THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN STANDARDS (ESG) ON THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE
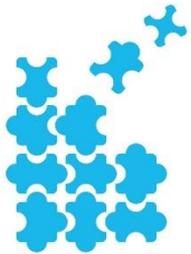
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Astana, 2016

THE PRAGUE COMMUNIQUÉ
(May 2001)

The development of cooperation in the field of quality assurance

Ministers recognize the vital role that quality assurance systems play in ensuring high quality standards and emphasize the necessity of close European cooperation and **mutual trust in and acceptance of national quality assurance systems**.

Ministers called upon the universities and other higher educations institutions, national agencies and the European Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA, created in 2000), in cooperation with corresponding bodies from countries which are not members of ENQA, **to collaborate in establishing a common framework of reference and to disseminate best practice.**

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST EDITION OF STANDARDS
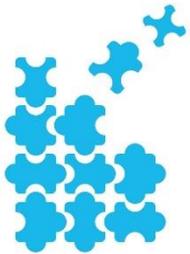
THE BERLIN COMMUNIQUÉ
(September 2003)

By 2005 national quality assurance systems should include:
- A definition of the responsibilities of the bodies and institutions involved.
- Evaluation of programmes or institutions, including internal assessment, external review, participation of students and the publication of results.
- A system of accreditation, certification or comparable procedures.
- International participation, co-operation and networking.

At the European level Ministers call upon ENQA and its members in cooperation with the EUA, EURASHE and ESIB to develop and agree standards, procedures and methodological recommendations on the quality assurance of education, to explore the opportunities for creating an appropriate system of external review for quality assurance agencies and to prepare a report for the next meeting of Ministers in 2005.

ADOPTION OF THE FIRST EDITION OF STANDARDS

First edition of ESG 2005

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

THE BERGEN COMMUNIQUÉ
(Bergen, May 2005)

We adopt the standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area as proposed by ENQA. We commit ourselves to introducing the proposed model for peer review of quality assurance agencies on a national basis, while respecting the commonly accepted guidelines and criteria. We welcome the principle of a European register of quality assurance agencies based on national review.

The adopted standards were divided into three parts :
- ✓ Standards for internal quality assurance of HEIs;
- ✓ Standards for external quality assurance of HEIs;
- ✓ Standards for external quality assurance of QA agencies

The key non-governmental organization of European quality assurance agencies, which is recognized by all Ministers signed the Bologna Declaration

2000 - network; 2004 - association

47 full members from 25 countries and 46 affiliates from 15 countries

Consulting body of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG)

Criteria for full membership of agencies: compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines (ESG), on the basis of the self-assessment report and external review".

Systematic assessment of quality assurance agencies in the EHEA once in 5 years.

CEENQA – regional network of ENQA, has 29 full members.

AIMS OF ENQA

- to encourage and develop the exchange of information and experience relating to the quality assurance of higher education, in particular on methodological developments and examples of good practice;
- to function as a policy forum, developing and proposing standards, procedures and guidelines for quality assurance;
- to fulfil requests for expertise and advice from European Ministers of Education, national and regional public authorities and other bodies associated with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA);
- to facilitate quality assurance activities in the area of transnational higher education;
- to promote the development and implementation of effective systems for quality assurance and accreditation agencies;
- to co-ordinate the management of reviews of quality assurance and accreditation agencies;

EQAR – established in 2008 at the request of European ministers of education in Bergen (2005) and London (2007).
The founders are the E4 Group – ENQA, EUA, EURASE, ESU.
EQAR is a register of quality assurance agencies, that have demonstrated their substantial compliance with ESG. It includes 39 agencies from 20 countries.

The Register has been established to:
- promote student mobility by providing a basis for the increase of trust among higher education institutions;
- reduce opportunities for "accreditation mills" to gain credibility;
- provide a basis for governments to authorise higher education institutions to choose any agency from the Register, if that is compatible with national arrangements;
- provide a means for higher education institutions to choose between different agencies, if that is compatible with national arrangements;
- serve as an instrument to improve the quality of agencies and to promote mutual trust among them.

TRENDS IN QUALITY ASSURANCE
IMPACT OF EQAR ON THE STRUCTURE OF AGENCIES

Merger of agencies in the sector of higher education

- Ireland (three agencies are merged in one)
- Austria (three agencies are merged in one)
- Belgium-Flanders (two agencies are merged in one)

**Creation of the regulated competition on the market of accreditation services**

- **In German-speaking countires :**

  Germany, Austria, Switzerland (37 programmes during 2014 and 2015 were accredited by foreign agencies in three countries)

- **In Kazakhstan** – establishment of the National Register of Accreditation Bodies with 10 agencies: 8 foreign agencies accredited over 400 study programmes (data as of May 2016), though EQAR provides another data.

Comparison of Cross-Border Reviews by Country 2014-2015

(Taken from EQAR Annual Report 2015)
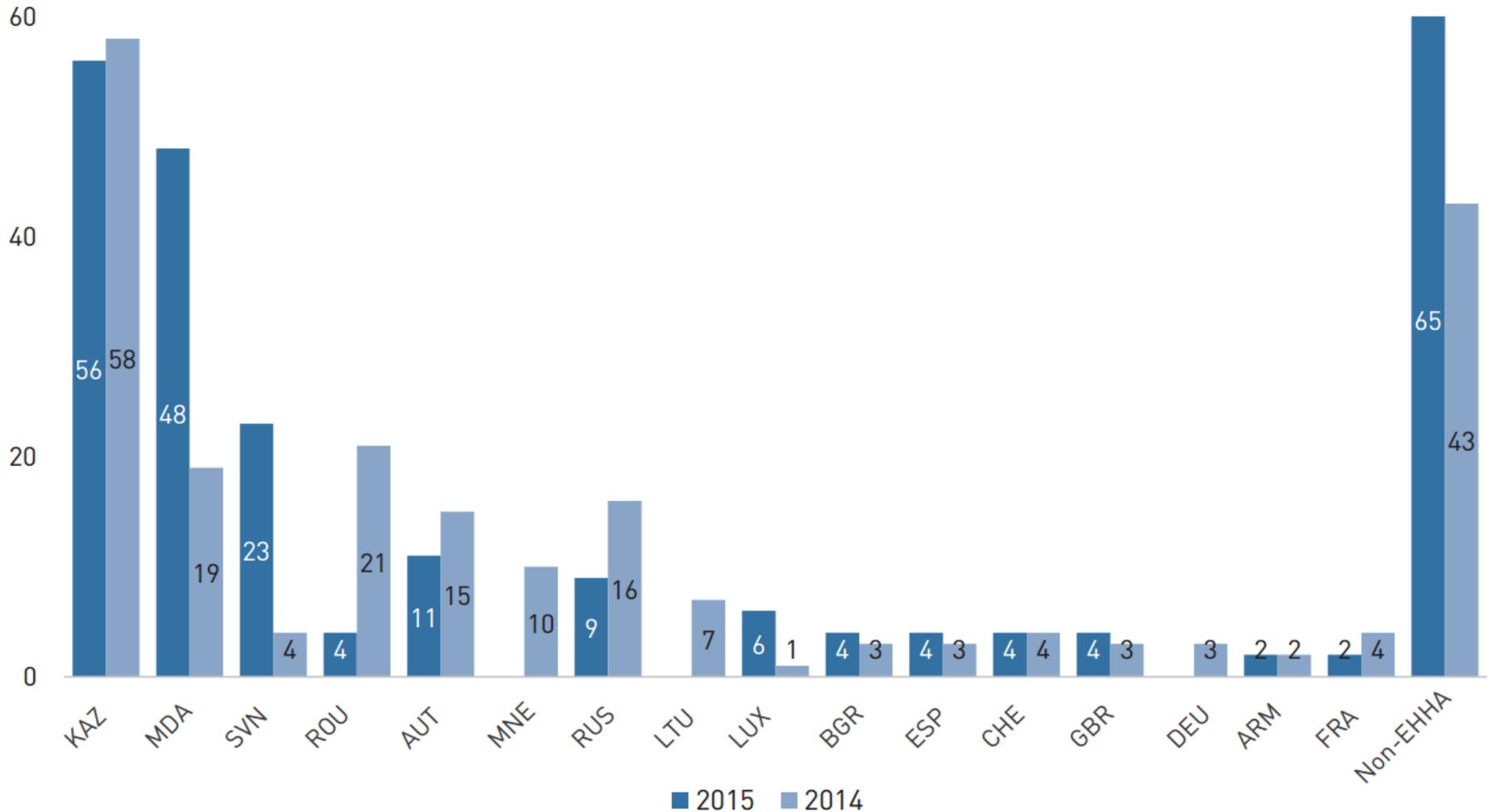
2012, BUCHAREST COMMUNIQUÉ (ROMANIA)

The Communique of Ministers called upon E4 Group (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) in cooperation with EI, BUSINESSEUROPE and EQAR to prepare a draft of the revised ESG in order "to improve their clarity, applicability and usefulness, including their scope".

Development and approbation of the revised edition of ESG was conducted from September 2012 until March 2015

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (ESG)
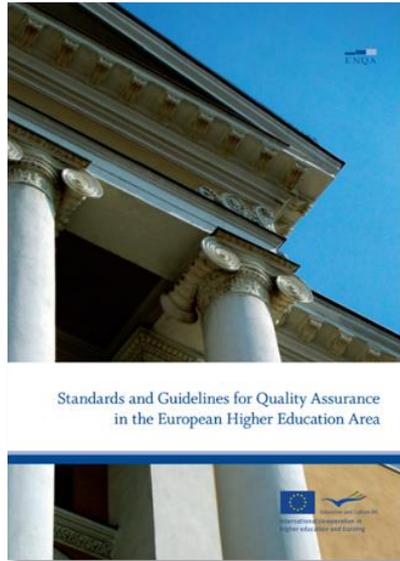
May 2015

Revised edition of ESG was approved by the Conference of Ministers in Yerevan

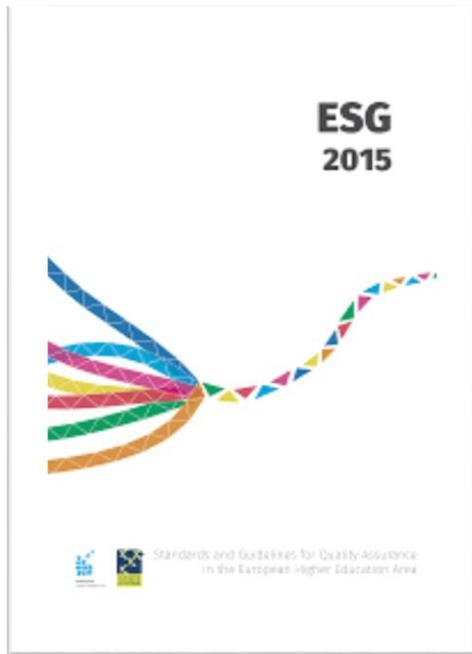**EHEA Ministerial Conference held in Yerevan (Armenia)**

Official delegation from Kazakhstan at the conference in Yerevan

MAIN CHANGES IN ESG 2015

- ✓ Clarified text;
- ✓ Present heightened expectations of HEIs in terms of mechanisms of quality assurance, which have to satisfy their needs;
- ✓ Increased requirements to quality assurance;
- ✓ **More focus on the implementation of a students-centered learning and learning outcomes;**
- ✓ **Recognition of formal and non-formal learning**.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (ESG)

ESG 2015

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

The ESG should be considered in a broader context that also includes qualifications frameworks, ECTS and diploma supplement

✔ A set of standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance in higher education

✔ Cover the areas which are vital for successful quality provision and learning environments in higher education

✘ Recommendations on WHAT has to be done, not HOW it has to be implemented

✘ Not a list of requirements

✘ Not a detailed handbook

ESG: principles of quality assurance

- Higher education institutions have primary responsibility for the quality of their provision and its assurance;

- Quality assurance responds to the diversity of higher education systems, institutions, programmes and students;

- Quality assurance supports the development of a quality culture;

- Quality assurance takes into account the needs and expectations of students, all other stakeholders and society.

TRANSLATION OF ESG

IQAA made an unofficial translation of the revised edition of ESG in Russian and Kazakh languages, which are available on the official website of ENQA

STANDARDS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS :

Internal quality assurance

External quality assurance

Quality assurance agencies

➢ All three parts are intrinsically interlinked and together form the basis for a European quality assurance framework, and thus should be read as a whole;

➢ All three parts work on a complementary basis in higher education institutions as well as in agencies and also work on the understanding that other stakeholders contribute to the framework

The standards set out agreed and accepted practice for quality assurance in higher education in the EHEA**(WHAT?)**

The guidelines explain why the standard is important and describe how standards might be Implemented **(HOW?)**

Establishment of IQAA

2008

2009

Development of standards and criteria for institutional and specialized (programme) accreditation of HEIs

Introduction of amendment to standards

2012

2015

Revision of standards on the basis of the new edition of ESG

REVISION OF IQAA STANDARDS ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW EDITION OF ESG

IQAA STANDARDS OF 2012	IQAA STANDARDS OF 2015
Standard 1. Mission, aims and objectives	**Standard 1.** Mission, strategic planning and policy in the field of quality assurance
Standard 2. Planning and effectiveness	**Standard 2.** General management and information management
Standard 3. Administration and management	**Standard 3**. Students, student-centred learning, teaching and assessment of performance
Standard 4. Students	**Standard 4.** Admission of students, learning outcomes, recognition and qualifications
Standard 5. Study programmes and their effectiveness	**Standard 5.** Study programmes: design, effectiveness, continuous monitoring and periodic review
Standard 6. Teaching staff and teaching effectiveness	Standard 6. Teaching staff and teaching effectiveness
Standard 7. Scientific research work	Standard 7. Scientific research work (creative activity)
Standard 8. Financing and financial stability	Standard 8. Resources and student support services
Standard 9. Resources: material and technical, library and informational	Standard 9. Public information
	Standard 10. **Periodic external quality assurance and follow-up**

EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ESG

➢ **Group of experts**

➢ **Analysis of a self-assessment report**

➢ **Visit to a HEI**

➢ **Preparation of a final report and its publication**

➢ **Decision (positive or negative) and its announcement**

➢ **Follow-up procedures (on-going monitoring by a HEI, regular monitoring of a HEI by the agency, periodic accreditation on the basis of ESG)**

Participation of international experts, students and employers is a prerequisite

REQUIREMENTS TO AGENCIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH ESG

Independent agencies have to:

- ❖ **Be established as independent organizations, which take the full responsibility for their activities and content of their work**

- ❖ **To be responsible for the development of methodologies**

- ❖ **To be in charge of selecting and training external experts**

- ❖ **To publish full reports (regardless of either positive or negative results)**

- ❖ **To be accountable for conducted procedures**

- ❖ **To have separate procedures and bodies for management and decision-making (for example, adoption of the final decisions on accreditation by the Accreditation council)**

AVAILABILITY OF STAKEHOLDERS AT ALL LEVELS

- **During the development and implementation of the quality policy of a HEI**
- **Both in structures and in procedures**
- **During the development of study programmes**
- **During the internal monitoring and revision of study programmes**

For HEIs

- **In the process of development and constant improvement of the external quality assurance**
- **During the external assessment (procedures)**

For the SYSTEM

- **In the management and work of quality assurance agencies**

For AGENCIES

IMPACT OF ESG ON THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN KAZAKHSTAN
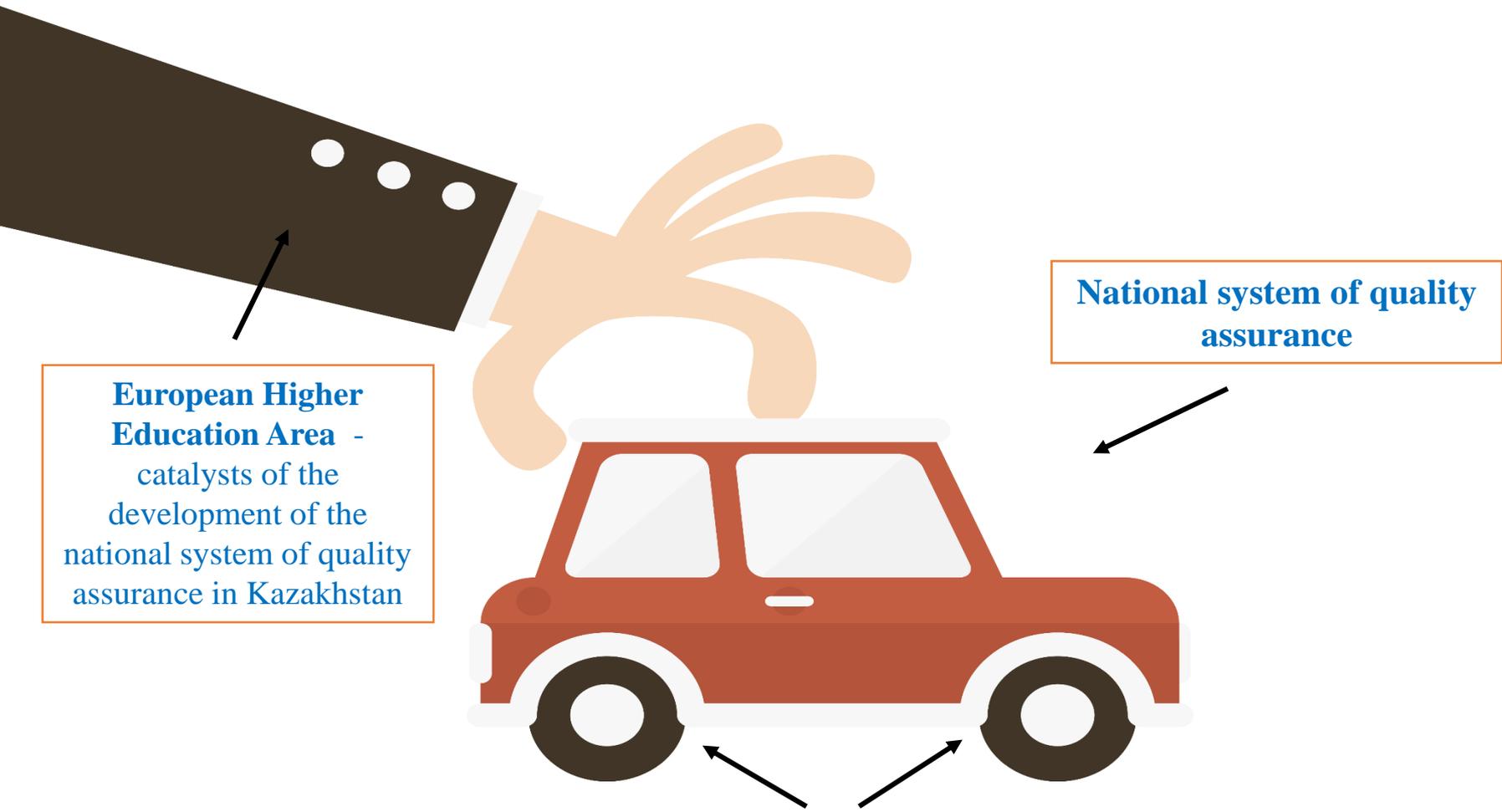
European Higher Education Area - catalysts of the development of the national system of quality assurance in Kazakhstan

National system of quality assurance

European Standards and Guidelines – drivers in the enhancement of attractiveness and competitiveness of the European higher education by the means of transparent and consistent procedures of quality assurance

RESULTS OF THE ESG INFLUENCE ON KAZAKH SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

- ✓ Amendments and changes to the Law of RK «On Education»
- ✓ Enhancement of the competitiveness of Kazakhstani HEIs
- ✓ Integration of Kazakhstan into the European Higher Education Area
- ✓ Enhancement of attractiveness of study programmes from Kazakhstani HEIs
- ✓ Increase in the academic mobility of Kazakhstani students and faculty

RESULTS OF THE ESG INFLUENCE ON KAZAKH SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

- ✓ Full membership of Kazakhstani quality assurance agencies in CEENQA: IQAA – from 2014 and IAAR – from 2016

- ✓ Decisions of IQAA and IAAR to undergo the external reviews by ENQA panels (reviews have been conducted)

- ✓ Receipt of resulst on the ENQA external reviews by Kazakhstani QA agencies in February, 2017

- ✓ The announcement of the decision by the ENQA Board in Gloucester to hold the 9th General Assembly in October 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan. It will be hosted by the Independent Kazakh Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA). For the first time in the CIS countries there will be a holding of such event, which is an evidence of great achievements by Kazakhstan in the implementation of the Bologna Process. *It is planned that the General Assembly will be attended by over 120 representatives from all European agencies.*

- ✓ Successful experience of Kazakhstan on the creation of the national system of quality assurance is provided as an example by foreign agencies to CIS countries, in particular, Azerbaidjan.

- ✓ IQAA was invited by the Ministry of Education of Azerbaidjan to present the experience of creating the national system of quality assurance in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Thank you for attention!