

Order No. 103/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia

1 October 2020, Tbilisi

On Approving the Rule for Management, Development and Monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework and for the Creation and Administration of the Electronic Register of Qualifications

On the basis of Article 24³(2) of the Law of Georgia “On Education Quality Enhancement,” I hereby order:

Article 1

To approve the attached “Rule for Management, Development and Monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework and for the Creation and Administration of the Electronic Register of Qualifications.”

Article 2

To instruct the LEPL – National Center for Education Quality Enhancement and the LEPL – Education Management Information System to carry out joint measures, by 31 December 2021, to create the electronic register of qualifications provided for by Article 1 of this Order.

(Order No. 09/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia of 9 February 2021 – website, 10.02.2021)

Article 3

Only the qualifications corresponding to educational programs developed on the basis of the “National Qualifications Framework,” approved by sub-paragraph “a” of Article 1 of Order No. 69/N of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia of 10 April 2019 “On Approving the National Qualifications Framework and the Classifier of Fields of Study,” shall be entered in the electronic register of qualifications provided for by Article 1 of this Order.

Article 4

This Order shall enter into force upon its publication.

Rule for Management, Development and Monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework and for the Creation and Administration of the Electronic Register of Qualifications

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. Scope of Regulation

This Rule defines the body authorized to manage, develop and monitor the National Qualifications Framework and to create and administer the electronic register of qualifications, as well as the rule for the management, development and monitoring of the National Qualifications Framework and for the creation and administration of the electronic register of qualifications.

Article 2. Body Authorized to Manage, Develop and Monitor the National Qualifications Framework and to Administer the Electronic Register of Qualifications

The LEPL – National Center for Education Quality Enhancement (hereinafter – the Center) is the body authorized to manage, develop and monitor the National Qualifications Framework (hereinafter – the Framework) and to create and administer the electronic register of qualifications.

Chapter II. Management and Development of the Framework

Article 3. Issues of Management and Development of the Framework

The management and development of the Framework includes the following issues:

- a) the further development of the structure and content of the Framework;
- b) facilitating the development of learning-outcomes-based educational programs and corresponding qualifications;
- c) entering the qualification(s) of the relevant educational program in the electronic register, which confirms its recognition as part of the Framework (inclusion in the Framework);
- d) informing the public, including about qualifications existing at the international level;
- e) preparing a self-assessment document, in compliance with the established criteria and procedures, for the purpose of determining compatibility with the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA) and/or the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL).

Article 4. Rule for Amending the Structure and Content of the Framework

For the purpose of its further development, the structure and content of the Framework may be amended:

- a) on the basis of changes made in the legislation of Georgia, which may provide for a change in the terminology/purpose of the Framework, as well as the introduction of new qualification(s) (including typical qualification(s)), or the amendment or abolition of an existing qualification (including a typical qualification), and/or a change in the number of levels of the Framework and/or in the elements of the Framework descriptor;
- b) on the basis of the Framework monitoring report defined by Article 9 of this Rule, which may provide for bringing the descriptors of the Framework levels into line with new requirements and updating them;
- c) on the basis of changes made in the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA) and/or the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL).

Article 5. Facilitating the Development of Learning-Outcomes-Based Educational Programs and Corresponding Qualifications

1. An educational program on the basis of which a qualification is awarded must be described by learning outcomes, which must be consistent with the generalized learning outcomes of one of the levels of the Framework and/or with an educational standard.
2. For the purposes of this Rule, an educational standard is the National Curriculum approved by Order No. 40/N of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 18 May 2016 “On Approving the National Curriculum,” the vocational educational standard approved by an

individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center, and the sectoral characteristic of higher education (where one exists).

3. The learning outcomes of the Framework, of an educational standard, and of an educational program differ from one another in their degree of detail. The learning outcomes of an educational program are the most specific and are linked to a field of study. The educational standard is also linked to a field of study; however, the learning outcomes described in it are more general than those described in the educational program. At the same time, the educational standard specifies and clarifies the learning outcomes of the Framework. The Framework level descriptors are general and neutral, and do not describe any field of study and/or employment. The Framework defines the minimum and generalized learning outcomes of the relevant level.

4. The conformity of the learning outcomes of an educational program and its corresponding qualification with the Framework level descriptor, as well as the conformity of the learning outcomes of an educational standard with the Framework level descriptor, is determined on the basis of a methodology developed and approved by the Center.

5. For the further development of learning-outcomes-based educational programs and corresponding qualifications, the Center:

- a) carries out coordinated activities with the bodies regulating regulated programs, as established by the legislation of Georgia, for the purpose of developing, further developing, and ensuring the quality of educational standards;
- b) carries out coordinated activities with the relevant sectoral state agencies and, where they exist, professional associations for professions regulated at the international level, taking into account the minimum training conditions established for professions regulated at the international level, for the purpose of developing, further developing, and ensuring the quality of the national educational standard;
- c) facilitates the development of vocational educational standards and learning-outcomes-based vocational training and vocational retraining programs in accordance with the procedure established by legislation;
- d) for the purpose of facilitating the development of educational standards of higher/vocational education (sectoral characteristic of higher education/vocational educational standard), creates and administers sectoral working groups of higher/vocational education.

Article 6. Inclusion of Qualifications in the Framework

1. The relationship of the general names of the educational programs of the education subsystems (general education, vocational education and higher education) and of their corresponding qualifications to the Framework levels is defined by the legislation of Georgia.

2. The determination by legislation of the general names of qualifications according to the Framework levels does not mean the automatic inclusion in the Framework of a qualification with a specific name. The general name of a qualification defined by the legislation of Georgia creates the basis for developing educational programs and their corresponding qualifications with specific names.

3. The inclusion in the Framework of the qualifications corresponding to educational programs developed by educational institutions, as well as to vocational training and vocational retraining programs, is carried out only where the external quality assurance standards are met, which are in conformity with the document “Association Agreement

between Georgia, of the one part, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the other part,” signed on 27 June 2014, and with the quality assurance principles established by the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL).

4. In the course of implementing external quality assurance mechanisms, the conformity of the learning outcomes of a specific educational program and its corresponding qualification with the educational standard and/or with the descriptor of one of the levels of the Framework is determined on the basis of a methodology approved by the Center.

5. The inclusion in the Framework of specific qualifications of higher/vocational educational programs and of vocational training and vocational retraining programs is carried out in accordance with Article 7 of this Rule.

Article 7. Rule for the Creation and Administration of the Electronic Register of Qualifications

1. In order to ensure the publicity of information about qualifications, an electronic register of qualifications is created.

2. The electronic register of qualifications is a database placed on the server of the LEPL – Education Management Information System, which combines the information provided for by this Rule, and authorized users use specially created applications to enter/process/remove information in it.

3. In order to enter a specific qualification in the electronic register of qualifications, the Center, in accordance with Annex VI of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL) and taking national needs into account, develops the registration form necessary for reflecting qualifications in the register (hereinafter – the qualification registration form). The qualification registration form is common to all specific qualifications; however, the optional and common fields may differ for the qualifications of the education subsystems (general education, vocational education and higher education), as well as of vocational training and vocational retraining programs. The qualification registration form is approved by an order of the Director of the Center.

4. After an institution authorized to issue a document certifying a qualification has successfully completed the external education quality assurance mechanism, a fully completed qualification registration form, certified by an authorized person of the institution, is sent to the Center in order to enter each qualification in the electronic register of qualifications.

5. Within 3 working days, the Center verifies the information reflected in the qualification registration form. If a deficiency is identified, the Center sets the institution a period of no less than 5 and no more than 15 working days to correct it.

6. Within 10 working days after receiving the document provided for by paragraph 4 of this Article, the Center registers the specific qualification(s) in the electronic register of qualifications. The running of this period is considered suspended during the period set by the Center for correcting the deficiency.

Article 8. Dissemination of Information at the National and International Levels

1. The Center informs interested persons on issues related to the Framework. For this purpose, the Center:

- a) organizes and/or conducts trainings and seminars;

- b) provides consultations;
 - c) develops recommendations related to the development of the Framework;
 - d) develops a guide to the Framework and ensures its accessibility.
2. For the purpose of comparison with the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF-LLL) and/or the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), the Center is authorized to carry out a self-assessment of the National Qualifications Framework in compliance with the relevant criteria and procedures, and to ensure that information about the Framework is provided at the international level.

Chapter III. Monitoring of the Framework

Article 9. Time Limits and Conditions for Carrying Out Monitoring

1. The Center monitors the Framework once every 5 years.
2. The purpose of monitoring is to facilitate the further development of the Framework. The issues to be studied through monitoring are described in detail in the monitoring plan, which may relate to the objectives of the Framework, the Framework level descriptors, terminology, qualifications, the development of programs corresponding to qualifications, and the functioning of the electronic register of qualifications. When carrying out monitoring, the progress achieved must be studied, existing deficiencies and problems identified, and relevant recommendations developed.
3. The Framework monitoring plan is discussed and agreed with the governing body defined by the Statute of the Center.
4. The rule and conditions for carrying out monitoring, including the issue of forming a group composed of persons with the relevant competence, are established on the basis of an individual administrative-legal act of the Director of the Center.
5. On the basis of monitoring, for the purpose of the further development of the Framework, Framework development activities are developed, which are reflected in the action plan of the Center.

Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia
Mikheil Chkhenkeli