

**Independent Agency
for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA)**

**THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KAZAKHSTAN:
CURRENT STATUS**

2018



**The State Program of
Infrastructure Development
"Nurly Zhol" for 2015-2019**



**The National Plan -100 concrete
steps to implement 5
institutional reforms of the
President Nursultan Nazarbayev**



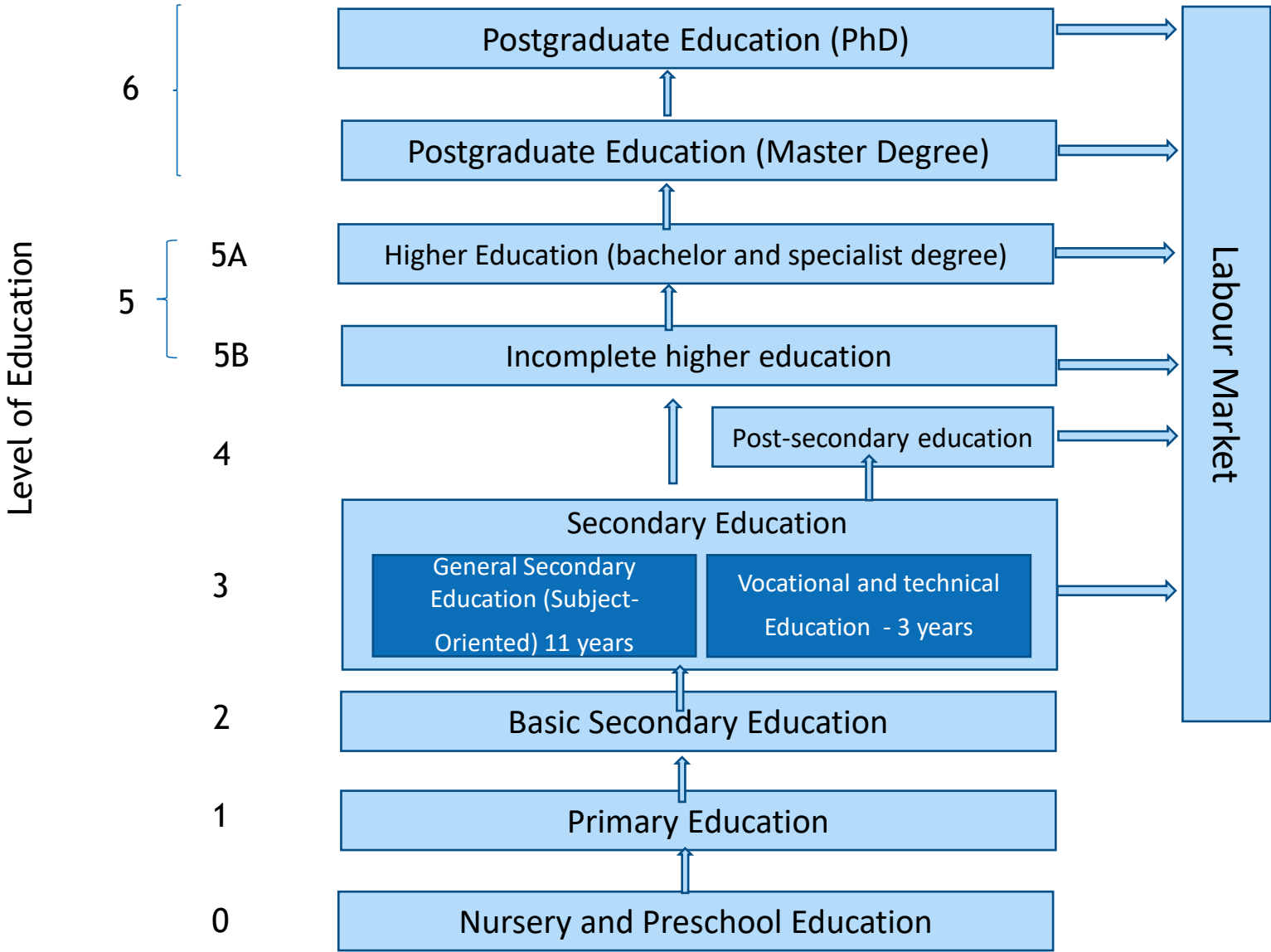
**The State Program of Industrial-
Innovative Development of the
Republic of Kazakhstan
for 2015-2019**



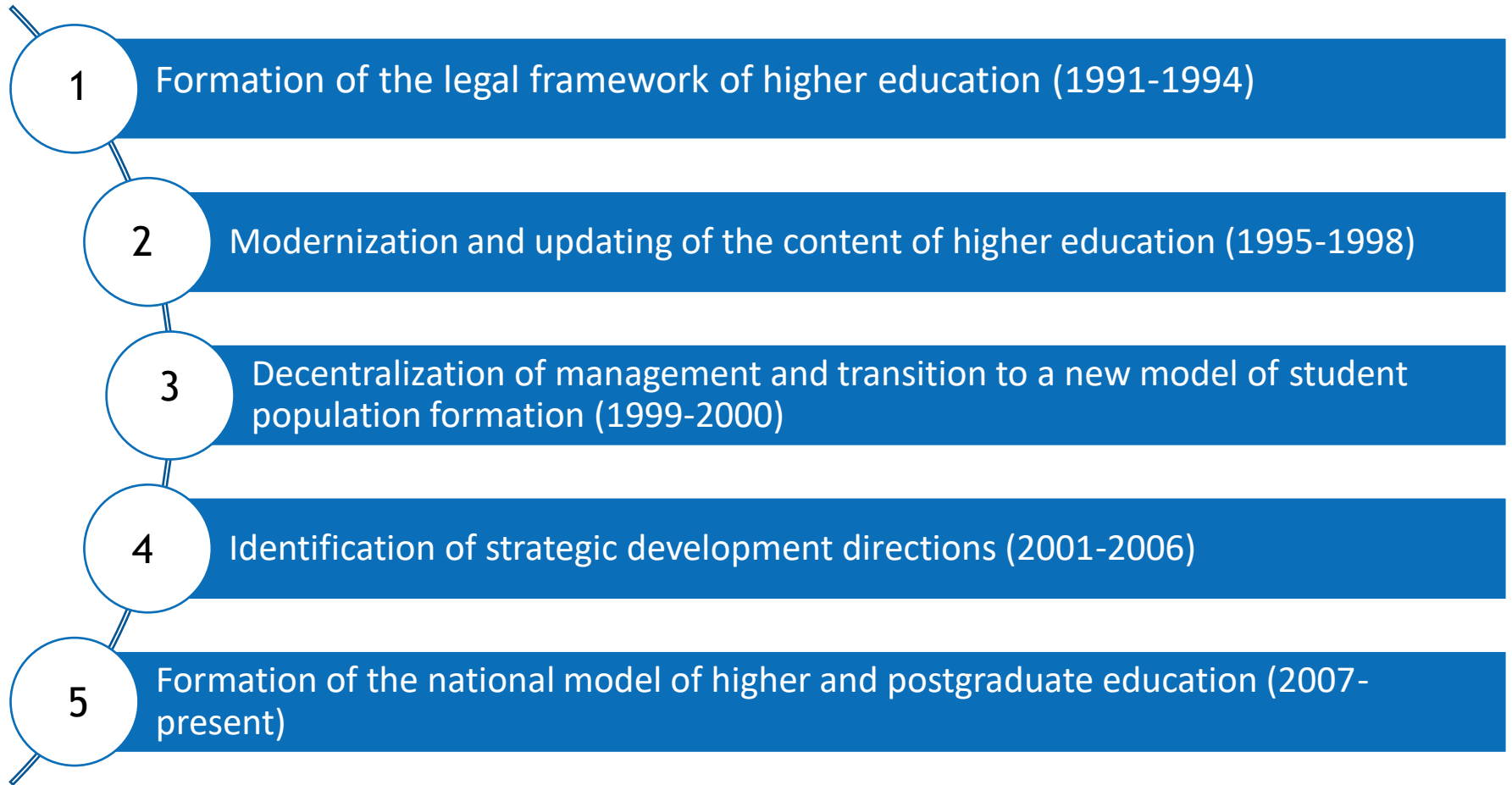
**The State Program of Education
and Science Development of the
Republic of Kazakhstan
for 2016-2019**



Higher Education System in Kazakhstan



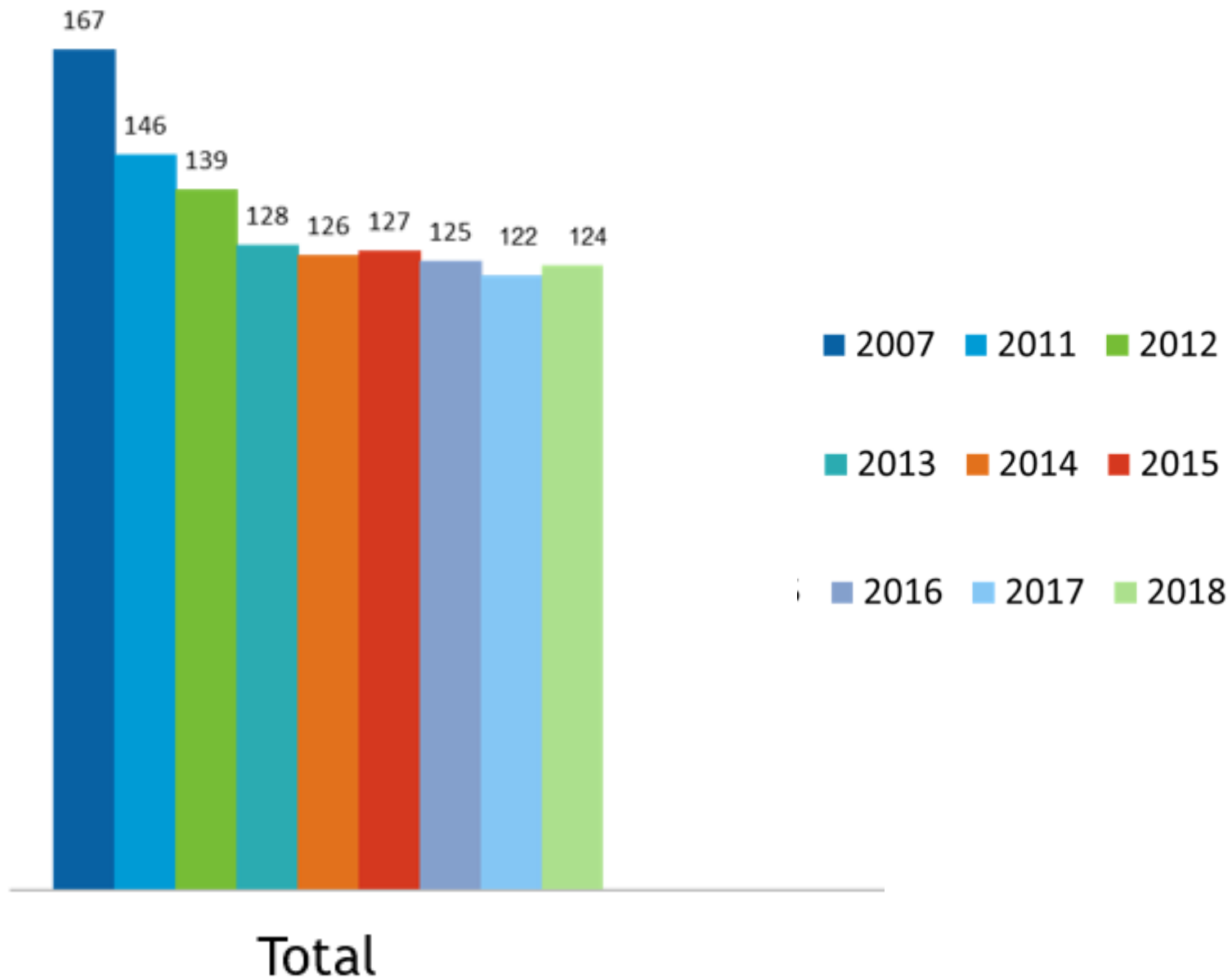
Stages of Higher Education Reform in Kazakhstan



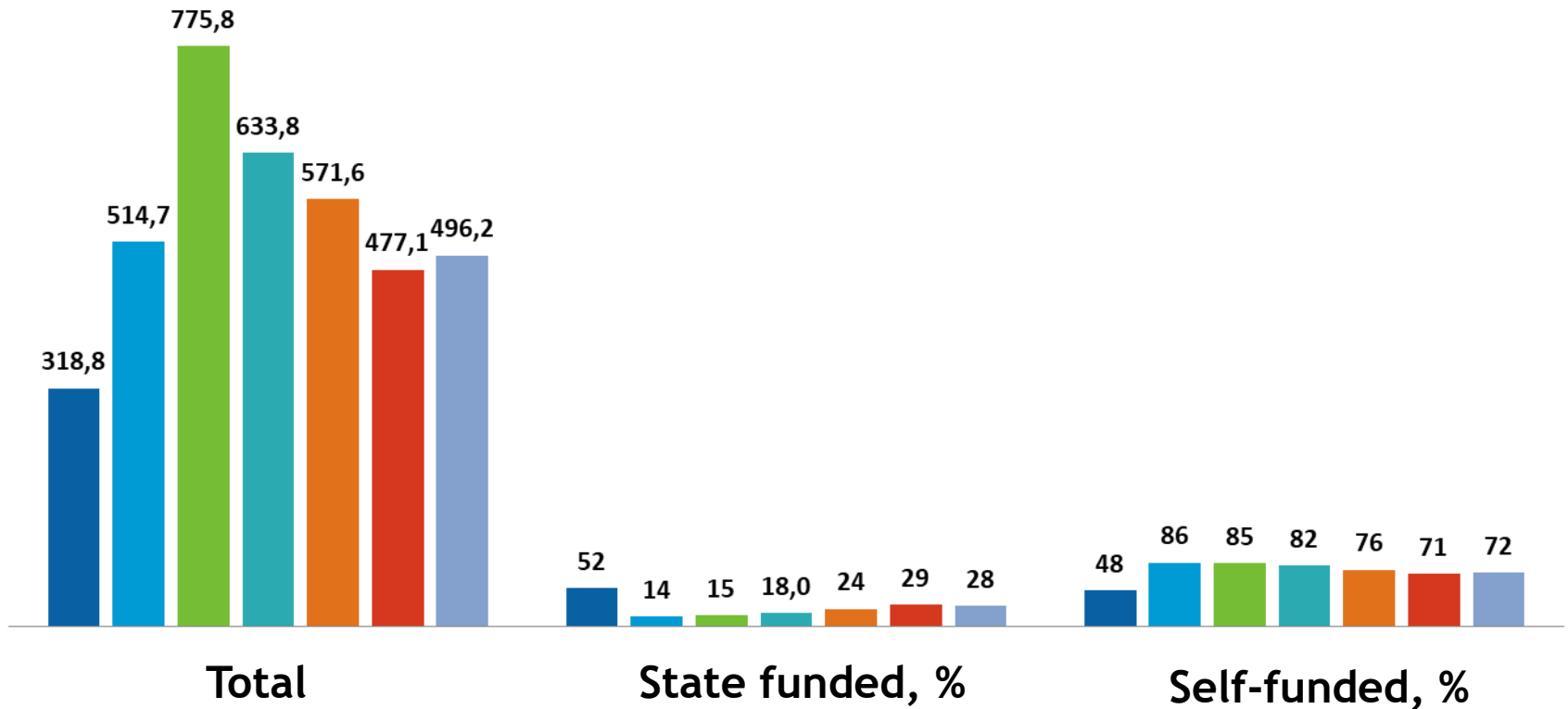
Integration into the international educational area

- 1 Since March 2010, Kazakhstan was the first Central Asian country to become the 47th member of the European higher education area (Bologna Declaration)
- 2 60 Kazakhstani higher education institutions (HEIs) signed the great Charter of universities. The three cycle system was implemented: bachelor`s-master`s-PhD levels. 118 HEIs deliver master`s study programmes, 43 HEIs deliver PhD study programmes.
- 3 310 double-degree programmes are offered by 65 Kazakhstani HEIs developed jointly with 51 foreign HEIs. 10 of these programmes are delivered in English.
- 4 A new ECTS Guide was implemented for credit transfer in academic mobility of students
- 5 In 2016, at the expense of public budget, 770 bachelor`s degree students and 181 master`s degree students trained at HEIs of Europe, the USA, South-East Asia
- 6 Within academic mobility for 5 years (2009-2014) 7, 1 thousand teaching staff from HEIs of Europe, USA, South-East Asia, Russia and other countries were invited to Kazakhstan

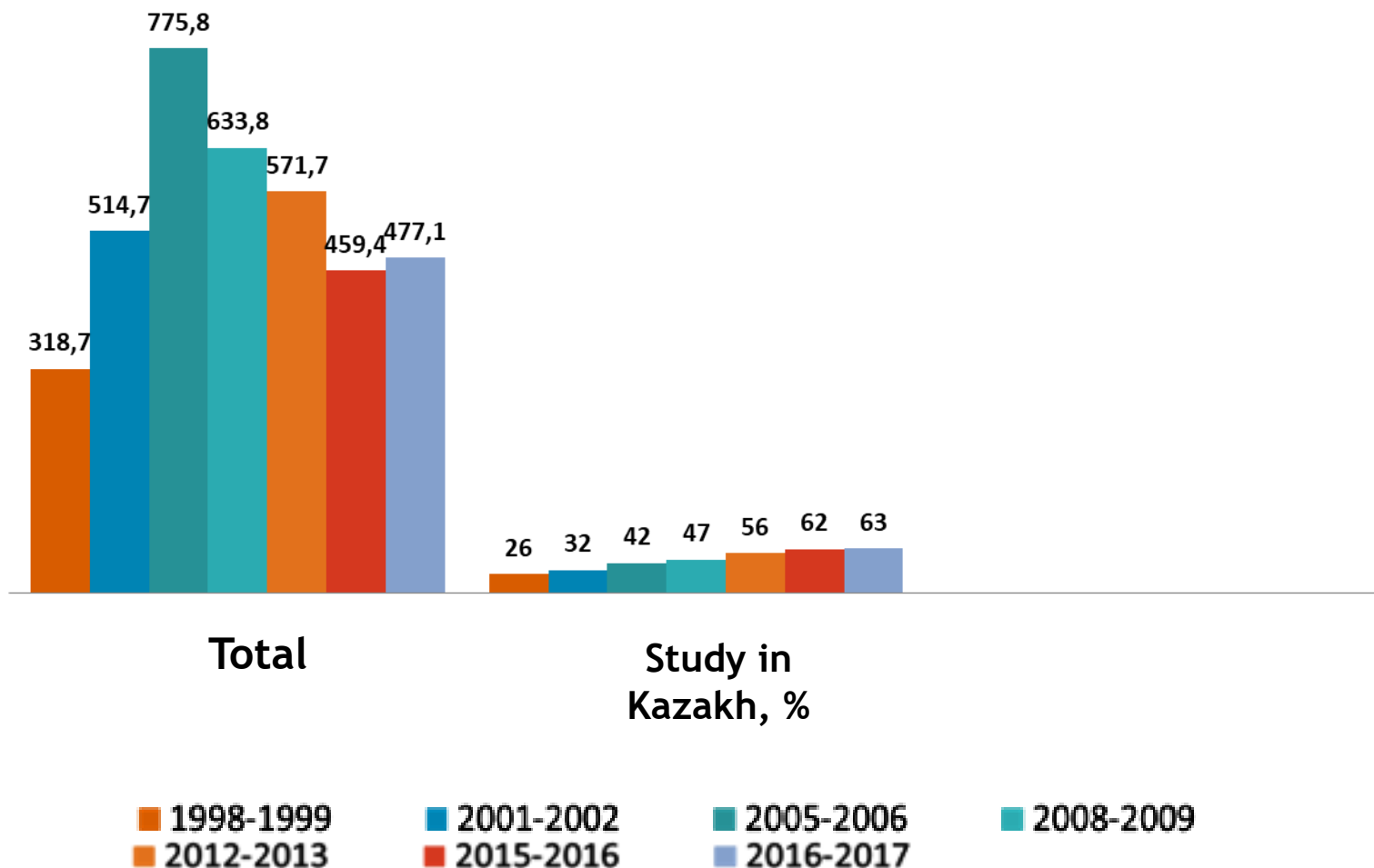
Dynamics of the network of Kazakhstani HEIs in 2007 - 2018



The students` population in 1998-2018 (thousand)

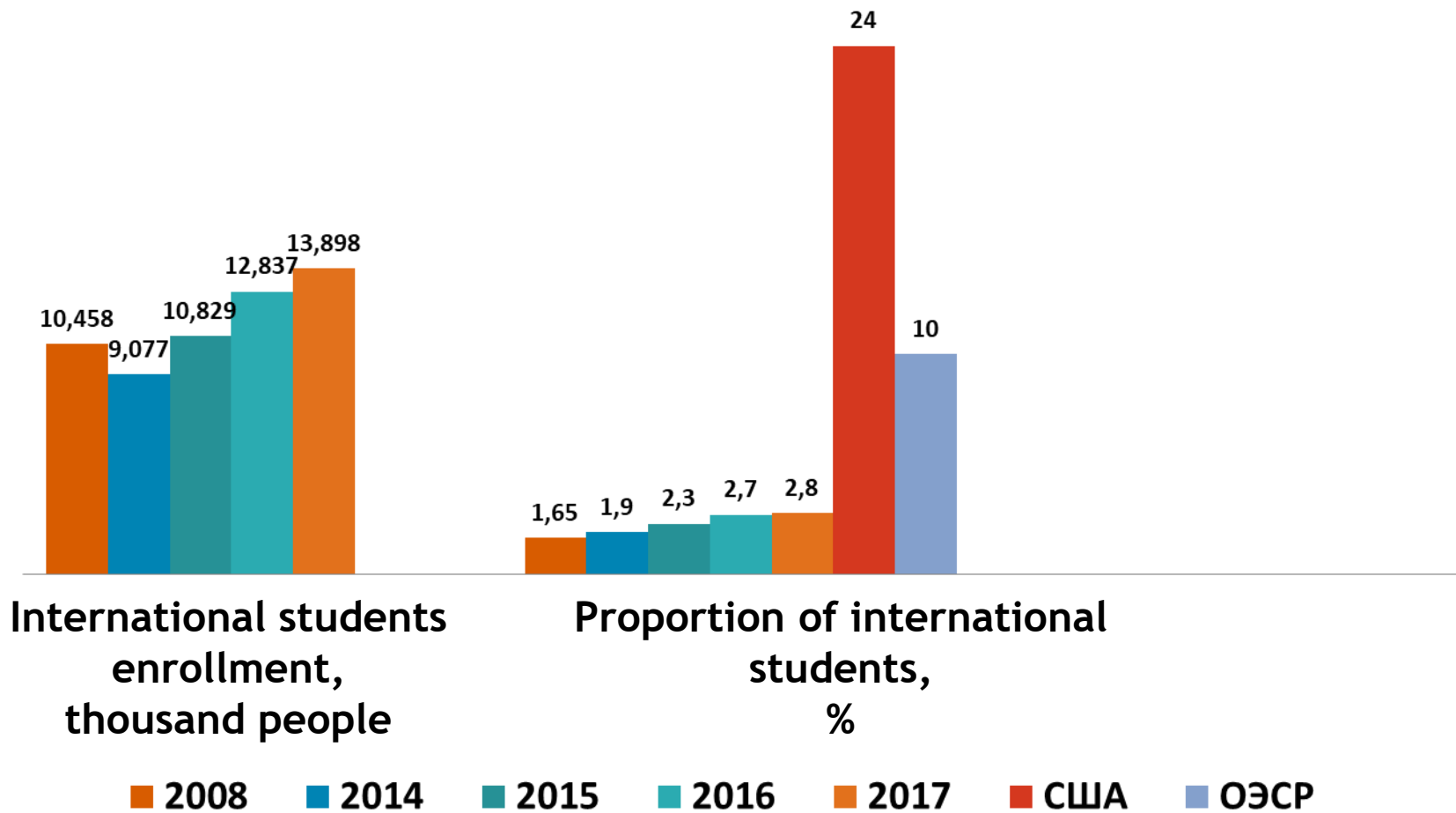


Distribution of students by languages of study at Kazakhstani HEIs



International students enrollment at Kazakhstan HEIs in comparison with the USA and other OECD countries

2008		2014		2015		2016		2017		USA	OECD
Total (thousand people)	% of all students	Total (thousand people)	% of all students	Total (thousand people)	% of all students	Total (thousand people)	% of all students	Total (thousand people)	% of all students	Total (thousand people)	% of all students
10,458	1,65	9,077	1,9	10,829	2,3	12,837	2,7	13,898	2,8	24	10



As to attractiveness of Kazakhstani HEIs to international students, in Kazakhstan, for the past 10 years share of international students enrollment increased from 1,65% in 2008 to 2,8% in 2017. At the same time, for example, in the USA, the proportion of international students is 24%, and in other OECD countries, it reaches 9-10%.

Bolashak International Scholarship

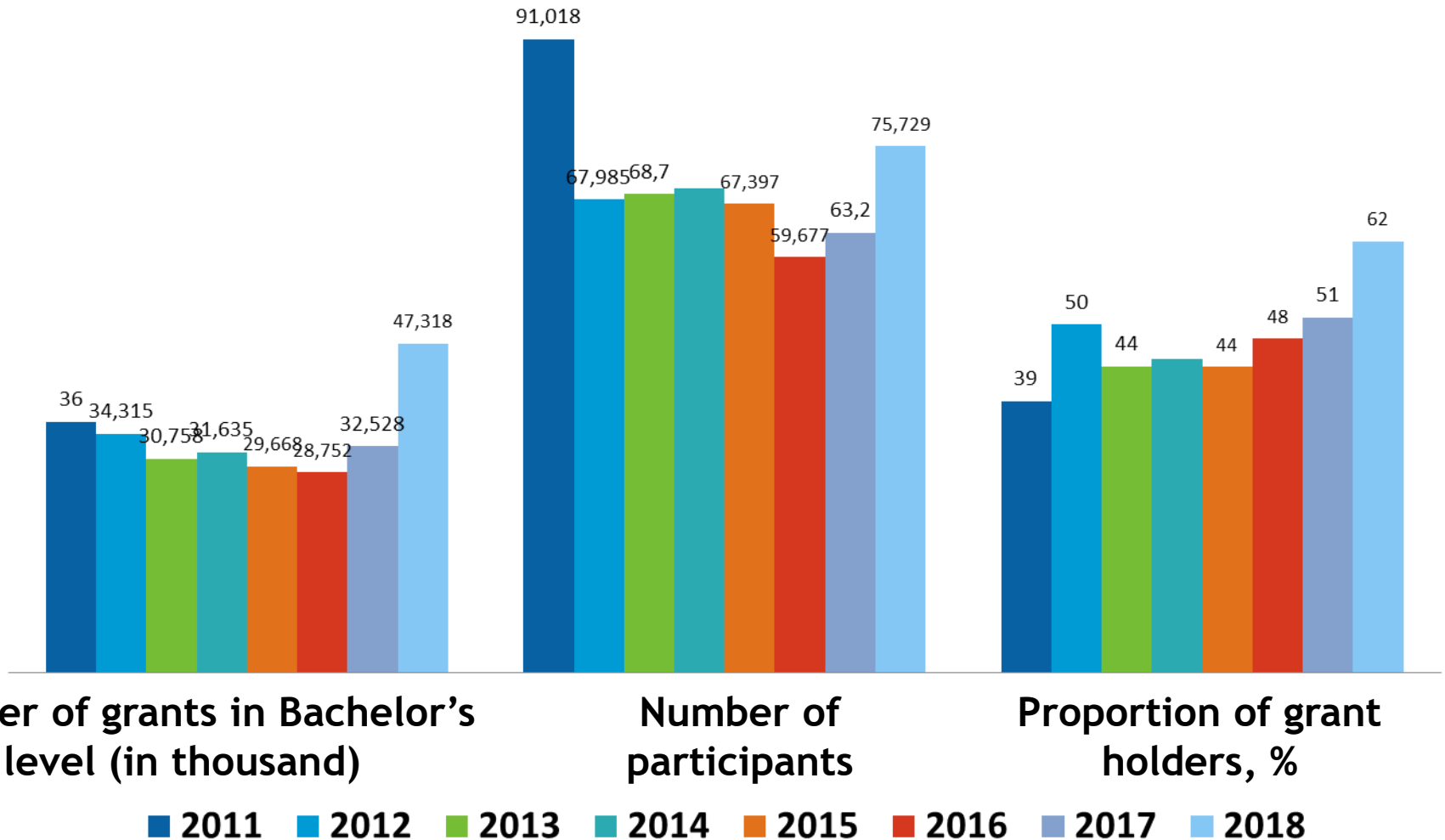
Launched in 1993

Study at world top 200 HEIs

33 countries: USA, UK, France,
Germany, China, Japan, Russia,
etc.

Bolashak international scholarship was awarded to more than 12 000 talented citizens of Kazakhstan to study at world top 200 HEIs in 33 countries.

The dynamics of allocation of state grants in Kazakhstan

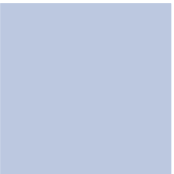


The share of Expenditures of the State Budget in the Republic of Kazakhstan for Higher Education (in comparison to other OECD countries)


Level of education as % of GDP	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average for OECD	Minimum for OECD in %
Higher education	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,5	1,4	0,8 (Italy), 1,1 (Australia, Hungary, Poland)

The expenditure on higher education as the share of GDP in the Republic of Kazakhstan is 3,5 times lower than the average in OECD countries, in particular, 2 times less than in Italy, 2,75 times less than in Australia, Hungary and Poland.

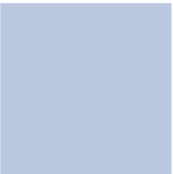
“Mangilik Yel Jastarga” programme (Serpín -2050)



The project was launched in 2014. 9,2 thousand students enrolled at 26 HEIs of the Northern regions, in 2018, first 932 people completed their degrees.

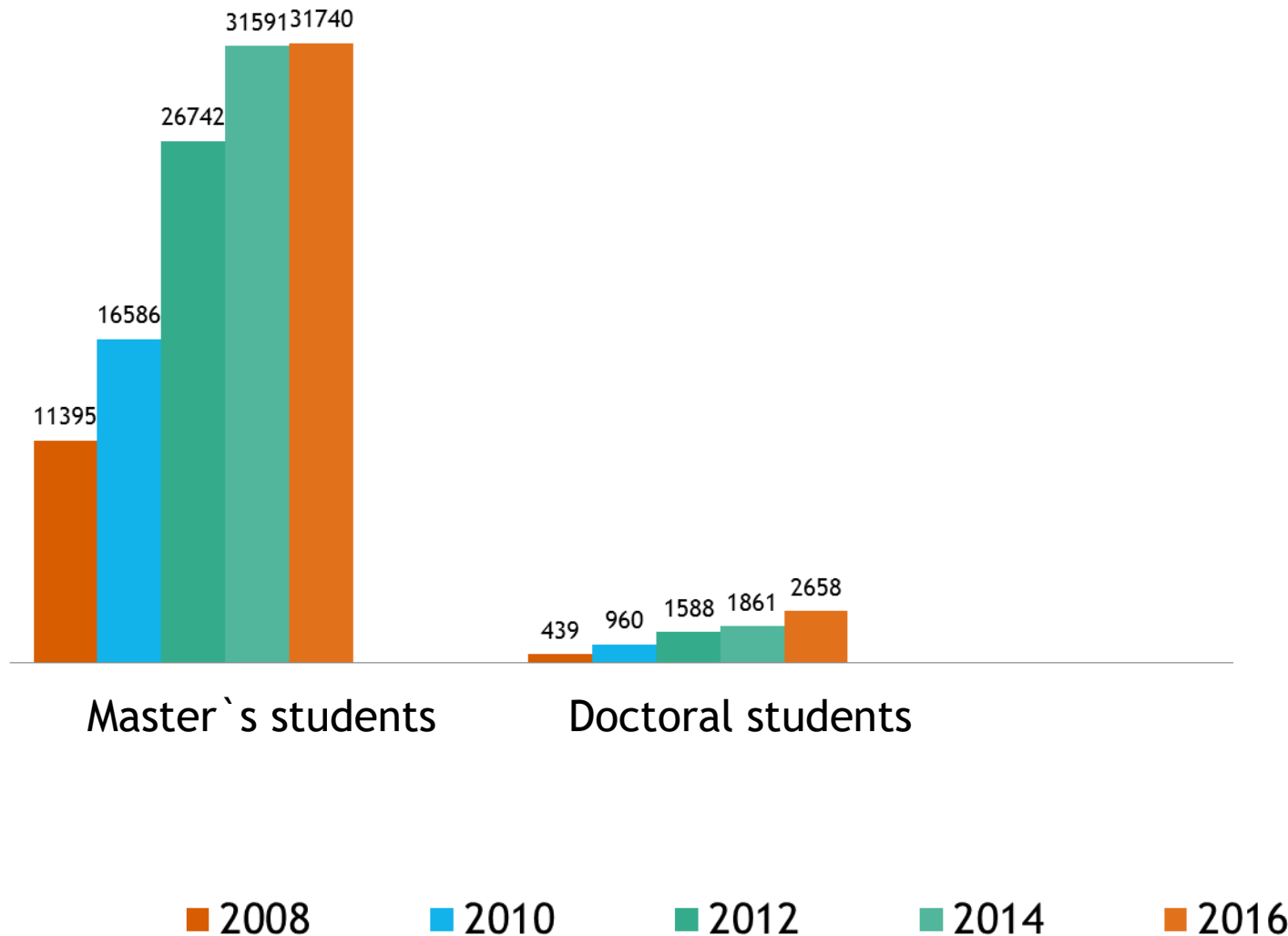


•These are youth of Almaty, Turkestan, Zhambyl, Kyzylorda and Mangystau regions



In 2018, 5,089 thousand grants were allocated, particularly to education specialties – 1,2 thousand, technical and technological specialties -3,5 thousand, agricultural specialties -330

Dynamics of changes in population of master`s and doctoral students



Nazarbayev University as a national brand of higher education of Kazakhstan

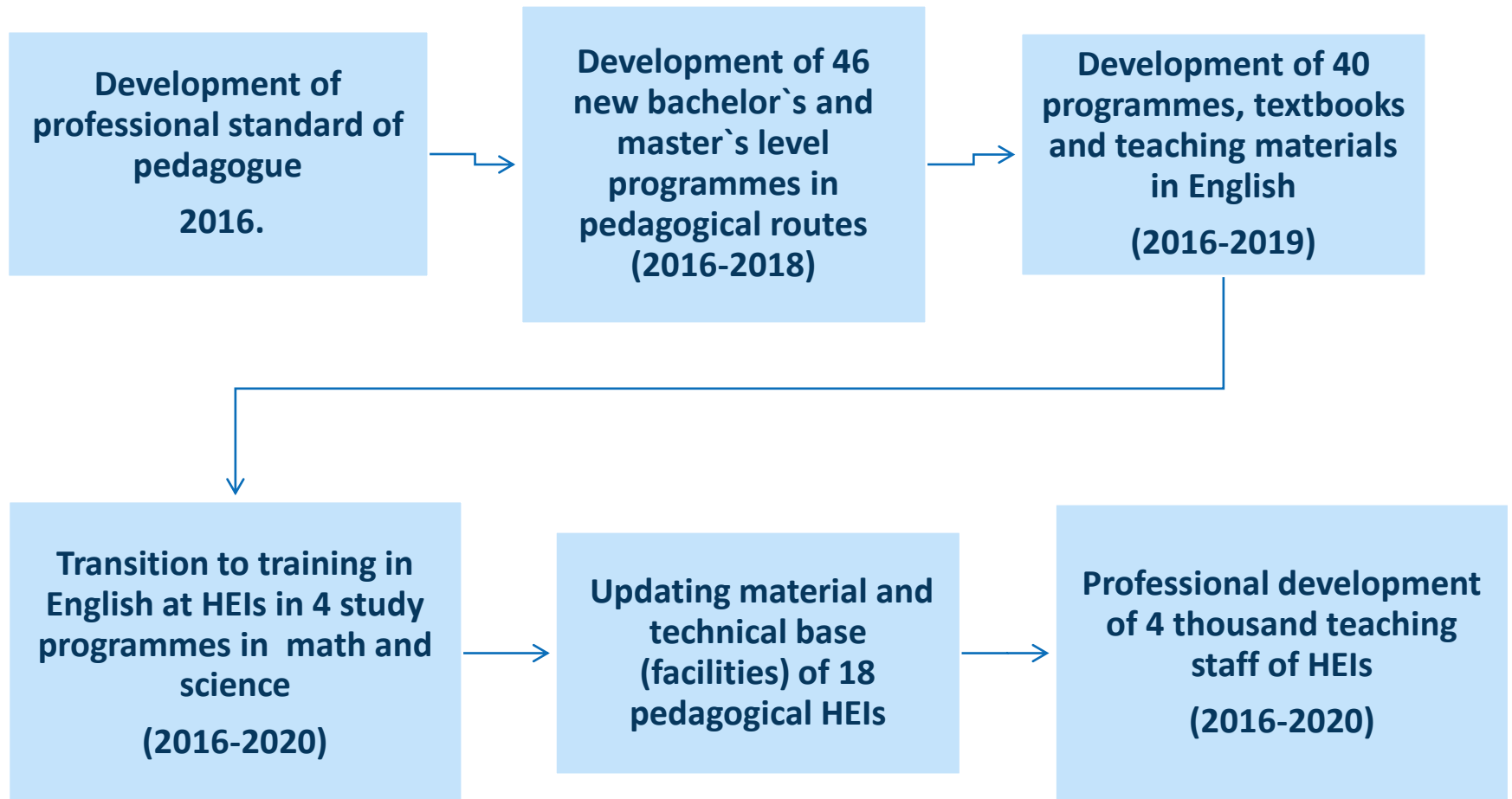
The first enrollment - in 2011, 500 students

**Priority Specialties: Info Communication and Space Technologies,
Nanotechnologies, Navigation Systems, Computer Engineering**

**In 2015, the first issue - 447 bachelors and masters, in 2016 – 621
bachelors and masters**

**In 2018 – new 882 people enrollment at the expense of the state
grants**

Improving the Quality of Human Capital on the basis of OECD standards. Updating the Educational Standards



Activity under the State Programme of Industrial-Innovative Development-2 (SPIID-2)

24 innovative study programmes were developed in cooperation with 78 foreign partner HEIs



A tripartite agreements (HEI-Master`s student-Employer) on delivery of study programme in SPIID-2 with the future employment is concluded with 153 enterprises

47 interdisciplinary laboratories are equipped with modern equipment in core HEIs of SPIID-2



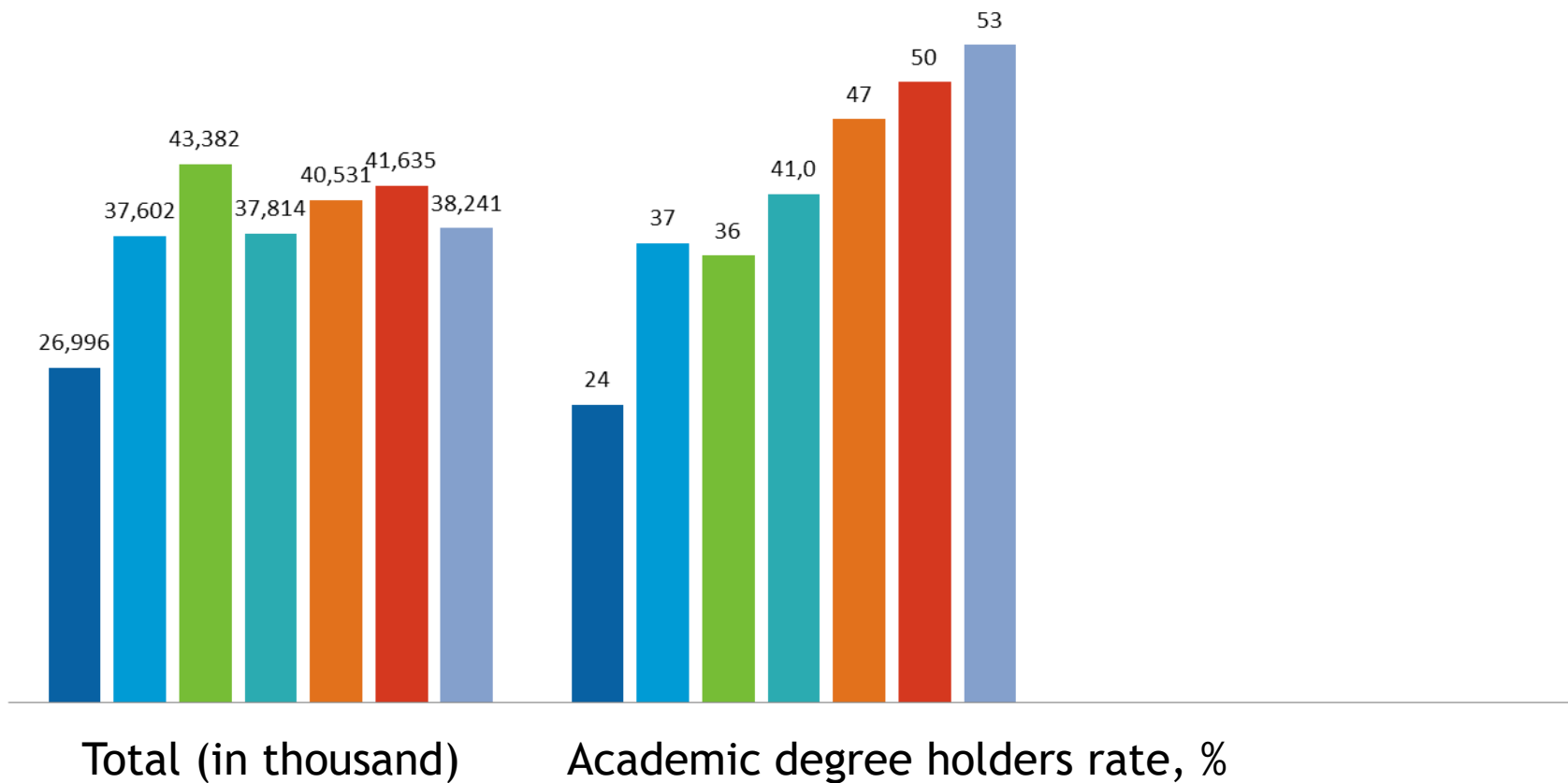
In 2015-2016 academic year, the state order was placed in 11 core HEIs for professional master`s level study programmes - 1900 places

During designing new study programmes, 100 managerial and academic staff of core HEIs in June 2015, enrolled in retraining and professional development courses at Nazarbayev University.

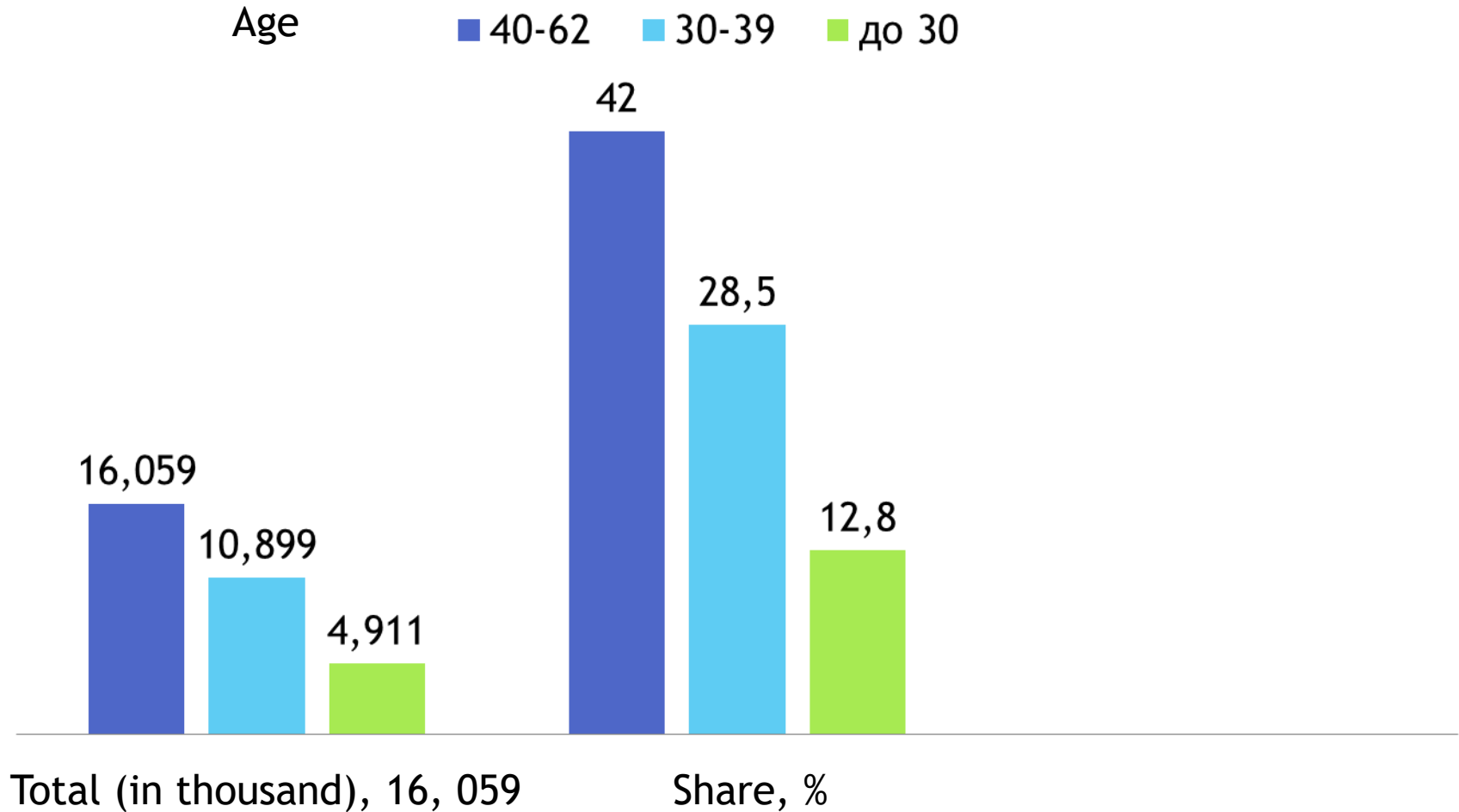


Teaching staff of HEIs in Kazakhstan in 1999-2017

■ 1999 ■ 2002 ■ 2005 ■ 2008 ■ 2011 ■ 2013 ■ 2017



Distribution of teaching staff in Kazakhstani HEIs by age and gender




Women make up 63,9% of teaching staff

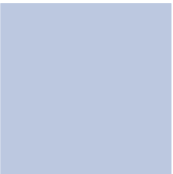
Professionalism of teaching staff in Kazakhstan



• From 2010 to 2016, 983 teaching staff were enrolled in courses at leading HEIs of UK, Japan, Spain, Germany, Portugal, etc.



• 1,4 thousand teaching staff were trained on teaching in English at al-Farabi KazNU, Abai KazNPU, E. Buketov KarSU, Kazakh Ablai khan University of International Relations and World Languages



• From 2005 to 2017, 2,6 thousand teaching staff of HEIs were awarded MoES RK grant "the Best teaching staff of HEI" (3-3, 5 million tenge)

Implementation of Corporate Management Ideas

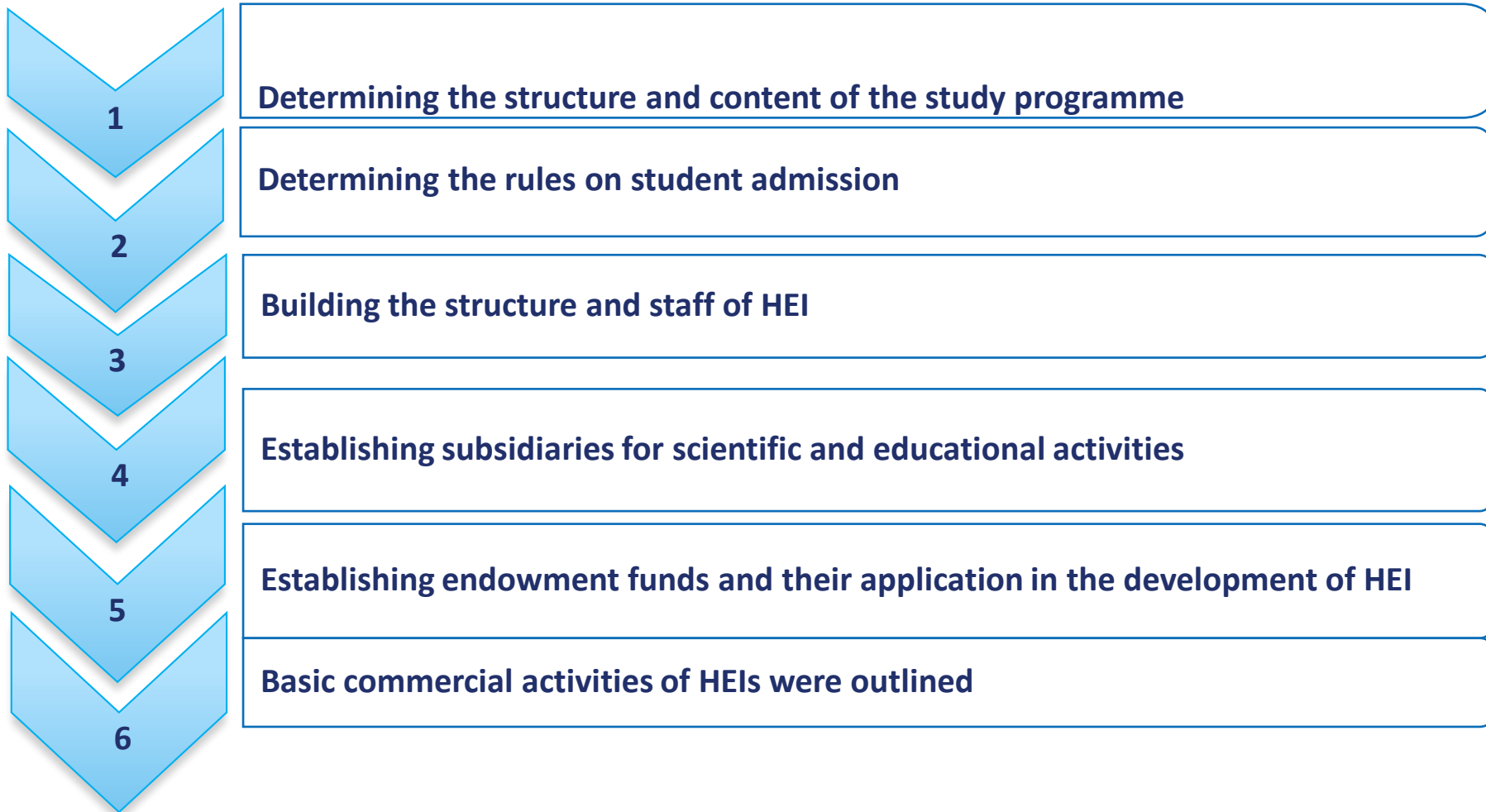
The transition of HEIs to academic independence is legally assigned

Corporate management principles are being introduced. There are Supervisory Boards in 65 HEIs, there are Boards of Trustees in 28 HEIs

Satpayev University, Atyrau oil and gas University, Kazakh national agrarian University, Zhangir Khan West Kazakhstan agrarian technical University are reorganized into a Nonprofit Joint Stock Companies

In 2012, the national qualifications framework was adopted. In 2016, 131 study programmes were developed built on 13 professional standards

The Law on “Education” in 2018, assigned other rights of Kazakhstani HEIs on academic independence





Academic policy of HEIs is aimed at implementation of student-centered learning and enhancing the quality of education

Educational activity of HEIs is carried out in line with the credit technology based on student-centered approach, in which the learning outcomes and competences play a major role and become the main outcome of the educational process for the student

Internal quality assurance system of HEIs is based on the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), which include:





AUTONOMY OF HEIs IN KAZAKHSTAN

Special importance in the higher education system of Kazakhstan is given to the development of autonomy of HEIs. The state program on development of education and science in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2016-2019 has set the task of implementation of autonomy in Kazakhstani HEIs. As part of the Bologna process, HEIs have already taken initial steps towards greater freedom and autonomy in their academic activities:

- matching national study programmes and curricula in line with European standards at all levels;
- providing academic mobility for students, teaching staff and personnel;
- applying an approach to education as a process of life-long learning;
- increasing the attractiveness of HEIs, the opportunity to be open to all regions of the world;
- activation of the role of students, emphasis on the student-centered learning;
- expanding the academic freedom for study programmes, the elective component in the bachelor's level is up to 70%, its proportion in master's level is up to 80%, in doctoral level this component contains up to 90% in accordance with the requirements of the labour market.
- gradual establishment of a Board of Trustees and Supervisory boards, as well as of the Board of Directors at HEIs.

KEY TEACHING AND LEARNING DOCUMENTS

Training at HEIs of Kazakhstan is carried out on the basis of the following documents:

- 1) State compulsory educational standards (Framework standards) of higher and postgraduate education;
- 2) Classifier of Specialties of Higher and Postgraduate education of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- 3) Academic calendar;
- 4) Individual curricula for students;
- 5) Working curricula for specialties;
- 6) The curriculum in the disciplines.

State compulsory educational standards (Framework standards) of higher education:

- 1) Defines the content of higher education and training;
- 2) Sets the requirements for the maximum amount of academic load and the level of training of students.

Requirements of the standard are mandatory in design and development of:

- 1) Model curriculum specialties;
- 2) Study programmes;
- 3) Working curricula of specialties;
- 4) Individual curricula for students;
- 5) Curriculum for disciplines.

HEIs independently design and develop various study programmes structured on the principle of modular training, in accordance with the National qualifications framework, professional standards and agreed with the Dublin descriptors and the European qualifications framework. Study programmes are developed by the HEI independently in line with State compulsory educational standards, standard curricula, as well as professional standards.

STUDY PROGRAMMES

Study programmes of higher education include three cycles of disciplines:

- The cycle of General educational disciplines (compulsory);
- The cycle of basic disciplines;
- The cycle of majors

Cycle of General educational disciplines (compulsory)

Disciplines of compulsory and optional components; The proportion of credits for general educational disciplines cycle = at least 23% of the total disciplines of the standard curriculum or 56 credits (51 credits for the compulsory component disciplines: modern history of Kazakhstan, philosophy, Kazakh (Russian) language, foreign language, information and communication technologies, physical education, module of social and political science (political science, sociology, cultural studies, psychology)

Cycle of basic disciplines

Disciplines of compulsory and optional components; The proportion of core disciplines = 47% of the total volume of disciplines TUP or 112 credits (56 credits for the disciplines of the HEI component and 56 credits for the disciplines of optional component). The optional component is formed upon proposals of departments, employers and students.

Cycle of majors

Subjects of compulsory and optional components; the proportion of major disciplines = 25% of the total share of disciplines of the model curriculum or 60 credits (60 credits for the disciplines of HEI component or the disciplines of optional component).

Admission Requirements and Learning Process

Admission of students is made on a competitive basis taking into account the results of: Unified National Test (UNT) or Complex testing (KTA).

Unified national test (UNT) - one of the forms of final certification of students in General secondary education, combined with admission exams in the educational institutions, giving post-secondary or higher education.

Comprehensive testing of applicants (CTA) - a form of the exam, conducted simultaneously in several disciplines with the use of information technology for school leavers of past years and graduates of technical and vocational education organizations.

- The academic year begins on September 1 (Day of Knowledge). It consists of academic terms, the term of interim certification (at least 1 week), practices and holidays. At the graduation course the term of the final certification is included in the academic year. The total duration of the academic year should be at least 36 weeks. An academic term may last 15 weeks (semester), 10 weeks (trimester) or 7-8 weeks (quarter). The university is independent in choosing the form of the academic term.
- Professional practice is a compulsory component of higher education programs. It is divided into training, pedagogical, industrial and pre-diploma practice. The duration of the practice is determined in weeks based on the student's standard work time in practice for a week of 30 hours (6 hours a day with a 5-day working week).
- Learning achievements of students in HEIs are evaluated on the basis of Standard Rules for Continuous Control of Progress, Interim and Final Assessment of Students in Higher Educational Institutions approved by the MES. Universities independently determine the form, order and frequency of the current and midterm control of progress and interim assessment of students

Report from the ranking of the Global Competitiveness Index by the World Economic Forum., 2016 r.

✓ In 2016, Kazakhstan was ranked 53th out of 138 countries with the total average score of 4.41.

In 2016, 7 out of 12 indicators of the Education and Science System of Kazakhstan's position were improved:

1. Secondary education enrollment rate - 21st rank (2014 - 42nd, 2015 - 42nd); +21
2. Quality of math and science education - 69th rank (2014 - 72nd, 2015-71st); +2
3. Internet access in schools - 29th rank (2014-56th, 2015-41st); +12
4. Availability of research and educational services- 51st rank (2014 - 66th, 2015-55th); +4
5. Quality of scientific research institutions - 63rd rank (2014 - 99th, 2015 - 81st); +18
6. University-industry collaboration in R&D - 66th rank (2014 - 83rd, 2015-88th); + 22
7. Availability of scientists and engineers - 64th rank(2014 - 83rd, 2014-70th); +6

TASKS AFTER YEREVAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

In the report on the implementation of the Bologna process for 2015, Kazakhstan demonstrates good performance in the following criteria:

- Implementation of the first and second cycle programs
- Access to next cycle programs
- Comparability of the national credit system with ECTS
- Level of openness of the quality assurance system



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area



The following tasks need to be implemented:

- ✓ **Improving the National Qualifications Framework. Self-certification**
- ✓ **Development of the concept of lifelong learning**
- ✓ **Automatic issuing of diploma supplements**
- ✓ **Development of external quality assurance system**
- ✓ **Student-centered learning**
- ✓ **Development of inclusive education**
- ✓ **Close cooperation between education and industry.**