Quality Assurance System of Higher Education of Georgia

National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE)

Mandate of the Center

- ### *Vision*

- Center represents a regional hub with high credibility and recognition on local and international level, which offers a wide range of services related to education quality enhancement to the public

- ### *Mission*

- Support education quality enhancement by providing services that are user-oriented and based on internationally recognized standards and best local practices, as well as by supporting enhancement of quality-oriented governance

Quality Assurance: development of quality assurance standards for educational institutions and programs and implementing external QA procedures in Pre-school, General, Vocational and Higher Education

Qualification Development and Improvement: development and implementation of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and Sectoral Benchmark Statements

Recognition of Education: provision of education recognition services for learners

Support Quality Enhancement: promoting and fostering quality culture and management practice at Georgian educational institutions

NCEQE is a Legal Entity of Public law (LEPL) within the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The Center was established in 2010 for the purpose to improve educational quality throughout the country

International Recognition of NCEQE

2018 – *NCEQE gained recognition from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)*

2019 – *NCEQE gained membership of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)*

2019 – *NCEQE registered at the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)*

2018-2020 – *NCEQE Co-chaired the BICG TPG C on QA*

2020 – *NCEQE became CEENQA member*

2023 – *NCEQE became INQAAHE member*

2021-2024 - *NCEQE Co-chair of the BICG TPG A on QF*

2018

WFME

2019

EQAR

2020

CEENQA

2023

INQAAHE

2019

ENQA

2018 - 2020

BICG/Co-chair of TPG C
on QA and TPG A on QF

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE NCEQE FOR QA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Partnering in Erasmus+ projects:
  - PROFFORMANCE+ aiming to continue guiding and supporting mission of higher education actors at all relevant levels (EU, EHEA, national, institutional) in quality enhancement of T&L, with special attention to the priorities of Rome Communique: digitalization, inclusion, internationalization and sustainability;
  - SQUARE – supporting quality and relevance of the Third Mission activities of HEIs in Georgia
  - ETHICS – Responsible Conduct of Research – Research Integrity and Ethics in Georgian Universities

- Collaboration with BFUG working groups on:
  - Learning and Teaching in higher education
  - Social Dimension
- Collaboration with BFUG Thematic Peer Groups on Qualifications Framework, Lisbon Recognition Convention, and Quality Assurance
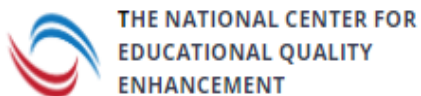
NCEQE Role in the Project

- Enhancing the awareness and fostering a better understanding of stakeholders regarding micro-credentials

- Supporting the elaboration process of legal-framework for implementation of micro-credentials in the higher education system of Georgia: QA framework, recognition procedures and etc.

- Conducting workshops and seminars for the representatives of HEI`s about the implementation of micro-credential

- The NCEQE conducted thematic analyze on micro-credentials in 2023

Thank You

Higher Education QA System Reform

Phase 1

- **First Phase of Georgian HE QA System Reform of 2005-2010**
  - Georgia joined Bologna Process in 2005
  - Institutional accreditations were introduced and the Center was established in 2006

Phase 2

Second Phase of Georgian HE QA System Reform of 2010-2015 – Structural Changes in HE Education System in line With the ESG 2005

- New Law on Education Quality Enhancement was adopted in 2010
- NCEQE was established in 2010, separate unit for HE QA was created within the NCEQE
- NCEQE got affiliation to ENQA in 2013
- Georgia became a co-chair of the BFUG

Phase 3

- **Third Phase of Georgian HE QA System Reform of 2015-2017– the Quality Assurance Mechanisms were reformed in line with the ESG-2015**
- Aimed at enhancing the quality of higher education provision and promoting student-centeredness
- Aimed at strengthening the development-oriented and outcome-based function of quality assurance system
- Aimed to ensure the compatibility of the Georgian higher education quality assurance system with ESG and meeting the commitments of the Bologna Process and EU-Georgian Association Agreement
- After NCEQE piloted the revised quality assurance standards, new HE QA standards were approved in 2018

Quality assurance mechanisms in Georgia

Georgian higher education institutions are required by legislation to use internal and external quality assurance mechanisms

Exeternal quality assurance mechanisms implemented by the NCEQE:

- **Authorization – Institutional Evaluation**

- **Accreditation of programmes**

The internal quality assurance system operates at both institutional and program levels.

Authorization

An instrument for external evaluation of compatibility of an institution with standards. Authorization is obligatory for all types of educational institutions in order to carry out educational activities and to issue an educational document approved by the state.

Authorization Standards for HEIs

1. Mission and strategic development of HEI

2. Organizational structure and management of HEI

3. Educational programs

4. Staff of HEI

5. Student Support Services

6. Research, Development and Innovation

7. Material, Information and Financial Resources

Accreditation

An external evaluation mechanism, which determines the compatibility of an educational program with standards. State funding goes only to accredited programs. Accreditation is mandatory for all programs.

Accreditation Standards

1. Educational Programme Objectives, Learning Outcomes and Their Compliance With The Programme

2. Teaching Methodology and Organization, Adequate Evaluation of Programme Mastering

3. Student Performance, Individual work with them

4. Provision with Teaching Resources

5. Teaching Quality Enhancement Opportunity

Procedures for Authorization/Accreditation

- ❑ **Submission of application by HEI (Self-Evaluation Report and annexed Documents)**

- ❑ **Recognition as an authorization/accreditation Seeker**

- ❑ **Create of authorization/accreditation expert panel**

- ❑ **Preliminary review of documents and determination of the agenda of the visit**

- ❑ **Conduct a site visit based on the agenda of the visit**

- ❑ **Elaboration of a draft evaluation report**

- ❑ **Submission of reasonable arguments on the factual errors from the HEI**

- ❑ **Elaboration of final report and its submission to the HEI**

- ❑ **Hold an oral hearing (council meeting) for decision-making**

- ❑ **Publication of the council decision and expert panel final report**

Final decision shall be issued within 180 days

Follow-up procedures: 1 year and 3-year progress reports, planned and case-based monitoring procedures

Shifting to Cluster Accreditation System (2022-2028)

- Concept of cluster accreditation has been developed within the Twinning project
  - The piloting process - in several HE institutions
- Cluster accreditation standards and procedures – developed
- Capacity building activity (TOT) – provided for NCEQE staff
  - Support system – established for the HE institutions
  - Experts certification process – implemented in the selected study fields

Key benefits and expected outcomes:

- **Makes visible the strengths and weaknesses of the education provision in concrete study fields on institutional and country levels;**
- **Saves human and financial resources of the Center and HEIs**
- **Speed up the benchmark development for concrete study field**

Building the Future

❖ Development of specific standards for the evaluation of Doctoral Programmes

❖ Continuous professional development of expert pool members

❖ Development of sectoral benchmark statements for all study fields [approved by the sectoral benchmark council with members from HEIs, regulatory bodies, non-governmental sector, etc.]

❖ Support of the implementation of quality culture within institutions

❖ Enhancing stakeholder engagement in external and internal quality assurance

Thank You