

**LEPL Unified National Accreditation Body -
Accreditation Center**
Annual report of 2021

LEPL - Unified National
Accreditation Body - Accreditation
Center 2022

This report has been prepared by LEPL - Unified National Accreditation Body - Accreditation Center (hereby GAC) and includes a description of the activities carried out by the Accreditation Center throughout 2021. The document presents both statistical and narrative information to provide readers with complete and exhaustive information on the activities carried out by the Accreditation Center during 2021.

➤ **Information about the main activities of the Accreditation Center:**

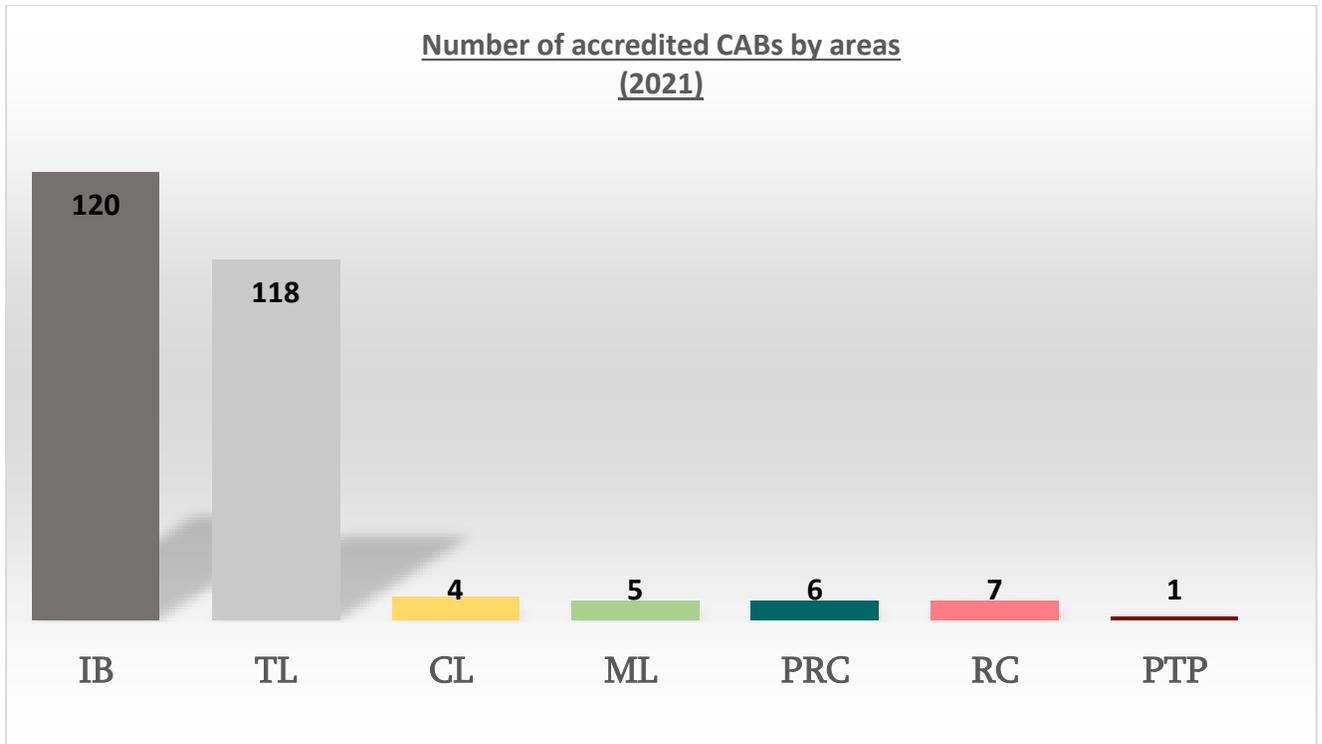
General director of the LEPL Unified National Accreditation Body approved the Annual and Re-Accreditation Assessment Plans for 2021 by Decree N01 / 111 (30.12.2021) . According to the approved plan, the number of accredited conformity assessment bodies (hereinafter referred to as the CABs) accredited by GAC in accordance with the accreditation rules and procedures at the end of 2021 was 261 out of which 180 were subject to annual evaluation and 81 were re-accredited.

Accreditation Center issues accreditation:

- For medical laboratories – in compliance with ISO 15189: 2012/2015;
- For certification of products, processes and services - in compliance with ISO / IEC 17065: 2012/2014;
- For personnel certification bodies - in compliance with ISO / IEC 17024: 2012/2014;
- For inspection bodies – in compliance with ISO / IEC 17020: 2012/2013;
- For Proficiency Testing Providers – in compliance with ISO / IEC 17043: 2010/2016;
- For testing and calibration laboratories – in compliance with ISO / IEC 17025: 2017/2018.

According to Accreditation Plan for 2021 the number of CABs divided by areas as follows:

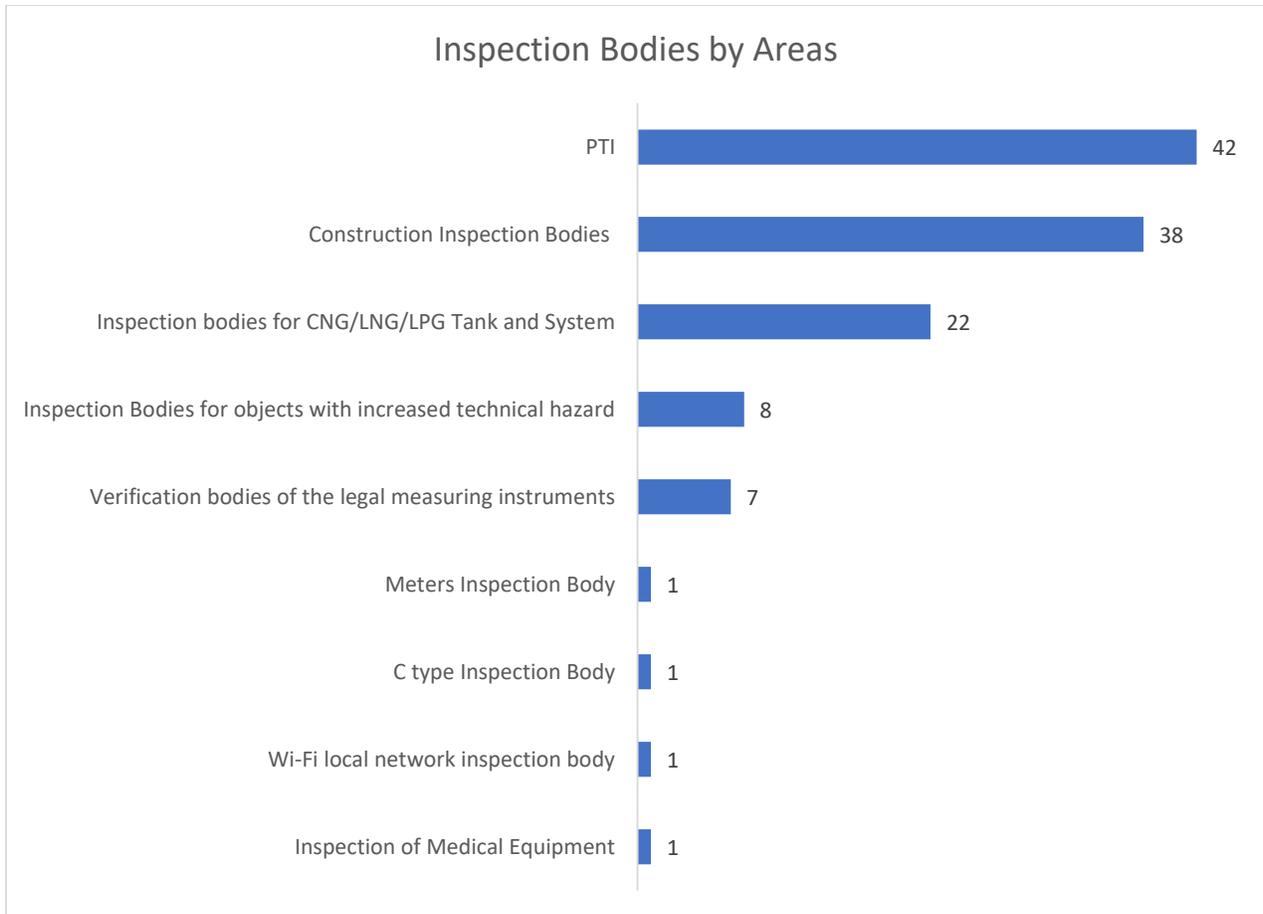
- 120 Inspection bodies - IB;
- 118 Testing Laboratories - TL;
- 4 Calibration laboratories - CL;
- 5 Medical laboratories - ML;
- 6 Products, processes and services certification body - PRC;
- 7 Personnel certification body - PC;
- 1 Proficiency Testing Providers PTP;



Accredited CABS in the same field vary by activity.

Inspection bodies (in total 120), which have been accredited in accordance with ISO / IEC 17020: 2012/2013, are divided according to their activities as follows:

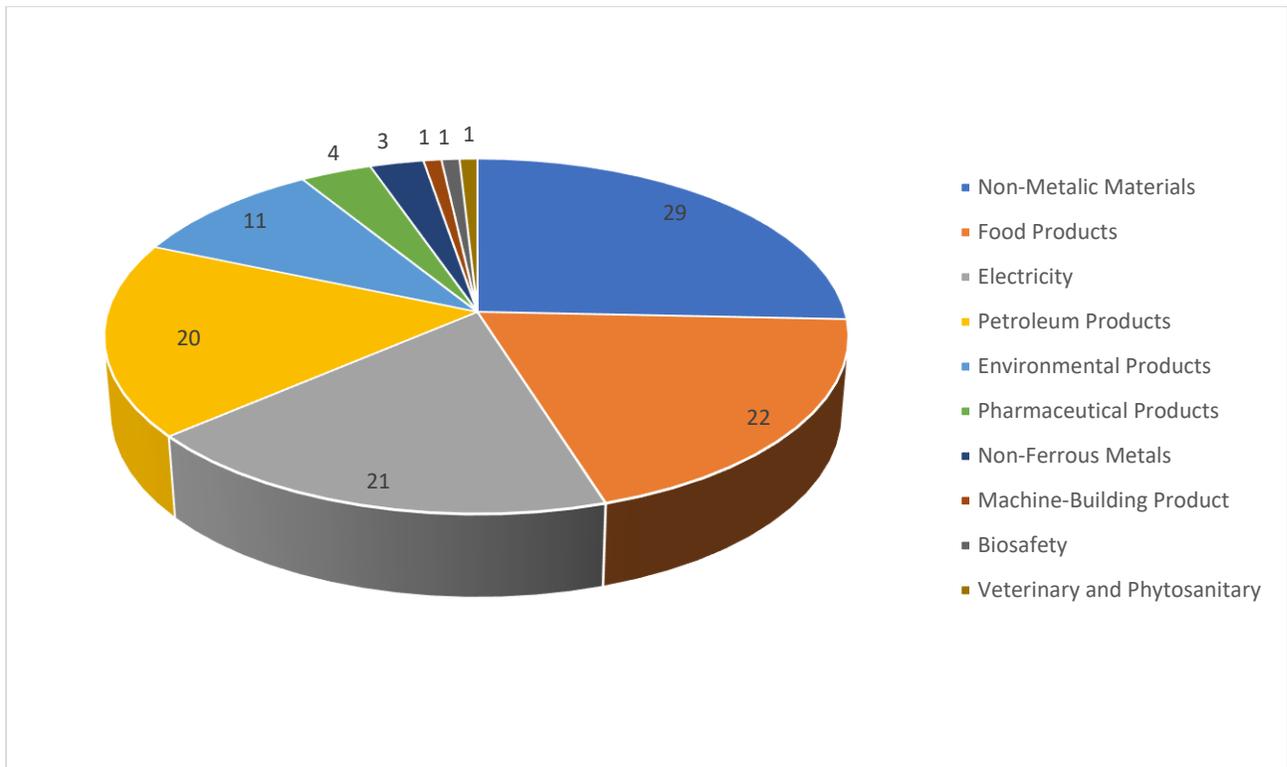
- ✓ 42 Regular technical inspection body for motor vehicles ensure road safety(PTI);
- ✓ 38 Construction activity inspection body;
- ✓ 22 Inspection body for natural liquefied balloon devices;
- ✓ 8 Inspection bodies for objects with increased technical hazard (elevator, attraction, mine, oil depot);
- ✓ 7 Verification bodies of the legal measuring instruments;
- ✓ 1 C type (tachograph) inspection body;
- ✓ 1 B - type meter inspection body;
- ✓ 1 (Wi-Fi) local network inspection body;
- ✓ 1 Medical equipment inspection body;



The activities of 118 testing laboratories accredited in compliance with ISO / IEC 17025: 2017/2018 are divided according to areas as follows:

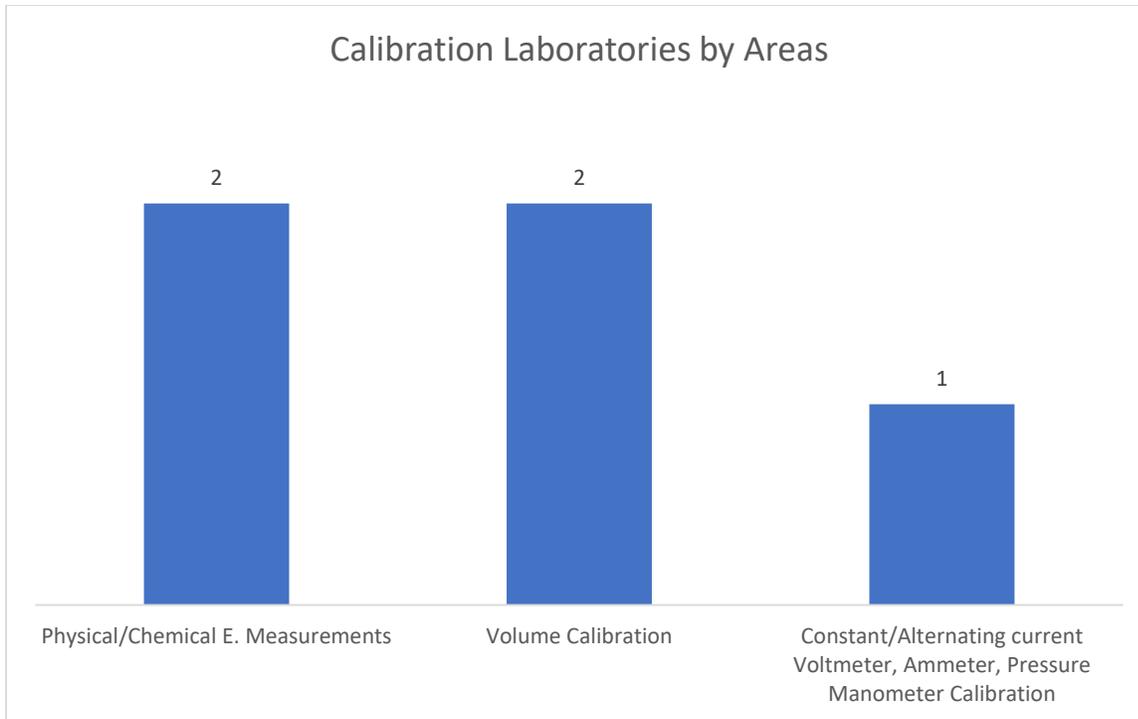
- ✓ 29 Testing laboratories for non-metallic materials (including: sand, gravel, concrete, cement, primers, reinforcement, etc.);
- ✓ 22 Testing laboratories for food products (including: drinking water, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages);
- ✓ 21 Testing laboratories in the field of electricity (including: grounding circuit, electrical / power / current / voltage transformers; power cables, electrical equipment, equipment and cables (conductors), etc.);
- ✓ 20 Testing laboratories of petroleum products (including: gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, diesel, fuel oil, engine oils, crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied petroleum gas, petroleum coke, etc.);
- ✓ 11 Testing laboratories of environmental products (including; air; soil, surface, wastewater, sea and basin waters, etc.);
- ✓ 4 Testing laboratories of pharmaceutical products ;
- ✓ 3 Testing laboratories of non-ferrous metals (including: gold-silver, platinum, etc.);

- ✓ 1 Testing laboratory for machine-building product (including brake pads, brake pads, knots, etc.);
- ✓ 1 Testing laboratory of biosafety (autoclave, microplate reader and microplate washer)
- ✓ 1 Testing laboratory in the field of veterinary and phytosanitary;



4 calibration laboratories, which are accredited in compliance with ISO / IEC 17025: 2017/2018 are divided according to their activities in the following areas:

- 2 physical / chemical, e. Measurements calibration laboratory;
- 2 volume calibration laboratory (reservoirs, motor tanks);
- 1 constant / alternating current voltmeter, ammeter, pressure manometer calibration laboratory.



The Accreditation Center has accredited 5 medical laboratories, that operate in the following fields: blood, urine, serum analysis, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 15189: 2012/2015

One qualification testing laboratory is accredited by the Accreditation Center in accordance with the requirements of ISO / IEC 17043: 2010/2016, the laboratory carries out its activities in the medical field. Which involves organizing examinations to ensure the competence of medical laboratories.

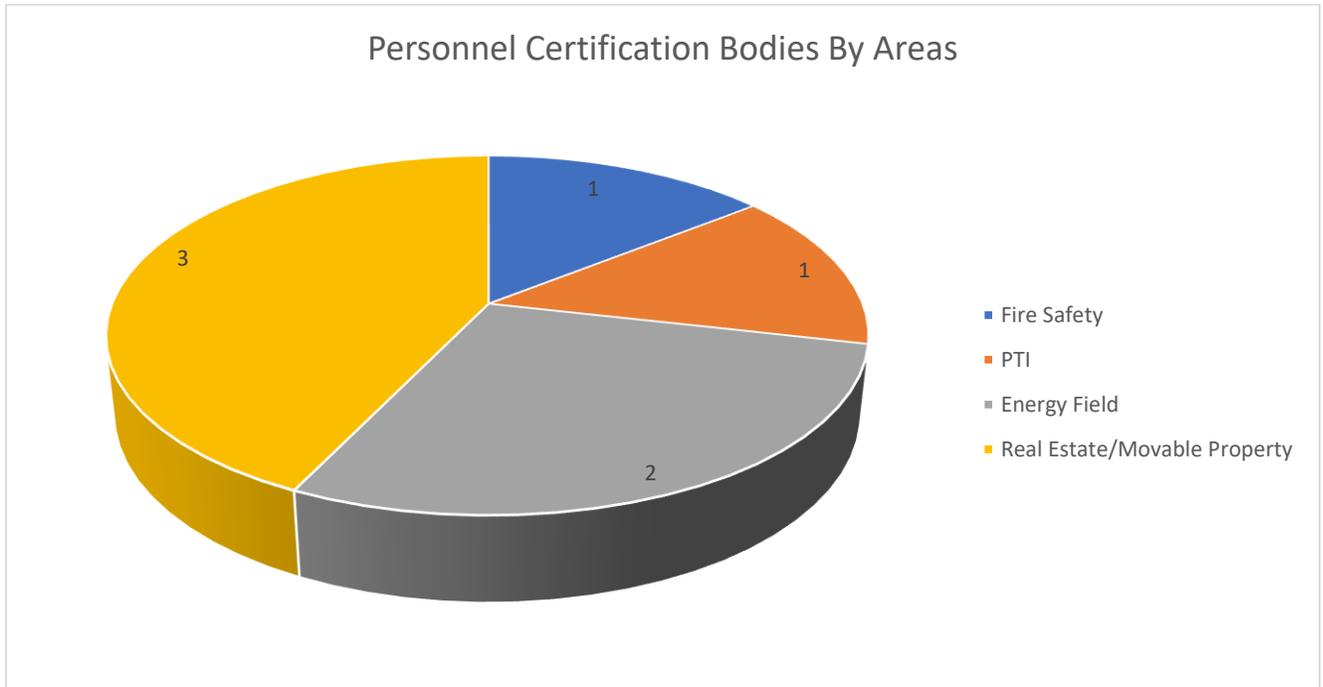
6 CABs are accredited in the field of certification of products, processes and services in accordance with the requirements of ISO / IEC 17065: 2012/2014, including:

- ✓ 3 food certification bodies;
- ✓ 2 building materials certification bodies;
- ✓ 1 certification body for the assessment of the technical condition of hydraulic equipment and of power plants.

7 personnel certification bodies are accredited according to the standard defined for personnel certification bodies ISO / IEC 17024: 2012/2014, , including:

- ✓ 3 personnel certification bodies authorized to perform real estate / movable property works;
- ✓ 2 personnel certification bodies in the field of energy;

- ✓ 1 personnel certification body of the Periodic Technical Inspection Center of Vehicles;
- ✓ 1 Personnel certification body in the field of fire safety.



During 2021, the Accreditation Center issued 80 accreditation certificates in accordance with the accreditation rules and procedures, in the following areas:

- ✓ 41 - for testing laboratory;
- ✓ 31 - for the inspection body;
- ✓ 3 - for calibration laboratory;
- ✓ 3 - for personnel certification body;
- ✓ 2 - for product certification body.



Accreditation was granted to 26 conformity assessment bodies in additional fields, including:

- ✓ 17 - Examination laboratory;
- ✓ 6 - Inspection body;
- ✓ 2 - Medical laboratory;
- ✓ 1 - PTP;

The scope of accreditation has been partially reduced / suspended to 10 CABs:

- ✓ 9 - Inspection bodies;
- ✓ 1 - Product certification body.

Accreditation was completely suspended to 7 conformity assessment bodies:

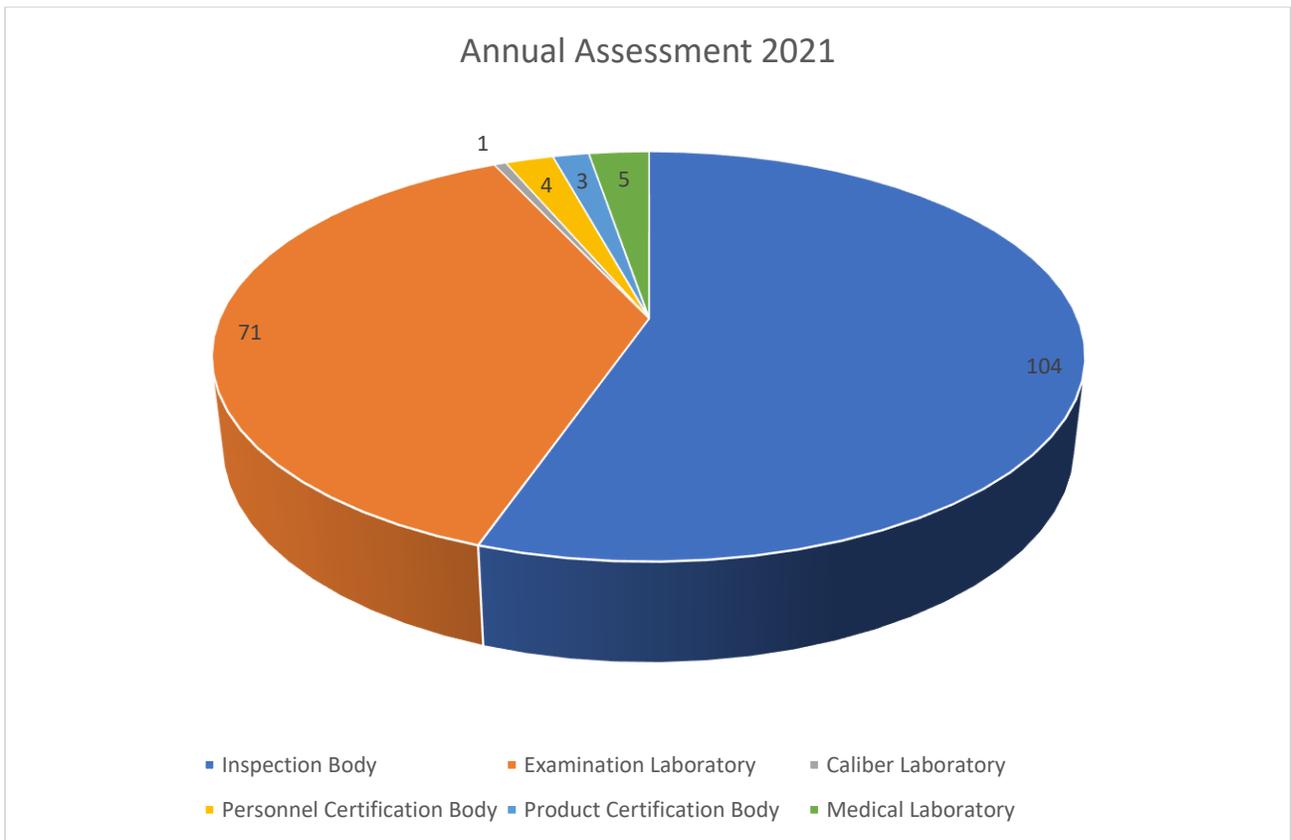
- ✓ 6 - Inspection bodies;
- ✓ 1 - Personnel certification body.

Accreditation was withdrawn from 14 conformity assessment bodies:

- ✓ 8 - Inspection bodies;
- ✓ 6 - Examination laboratory.

Annual assessments were performed on 189 accredited facilities in accordance with the requirements of the accreditation rules and procedures, including:

- ✓ 104 - Inspection bodies;
- ✓ 71 - Examination laboratories;
- ✓ 1 - Calibration laboratory;
- ✓ 4 - Personnel certification bodies;
- ✓ 5 - Medical Laboratories;
- ✓ 3 - Product certification bodies;
- ✓ 1 - PTP;



Unscheduled assessments were carried out in 2 inspection bodies (including the inspection body for natural and liquefied balloon equipment and the construction inspection body).

3 complaints were registered throughout 2021 at GAC. All of them were related to the activities of the inspection bodies, two construction inspection bodies and one road inspection body. No appeal was lodged in the accreditation in 2021.

According to the "Approved 2021 Plan" 245 CABs were accredited by the Accreditation Center, while in December 2021, according to the "Approved Plan 2022", the number of accredited CABs was 261.

A total of 322 assessments were conducted in 2021, of which 213 were conducted using on-site visitation techniques, 89 - using remote assessment techniques, and 20 - mixed assessment techniques.

➤ **Other activities carried out by the Accreditation Center:**

In December 2020, an application was submitted by the Accreditation Center with the relevant documents to the the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) In order to change in the Secretariat and obtain new membership status In early 2021, the Accreditation Center was awarded the status of Associate Member of ILAC, and in April 2021, the Accreditation Center became a signatory to the IAF Membership Memorandum. By 2022, it is planned to take the necessary measures to become a full member of both organizations and obtain full membership status.

In 2021, a tender was completed to select an appropriate company to digitize the services of the Accreditation Center. Digitization of Accreditation Center services involves conducting the entire accreditation process electronically, including procedures for obtaining an accreditation application, allocating an assessor, reviewing an application, planning an on-site visit, committee work, accreditation decision-making, and full four-year accreditation procedures. This ensures efficient distribution of the accreditation process over time and improved control mechanisms. Reduce the time required to carry out assessments planned under accreditation. The implementation of the project will enable accredited and / or persons interested in obtaining accreditation to submit documents and receive a response without a site visit. A relevant agreement was signed with the organization that won the tender and a technical meeting was held to plan the technical works. The program is scheduled to run in test mode in the second quarter of 2022.

Annual (2021) and mid-term (2021-2023) Action Plans for the Implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and the European Union have been prepared.

The representatives of the Accreditation Center were also involved in the preparation of the Action Plan for the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Strategy of Georgia for 2021 - 2022.

2 meetings of the Accreditation Council were held in 2021. First meeting was held on April 20, issues related to raising awareness about the activities of the Accreditation Center were discussed and further measures were planned taking into account the pandemic situation. Second meeting was carried out on December 15. Accreditation Center performance for 2021 and future plans were discussed at the meeting. Participants were also informed about ongoing digitization project at the Accreditation Center and the EU-funded twinning project.

A state financial audit was conducted at the Accreditation Center of Georgia throughout 2021, as a result of which it was found that the financial processes in the organization are managed in accordance with the legislation.

In order to strengthen the cooperation, on November 15, 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the LEPL - National Accreditation Body - Accreditation Center and the National Accreditation Body of Armenia. Accreditation body of the Armenian Republic was visiting GAC between 15-19 November, 2021. Following events were organized to share experiences with Armenian colleagues:

On November 15, the training was held on getting acquainted with the accreditation rules and procedures approved by the Accreditation Center of Georgia;

- Training on ISO / IEC 17020 standard assessment was held on November 16-17;
- Training on evaluation of medical laboratories according to ISO 15189 standard was held on November 18;

During the visit, members of the delegation also participated in the annual evaluation process of the legal inspection body and the medical laboratory.

GAC Staff has participated in all relevant EA, IAF and ILAC Committees:

- Communication Committee -September 18 and October 20;
- 42nd EA Laboratory Committee - 22-23 September;
- 45th Meeting of the Multilateral Agreement Council - October 6-7;
- 8th IAF AB Information Exchange Group (ABIEG) Meeting - 30 September
- IAF-ILAC Joint Development Support Committee - 14 October;
- An EA 49th General Assembly - 10 September;
- Twenty-fifth General Assembly of ILAC - November 2;
- IAF Twenty-fifth General Assembly - 4 November.

It should be noted that all indicated events were held remotely due to pandemic constraints.

Various trainings were conducted during 2021. The trainings were organized both within the framework of the EU-funded Twinning project and also at the request of accredited organizations organized by the Accreditation Center. A total of 74 trainings were conducted during 2021 within the framework of the twinning project, which was attended by a total of 376 participants. Most of the trainings were conducted in online format. In June 2021, the Accreditation Center organized a training on the topic - SST ISO 15189: 2012/2015 - "Medical laboratories - requirements for quality and competence", attended by 19 people from different medical laboratories.

Accreditation center actively trains the staff of the center. On December 9, 2021, Alexander Gabunia, the leader assessor of the Accreditation Center, conducted a training on the requirements of ISO / IEC 17020, and on December 10, discussion on the requirements of ISO / IEC 17011: 2017 standard was carried out by the Head of the Accreditation Service - Nestan Mgeladze within the frames of experience sharing. .

In the framework of the EU-funded EU-Georgia Association Agreement Implementation Mechanism - II, which aims to strengthen the capacity of Georgian public institutions to meet their obligations under the EU-Georgia Agreements, a project was implemented by European and Georgian experts to assess the capacity of accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs). The aim of the research was also to identify the needs that prevent the accredited assessment bodies carrying out certification and testing of industrial and consumer products in accordance with European and international standards. The project will analyze market needs and conformity assessment opportunities to identify priority areas / sectors that are in high demand and / or have great potential for export.

In January 2021, the Accreditation Center's internal audit process was completed, which included an audit of the Accreditation Center's activities during 2020 in accordance with the requirements of International Standard ISO / IEC 17011: 2017. A management review meeting was held to discuss discrepancies identified during the 2020 internal audit, report and remedial action plan. Future plans and activities to be implemented were also discussed.

In 2021, 2 meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee were held, including the issue of the committee meeting held in March, which was to develop appropriate formulations in the field of accreditation of accredited inspection bodies in the field of construction. The purpose of the second meeting was to develop recommendations for the Accreditation Committee regarding the significant discrepancies identified in the annual assessment for one of the Type A inspection bodies.

Accreditation Center carried out two experience-sharing meetings in 2021. Due to the pandemic, the events were held online. Considering that both internal and external technical assessors and technical experts participated in the experience sharing event, the event was implemented in two stages. Experience was shared on 17 June with the participation of

technical assessors and experts in charge of laboratories, and on 18 June an experience-sharing event was held with the participation of technical assessors and technical experts in the field of accreditation of inspection bodies and certification bodies. Experience sharing meetings discussed EA approaches and observations made during the 2020 audit of the Accreditation Center.

In 2021, the database of external assessors (technical assessors and technical experts) was updated. The data obtained from the electronic program of the Accreditation Center gac.mis.ge (the program was created about 10 years ago) was processed. The contact information and areas of competence of external assessors and their activity on assessment over the past two years was reviewed and redefined, and a new list of current external assessors was finalized. Qualification documentation and GAC application forms were updated for every assessor applicant. Updated data will be integrated into the Accreditation Center's Digitization System.

In order to popularize the activities of the Accreditation Center and raise public awareness about the accreditation process, the Accreditation Center started working on the commercial video. Informational video clip was prepared in consultation with an invited expert within the framework of an ongoing EU-funded twinning project at the EU-funded EU-Georgia Association Agreement Mechanism II. Currently, the main part of the video has been completed and the product is being technically processed, after which it will be posted publicly on the Accreditation Center website as well as on other relevant social websites.