



REPORT
on the activities of “Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating”
for 2024

Astana, 2024

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List of notations and abbreviations

ABET - Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

ACQUIN - Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute

APQN - Asia Pacific Quality Assurance Network

ASIIN - Accreditation Agency for Educational Programs in Engineering, Computer Science, Science and Mathematics

CEENQA - Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

CIQG - International Quality Group of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation

ENQA - European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

EQAR - European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

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

ISQua - International Society for Quality in Health Care

IAAR - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating

INQAAHE - International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

IREG - IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence

PhD - PhD program

MA - Master's program

MQA - Malaysian Qualifications Agency

QA - quality assurance

AC - Accreditation Council

BA - undergraduate program

IQAS - internal quality assurance system

HEI - higher education institutions

HPE - Higher and Postgraduate Education

WFME - World Federation for Medical Education

EEC - External Expert Commission

AE - Additional Education

EHEA - European Higher Education Area

IA - Institutional Accreditation

IA (Ex-Ante) - Initial Institutional Accreditation

KR - Kyrgyz Republic

MoSHE RK - Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic
Kazakhstan

MES KR - Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic

HKCAAVQ - Hong Kong Council for the Accreditation of Academic and
Vocational Qualifications

NCHED - RSE REM "National Center for Higher Education Development"

MSHE RK

Research Institute – Scientific Research Institute

Atameken - National Chamber of Entrepreneurs “Atameken”

NSEQA - National System of Education Quality Assessment

EO - Educational Organization

EP - Educational Program

MEP - Main Educational Program

HEP - Higher Education Programs

Faculty - teaching staff

ISA - initial specialized accreditation

RK - Republic of Kazakhstan

SA - specialized accreditation

SA (Ex-Ante) - initial specialized accreditation of educational programs

Media - Mass Media

TVET - Technical and Vocational Education and Training

FSBI - Federal State Budgetary Institution

EC - Expert Council

INTRODUCTION

The non-profit institution “Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating” (hereinafter - IAAR) is a leading international accreditation agency for quality assurance in education. **IAAR** is a full member of European, Asian and American networks and quality agencies: **INQAAHE** - International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education; **CHEA/CIQG** - International Quality Group of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation in the United States; **IREG** - Observatory for Academic Ranking and Excellence; **CEENQA** - Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education; **APQN** - Asia Pacific Quality Network, **APQR** - Asia-Pacific Quality Register, **IQA** - Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World.

IAAR activities comply with the standards of quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area **ESG** and the World Federation for Medical Education **WFME**. IAAR is the first accreditation body in Kazakhstan, which received the status of full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - **ENQA**. By the decision of the Registration Committee on June 27/28, 2022, IAAR is re-listed for 5 years in the European Quality Assurance in Higher Education Register (**EQAR**). Obtaining the status of a recognized agency is a confirmation of IAAR's compliance with high international standards. In June 2024 IAAR successfully passed the follow-up of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). ENQA experts highly appreciated IAAR's activity in ensuring the quality of education, noting the positive growth of the Agency's development. **IAAR** is the first accreditation agency from the CIS countries to receive a high status of recognition by the World Federation for Medical Education (**WFME**).

Through full membership in international and European networks, **IAAR**-accredited educational organizations and educational programs receive **international accreditation status**.

The strategic development goals of the IAAR are aimed at strengthening the status of a recognized, competitive Agency for ensuring the quality of education at the

national and international levels. The activities of the IAAR in 2024 were based on the goals and objectives defined by the program documents and legislation in the field of education of Central Asian countries and the European higher education space, international quality assurance documents, as well as the IAAR Development Strategy for 2022-2026.

IAAR, demonstrating high competitiveness, consistently conducts in the Eastern European and Central Asian region independent, objective, professional assessment of educational activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan and 14 foreign states (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Moldova, Romania, Belarus, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Barbados, Dominica, etc.) on the basis of concluded Agreements and IAAR recognition by the relevant authorities of these states. IAAR, applying the best world practices of quality assurance, contributes to the improvement of efficiency and quality of educational and scientific activities of educational organizations of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in accordance with the most important national and international trends in the development of education systems.

In the period **2011-2024**, 282 educational organizations and 5341 educational programmes from 15 countries in Central Asia and Eastern Europe were internationally accredited in the IAAR.

IAAR, promoting the culture of quality and taking into account the leading trends in the development of higher education and the activities of key partners and international networks for quality assurance, forms strategic priorities. “Development Strategy of Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating for 2022 - 2026” (2021) updated in November 2023, taking into account changes in international and national legislation in the field of higher education, including the “Concept of Development of Higher Education and Science in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029”. The Concept is aimed at improving the quality of modern educational programs of HEIs, “based on emerging technologies and the economy of the future, taking into account the current challenges in the higher education system”. The updated “**IAAR Development Strategy for 2022-2026**” defines the mission, vision, strategic goals, objectives, tasks, content of activities, key indicators and expected results of activities.

IAAR, applying the best international practices of quality assurance, contributes to improving the efficiency and quality of educational and research activities of educational organizations in Eastern Europe and Asia in accordance with the most important national and international trends in the development of higher education systems, including the interaction of universities and business with the state (triple helix), digitalization, internationalization, academic excellence initiatives, the development of corporate governance and academic freedom of universities, as well as the extensive use of digital formats and artificial intelligence, etc.



1 Ongoing activities aimed at developing the quality assurance system in the national and international educational space

The conduct of external evaluation aimed at improving the quality of education and the competitiveness of educational services, based on independent accreditation, and promoting a culture of quality at national and international levels, is a key focus of the IAAR's activities.

1.1 Strengthening the position of IAAR in the national and international accreditation services market through improving quality, expanding the geographic scope, and enhancing accreditation procedures

In 2024, the activities of IAAR were based on the goals and objectives outlined by international and national priorities for the development of the education systems of the Republic of Kazakhstan (including the Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029) and foreign countries, international experience, and the implementation of key indicators from the IAAR Development Strategy for 2022-2026.

The Agency implements a quality assurance policy focused on the continuous development and provision of high-quality services in the field of education quality evaluation for consumers at all levels: government, society, educational organizations, employers, students, and public organizations. The international accreditation of educational organizations and/or educational programs carried out by IAAR is aligned with the mission, vision, values, and strategic goals defined in the IAAR Development Strategy for 2022-2026, which was developed with the participation of external stakeholders and approved by the collegial bodies of IAAR.

In 2024, IAAR conducted external evaluation for the following types of accreditation:

- ✓ Institutional accreditation of secondary education organizations, higher and postgraduate education (HE/PE), medical education, and continuing education (CE),
- ✓ Initial accreditation of HE/PE and medical education institutions,

✓ Specialized (program) accreditation for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), HE/PE, and medical education,

✓ Initial specialized (program) accreditation of educational programs for HE/PE and medical education,

✓ Accreditation of joint educational programs.

The internal documents of IAAR regulating the procedures for external quality assurance are published on the IAAR website: <https://iaar.agency>.

The development and improvement of IAAR standards and documents. To ensure quality external evaluation, IAAR independently develops standards and criteria for various types of accreditation. IAAR standards take into account the principles of the Bologna Process (objectivity, transparency, mobility, public information) and are used as a self-assessment model for universities, harmonizing the national quality education system with the international requirements of the European Higher Education Area.

IAAR standards fully align with the ESG and WFME standards and are developed with the involvement of stakeholders. Following the recommendations of ENQA, IAAR has systematized the procedures for reviewing and improving accreditation standards in accordance with the "Instructions for Developing and Improving IAAR Standards" (approved and put into effect by the IAAR Director's Order No. 19-15-01 of September 2, 2015).

In order to improve the quality and efficiency of its activities, IAAR conducted work in 2024 to enhance its regulatory and methodological documentation, making amendments and additions to the Standards for institutional and specialized accreditation of universities, in line with the goals and requirements of the government, society, and the labor market.

According to the 2024 Work Plan, IAAR's Director General issued an order to create working groups for the improvement of several standards and other documents.

In 2024, IAAR developed and discussed with key stakeholders the Standards for Institutional Accreditation on "Strategic Development and Corporate Governance", which were approved by IAAR Director General A. Zhumagulova in December 2024.

In 2024, amendments and additions were made to the Standards and Guidelines for Specialized Accreditation of Higher and Postgraduate Education Programs (Republic of Kazakhstan), as well as the Standards and Guidelines for Initial Specialized (Ex-ante) Accreditation of Higher and Postgraduate Education Programs (Republic of Kazakhstan) in line with ESG (2015), the National Accreditation Standard for Pedagogical Education, and the professional standard "Teacher". These documents are applied during the specialized accreditation of educational programs in pedagogy and focus on implementing quality assurance mechanisms, ongoing monitoring of the quality of pedagogical education, and evaluating pedagogical staff.

IAAR introduced two new types of quality assurance activities in the field of digital education: International Institutional Accreditation in Digital Education (including initial accreditation) and International Program Accreditation in Digital Education (including initial accreditation), as well as the accreditation of joint educational programs. These new directions were reviewed and approved by EQAR. In 2024, IAAR presented a report on significant changes to the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

In 2024, IAAR developed Standards and Guidelines for International Accreditation of Joint Master's Degree Programs in Healthcare (based on WFME/AMSE/ESG) in accordance with Global Quality Improvement Standards for Master's Degrees in Medicine and Healthcare (WFME 2016), Basic Medical Education Standards (WFME 2015, 2020), standards and guidelines for quality assurance in EHEA (ESG 2015), and taking into account the European approach to quality in joint programs (Yerevan, 2015).

According to the IAAR 2024 Work Plan and agreements with educational organizations, seminars were organized and held to clarify the standards and methodology for international accreditation. In 2024, seminars were conducted for educational organizations from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Switzerland, and the Dominican Republic.

Training seminars for universities in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, and others were conducted by the IAAR Strategic Development Advisor,

Professor, Doctor of Political Sciences G.K. Iskakova, for the Columbus Central University School of Medicine - Prof. Victoriya Georgiyants, Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the National University of Pharmacology, IAAR Expert (Kharkiv, Ukraine); for Washington University of Health and Science - Dr. Igor Cemortan, Ph.D., Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova, IAAR Expert (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova); for medical universities - Chair of the Republican Educational and Methodological Council for the Medical Field S.I. Sydykova and others.

Thus, taking into account international standards, national requirements, and the requirements of the European Higher Education Area, IAAR has carried out substantial work on the development and improvement of its own standards and criteria for accreditation types in alignment with international standards and has communicated them to the academic community.

International Accreditation. In 2024, institutional and specialized (program) accreditation was conducted for universities in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Romania, and the Dominican Republic.

In total, in 2024, 20 institutions from the Republic of Kazakhstan and 2 foreign institutions underwent international institutional accreditation, while 609 educational programs at various levels of study in Kazakhstan and 59 programs from foreign institutions underwent international specialized accreditation.

International Accreditation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The quality evaluation of educational organizations in Kazakhstan was conducted based on the standards and guidelines for institutional and specialized accreditation in higher and postgraduate education, vocational and technical education, higher and postgraduate medical education, medical colleges, organizations for continuous professional development, and schools implementing international primary, general secondary, and upper secondary education programs, with active involvement from stakeholders.

For more detailed information about the accreditation procedure and methodology in Kazakhstan, please visit the IAAR website: www.iaar.agency in the "Accreditation" section.

Institutional Accreditation. External quality assessment of educational organizations was carried out based on the standards and guidelines for institutional accreditation in higher education, vocational and technical education, higher and postgraduate medical education, medical colleges, and organizations for continuous professional development.

In 2024, 20 educational organizations passed institutional accreditation with IAAR, including 13 universities, 3 vocational and technical education institutions, 2 organizations for continuous professional development, and 2 international schools. The majority of these institutions fully demonstrated compliance with the IAAR institutional accreditation standards and were accredited for a period of 5 years.

Table 1. Quantitative Indicators of Accredited Educational Organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2024 (Institutional Accreditation)

Educational Organizations	7 years	5 years	3 years	1 year	denied	Total
Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)						
National						
Public						
Joint-Stock		10				
Private	1	2				
TVET						
TVET (Medical)		3				
Research Institutes (RIs), Continuing Education Organizations, Schools		2	2			
Total	1	17	2	0	0	20

Table 1 shows that out of the total of 20 IAAR-accredited educational organizations, the vast majority — 17 organizations — were accredited for 5 years, 1 organization for 7 years, and 2 organizations for 3 years. Thus, the organizations accredited in 2024 fully demonstrated their compliance with the IAAR institutional accreditation standards. For more detailed information on the procedure and methodology, please visit the website www.iaar.agency in the "Accreditation" section.

Specialized (Program) Accreditation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The quality evaluation of educational programs (EPs) was carried out based on the standards and guidelines for specialized (program) accreditation in higher and postgraduate education, vocational and technical education, basic medical education, and postgraduate medical education, as well as medical colleges.

In 2024, within the framework of specialized (program) accreditation, a total of 609 educational programs were accredited, including:

- ✓ 463 programs that passed specialized accreditation,
- ✓ 138 programs that underwent initial specialized accreditation, and
- ✓ 8 programs that received specialized accreditation for joint/double degree programs (see Table 2).

Table 2. Indicators of Accredited Educational Programs for 2024 (Specialized/Program Accreditation)

Name EOs/EPs	7 years	5 years	3 years	1 year	Refusal of accreditation	Total number of accredited EPs
HEI	3	524	35			562
BA	3	281	16			300
MA		187	14			201
PhD		56	5			61
Medical HEIs		41	6			47
BA		28	1			29
MA		7				7
PhD		3				3
Residency		3	5			8
TVET						
Total accredited	3	565	41			609

Of the 609 educational programs, 3 programs are accredited for 7 years, 565 educational programs - for 5 years, 41 educational programs - for 3 years (Table 3).

Table 3. International accreditation in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2024

Educational Organizations	Institutional		Program		
	IA	IA (Ex-Ante)	SA	SA (Ex-Ante)	SA (JEP)
West Kazakhstan Marat Ospanov Medical University	1			4	

Kazakh National Women's Teacher Training University	1		33	7	
Karaganda Industrial University	1		5	7	2
Turan University	1		10	3	
A.Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University	1		40		
Karaganda Medical University	1		5	6	
Kazakh-German University in Almaty	1				
Kazakh Academy of Sport and Tourism	1				
Kazakh National Agrarian Research University	1				
Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University	1		8	10	
Semey Medical University	1			6	
«Taraz – Bolashak» Medical college	1				
Kazakhstan International School	1				
M. Dulatov Kostanay Engineering and Economic University	1		25	15	2
Academy of Civil Aviation			2	2	
West Kazakhstan Innovation and Technology University			12		
Toraighyrov University			16	2	
Makhambet Utemisov West Kazakhstan State University			8	8	1
Satbayev University			4	4	
Astana IT University				7	
Esil University			13	5	
Karaganda University named after E.Buketov			36	1	
Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University			1	7	
The Kazakhstan Medical University "VSHOZ"				5	
Almaty Humanitarian and Economic University			1		
SDU University			4	5	
East Kazakhstan University named after S. Amanzholov			10	1	
Kokshetau University named after Sh. Ualikhanov			9	4	
M.Kh.Dulaty Taraz Regional University			76	8	1
South Kazakhstan Medical Academy				6	
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University			3	1	
RSE "National Scientific Center of Traumatology and Orthopedics named after Batpenov N.D."				1	
Kazakh-Russian International University			5		
Kazakh Agrotechnical Research University named after S. Seifullin			55	12	2
Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University			53		

Central Asian Innovation University	1		21		
Shelek Medical College	1				
South Kazakhstan Medical Academy (technical and vocational education)	1				
QUANTUM STEM SCHOOL	1				
EMIRMED International University	1				
«National Centre of Expertise» of the Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan	1				
Aktobe Regional University named after K. Zhubanov			8	1	
Total	20		463	138	8

Note:

* IA - institutional accreditation

* IA (Ex-Ante) - initial institutional accreditation

* SA - specialized accreditation of educational programs

* SA (Ex-Ante) - initial specialized accreditation of educational programs

* SA (JEP) - specialized accreditation of joint/bilateral educational programs

Cross-Border Accreditation. An important direction of the Agency's activity was to carry out international institutional and specialized (program) accreditation of educational organizations of Central Asian and European states on the basis of standards - ESG and WFME. IAAR, carrying out cross-border accreditation and realizing the task to strengthen IAAR's position in the international market of accreditation services, took into account in its activities the "Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cross-Border Higher Education (UNESCO and OECD)" and the provisions of the document "Cooperation in Cross-Border Higher Education: Toolkit for Quality Assurance Agencies" (ENQA). When conducting international accreditation IAAR ensures compliance of external evaluation procedures with the requirements of European quality assurance networks, ESG standards and compliance with the rules and procedures established by the authorized bodies in the field of education of foreign countries. The main instrument of external quality assessment is "Standards and Guidelines for International Accreditation of Foreign Educational Organizations and Educational Programs (based on ESG)", approved and put into effect according to IAAR Order No. 68/1-18-od dated 25.05.2018.

In 2024, 3 foreign organizations were externally assessed within the framework of IAAR international institutional accreditation. IAAR international program accreditation was passed by 59 EPs of foreign HEIs.

International accreditation in educational organizations of the Russian Federation. In accordance with the “Agreement on Cooperation and Interaction for Quality Assessment of Higher Education and EP Accreditation” dated May 6, 2019 with FGBU “Rosakkredagentstvo” international accreditation IAAR is recognized in the territory of the Russian Federation. In 2024 IAAR conducted international accreditation in 4 HEIs. IAAR EEC prepared conclusions on the levels of compliance of HEIs with the criteria of standards, the justification of which is set out in the reports on the results of accreditation procedures.

In the period from September 17-19, 2024 joint accreditation with AKKORK of St. Petersburg State University was carried out. The EEC was headed by V.N. Kosov, Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, Professor, IAAR I Category Expert. St. Petersburg State University underwent institutional accreditation of educational and research units “Faculty of Economics” and “Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communications” for a period of 5 years.

In the period from May 21-23, 2024, joint accreditation with the National Center for Professional and Public Accreditation (NCPA) of Residency/ Residency Programs of the Ural State Medical University was conducted. EEC was headed by Turdalieva B.S., academician of the Academy of Preventive Medicine of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Doctor of Medical Sciences. By the decision of the Accreditation Council the programs were accredited for 5 years (Table 4).

Table 4: International accreditation in the Russian Federation in 2024

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of OP	Accreditation validity period
1	Federal State Educational Institution of Higher Education “Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University”	31.05.01 Medicine	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
2	Krasnoyarsk State Medical University named after Prof. V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky" of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation.	31.05.01 Medicine	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.05.02 Pediatrics	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.05.03 Dentistry	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029

3	Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education “Ural State Medical University”, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation	31.05.01 Medicine	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.05.02 Pediatrics	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.05.03 Dentistry	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.08.02 Anesthesiology-Ranimatology	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.08.19 Pediatrics	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		31.08.75 Orthopedic dentistry	5 year 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
4	St. Petersburg State University	Graduate School of Journalism and Mass Communications	5 year 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
		Faculty of Economics	5 year 8.11.2024-7.11.2029

Thus, all 10 EPs of Russian HEIs submitted for accreditation by IAAR in 2024 are accredited for 5 years. Information on the IAAR website.

International Accreditation in Romania. In 2024, IAAR accredited the first educational organization in Romania. IAAR EEC prepared conclusions on the levels of compliance of EPs with the criteria of standards, the justification of which is set out in the reports (Table 5). Information on the IAAR website.

Table 5: International accreditation in Romania in 2024

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of EP	Accreditation validity period
1	Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca	Master’s Degree Medicine	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029

International Accreditation in Dominica. In 2024, IAAR conducted programmatic accreditation at one Dominica education organization.

IAAR EEC prepared conclusions on the levels of compliance of EPs with the criteria of standards (Table 6).

Table 6: International accreditation in Dominica in 2024

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of EP	Accreditation validity period
1	All Saints University School of Medicine	Doctor of Medicine	5 years 20.12.2024-19.12.2029

International accreditation in the Republic of Azerbaijan. IAAR conducted accreditation in 3 educational organizations in 2024 (Table 7).

Table 7. International accreditation in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2024

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of EP	Accreditation validity period
1	Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts	<i>Bachelor's Degree:</i>	
		050311 Operator's art	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
		050301 Acting	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
		050316 Theater Studies	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
		<i>Master's Degree:</i>	
		060317 Operator's art	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
		060311 Acting	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
2	Azerbaijan Sports Academy	<i>Bachelor's Degree:</i>	
		050804 Sport Management and Communication	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
		<i>Master's Degree:</i>	
		060802 Physical Education and Sport. Sports medicine and rehabilitation	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029
3	Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Civil Engineering	<i>Bachelor's Degree:</i>	
		050617 Construction Engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		050633 Transportation Construction Engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		<i>Master's Degree:</i>	
		060634 Construction Engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029

IAAR International Accreditation in Central Asia. IAAR conducts international accreditation in the **Republic of Tajikistan**. The quality of HEIs and EPs of Tajikistan within the framework of international accreditation is determined by the Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation of Foreign HEIs and EPs on the basis of ESG, and for medical HEIs and EPs based on WFME standards. In accordance with the international Agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan dated 13.05.2019 IAAR activity is recognized on the territory of Tajikistan. In 2024, 1 EP of the Medical and Social Institute of Tajikistan were accredited by IAAR (Table 8).

Table 8: International accreditation in the Republic of Tajikistan

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of EP	Accreditation validity period
1	Non-State Educational Institution “Medical and Social Institute of Tajikistan”	1-790101 Medicine	3 years 31.05.2024- 30.05.2027

In 2024 IAAR conducted accreditation in 4 HEIs of **Kyrgyzstan** (Table 9). In 2024, IAAR accredited 7 EPs of the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I.Razzakov, 1 EP of the Educational, Scientific and Production Complex of the International University of Kyrgyzstan, 1 EP of the International University “Ala-Too”. Adam University passed in 2024 institutional accreditation for a period of 5 years. IAAR updates the Register of accredited EO and EP of the **Kyrgyz Republic** by submitting documents based on the results of external assessment of EO and EP for compliance with the standards of institutional, program and initial program (Ex-ante) accreditation.

Table 9. International accreditation in the Kyrgyz Republic

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of EP	Accreditation validity period
1	Non-profit educational institution EI “Educational, Scientific and Production Complex ” International University of Kyrgyzstan”	<i>Programmatic accreditation: specialization</i>	
		560001 Medicine (for foreign citizens)	5 years 27.05.2024-26.05.2029
2	Adam University, LLC	<i>Institutional Accreditation:</i>	5 years 11.06.2024-10.06.2029
3	Ala-Too International University” Institution	<i>Programmatic accreditation: specialization</i>	
		560001 Лечебное дело	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
4	Institution “Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov”	<i>Program Accreditation: bachelor's degree</i>	
		710400 Software Engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		<i>Master's Degree</i>	
		650300 Mechanical engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		670300 Technology of transportation processes	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		710400 Software Engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
		<i>specialization</i>	
		750002 Construction and operation of railroads, bridges and transportation tunnels	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
<i>Doctoral Studies</i>			

	750300 Restoration and reconstruction of architectural heritage	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029
	650300 Mechanical engineering	5 years 21.06.2024-20.06.2029

In 2024 IAAR in the **Republic of Uzbekistan** conducted accreditation in 3 HEIs. In 2024, IAAR accredited 5 EPs of Tashkent State Economic University (Tashkent Financial Institute), 1 EP of Karshi State University, 16 EPs of Bachelor's, Master's and Clinical Residency, as well as 3 EPs of Continuing Professional Education of Tashkent Medical Academy (Table 10). IAAR accreditation is conducted with the active participation of stakeholders: employers, students, foreign experts, and the coordinator. IAAR accreditation is conducted with the active participation of stakeholders: employers, students, foreign experts, as well as the coordinator - representative of the agency.

Table 10. International accreditation in the Republic of Uzbekistan

№	Organization of education	Type of accreditation/ name of EP	Accreditation validity period
1	State Institution “Tashkent State Economic University” (Tashkent Financial Institute)	<i>Program Accreditation: bachelor's degree</i>	
		60410400 Finance and financial technology	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
		60410500 Banking and audit	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
		60410100 Accounting and audit (by branches)	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
		60310100 Economics (by branches and spheres)	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
		60410600 Insurance business	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
2	Tashkent Medical Academy	<i>Program Accreditation: bachelor's degree</i>	
		60910200 (5510100) Medicine	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
		60910400 (5510300) Preventive medicine	5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
		60911200 (5510700) Higher nursing	5 years

		31.05.2024-30.05.2029
60910600 (5510900) Biomedical science		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
60911100 (5511100) Folk medicine		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
<i>Bachelor's Degree (initial accreditation)</i>		
60711800 (5313000) Biomedical engineering		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
60411200 Management (5230200 Management: Management in Health Care)		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
60910100 Dentistry		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
60910300 Pediatrics		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
60910700 Pharmacy		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
<i>Master's Degree</i>		
70910201 Obstetrics and gynecology		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
70910209 Neurology		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
70910217 Urology		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
<i>Clinical Residency</i>		
140001 Obstetrics and gynecology		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
140013 Neurology		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
140031 Urology		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
<i>Advanced Training Programs</i>		
Clinical and laboratory diagnostics		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029
Operative and diagnostic endosurgery		5 years 31.05.2024-30.05.2029

		Modern diagnosis and treatment of the most common diseases of internal organs in family medicine	5 years 31.05.2024- 30.05.2029
3	Karshi State University	Program Accreditation: Bachelor's Degree	
		60230100 Philology and language teaching (English)	5 years 8.11.2024-7.11.2029

Stakeholders are involved both in the self-assessment process carried out by the EO and during the visit of the external expert commission. Reports of external expert commissions are publicly available on the IAAR website www.iaar.agency in the section “Accreditation”.

All IAAR-accredited educational organizations and educational programs are automatically included in the DEQAR database of the European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR). The European DEQAR Register is the Register of educational programmes and educational organizations accredited by quality assurance agencies recognized at the European level.

IAAR has placed in DEQAR database reports of all accredited educational organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Russia, Romania and others. Inclusion of educational programs and educational organizations in DEQAR confirms their compliance with ESG quality assurance standards and is the basis for recognition of accredited educational programs in the European Higher Education Area. To get acquainted with the EO and EPs included by IAAR in DEQAR database, please follow the link: <https://www.eqar.eu/register/agencies/agency/?id=30&cn-reloaded=1>

IAAR, conducting international institutional accreditation of HEIs, accreditation of foreign EPs, promotes the efficiency and quality of their educational and scientific activities, updating of EPs, introduction of the latest teaching technologies, contributes to the development of quality culture, as well as integration into the international educational space. IAAR, demonstrating high competitiveness in the international market of accreditation services, successfully conducts external evaluation of educational organizations/educational programs in 15 countries of Europe, America and Asia. An important result of the Agency's activity for 2024 is the successful

completion of IAAR post-monitoring (follow-up) by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

1.2 Improving the quality capacity of national and foreign experts

IAAR, guided by its mission and strategic development goals, attaches special importance to improving the quality of expert capacity to achieve the ultimate goals of the procedures for external quality assurance of higher education. In order to conduct quality assessment of EO and/or EPs, IAAR management pays special attention to the selection and training of experts. The IAAR expert database includes representatives of the university community, foreign experts, employers and students.

In 2024, the qualitative update of the available expert database was continuously monitored in order to increase the level of IAAR expertise. The IAAR expert database in 2024 included more than 4000 representatives of the academic community from 39 countries of the world. For each category of experts, certain selection criteria are established to attract the most experienced specialists to quality assessment. The selection criteria and requirements are defined in the Regulations on the regulation of expert activity of the IAAR external expert. In 2024, experts of all 3 categories were involved as experts in accreditation procedures. In all accreditation procedures ENQA requirements on involvement of students in each assessed cluster were met.

The selection of experts is based on years of work experience in the field of education, academic degree/title, recommendations of accreditation agencies, professional organizations, educational organizations and student associations. In 2024, national and foreign experts from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, etc. took part in international accreditation.

IAAR actively cooperates with foreign accreditation agencies through mutual exchange of experts. Over the last 10 years, the IAAR EEC was composed of experts from ASIIN, ACQUIN, FIBAA, WFME, AIC, ANACEC, representatives of foreign educational organizations of Great Britain, Germany, France, Greece, Turkey, Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan

and other countries. Experts recommended by IAAR foreign partners are characterized by professionalism, high level of competence and culture.

In 2024 IAAR experts were recommended as a partner to the National Center for Professional and Public Accreditation (NCPA, Russia), ACQUIN (Germany).

Within the framework of the agreement on cooperation with foreign partners in 2024, experts recommended by the Agency for Quality Assurance of Higher Education ARACIS (Romania), TKTA Agency (Azerbaijan), Rosakkredagentstvo (Russian Federation), etc. were involved in the IAAR accreditation procedure. In 2024 the composition of foreign experts of medical profile was significantly expanded, experts recommended by foreign agencies-partners of IAAR were involved.

Being interested in increasing the role and empowering students and employers in ensuring the quality of education, IAAR actively involves students and employers in the assessment of EPs and participation in the decision-making process. All accreditation procedures comply with ENQA requirements to involve students in each cluster being assessed.

IAAR cooperation with accreditation agencies and experts demonstrates high professionalism of IAAR experts, allows to improve the efficiency of expert activity, exchange opinions, generalize and disseminate the best experience of accreditation activity.

IAAR annually analyzes the activity of experts of different categories in order to form a list of experts to be involved in the accreditation process as the chairperson of the EEC. During 2024, interaction with IAAR experts was carried out during the formation of the EEC, explaining to new experts the procedures of institutional and program accreditation according to the Standards and Guidelines introduced in 2020-2024.

An important area of IAAR's activities to improve expert capacity is the education and training of experts. Training and certification of experts is carried out in accordance with the “Regulations on Training, Retraining and Professional Development of External Experts”. In accordance with the annual plans, IAAR conducts training seminars to build competencies of candidates for quality assessment experts. At the

seminars the students learn the theoretical part: IAAR requirements, content of procedures of different types of accreditation, IAAR and ESG standards, principles of ethics. Training of candidates for experts within the framework of the seminar is mandatory and serves as a basis for inclusion in the composition of the EEC. At the 2nd level of training practical tasks are given in accordance with the functions of experts in the composition of the EEC. In case of successful completion of tasks of the 2nd level, the candidate is included in the base and assigned a category (1,2,3). The categories allow to track the number of experts involved and their quality.

IAAR organized a number of seminars on training and professional development of experts, which were attended by faculty and students of higher education institutions of the RK and foreign countries. In 2024, IAAR held seminars according to the schedule for new and existing experts, as well as chairmen of the EEC.

In 2024, as part of the implementation of the “IAAR Expert Professional Development Program”, 4 training seminars were held for current and new experts. IAAR held on April 10 and October 24, 2024 seminars on preparation of IAAR academic experts for the EEC visit to the EO. The participants were familiarized with the main tasks and functions of the EEC expert in the accreditation process, external quality assessment in accordance with the IAAR international accreditation standards and the Guidelines for the organization and conduct of the external assessment procedure in the process of accreditation of EO and/or EPs. Special attention of the participants was paid to the issues of collegial discussion of the preliminary results of the assessment in accordance with the parameters of the EP profile, the principles of forming the evidence and analytical part of the EEC report, strengths and formulated recommendations. As a result, a certificate was issued.

IAAR pays a lot of attention to the preparation of experts for external evaluation of medical EO and/or EPs. On September 20, 2024, IAAR held a webinar on preparation of experts for the visit of the EEC to health care EOs. The webinar program consisted of two parts: theoretical, where the participants got acquainted with the Agency's activities, the main tasks and functions of the EEC expert in the accreditation process and practical work with cases, assessment of the EO report for compliance with

the accreditation standards and criteria, as well as a business game with focus groups. Participants of the webinar were familiarized with the organization and conduct of external quality assessment for compliance with IAAR international standards for medical education based on WFME and ESG standards, as well as with the Guidelines for external assessment in the process of accreditation of EO and EP. IAAR seminars served as an important link in the training of experts, improving their professional qualification and personal development, contributing to the acquisition of new knowledge and skills.

IAAR pays special attention to training and capacity building of EEC Chairs. On September 24, 2024, IAAR held a webinar “External Quality Assessment for Compliance with IAAR Standards and Improvement Orientation” for the Chairpersons of the EECs. Moderators Iskakova G.K., Strategic Development Advisor, Kanapyanov T.E., Deputy General Director for International Affairs introduced to the Chairpersons of EECs the changes and amendments in IAAR documents, including the Standards and Guidelines for specialized accreditation, held a discussion on important aspects of ensuring compliance of external quality assessment and EEC report with the requirements and standards of IAAR. The experience of work as the Chairperson of the EEC was shared with the webinar participants by the IAAR 1st category experts: G.S. Akybaeva, Ph, PhD (“Organization of EEC activity and consideration of factors influencing its work efficiency”), Aldungarova A.K., PhD (“Formation of recommendations on quality improvement on the example of criteria on student-centered learning and internal quality assurance system”). Special attention was paid to the issues of deeper understanding of educational organizations and substantive preparation for accreditation as an important mechanism to ensure the quality of education, clear understanding of the content of the criteria of standards, quality assurance of EEC reports.

In accordance with the Regulation on Expert Councils, the Agency forms Expert Councils by areas from the database of certified experts. The Agency delegates individual experts to participate in the work of Kazakhstan and international events in the field of quality assessment. In order to exchange experience, IAAR employees,

national and foreign experts participate in forums, conferences, round tables, workshops and trainings.

Head of the project of institutional and specialized accreditation of medical EOs and EPs Dzhakenova A.S. in November 2024 took part in the online format in the field meeting of the Committee on Socio-Cultural Development and Science of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Abay region on the topic: “Actual issues of staffing of the health care system” in the framework of implementation of the Message of the Head of State to the people of Kazakhstan “Fair Kazakhstan: law and order, economic growth, social optimism” (Semey).

IAAR Strategic Development Advisor G.K. Iskakova took part in the First International Scientific and Practical Conference dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Astana Medical University, “Astana Medical Forum 2024: Medicine of the Future - Integration of Science, Education and Practice” (October 14-15, 2024 in Astana). The focus of the Forum is on the quality of medical training, transformation of medical education, clinical technologies in medicine as a new approach to training health care personnel, new horizons of development of training technologies and innovations in medical education, digital technologies for the training system.

In November 2024, O.A. Yanovskaya, Advisor to the Director General, and A.S. Dzhakenova, Project Manager of Institutional and Specialized Accreditation of Medical EO and/or EPs, took part in the conference "Technologies. Partnership.

IAAR experts and employees actively participate in the development of methodological guidelines on accreditation and rating procedures, publish articles. Professional activities of IAAR experts are regulated by a set of normative documents that define ethical behavior and competencies of an expert. “IAAR Expert's Statement on Absence of Conflict of Interest” and “Expert's Code of Ethics” are published on the IAAR website.

In 2024 IAAR continued to work on the expansion and qualitative growth of national and international experts through the implementation of the Professional Training Program for Experts, close cooperation with other accreditation agencies and improvement of the methodology of procedures. Good results in the field of external

assessment are brought by the practice of involving foreign experts from recognized European and international quality assurance agencies in IAAR activities.

1.3 Efficient management of IAAR activities through development of human resources, their professional competencies, achievement of financial sustainability of the Agency

The mission and strategic goals of IAAR development determined the organizational structure and application of the project approach. IAAR structure includes subdivisions: “Medical Projects”, “International Projects”, “Project of Institutional and Specialized Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions”, “Project of Accreditation of TVET Organizations”, “Information and Analytical Project”, etc., the activities of which are regulated by the RK legislation and IAAR internal documents. There are the Supervisory Board, Accreditation Council, Commission for Consideration of Appeals and Complaints, Advisory Board on Ranking Issues and Expert Councils in the areas of activity. General management of the Agency is carried out by the General Director.

In total, 10 meetings of the Accreditation Council were held in 2024, where 20 EOs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2 foreign EOs were considered, international specialized accreditation of 609 EPs of different levels of education in Kazakhstan and 59 EPs of foreign EOs. At the meetings the members of the Accreditation Council paid special attention to the issues of strategic development of EOs, internal and external academic mobility of students and teaching staff, development of human resources potential of EOs and others. The organization of the Accreditation Council work was carried out according to the schedule of meetings. IAAR timely informs the general public about the results of the assessment of the quality of EO activity. Information on the adopted decisions of the AC is also sent to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (for the Register 2, 3 of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan) and EO. The adopted decisions of the AC are published on the Agency's website.

In 2024 the IAAR Expert Council on Higher Education discussed the Standards and Guidelines for international accreditation of EO and EP implemented using digital technologies (based on ESG), revised the Standards for specialized accreditation of EP of higher and (or) postgraduate education (Kazakhstan) in terms of accreditation of EP of pedagogical direction, amended the Standards and Guidelines for the Kyrgyz Republic due to changes in the legislation of the country.

In 2024, 2 meetings of the Expert Council on Medical Education were held, during which the following issues were discussed: preparation and approval of the annual IAAR report on the implementation of recommendations from experts of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), preparation for the VIII Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance, including the work of the medical panel session, and approval of the Standards for conducting international specialized accreditation of joint undergraduate and master's degree programs in accordance with global standards for basic medical education (WFME, 2015, 2020), standards for quality improvement for master's degrees in medicine and healthcare (WFME, 2016), standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education (ESG, 2015), and taking into account the European approach to quality assurance in joint programs (Yerevan, 2015, Tirana, 2024), among others.

IAAR employs 20 employees on a permanent basis. Functional duties and responsibilities of IAAR employees are defined in job descriptions and Work Plans. Communication is carried out through interaction, weekly meetings, internal audit. IAAR coordinators fill in a questionnaire after each EEC visit. All this has a positive impact on the work and allows improving accreditation procedures.

The implementation of activities aimed at achieving the goal 1 "Continuous activity on the development of the system of quality assurance of education in the national and international educational space" of the Development Strategy of Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating for 2022-2026 years contributed to the development and formation of competencies in accordance with the requirements of the "Framework of professional competencies for quality assurance ENQA", which

defines common key competencies of specialists in quality assurance and quality improvement in the member agencies.

In 2024, weekly meetings were held on a regular basis to discuss IQAS issues. As well as internal seminars, formal and informal meetings of IAAR coordinators in order to share experience, ensure consistency, coherence and continuity of procedures for external evaluation of educational organization and/or educational programs. Regularly discussed were the difficulties encountered during the visit of the EEC to the EO, during the preparation of EEC reports, during the anonymous questionnaire, including the possibilities of improving and bringing all the procedures of external evaluation into one consistent format. Due to the development of professional competencies of the staff, the tasks of the IAAR Development Strategy are successfully fulfilled and the planned plans are realized.

In 2024, IAAR staff enhanced their professional competencies by participating in various conferences, seminars and forums on education and quality assurance. In February 2024, IAAR representatives participated in a roundtable on cross-border accreditation organized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). The roundtable was organized by WFME to discuss challenges and best practices in cross-border medical accreditation. The roundtable was attended by WFME President Prof. Ricardo León-Bórquez, representatives of the WFME Secretariat, and other international agencies that are recognized by WFME in more than 6 countries. IAAR shared its experience of accreditation activities in 14 countries where WFME is officially recognized.

On March 15, 2024 at the seminar “Academic Integrity as a factor in ensuring the quality of higher education”, organized by the National Center for Higher Education Development of MSHE RK, the Advisor to the Director General, Doctor of Economics, Professor O.A. Yanovskaya made a presentation “Promotion of quality culture and academic integrity in higher education institutions of the country”. The speakers focused on the issues of quality assurance of training of graduates of higher education institutions. The seminar actively discussed topical issues of legal culture and literacy as a basis for the development of academic integrity of students, various aspects of

regulatory support of academic integrity, modern approaches, methodology and tools of academic integrity compliance.

Thus, the process of professional development of experts and staff is planned and controlled by IAAR management, reviewed within the framework of the ENQA, at internal meetings, meetings of Expert Councils, forums and seminars held by IAAR, as well as by national and international partners. IAAR experts and employees develop personal and professional competencies aimed at successful implementation of the Agency's strategic goals and objectives in accordance with modern requirements, including the ENQA Quality Assurance Professional Competency Framework.

1.4 Improving the efficiency of IAAR activities through the development of feedback and improvement of the internal quality assurance system

IAAR forms the internal environment for full involvement of both employees and stakeholders in achieving strategic goals and determining the degree of satisfaction of service consumers. IAAR in the Development Strategy for 2022-2026 has defined mission, vision, strategic goals, which serve as a basis for the preparation of annual work plans.

In accordance with the Quality Policy and IAAR Development Strategy, the IQAS is developed, documented, implemented and maintained, formalized in the IQAS Manual and published on the website. Policy and Guidelines on the internal quality assurance system taking into account the changes in the internal and external environment are updated with the focus on the formation of quality culture, meeting the needs of stakeholders: the state, society, EO, employers, students.

IAAR performance improvement is facilitated by monitoring the agency's activities within the internal quality assurance system, including organizing the work of working groups for continuous improvement; conducting an internal audit, preparing a report on its results; developing and implementing a corrective action plan and other actions. The IAAR is improved through feedback, analysis, corrective actions and risk management.

IAAR is constantly working to improve the IQAS with the participation of collegial bodies and experts. External and internal feedback mechanisms aimed at improving performance have been developed and implemented. To involve the staff in the process of continuous assurance of the IQAS efficiency, the management supports the activity of working groups of initiative staff and experts. IAAR staff, members of collegial bodies participate in the discussion of IAAR regulatory documents, including the Development Strategy, complaints and appeals procedures, accreditation standards and criteria, provide suggestions and recommendations to improve IAAR activities.

In accordance with the IAAR IQAS Guidelines, IAAR conducts internal audits of the quality assurance system in order to determine its performance, assess its efficiency and compliance with IAAR requirements, as well as the requirements of consumers and external regulations. Internal audit is conducted once a year on the main processes - accreditation and post-accreditation monitoring of EO and (or) EPs and other areas. By the order of Director General Zhumagulova A.B. dated December 27, 2023, a working group for internal audit was created in the following composition: head - Iskakova G.K., members - Deputy Director General for International Activities Kanapyanov T.E., Kydyrmina N.A., Dzhakenova A.S.

In accordance with the approved internal audit program, activities were carried out on February 1, 2024: meeting with internal auditors, internal audit program was discussed, tasks of the Working Group members were distributed. The internal audit took place on February 1 - 24, 2024. The results of the internal audit showed that the Agency staff of the main business processes - international accreditation of EOs and/or EPs and post-monitoring - were carried out in accordance with the Standards and IAAR requirements; the project managers and IAAR staff carried out significant work to improve the IQAS. According to the analysis of EEC reports on the audited HEIs, all activities of the visit program were implemented in full and within the appropriate timeframes and allowed to conduct external evaluation according to the Standards. Coordinators ensured strict compliance with the accreditation deadlines (submission of the self-assessment report, EEC visit, development, agreement and implementation of

the visit program) in accordance with the established deadlines (EEC Guidelines, Accreditation Standards).

The Working Group concluded that accreditation is carried out in accordance with IAAR internal documents. The structure and content of the EEC reports generally comply with the IAAR requirements. The content of evidentiary and analytical parts of the EEC reports mostly correlate with each other, recommendations are justified and aimed at improving HEIs' activities. The analysis of the EEC reports has shown that the EEC experts take into account the comments formulated based on the results of the internal expert review and submit higher quality reports to the AC.

The Working Group notes that the content of the EEC reports, including the evidence and analytical parts, strengths and recommendations noted by experts, has improved qualitatively. This was also facilitated by training workshops for experts in 2022-2023 to explain the new, updated requirements for writing a EEC report. Coordinators in the process of reviewing the self-assessment reports of educational organizations and internal examination of EEC reports, as well as members of the working group in the course of internal audit were guided by the IAAR requirements set out in the Guidelines for the organization and conduct of external assessment procedures in the process of accreditation of EO and (or) EP.

During the internal audit, the working group identified such shortcomings as the absence in some of the EEC reports of the analysis of anonymous questionnaire survey of students and faculty members to substantiate the recommendation, poor use of the results of the survey in the report. In isolated cases, the comments of the internal audit are not fully finalized.

In post-accreditation monitoring, the coordinators strengthened control over the quality of the Action Plans on quality improvement and enhancement within the framework of the EEC recommendations provided by the EOs, including compliance with the recommendations formulated in the EEC report; completion of the section “Measures for implementation of recommendations” taking into account the specifics of the accredited object, indication of deadlines and responsible persons.

The analysis of the post-monitoring reports submitted to the audit showed that it is necessary to strengthen the substantive review of the plans by the responsible coordinators and the post-monitoring project manager, to pay more attention to verification of the presence of all EEC recommendations in the EOs' Plan for post-accreditation monitoring, as well as to monitoring of timely submission of the plans, their respective approval in the EOs.

Thus, the internal audit conducted by the working group based on the analysis of the Agency's main business processes and the results of the IAAR experts' survey allowed to identify and define opportunities for improvement and propose measures aimed at improving the quality of IAAR accreditation activities. For example, for post-accreditation monitoring it was recommended to pay more attention to checking the availability of all EEC recommendations in the HEI's Plan for post-accreditation monitoring, as well as monitoring of timely submission of plans, their respective approval in the EO.

The internal audit conducted by the working group allowed to identify opportunities for improvement and propose measures aimed at improving the quality of IAAR accreditation activities in the form of a *Corrective Action Plan*. The latter included 17 measures, which were fully implemented during 2024. In particular, according to the Corrective Action Plan the coordinators strengthened monitoring and control over the structure of the self-assessment report for compliance with all requirements of the Standards and Guidelines, reflecting information on the qualifications awarded, NQF and EQF level, output data of the IAAR standard, including special control over the content of self-assessment reports in terms of the presence in the report of HEIs critical analysis of their own activities. Coordinators on a regular basis drew attention of the Chairperson and all EEC members to the Agency's requirements to the EEC reports both in terms of content and design, the need for mandatory finalization of reports by EEC members based on the results of internal expertise in full. In accordance with item 2.1. of the Corrective Action Plan in June 2024, IAAR Team-building was conducted among IAAR employees aimed at

strengthening the corporate culture and maintaining a healthy moral and psychological climate in the team.

The practice shows the positive impact of IAAR internal audit results on quality assurance of the Agency's implemented projects. As part of the internal quality assurance system, the results of the above surveys are used to analyze and improve IAAR activities. IAAR issues are discussed at weekly staff meetings, meetings of the Expert Councils and the Accreditation Council.

The results of internal audit, surveys of key stakeholders, analytical reports, analysis of EEC reports, etc. are taken into account in the Agency's operational activities, in the development of annual IAAR development plans, individual plans of employees, etc. The practice shows a positive impact of IAAR IQAS on maintaining confidence in unconditional fulfillment of the established requirements of the main business processes: international (institutional and specialized/programmatic) accreditation.

IAAR ensures functioning of processes related to stakeholders, systematically conducts activities to study stakeholders' opinions on services. Analysis of the EOs and experts survey by applying measurement tools, as well as EEC reports are conducted annually by the information and analytical project. The results of the analysis of the EOs' and experts' survey are published on the IAAR website in the Analytical Reports section, reviewed by the Expert Councils to develop recommendations for the improvement of the IQAS and submit them to the management, and used in the work.

In order to identify current problems, trends and perspectives of education development and new approaches to quality assurance, IAAR annually analyzes EEC reports, the results of which are discussed at the Expert Council and published on the IAAR website.

Work with stakeholders and consumers of services in accordance with the Quality Policy is aimed at meeting their requirements and is based on the principles of feedback and mutually beneficial partnership.

In 2024 IAAR through various platforms (conferences, seminars, forums, etc.) disseminates the best practices of quality assurance, conducts educational, explanatory

and informational work with educational organizations, youth organizations, etc. IAAR has conducted a webinar for participants of the “Independent rating of demand for HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2024”. Thus, on February 9, 2024, IAAR held a webinar for the participants of the “Independent rating of demand for HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2024”. The speaker of the webinar was Dr. Ph.D.-M.Sc., Professor, Chairman of the Advisory Council on the IAAR ranking issues, the developer of the ranking program Shunkeev K.Sh. The webinar was attended by Vice-Rectors, heads of departments and teaching staff of higher education institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

IAAR carries out constructive cooperation with governmental, non-governmental and public organizations (student associations, associations and professional communities of employers, etc.), international partners. IAAR interacts with authorized educational authorities of the countries where it operates in accordance with the legislative requirements, informs about the results and external evaluation, assists in the development of the national quality assurance system, advises on the implementation of ESG standards, conducts joint quality assurance activities and contributes to the professional development of the academic community. IAAR sends an annual activity report and regularly informs the MSHE RK, MES KR, National Accreditation Council KR and MES RT about accredited EO and/or EP (according to their requirements).

January 29, 2024 IAAR Director General - Zhumagulova A.B. and Advisor - Yanovskaya O.A. participated in the Forum “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Status and Prospects of Development” of the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which was held at the Eurasian National University named after L. Gumilyev in Astana. The Forum included thematic sessions on improving the internal system of quality assurance, improving the training of scientific personnel and improving the system of state regulation of higher and postgraduate education.

On March 29, 2024 a national seminar on the topic: “The system of internal quality assurance of higher education: a view from all sides” was held, organized by the National Center for Higher Education Development (hereinafter - NCHED) jointly

with “Astana IT University”. At the seminar, Director General A. Zhumagulova made a report “Interaction of internal and external quality assurance systems in higher education: the accreditation body's view”, in which she shared the agency's experience in modeling the interaction of the “triad of quality”: MSHE RK, Accreditation Agencies and HEIs.

More active involvement of external stakeholders in quality assessment is evidenced by IAAR's cooperation with professional associations and the community of employers and students, as well as foreign universities in the IAAR collegial bodies (AC, EC HE, EC ME, EC TVET). In order to improve the efficiency of IAAR activities, IAAR continued cooperation with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the RK “Atameken” (NCE), National Medical Association of the RK, Association of Higher Education Institutions of the RK, National Engineering Academy of the RK, International Academy of Informatization, National Center for Higher Education Development (NCHED) and others.

IAAR actively develops the capacity of trust and partnership with youth organizations of Kazakhstan, which demonstrate the ability to promote the interests of learners and willingness to take responsibility for the quality of education along with other stakeholders. In 2024, IAAR actively cooperated with youth and student organizations of Kazakhstan, including the largest student NGO - the Alliance of Students of Kazakhstan.

As an effective tool for measuring, analyzing and improving performance, IAAR considers periodic external quality assessment of activities by recognition and external evaluation bodies. In accordance with the Development Strategy, IAAR undergoes periodic external quality assessment at both national and international levels. IAAR's inclusion in EQAR, for example, means that all IAAR-accredited educational organizations and educational programs will automatically continue to be included in the DEQAR database of the European Quality Assurance in Higher Education Register (EQAR).

Inclusion in DEQAR of EPs and EOs confirms their compliance with ESG quality assurance standards and is the basis for recognizing accredited EPs in the EHEA territory.

Functioning of the IAAR IQAS, work on improvement of activities on all main business processes, including closer feedback with the main stakeholders, wide use of the results of surveys of accredited universities and experts, development of IAAR analytical reports, thematic analysis; ensuring the active participation of students in the Agency's activities, allowed to improve the quality of the external evaluation of EI of Kazakhstan and foreign countries.

Thus, IAAR, carrying out international accreditation of EO and EPs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and foreign countries, demonstrates high competitiveness in the international market of accreditation services, successfully conducts external evaluation of HEIs in Europe, America and Asia.

2. Monitoring quality assurance in education and bringing the best international practices to the development of national education systems and organizations

2.1 Improving the quality of post-accreditation monitoring procedure and rules

Post-accreditation monitoring is carried out to monitor the implementation of recommendations of the external expert commission by the accredited EO and/or EP in accordance with the criteria of the relevant type of accreditation. In order to improve the quality of post-accreditation monitoring, accredited EOs send to IAAR an interim report, which contains information about their activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the EEC since the moment of receiving the accreditation certificate and includes information about all changes in the EOs in accordance with the accreditation standards.

In 2024, post-accreditation monitoring within the framework of institutional accreditation was carried out by 23 EO, including: 18 HEIs, 3 colleges, 2 organizations of additional education. In the framework of specialized (program) accreditation in

2024, 741 EPs, including 735 EPs of higher education institutions and 6 EPs of TVET underwent post-accreditation monitoring (Table 11).

Table 11. Post-accreditation monitoring of EOs and/or EPs in 2024.

Organizations		Institutional accreditation	Specialized/programmatic accreditation	
			Number of EOs	Number of EPs
Universities	Civil	9	50	626
	Medical	9	23	109
TVET organizations	Medical	3	2	6
Organizations for additional education		2	0	0
Total		23	75	741

Analysis of post-monitoring reports showed that a high degree of implementation of recommendations in the framework of institutional accreditation was presented by Astana IT University, A. Saginov Karaganda Technical University, Kyrgyz-Uzbek International University named after B. Sydykov, and in the framework of specialized accreditation - EPs of such universities as: East Kazakhstan Technical University named after D. Serikbayev, Karaganda Industrial University, Karaganda Medical University, West-Kazakhstan Medical University named after M. Ospanov.

Thus, the post-monitoring of EOs and/or EPs in 2024 was carried out in accordance with the approved schedule. The quality of the provided monitoring materials, according to the internal audit, is improving every year. Reports of Expert Groups on the results of post-accreditation monitoring of educational organizations and/or EP and decisions of the Accreditation Council are posted on the IAAR website.

2.2 Enhancing the analytical capacity of IAAR to improve national systems for quality assurance in education

As part of the implementation of the Development Strategy for 2022-2026, improving the quality of accreditation procedures and receiving feedback from key stakeholders, IAAR carries out analytical activities and presents the developed documents and materials to the general public.

In 2024, the EEC reports were monitored and the directions of HEIs' development were determined based on the results of IAAR international specialized accreditation for 2023 for 276 EPs. Recommendations presented in the EEC reports of 24 Kazakhstani HEIs allowed to summarize the assessment of their performance on each standard and provide proposals for further development. Assessment of the quality of EPs was carried out by IAAR on the basis of Standards and Guidelines for specialized accreditation of HEIs of EPs complying with ESG standards. According to the analysis, out of 276 EPs 4 programs are accredited for 7 years, 245 - for 5 years, 26 EPs - for 3 years, and 1 program is accredited for 1 year. Out of the total number of accredited educational programs 88 have undergone initial (ex-ante) accreditation, including 83 EPs for 5 years and 5 EPs for 3 years.

In the reporting year, the Analytical Report on the results of the survey of IAAR experts for 2023 and the Analytical Report: survey of IAAR-accredited EOs for 2023 were prepared. The analytical reports were prepared based on the results of the survey of 131 IAAR experts, who participated in the international accreditation of EOs, and questionnaire survey of 48 EOs, which passed the procedure of international institutional and/or specialized (program) accreditation by IAAR in 2023.

According to the analysis, the IAAR external evaluation procedure is organized at a high level. As a result of the monitoring, 97% of experts note the well-coordinated collegial work of the EEC members, comfortable environment and constant support from the IAAR Chairpersons and coordinators. A high percentage - 98% of experts positively and effectively assess the work of IAAR coordinators. Many experts are attracted by the opportunity to work in a leading international accreditation agency and exchange experience with colleagues from other HEIs. Experts are interested in training and gaining new skills and competencies.

The following recommendations were made based on the results of the evaluation and analysis of the 2023 expert survey:

1. Simplify the EEC report on the results of the procedure of external evaluation of educational organization and/or educational program.

2. Revise the evaluation system: criteria can have different “weight”, there are more serious criteria, but the criteria have the same weight. Therefore, more weighty criteria are always smoothed by “less important” criteria.

In the reporting year the analysis on the results of feedback after the visit of the EEC for 2022-2023 was conducted. The analysis based on the results of the survey of accredited EOs, members of the external expert commission and IAAR coordinators assesses the feedback after the visit of the EEC and the level of satisfaction with the IAAR international accreditation process.

The results of the analysis showed that the work of the EEC, in the opinion of the EO, was conducted in an objective, independent and transparent manner. EEC members demonstrated effective communication (98%), professionalism (98%), compliance with ethical standards (97%), excellent report writing skills (97%) and good knowledge of international quality assurance and ESG (98%) of IAAR experts.

According to the respondents, the interaction of EEC members with all participants of the external evaluation was conducted in a correct, friendly format. EOs note the professionalism and clarity of work of IAAR coordinators. In general, the EOs are fully satisfied with the work of the EEC and note that the accreditation process is organized at a high level.

In order to improve IAAR's operations and enhance the quality of accreditation services, it is necessary to:

- Continue the practice of training seminars on professional development of experts for different groups and categories of experts separately (Chairpersons, students, employers, foreign experts);

- to conduct training seminars for students on IAAR standards and principles of student-centered learning in order to ensure more interested participation in the evaluation of educational programs;

- attract for accreditation senior students who are better informed about the educational process within their educational program;

- increase the activity of employers involved in accreditation during focus group interviews, discussing the quality of EPs, as well as developing recommendations for their improvement.

In accordance with the Agency's Activity Plan for 2025, the thematic analysis on the topic “Digitalization of knowledge, introduction of IT-technologies in education” was conducted, which is devoted to the issues of IT-technologies development in the higher education system in the conditions of modern trends: active introduction of new innovations in the educational process. The study presents the current state of development of digitalization of the Republic of Kazakhstan and its place in the international ranking, considers the approaches of digital changes in the education system, provides specific examples of the introduction of digital technologies in higher education institutions of the country, and considers the constraining factors that negatively affect the results and assessment of knowledge.

Analytical reports are posted on the IAAR website to ensure open access of stakeholders and the general public to information on the results of the analysis contributing to the development of IQAS in the EOs. The results of all types of surveys are submitted to the Expert Councils for consideration and in the form of recommendations are submitted to the Director General for decision-making.

The annual report on IAAR activities contains information on all areas of IAAR activities and is submitted to the Supervisory Board. In accordance with the Plan of implementation of the IAAR Strategy for 2024, a report on IAAR activities for the authorized body in the field of education and science was prepared. Within the framework of ensuring the quality of education, an annual report on IAAR activities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is developed and published. By June 15, December 30, the list of accredited educational organizations and educational programs in accordance with the reporting form “Register of accredited organizations and programs” is prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic. IAAR report on activities to promote quality culture in higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2024 is prepared and sent to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Accreditation Council.

It is obligatory for the Agency to further publish the IAAR report in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In 2024, the monitoring of IAAR accreditation activities and assessment of the state of HEIs' activities in the process of international specialized accreditation allow to identify promising areas of HEIs' activities, implemented educational programs, and the implementation of the proposed recommendations will positively affect both the quality of activities of individual HEIs and the higher education system as a whole. The results of generalization of best practices and identification of development trends in the field of education quality assurance through the analytical activities of IAAR are used by interested stakeholders at the national and international levels.

Information and analytical materials are published on a systematic basis on the IAAR website, including those on thematic analysis, development of internal quality assurance system in educational organizations. In accordance with the Plan of realization of the IAAR Development Strategy on a systematic basis work on ensuring the publication of EEC reports on the results of assessment of EO and (or) EP on the IAAR website. All the above analytical materials and reports are posted on the IAAR website – (<http://iaar.kz/en/about/iaar-reports/analytical-reports>) in order to inform the general public.

Thus, conducting a systematic analysis of the Agency's business processes, supporting constant feedback with key stakeholders, improving its mechanisms, providing open and reliable information about its activities allows IAAR to ensure high quality of its activities as an international accreditation agency.

3. Conducting rating researches in the sphere of higher and postgraduate education in order to increase the competitiveness of educational organizations and their recognition in the international educational space

3.1. Ensuring the improvement of quality and expansion of the boundaries of rating research in the sphere of higher and postgraduate education

One of the leading directions of IAAR activity is organization and conducting of rating studies. According to the IAAR Charter, rating studies are conducted independently from the accreditation process and do not affect its results; they are

implemented in accordance with the Methodology of ranking of EO and EP (<https://iaar.agency/rating/1/0/2020>).

IAAR annual rating research is oriented to international standards and aimed at the development of higher and postgraduate education system. IAAR conducts since 2014 “Independent Rating of the demand for higher education institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, since 2018 “Independent Rating of higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic” and International rating “IAAR Eurasian University Ranking ”IAAR EUR" since 2020. IAAR rating system received in 2020 confirmation of compliance with the methodology of the Berlin Principles and recognition of “IREG Approved” (<https://ireg-observatory.org/en/initiatives/ranking-seal-of-approval/>).

The unique digital technology, which has received European recognition, makes it possible to form not only the EP Rating, but also to present the General Ranking of HEIs. This approach generates confidence of the academic community and HEIs in IAAR Rankings.

In 2024, the difficulties of 2023 in conducting the ratings remained: the decrease in the participants of the ratings, which is due to the implementation of the MSHE RK Rating, as well as the total number of HEIs of the Russian Federation and Ukraine in the International Rating, due to the military and political conflict between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the orientation of HEIs to other world rankings.

The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) has been conducting the “Independent Rating of Demand for Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan” since 2014, which has become one of the most reliable, objective and time-tested ratings in Kazakhstan. IAAR Rating contributes to the competitiveness of educational services, provides public awareness of the compliance of the quality of education.

In 2024 IAAR successfully passed the IREG (Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence) audit, which gives the right to use the high Quality Mark “IREG-Approved”, confirming the compliance of the IAAR Ranking methodology with the world ranking standards. A report on IAAR activities in the field of ranking of higher

education institutions was submitted to the IREG Executive Board for audit. The visit of IREG experts - Krystian Szadkowski, Habib Fardoun took place in October 2024. In December 2024 a letter was received from the IREG Committee on the successful completion of the IAAR audit and prolongation of the right to use the Quality Mark “IREG-Approved” for the next 5 years, until 2029.

IAAR has created its own methodology for evaluating universities on a digital ranking platform based on four main criteria for monitoring each EP and allows universities to enter data independently, which demonstrates the transparency and objectivity of the evaluation of universities. This annual event represents the final assessment of the quality of education at universities in Kazakhstan and is an important tool for future students to choose a profession, as well as for employers when hiring young professionals. IAAR rating allows assessing the level of graduates' training and identifying the most in-demand specialties.

Independent Rating of Demand for Higher Education Institutions of RK - 2024 is an incentive for universities to continuously improve and enhance the quality of education and promotes competition between educational institutions, motivates them to achieve better results.

This year, the Independent Ranking of the demand for higher education institutions of RK was attended by universities of various fields, including multidisciplinary, technical, humanitarian-economic, medical and pedagogical. Art universities also participated in the Rating, which underlines the growing interest and comprehensive evaluation of educational organizations.

In 2024, the number of assessed EPs in the Rating of HEIs of RK increased to 1,650. The leader in terms of the number of prizes was expectedly Al-Farabi Kazakh National University - the university also topped the top three leaders of the “Top 20 HEIs of RK” with 337374 points. The top five universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan included: Eurasian National University named after L. Gumilev (287460 points), Kazakh Agrotechnical University named after S. Seifullin (134352 points), Kazakh National Pedagogical University named after Abay (114205 points), Almaty Technological University (73891 points).

The analysis of the IAAR Rating results showed that compared to the last year, there is a positive growth rate of 14% in the number of prizewinners of International Student Olympiads. Publication activity of university faculty increased by 9% compared to the last year, etc. Full information about the results of the “Independent Rating of the demand for higher education institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan - 2024” published www.iaar.agency

IAAR presents to alumni, the academic community, parents, and other interested parties:

1. General Rating “TOP-20” of HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan -2024.
2. Institutional Ranking of HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan by Bachelor's degree program - 2024.
3. Institutional Ranking of HEIs by fields of Master's degree programs - 2024.
4. Institutional Ranking of HEIs by the EP of doctoral studies - 2024.
5. Rating of HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Bachelor's degree programs.
6. Rating of HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Master's degree programs.
7. Rating of HEIs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the EP of doctoral studies.
8. General Ranking of the faculty of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Top-50”

Independent Rating of demand for higher education institutions of RK - 2024 has become an important indicator not only of the quality of education, but also a means for determining the future profession. This rating allows applicants to assess the advantages of each university and choose the most suitable educational institution. Thus, the Independent Demand Rating of RK HEIs - 2024 contributes to improving the quality of education in the country and the formation of highly qualified specialists necessary for the development of the economy and society as a whole.

IAAR has been conducting the rating of universities of the Kyrgyz Republic for 7 years in a row. The annual **Independent Rating of HEIs of the Kyrgyz Republic** is conducted on a digital platform in accordance with the Berlin Ranking Principles and international quality standards. In 2024, IAAR conducted a large-scale study, as a result of which the best HEIs of the country were identified, which were evaluated by 15 indicators, united in four main groups according to the following criteria: high

concentration of talented students, faculty and researchers, academic mobility, competitiveness of graduates, publication activity.

In the Independent Rating of HEIs of the Kyrgyz Republic - 2024 ranking was conducted for all areas of specialist training. The top three leaders by the number of ranked educational programs are Osh State University, Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagyn and Osh Technological University named after M. Adyshev.

The methodology for calculating the rating **“TOP 30 faculty members of higher education institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic”** is based on the data of bibliographic and abstract databases of peer-reviewed scientific literature - Scopus and Web of Science.

The results of the Independent Rating of Higher Education Institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic - 2024 reflect a comprehensive assessment of the quality of education and work of educational institutions. As a result of the assessment, the best HEIs were identified, which demonstrated high performance on key criteria such as quality of education, innovativeness of programs, research, as well as interaction with the business sector and employers.

Starting from 2020, the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) publishes the results of the International Ranking of the Best Higher Education Institutions in Eurasia. IAAR has developed the methodology of this Ranking, which is based on the international ranking standards of IREG (Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence).

IAAR is the first in Kazakhstan and the fifth in the world organization, whose methodology has successfully passed the audit of the International Observatory for Academic Ranking - IREG and received a high Quality Mark “IREG Approved”, that IAAR International Ranking of Higher Education Institutions fully complies with the world standards and focuses higher education institutions on quality.

International Rating **“IAAR Eurasian University Ranking (IAAR-EUR)”** allows to increase the authority and reputation of universities, expand the opportunities for international cooperation and competitive advantages in the market of educational services, attract talented applicants and international students. International Rating

“IAAR Eurasian University Ranking (IAAR-EUR)” is based on the principles of transparency, accessibility, verifiability, objectivity, which causes trust.

The methodology of the Rating is developed by IAAR on the basis of a digital platform and includes an assessment of HEIs' performance both on the basis of data provided by HEIs themselves and on the basis of expert assessments. Academic indicators account for **70%**, including scientific potential, and **30%** is accounted for by the reputational assessment of HEIs by international experts in the field of higher education and expert opinion of employers. Since 2020, HEIs from such countries as: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan.

In 2024 Central Asian and European universities took an active part in the International Ranking, which shows the authority and popularity of the International Ranking “IAAR Eurasian University Ranking (IAAR -EUR)” in the academic community.

The results of IAAR Ratings are published on the websites: www.iaar.agency and HEIs. Also the results of the Rating are published in the journal “Education Quality.Assurance”.

4. Timely informing of the society about the results of quality assessment of educational organizations and development of feedback, based on the implementation of the principles of transparency and reliability

4.1 Raising the level of public awareness of the results of quality assessment of educational programs and activities of educational and scientific organizations

Informing the public about the results of the external evaluation of EO/EP is conducted in the following directions: publication of EEC reports and decisions of the AC on the IAAR website; holding seminars, training workshops, online conferences, round tables and the annual Central Asian Forum on Quality Assurance; participation in dialog platforms and HEIs; participation in conferences and forums held by international networks and foreign partners; publication of articles on the effectiveness of external evaluation in the IAAR scientific and information journal "Education. Quality Assurance"; speeches, interviews and publications in mass media, scientific publications; publication of information and news feed on the IAAR website.

IAAR in the interest of public information posts on the website information about all main directions of the Agency's activities, changes in normative documents, internal quality assurance system, etc. The work is carried out on an ongoing basis to replenish the register of accredited EO/EPs, to post information on the events held on the website, as well as to update information on the accreditation procedure in the field of technical and vocational education. The results of IAAR activity are also reflected in annual analytical reports, which include all accreditation processes and procedures. Informing all stakeholders about the introduction of updated standards and guidelines for institutional and programmatic accreditation through the Agency's website, newsletters and other information channels is carried out on the basis of the Agency's activities. Information about IAAR activity on international accreditation and ratings is reflected in social networks, in national and foreign mass media, on official resources of public authorities, universities of the RK and foreign countries, international organizations, which indicates their confidence in the Agency's activity, its high reputation and recognizability both in Kazakhstan and abroad.

Within the framework of implementation of the task “Constant informing about the results of the External Expert Commission and the results of the meetings of the Accreditation Council through the Agency's website” in 2024 the publication of information about foreign events with participation of IAAR representatives, information for the IAAR website about foreign and IAAR participation in international projects and in projects under the Erasmus+ program is provided.

The IAAR website regularly posted information on the results of international accreditation of domestic and foreign EOs, reports of the EEC, list of EEC members and other documents for the IAAR Register. All reports and materials are uploaded to DEQAR database on accreditation of EOs in 2024.

Continuous monitoring of announcements of international networks and partners was carried out in 2024. Newsletters of partners were monitored and prepared materials were published, including INQAAHE Bulletin, CEENQA Newsletter, APQN Newsletter.

During 2024, work was carried out to maintain and improve **www.iaar.agency** and its integration with the European DEQAR database, Asia-Pacific DAQAR database.

Scientific-information journal "Education. Quality Assurance". In order to cover the best domestic and world practice in the field of education quality assurance IAAR publishes the scientific-information journal "Education. Quality Assurance", included in the RINC database since 2021. The journal serves as an effective platform for discussion of modern approaches and global trends in improving the quality of education, for the publication of foreign representatives of international agencies and networks, on current issues and trends in the development of national education systems and the best practices of foreign countries. The periodicity of the journal is 4 times a year, articles in the journal are published in 3 languages (Kazakh, English and Russian). The journal is distributed not only in Kazakhstan, but also abroad. There is a separate website of the journal "Education. Quality Assurance": <http://iaar-education.kz> where journals in electronic format are placed in free access, which allows IAAR to expand the information field.

Since January 2024, the journal has been included in the List of editions recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the publication of the main results of scientific activity (according to Order No. 603 of 12.07.2024). In 2024 the journal was also included in the List of editions recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission (HAC) under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

For 2024, 4 issues of the journal "Education. Quality Assurance" published by IAAR. 39 articles were published in the journal. Of the total number of articles in the journal, 25 were published by Kazakhstani authors, 4 - by foreign authors and 10 - jointly. Articles of foreign authors: from Russia - 2, Tajikistan - 1, Uzbekistan - 1. Joint articles of Kazakhstani and foreign authors: with Spain - 1, China - 1, Czech Republic - 2, Slovenia - 1, Bulgaria - 1, Latvia - 1, Kyrgyzstan - 1 and Uzbekistan - 3.

During the year, work was carried out on modifying and completing the website of the journal "Education. QA". In June, the international standard serial number ISSN for the electronic version of the journal was received.

In early 2024, the contract with Kazpost JSC, Express Press Astana LLP and Evrika-Press LLP for distribution of the magazine was extended LLP "Express Press Astana" and LLP "Evrika-Press" for the distribution of the magazine. During the year, letters were sent to CBOs with an offer to subscribe to the magazine.

In 2024, according to the agreement with the Scientific Electronic Library (SEL), all issues of the journal "Education. Quality Assurance" for the reporting year were placed on the website www.elibrary.ru in the specialized information system "Russian Science Citation Index" (RSCI). Quality Assurance" journal for the reporting year. The contract with Plagiat.pl. LLC on plagiarism check of the journal materials was prolonged. specialized information system "Russian Science Citation Index" (RSCI). Quality Assurance" journal for the reporting year. The contract with Plagiat.pl. LLC on plagiarism check of the journal materials was prolonged.

Within the framework of expanding information interaction IAAR actively works with mass media and assigns an important role to information cooperation. In order to provide the public with comprehensive, reliable and up-to-date information on IAAR's activities to ensure the quality of education and to promote the formation of public opinion in the direction of increasing the social significance of accreditation, IAAR employees regularly publish materials in foreign magazines, newspapers and publications of national importance, as well as give interviews both in Kazakhstan and abroad and appear on national TV channels.

During 2024, work was carried out to maintain and improve **www.iaar.agency** and its integration with the European DEQAR database, Asia-Pacific DAQAR database.

In 2024, work was underway to widely publicize the results and significance of the agency's education quality assurance activities by organizing webinars, seminars, workshops, conferences, and forums, information about which is published on the IAAR website in the news feed.

An important place in the Agency's activity is the organization and holding of the annual Quality Assurance Forum. On October 4, 2024 the **VIII Central Asian International Forum on quality assurance of education**: “Improving the quality of education as a phenomenon of strategic development of universities in the information space” was held on the basis of Astana IT-University. At the opening of the International Forum the Director General of IAAR Zhumagulova A.B. spoke about the results of the Agency's activity, modern trends and prospects of the quality assurance system development in the countries of Asia, Europe and America. The President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) Douglas Blackstock and President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) Stéphane Lauwick, representatives of government agencies, international quality assurance networks of higher education, heads of higher education institutions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, France, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Turkey, Moldova, Armenia, Latvia took part in the Forum..

The Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Alnazarova A.Sh. made a welcoming speech, noting the great role of IAAR in improving the quality of medical education. Vice-Minister of MSHE RK Ahmed-Zaki D.J. noted the special role of IAAR in ensuring the quality of education and increasing the importance of accreditation in the conditions of digital transformation. President of the National Engineering Academy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President of “Kazakhstan Union of Rectors” ROO Zhumagulov B.T. noted the stages of formation of the mechanism of quality assurance of higher education in Kazakhstan. Within the framework of the International Forum there was a fruitful exchange of experience on topical issues of improving the quality of higher education, which allowed to determine the vector of positive transformations in the education system and identify ways to improve the quality of education in the countries of Central Asia and Europe. The Panel Discussions discussed key issues of improving the quality of education, external and internal assessment of quality assurance, modern mechanisms for expanding internationalization, introduction of joint programs and partnership development, the impact of artificial intelligence on the development of the architecture of the education

system, its advantages and prospects. Special attention is paid to ensuring the quality of medical education, integration of science and practice, introduction of simulation training technologies, as well as improving the level of training of medical personnel. Holding of the International Forum allows for annual exchange of best practices.

5. IAAR is a recognized international accreditation agency

One of the key tasks of realization of IAAR's mission and vision outlined in the Development Strategy for 2022-2026 is to recognize IAAR at national, European and international levels as a reliable partner in quality assurance. This strategic objective is realized through IAAR's active position on the international platform, commitment to European quality standards, study and implementation of the best foreign practices. An important confirmation of IAAR's international recognition is the Agency's successful post-monitoring of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) in 2024.

5.1 Strengthening and enhancing international recognition and prestige

A top priority for IAAR in 2024 was to increase the Agency's international cooperation and representation in international networks, supporting the commitment to remain a trusted international quality assurance body. Particular emphasis was placed on working to maintain membership in international quality assurance networks:

- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) - IAAR full member since 2016;
- International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) - IAAR full member since 2015;
- Council for the Accreditation of Higher Education in the United States (CIQG) International Quality Group - IAAR full member since 2015;
- Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) - IAAR full member since 2016;

- Asia Pacific Quality Assurance Network (APQN) - IAAR full member since 2017;

- Association of Quality Assurance Agencies for Education in the Islamic World (IQA) - IAAR full member since 2012;

- International Observatory for Academic Ranking and Excellence (IREG) - IAAR full member since 2015.

The Agency carried out targeted work on the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with recognized global quality assurance agencies in the field of higher education in accordance with signed agreements (memorandums) on cooperation with 36 partner organizations from 18 countries. During 2024, within the framework of the signed agreements, the exchange of information as necessary, exchange of relevant materials on quality assurance, participation in network events, control of timely payment of membership fees, monitoring of all postal correspondence on interaction with networks were carried out. In particular, monitoring of partners' Newsletters was carried out; materials were published in Newsletter - Bulletin YOKAK; INQAAHE Bulletin, CEENQA, APQN Newsletter, as well as constant monitoring of announcements of international networks and partners; distribution of partner letters to universities from different countries, etc.

In order to widely inform the world community about accreditation agencies recognized at the European level, as well as about HEIs that have successfully passed international accreditation, the DEQAR project was created and is being developed. The European DEQAR register is a register of educational programs and educational organizations accredited by quality assurance agencies recognized at the European level. Inclusion of educational programs and educational organizations in DEQAR confirms their compliance with ESG quality assurance standards and is the basis for recognition of accredited educational programs in the European Higher Education Area. More information about DEQAR CONNECT Conference <https://www.eqar.eu/about/projects/deqar-connect/conference/agenda/>. IAAR is a member of the DEQAR CONNECT project since 2020. All IAAR accredited

educational organizations and educational programs are included in the DEQAR database of the European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR).

One of the most important tasks of the IAAR Development Strategy for 2024 was to pass the ENQA post-monitoring (follow-up). In accordance with the approved Action Plan for the implementation of ENQA experts' recommendations, the IAAR post-monitoring report was prepared as part of the follow-up procedures. The prepared final report on the implementation of ENQA experts' recommendations in English was sent to the ENQA Secretariat. The ENQA experts' follow-up visit took place in June 2024. On June 17, 2024 IAAR at the meeting with ENQA experts IAAR Director General - Zhumagulova A.B. told about the main changes in the Agency after the ENQA audit of 2021 and development priorities in the implementation of its mission and strategic objectives. During the meeting with ENQA international experts - Patric Van den Bosch and Núria Comet Señal an active dialog about the opportunities and further strategic directions of the Agency development took place. ENQA experts highly appreciated the IAAR activity, positively noting the work carried out by the Agency in ensuring the quality of education and positive growth of its development.

In 2024, IAAR prepared a report on significant changes to the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR). IAAR has introduced two new quality assurance activities in digital education: International Institutional Accreditation in Digital Education (including initial) and International Programmatic Accreditation in Digital Education (including initial) and a strand on accreditation of joint EPs. These new orientations were reviewed and approved by EQAR.

IAAR as the first organization from the CIS countries to be recognized by WFME, actively implemented in 2024 the right to conduct international accreditation of medical organizations and EPs in accordance with international standards. In accordance with the requirements of WFME IAAR prepared and sent in 2024 IAAR annual report on implementation for 2023, as well as information for the President of WFME on the results of accreditation for 2023 of medical educational organizations.

In 2024, from October 15 to 17, IAAR successfully passed the audit of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, which gives the right to use the

quality mark “IREG-Approved”, confirming the compliance of IAAR ranking methodology with the world standards. The report on IAAR activity in the field of higher education institutions ranking was submitted to the IREG Executive Board for audit. Visit of IREG experts -Krystian Szadkowski, Habib Fardoun in October 2024 and in December IAAR Committee of IREG on the successful completion of the audit until 2029.

In 2024, IAAR actively collaborated with overseas partners in line with the strategic goals and objectives:

- Obtaining WFMO recognition status for Somalia, Belize and Barbados. These WFMO decisions were communicated to key stakeholders, including through publications on the IAAR website;

- signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Technology and Vocational Training, Barbados;

- the negotiation process with the Hong Kong Council for the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) on cooperation, which started in December 2023, was further continued in 2024 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding;

- IAAR membership of the European Association of Thematic Networks in Chemistry (ECTN) and prospects for labeling continued.

IAAR management and staff took an active part in the events organized by European and international networks and partners. IAAR is an active participant of various events on quality assurance in education, organized by Ministries of Education, public associations and higher education institutions of Europe, Asia and America.

On a systematic basis, IAAR provides support to the Authorized Bodies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and others in the implementation of quality assurance activities in higher education, conducts presentations, seminars and consultations on building a national system of quality assurance in higher education in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Process and ESG.

Thus, IAAR's international activities in 2024 were carried out at the international level as a reliable partner in quality assurance, including through the expansion of

cooperation and partnership with international networks and foreign agencies, active participation in international events on quality assurance in education, exchange of experience and best practices, etc., which contributed to the strengthening and expansion of international recognition and authority of IAAR.

5.2 Improving the quality of international activities and substantive consolidation of IAAR achievements

In order to consolidate international positions and develop international cooperation, the Agency's employees in 2024 took an active part in various events of international networks and partners, the work of collegial governing bodies of international quality assurance networks, various international projects on the development of education and science, etc. In 2024, IAAR employees took part in various international events: forums, conferences, seminars, including:

- in the Virtual Roundtable on Cross-Border Accreditation organized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) on February 19, 2024;
- in the webinar Beyond Rankings: A Strategy of Healthy Growth or Pursuing Numbers, organized by E-Quadrat Science & Education, March 13, 2024;
- in the ENQA Members' Forum in Hannover, Germany, April 17-19, 2024;
- in the International Conference on Quality Assurance organized by Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC) and supported by Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, 25-26 April 2024;
- in the CEENQA General Assembly, Baku, Azerbaijan, May 17-18, 2024;
- in the INQAAHE General Assembly, June 12, 2024;
- in the International Webinar on “Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning” organized by the Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World (IQA) and the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE), 12 June 2024;
- in the APQN International Conference held in St. Petersburg, Russia, September 26-29, 2024; etc.

Special attention was paid to ensuring the participation of IAAR staff in international events organized by the quality assurance networks APQN, INQAHEE, WFME, IREG, ENQA, CEENQA.

General Director A. Zhumagulova took part in the ENQA 2024 Members' Forum in Hannover. ENQA 2024 Members' Forum, organized in cooperation with the German Central Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation (ZEvA), was held from 17 to 19 April 2024, where the following topics were actively discussed: “Trends in Quality Assurance Policy in the EHEA”, “Quality Assurance in Transnational Education”, “Approaches of Accreditation Agencies to Follow-up Procedures (Post-Monitoring)”, “Quality Assurance of Micro-qualifications”, “Role of Artificial Intelligence in Quality Assurance” and others.

On April 25-26, 2024, IAAR Director General A.B. Zhumagulova attended the International Conference on Quality Assurance and Accreditation organized by the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC) with the support of Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University and shared IAAR's experience in quality assurance.

On May 17-18, 2024 in Baku (Republic of Azerbaijan) was held a meeting of the General Assembly of CEENQA, which was attended by the Director General of IAAR - Zhumagulova A.B. and Advisor Yanovskaya O.A. Within the framework of the event the trends in the development of higher education and the importance of cross-border accreditation were discussed.

On March 18, 2024 the meeting of the Commission in the field of quality assurance of education of the CIS member states was held, which was attended by Director General of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating Zhumagulova A.B. At the meeting of the Commission presented a model of quality assurance of higher education institutions of the CIS countries, as well as discussed issues on the development of common approaches to ensure the quality of higher education. The meeting was attended by members of the Council and representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and others.

Within the framework of realization of task 5.2. of Strategy the Agency paid attention to participation of IAAR representatives in collegial management bodies of

international quality assurance networks (ENQA, INQAAHE, APQN, CEENQA, etc.). The increase of IAAR image and authority is evidenced by the activity in 2024 of T.E. Kanapyanov, Deputy Director General for International Cooperation, as a member of the APQN Board of Directors, who was re-elected to the APQN Board of Directors as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the organization of AAC & AGM 2024 (St. Petersburg, 26-29 September 2024).

On June 12, 2024, IAAR Deputy Director General T.E. Kanapyanov took part in the General Assembly of INQAAHE (online), where the key issues of global trends in higher education were discussed: international quality standards, introduction of artificial intelligence in educational processes and digitalization of educational programs. This confirms the active role of Kazakhstan in the formation of the international system of quality assurance of higher education.

IAAR participation in various international projects on the development of education and science. IAAR actively participates in international projects. So the project GIZ № 20.2212.7-002.00 “Professional Education for Economic Growth Sectors in Central Asia” (PECA) implemented since the end of 2022 in 2022-2024 is aimed at the implementation of international program accreditation of educational programs in the field of food technology in partner universities (Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov (KSTU); Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K.I. Skryabin (KNAU); Technological University of Tajikistan (TUT); Polytechnic Institute of Tajikistan Technological University (TUT); Polytechnic Institute of Tajikistan (KSTU); Polytechnic University of Tajikistan (KSTU).

IAAR acted as an organizer of the final events, developed the Concept of events and meeting programs, as well as determined and agreed with partner HEIs and GIZ office the dates of such events as the visit of the working group to partner HEIs. The key result of IAAR work on the project is the international accreditation of HEIs of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and inclusion in the European Register of accredited EQAR programs (DEQAR).

In 2024 the necessary documentation was prepared for participation as a partner in the project proposal of the international Erasmus+ program “Improvement of educational programs at the university: introduction of economic security aspects to overcome global challenges and threats” (SecurEc). The coordinator of this application was the West Kazakhstan Zhangir Khan Agrarian-Technical University (Uralsk) Republic.

IAAR participation in international projects allows to closely interact with the international academic community, actively work with national and foreign universities, which has a positive impact on the quality of educational services and expanding the horizons of international cooperation.

In order to expand IAAR participation in international projects of the Erasmus+ Program, new projects are monitored, the Agency's information and profile for participation in the Erasmus+ Program are updated (EU Login cabinet - authentication service of the European Commission); PIF (Partner Identification Form) is compiled and sent to potential partners.

Thus, the team of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating in 2024 strived to improve the quality of international activities, including through extensive cooperation with leading partners - international networks and foreign accreditation agencies, active participation in various international events in the field of quality assurance of higher education, implementation of international studies and projects.

SWOT- analysis of activities

SWOT- analysis reflects the realization of strategic objectives and serves as the basis for annual planning of IAAR activities (Table 12).

Table 12: SWOT - analysis

S (Strenght) - strengths	W (Weakness) – weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IAAR recognition in Kazakhstan and abroad; - IAAR's full membership in international quality assurance networks and associations; - international accreditation abroad; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insufficient level of English language skills of the agency's staff; - insufficient number of experts with the required level of English language skills;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooperation with foreign partners; - harmonization of IAAR standards with revised ESG and WFME standards; - cooperation with stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organizations within the framework of the Bologna Process; - monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the EEC of accredited EO and/or accredited EPs; - functioning of the IQAS (internal quality assurance system); - support of the WFMO in activities for the development of the national accreditation system for medical and pharmaceutical education; - IAAR's annual organization of the International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education; - IAAR professional staff; - availability of a wide base of professional and competent experts; - confirmation of the status of full membership in EQAR; - independent rating studies at the national and international levels, including the IAAR EUR international rating; - constant and timely informing of the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - absence of electronic document management system; - weak coverage of feedback from the professional community of employers due to their low interest; - insufficient development of partnership with foreign TVET agencies.
<p>O (Opportunity) – favorable opportunities</p>	<p>T (Threat) – threats</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changes and amendments in the legislation in the field of education, which opens new opportunities in quality assessment of higher education institutions in Kazakhstan and a number of foreign countries; - support of IAAR by international quality assurance networks; - growing interest in IAAR activities on the part of foreign universities; - access to national, European and international educational and research resources; - availability and use of IT technologies, opportunities of digital architecture of HEIs for realization of quality assurance processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - instability of the financial and economic situation in the country and the world; - emergency situations (epidemics, threats of technogenic character and natural phenomena, military actions); - growing competition (including unfair competition) in the field of accreditation; - insufficient activity of employers in educational activity of educational organizations.

SWOT- the analysis allowed to determine the mutual influence and action of strengths and weaknesses, available opportunities and threats, and to identify promising areas of the Agency's development, allowing to strengthen the competitive position of IAAR and serves as a basis for planning activities for 2025.

Conclusion

Achievements. The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating, as a recognized international agency for quality assurance in education in 2024, has achieved notable results in external quality assurance of HPE, TVET, secondary education (international schools) and further education in 15 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

IAAR on a permanent basis updates the methodology of external evaluation by types of accreditation, carries out continuous monitoring, evaluation and analysis of educational activities of EO on the basis of feedback development; identifies, generalizes and disseminates at the international and national level the best practices in the field of quality assurance and culture, systematically informs the general public about its activities, which contributes to quality institutional changes both in EO and national systems.

In 2024, IAAR introduced new quality assurance activities, including in the area of digital education and prepared a report on significant changes to the European Quality Assurance Agency Register (EQAR). In 2024, IAAR markedly strengthened its position in higher medical education in Dominica and Belize. During the reporting period, joint external evaluations were conducted: with AKKORK - institutional accreditation of St. Petersburg State University, with the National Center for Professional and Public Accreditation (NCPA) - of residency/residency educational programs of Ural State Medical University.

In 2024 IAAR successfully passed the post-monitoring of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), audit of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, expansion of accreditation activities (for the first time international accreditation was conducted in Belize), strengthening the quality potential of experts and staff of the Agency testify to the positive dynamics of IAAR development in the field of quality assurance of education,

the growth of the Agency's authority in the international market of accreditation services.

Expanded information on IAAR activities based on the implementation of the Communication Strategy to ensure effective outreach to the target audience - educational organizations on topical thematic analysis studies: “Digitalization of knowledge, introduction of IT-technologies in education”, “Analysis and evaluation of inclusive education development in higher education institutions” and “Learning outcomes approach”.

The prospects for the development of IAAR international activities in 2025 are related to the realization of the main tasks defined in the IAAR Development Strategy for 2022-2026, further expansion of the geography of international accreditation, IAAR participation in various international projects on the issues of quality assurance of education.

The analysis of the Agency's activities in the reporting year also demonstrates the opportunities that have opened up for expanding cross-border accreditation and improving the effectiveness of its own activities in 2025, including:

- Developing international cooperation in the field of quality assurance to include new countries;
- obtaining WFME recognition status for Somalia, Belize and Barbados in 2024;
- signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Technology and Vocational Training of Barbados;
- negotiating with Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA) and Hong Kong Council for the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for joint accreditation.