulated, teacher training and educational programs in the Georgian language, as well as the doctoral educational programs. In such case, students shall have students' status suspended for 5 years and are entitled to use mobility rights.

Chapter IV¹. Dispute resolution body

Article 24¹. Board of Appeals

1. Decisions referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 11 and paragraph 2 of Article 22 of this Law may be appealed at the Board of Appeals and / or in the court.

2. The members of the Board of Appeals are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister of Georgia upon the recommendation of the Ministry. A member of the Board of Appeals may not be a public servant, a member of the authorization board or a member of the accreditation board. The authority and procedure of activities of the Board of Appeals shall be determined by the authorization and accreditation provisions, which guarantee its functional independence from educational institutions and state bodies. The Minister is authorized to establish the time frames different from those provided for by the General Administrative Code of Georgia for submitting and reviewing the complaint to the Board of Appeals.

3. The decision of the Board of Appeals may be of two types:

- a) On supporting the decision of authorization board/accreditation board;
- b) On returning the case for reconsideration to the authorization board/accreditation board.

4. The appeal against the decision of authorization board/accreditation board at the Board of Appeals or the court does not suspend such a decision.

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

Chapter IV². The framework of national qualifications and learning fields classifier

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Article 24². The framework of national qualifications and its goals

1. The framework of national qualification consists of 8 levels. Each framework of national qualification is element defining difficulty of qualification, which unites Described, generalized study results - descriptors by "Knowledge and Understanding", "Skill" and "Responsibility and Autonomy".

2. The goals of the national qualifications framework are:

- 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 lifelong learning;
- d) Supporting quality assurance system;
- e) Ensuring compatibility, comparison ability and transparency of qualifications at the international level;
- f) Promoting mobility;
- g) Supporting recognition of formal education obtained during the 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 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Article 24³. Approval, management and development of national qualifications framework

1. National qualifications framework is approved by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport by submission of the Centre.

2. The Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport upon submission of the center shall approve the procedures and rules for the management, development and monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework, the creation and administration of the electronic registry of qualifications, as well as the procedures and rules for recognition of non - formal education.

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Article 24⁴. Learning fields classifier

1. A learning field's classifier classifies learning fields existing in Georgia and identifies a qualification to be granted in each field.

2. Education field classifier is approved by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport by submission of the Centre.

3. The center director approves the rule of management, development and monitoring of education field classifier by an individual administrative-legal act.

Law of Georgia №3437 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 05.10.2018.

Chapter V. The authority of the Center in verification of the authenticity of educational documents and recognition of received education

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

During verifying the authenticity of the educational documents issued in Georgia, the Center determines if a person has fully or partially undertaken the educational program, as well as the fact of issuing a 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, 13.05.2010.

Article 25¹. Recognition of the education received in Georgia

1. The Centre 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 confirming recognition of the education provided by the paragraph 1 of this Article - diploma.

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 September 20, 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 26. Recognition of education received abroad

For the purpose of recognizing education received abroad, the Center determines:

a) if the educational document is issued in the name of the person, who is mentioned in this document and if educational institution that issued the document is recognized by the legislation of that country, where this institution implements its educational activities (verification of authenticity);

b) The compliance of qualification received abroad with qualifications existing in Georgia (establishment of compliance).

Chapter VI. (Deleted).

Law of Georgia No 3445 of 20 September 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 27. (Deleted).

Law of Georgia No 3445 of September 20, 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 28. (Deleted).

Law of Georgia No 3445 of September 20, 2018 – web-site, 09.10.2018.

Article 29. (Deleted).

Law of Georgia No 3445 of September 20, 2018 – web-site, 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, before 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 the fee for the services provided by the Center, calculation of the term for services and refund of the paid fee

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 VII. Transitional Provisions

Article 32. Measures related to the enactment of the law

1. The Government of Georgia shall ensure compliance of this Law with the decree #37 of the Government of Georgia of 21 May 2004 on "Approval of the Statute of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia" Until 15 September 2010.

2. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall ensure the approval of legal acts provided for by points "a" and "b" of paragraph 3 of Article 3 of this Law until September 15, 2010 and legal acts provided for by points "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. The legal entity of public law - National Center for Education Accreditation shall be reorganized as the legal entity of public law - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. The legal entity of public law - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement is the assignee of the legal entity of public law - National Center for Education Accreditation.

5. To define the legal entity of public law - National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement as a successor of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, is part of the implemented and ongoing activities of the Department of Licensing, Legalization and Apostille of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

6. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia shall be tasked with implementing the activities relating to the reorganization of LEPL – National Centre for Educational Accreditation into LEPL- National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement. Before the completion of these measures the functions of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement shall be fulfilled by the Legal Entity of Public Law - National Education Accreditation Center, and the functions of Licensing, Legalization and Apostille Division within the Legal Provision Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia – shall be performed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Article 32¹. Authorization of Orthodox theological higher education institutions

The higher education institutions established by the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia, based on this law, shall be considered authorized until January 1, 2015. From January 1, 2015, these Orthodox theological higher educational institutions are subject to authorization according to the rules established by the legislation of Georgia.

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

Article 32². Re-authorization of higher education institutions and accreditation of educational programs

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

2. Higher education programs accredited in 2011-2012 and educational programs in Georgian language training shall be considered as accredited by the decree of the Government of Georgia in accordance with the stages for re-accreditation of these educational programs. Prior to September 1, 2017, by the decree of Government of Georgia define the re-accreditation stages for 2018-2022 for higher education programs and Georgian language training programs accredited in 2011-2012, in accordance with directions envisioned by "list of directions, fields/specialties, sub-fields/specialties and professional specialties" (annex №4) approved by the order №120/N of the Minister of Education and

Science of Georgia of December 10, 2010 "On Approval of the National Quality Framework ".

3. Before January 1, 2018, the higher education institutions shall examine the authorization conditions provided for in Article 15 of this Law in accordance with the applicable authorization standards until 1 September 2016.

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.

Article 32³. Approval with Apostille / legalization of documents certifying education received after September 1, 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 September 1, 2010.

Law of Georgia No. 5022 of April 27, 2016 - Website, 13.05.2010.

Chapter IX. Final provision

Article 33. Entry into force of the law

This Law shall enter into force from September 1, 2010.

President of Georgia M. Saakashvili Tbilisi

July 21, 2010

№3531–RS

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.

Article 323. Approval with Apostille / legalization of documents certifying education received 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, 13.05.2010.

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