



## **COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**State Inspectorate for Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Eurasian Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care  
Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Tashkent - Almaty 2022**

## **Agreement on Cooperation between the State Inspectorate for Education Quality Supervision under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education and Health care Non-Profit Organisation**

The State Inspectorate for Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (*hereinafter referred to as the "State Inspectorate"*), represented by the Head of the State Inspectorate Tashkenbaev Ulugbek Negmatovich, acting on the basis of the Regulation on the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Appendix No. 1 to Resolution No. 515 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 18, 2017), the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan (*hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry"*), represented by the First Deputy Minister of Health Inoyatov Amrillo Shodievich, acting on the basis of the Regulation on the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by Resolution No.714 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Organization of the Activities of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated September 12, 2017, and the Non-Profit Organisation "Eurasian Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education and Health Care" (*hereinafter referred to as the "ECAQA"*), represented by the Director General Sarsenbayeva Saule Sergazaevna, acting on the basis of the Charter, on the other hand, *hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"*,

### **recognizing the importance of:**

- the creation and development of both a national system of state accreditation and an independent international specialized (programmatic) accreditation of medical education through the introduction of international standards and principles of quality assurance of higher professional education based on the fundamental requirements of the WHO/WFME Guidelines for the Accreditation of Basic Medical Education (2005), the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and the principles of best practice of international and regional associations and networks for quality assurance of higher professional education (INQAAHE, CHEA IQG, ENQA, APQN );

- creation of a reliable and transparent national system of specialized (programmatic) accreditation of medical, pharmaceutical and nursing education, which is trustworthy and recognized by all interested parties: medical educational organizations, students and teachers, health professionals, the authorized body in the field of higher education and authorized bodies in the field of health, organizations and bodies of health care, professional associations and society as a whole;

- introduction of specialized (programme) accreditation of higher professional education with a high degree of transparency, application of internationally recognized standards specific to medicine and other specialties of the Health care system, based on academic honesty and competence, efficiency and fairness of the system;

### **whereas,**

- The goals, values, contributions and achievements of each party in the field of quality assurance of health and professional education in health care; and the intention to strengthen and expand cooperation and partnership to ensure quality professional education and training of health professionals on the basis of the principle of equality and mutual respect;

- in order to complete medical education and ensure the quality of training of health care professionals, agreed on a mutual tripartite long-term partnership and the implementation of this Agreement on cooperation between the State Inspectorate for the Supervision of the Quality of Education under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Non-Profit Organisation "Eurasian Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care" (*hereinafter referred to as the Agreement*).

**Also, given that**

**The State Inspectorate for Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a special authorized body of state administration that implements state policy in the field of educational quality control** and is guided in its activities by the Regulation on the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Appendix No. 1 to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 515 dated July 18, 2017).

The State Inspectorate carries out certification and state accreditation of state educational institutions and non-state educational organizations, regardless of their departmental subordination and forms of ownership (hereinafter referred to as educational organizations) in accordance with Article 58. Certification and State Accreditation of Educational Organizations, Article 59. Internal and external evaluation of the activities of educational organizations of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" dated 23.09.2020 No. ZRU-637 (*as amended on 12.10.2021*).

In accordance with Paragraph 7 – Carrying out *certification of* higher educational institutions, Paragraph 8 – Carrying out *certification of* higher educational institutions engaged in postgraduate education and research institutions, Paragraph 9 Carrying out certification of institutions improving the qualifications of personnel and their retraining in accordance with the decision of the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Education under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Pre-school Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the criteria for certification of educational institutions" registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 27, 2020 Registration No. 3214.

**The Ministry of Health is the central body of State health administration.**

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the authorized state body in the field of medical and pharmaceutical education and science.

In its activities, the Ministry is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, laws and other acts of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, decrees and orders of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, decisions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers, other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan on health issues and the Statute of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Regulatory and legal acts of the Ministry, issued within its competence, are binding on state bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, regardless of the form of ownership, public associations and individuals in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the health authorities of the oblasts and the city of Tashkent, and their subdivisions in the cities and districts make up the unified system of health authorities of the Republic.

**Non-profit organisation "Eurasian Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care"** is the first specialized accreditation body for medical, pharmaceutical and nursing education, public health in the CIS countries and is included in the Register of Recognized Accreditation Bodies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Register-1), the Directory of Organizations Accrediting Medical Schools DORA (Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools) of the Fund for International Medical Education Research (FAIMER) of the USA and the International Directory of Accreditation Bodies of the Council for Higher Education/International Quality Group (Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CHEA/CIQG International Directory), USA, the Register of Quality of Higher Professional Education of the Asia-Pacific Region (APQR), is a member of international and regional networks for quality assurance of education (ENQA, CHEA/IQG, INQAAHE, APQN, CEENQA). ECAQA has successfully completed an external evaluation of the European Association for the Quality Assurance of Higher Professional Education (ENQA) and the European Quality Register (EQAR) and

has confirmed the compliance of its internal and external quality assurance system with the European Higher Education Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015).

– The ECAQA conducts institutional and specialized (program) accreditation using accreditation standards based on the International Standards of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) to Improve the quality of medical education (basic, postgraduate education and continuing professional development of Doctors) and the Standards of the Organisation for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System (ORPHEUS), the Association of Medical schools in Europe, Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015), Standards for Accreditation of Nursing Education Programmes, which include quality criteria and requirements of WHO/EUROPE Strategic Policy Documents on the Development of Nursing Education, WHO Global Standards for Basic Education of Professional Nurses and Midwives and EU Directives 2013/55/EC on Recognition professional qualifications.

**In accordance with the existing powers of the State Inspectorate for the Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan** to support the establishment of the Institute and the implementation of state accreditation and international independent accreditation of medical educational organizations and improve the quality of training and qualifications of industry specialists, as well as cooperation aimed at consolidating efforts for joint activities and granting authority to the "ECAQA" to conduct specialized (programme) accreditation of medical educational organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

**In accordance with the existing powers of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan** as a public administration body, which develops and implements state policy in the field of health care, regulatory and legal regulation in the field of health care, sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population, *organisation of secondary and specialized medical and pharmaceutical education*, for the implementation of state programmes in the field of health care and the development of human resources in health care, transformation of medical educational organizations and ensuring the quality of health care professionals at all levels of education, as well as the implementation of international principles and standards for ensuring the quality of medical education in cooperation with the "ECAQA"

**The activities of the Parties** will be aimed at improving the accreditation system and ensuring the quality of medical education and the corresponding systems for assessing the quality of educational programmes of medical educational organizations to improve the provision of medical care to the population of both states. Cooperation under this Agreement will be in accordance with the laws of both States.

### **Article 1. Subject of the Agreement**

1.1 The Parties shall carry out and develop cooperation in the field of quality assurance of medical education and other health professions education, information and expert-analytical activities, promoting the implementation of state policy in the field of independent evaluation of educational programmes of medical educational organizations, accreditation of their educational programmes, training and advanced training of health care professionals in accordance with the needs of national health care systems and the principles of international best practice of ensuring the quality of higher professional education.

1.2 The Parties shall carry out joint activities to ensure the international competitiveness of graduates of medical educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and fulfill the requirements of the stated policy of the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, USA (ECFMG 2024) that starting in 2024 foreign graduates of medical schools who will applying for ECFMG Certification must complete educational programme in medical schools that is appropriately accredited for compliance with the World Federation for Medical Education Global Standards (WFME)

for Quality Improvement in Basic Medical Education and must be accredited by an accrediting agency in medical education that is officially recognized by the WFME.

1.3 The decision of the ECAQA Accreditation Council on the accreditation of educational programmes of medical educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan is officially submitted to the State Inspectorate and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and will also be published to inform the public about the status of accredited educational programmes of medical education at the international level.

## **Article 2. Main areas of cooperation**

### **Rationale:**

1. According to the Regulation on the State Inspectorate for the Supervision of Education Quality under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Appendix No. 1 to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 18, 2017 No. 515, in the section "Paragraph 3. Rights and Obligations of the State Inspection" includes the following activities:

2) within the limits of its powers to cooperate with ministries and departments, **international and foreign organizations;**

3) to organize international conferences, congresses, symposia, seminars and courses on education and quality of training, to participate in their work, as well as to participate in negotiations on interstate and intergovernmental cooperation.

2. According to the Regulation on the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.714 "On the Organization of the Activities of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated September 12, 2017, the following areas and types of activities are included:

Paragraph 1. General provisions. p. 6. The Ministry carries out its activities in cooperation with State and economic administration bodies, law enforcement agencies, local government bodies and **non-governmental, non-profit, foreign, international and other organizations.**

Paragraph 2. Main tasks and functions of the Ministry, p.11 Main tasks: development of strategy and forecasting of development of medical science on the basis of combination of domestic experience and the best world achievements, increase of efficiency of scientific medical researches, introduction of achievements of science, technology and the best experience in practice of health care, development of system of the higher and secondary medical education;

### **Main areas of cooperation:**

The Parties under this Agreement undertake to cooperate and assist in the following areas within their competence:

– adaptation and effective implementation of the principles of international best practices for ensuring the quality of vocational education and improving the quality of medical education and vocational education in the field of health care;

– promotion in the domestic and foreign markets of educational services, common values in medical education and Health care systems, achievements of domestic medical science, implementation of the WHO/WFME Guidelines for Accreditation in Basic Medical Education and the Global Standards of the World Federation of Medical Education for Quality Improvement in Medical Education (Basic, Postgraduate medical education and CPD), the Standards of PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System, the Association of Medical Schools in Europe, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015);

– development of a transparent and effective independent external evaluation system, specialized (programmatic) accreditation in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the principles of best international practice and experience in accreditation of medical education;

– when submitting an application from the Rectors of medical higher educational institutions, conducting independent accreditation of educational programmes (bachelor's programmes and

specialties of the master's degree in higher medical education according to the application) of medical educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

- introduction of a programme for the development of the capacity and competencies of experts in accreditation and nomination of academic experts and employers to participate in the external evaluation of educational programmes of educational organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan and CIS countries;

- implementation of joint projects in the field of quality assurance of higher professional and medical education, with the participation of medical educational organizations and scientific organizations;

- conducting an annual survey of graduates on the educational programmes of postgraduate medical education, studying and analyzing the experience of interaction of educational organizations with employers of the subjects of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of health care and related areas in the field of improving the system of assessing the quality of education and the implementation of educational programmes;

- conducting joint research in the field of medical education and public health with the participation of socio-professional associations of employers and professional associations in clinical medicine and public health, publishing the results of joint research and recommendations;

- development and submission in accordance with the established procedure of initiatives aimed at creating the most favorable conditions for the implementation of the declared joint activities in the field of ensuring the quality of professional education in health care to the authorized bodies of state power;

- participation, in accordance with the established procedure, in the preparation of joint proposals for the improvement of regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at the development of vocational education and the training of competent and in-demand specialists in the field of health care and related areas, taking into account the results and monitoring of professional and public accreditation of educational programmes of medical educational organizations;

- conducting mutual consultations, joint forums, international conferences, thematic seminars, working meetings on ensuring and improving the quality of medical education and professional education in the field of health care in order to develop proposals on issues of mutual interest;

- development and implementation of joint educational, consulting, innovative and research international projects in the field of quality assurance of higher professional education, medicine and public health.

### **Article 3. Interaction procedure and powers of the Parties**

#### **3.1 The parties are in the order of interaction:**

- provide information on current and future plans of activities for the direction of the agreement, if the provision of such information does not contradict the interests of the Parties, their obligation to third parties or the current legislation. Coordinate plans and programmes in the areas of this Agreement;

- develop joint action plans for the implementation of the Agreement and form working groups to perform the stated tasks and carry out specific expert and analytical work, national and international projects;

- nominate their representatives to the external expert commissions for accreditation of educational programmes in the field of Health care, coordinating, advisory bodies and expert groups, other working bodies (councils, committees, commissions, groups, boards) formed by the Parties for the implementation of projects under this Agreement;

- provide mutual information and analytical support within the framework of this Agreement;

- exchange information that is of mutual interest and is necessary for the fulfillment of the terms of the Agreement, the creation of joint information resources.

#### **3.2 State Inspectorate:**

- supports the strategic objectives of cooperation with ECAQA, which are aimed at the effective implementation of state programmes for the development of the higher education system, – and state

policy on the quality control of education to ensure the competitiveness and quality of training of health professionals (at all levels of education);

- supports the achievements of ECAQA and approves the implementation of planned joint measures to guarantee and improve the quality of higher professional education, the introduction of an external and internal quality assurance system for medical and pharmaceutical, nursing education with the involvement of all stakeholders, and in accordance with state educational standards and (or) state educational requirements established by the authorized state body for the supervision of the quality of education;

- supports cooperation within the framework of the programme of recognition of the NU "ECAQA" by the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) on accreditation of undergraduate medical education, which includes the approval by the Governmental authorized body, implementing the state policy in the field of quality control of education, of the activities of the NU "ECAQA" for the accreditation of medical educational organizations and their educational programmes in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

- on the basis of this Agreement, authorizes the organization authorized by it to carry out accreditation of professional educational programmes of medical educational organizations in accordance with the standards and guidelines for internal and external evaluation of educational programmes of medical education and professional education in the field of health care established by the "ECAQA" and agreed with the State Inspection;

- a representative of a professional association in clinical medicine/biomedicine is nominated to the Accreditation Council of the "ECAQA" to participate in the decision on the accreditation of educational programmes and medical educational organizations of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

- ensures good practice, professionalism and independence in the activities of experts from the State Inspection and decision-making in the implementation of specific expert and analytical work, joint projects in the areas of this Agreement;

- provides the "ECAQA" with organizational and technical assistance in carrying out activities in the areas of this Agreement at the sites of the State Inspection.

### 3.3. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Supports the strategic objectives of cooperation with ECAQA, which are aimed at the effective implementation of state programmes, the concept of development and transformation of the system of medical, nursing and pharmaceutical education, public health, as well as state policy in the integration of medical education, health and science, the compliance of the qualifications of health and public health professionals with the requirements of the health system and the labor market, ensuring the competitiveness and quality of training of health professionals (at all levels of education) and the provision of medical care to the population;

- provide the "ECAQA" with organizational and technical assistance in the conduct of international, regional republican joint activities in the areas of this Agreement;

### 3.4 ECAQA, based on the established goals and objectives, provides:

- inclusion of a representative from the professional academic community for clinical medicine/biomedicine in the ECAQA Accreditation Council;

- adaptation and implementation of the ECAQA Specialized Accreditation Standards, based on the WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement in Basic Medical Education (2015, 2020), postgraduate medical education, CPD doctors, master's degree (2015) and the Standards for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System (ORPHEUS-WFME-AMSE) (2015), the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG Part 1, 2015) with the introduction of a national specification in accordance with the needs of the Health care system and medical education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, based on the analysis of regulatory acts in the field of higher professional education and Health care. Standards of specialized accreditation will be discussed with academic and scientific representatives from medical educational organizations and translated into Uzbek and English;

- adaptation and implementation of the Guidelines for conducting self-assessment of the educational programme, Guidelines for external assessment and writing of the final report, Criteria for

assessing the quality of the educational programme with the introduction of requirements of laws and regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of higher professional education and health care;

- formation of a database of certified national experts (academic experts and employers, students) on accreditation of educational programmes of medical higher educational institutions;

- training academic experts, students and employer experts (representatives of Health care organizations, republican and regional clinics, research institutes, scientific centers, primary health care institutions) as experts in accreditation of educational medical education programmes, including thematic trainings on ensuring the quality of education with the participation of international experts of WFME, who, the Association of Medical Schools of Europe, foreign accreditation partner bodies of ECAQA;

- conducting internal self-assessment and external assessment of the quality of educational programmes of medical educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with international quality assurance standards to facilitate the internationalization of higher professional education and integration into the international and European space of higher professional education and research;

- inclusion of educational institutions of higher professional education of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the World Directory of Medical Schools of WFME and the Foundation for the Development of International Research in Medical Education (FAIMER), indicating the decision of the Accreditation Council of the ECAQA and the status of an accredited educational programme in the specialty of medicine, postgraduate medical education, which confirms the fulfillment of the requirements of the Education Commission for graduates of foreign medical schools (ECFMG2024, USA) and ensures admission of domestic and foreign graduates to admission to a postgraduate specialization in a selected clinical specialty in the USA (ECGME Certification, USMLE Step1, Step 2);

#### **Article 4. Validity of the Agreement**

4.1. This Agreement shall enter into force upon its signing by both Parties.

#### **Article 5. Final clauses**

5.1 This Agreement does not entail mutual financial obligations of the Parties. The Agreement is the basis for the preparation and signing by the Parties of agreements, agreements and protocols for the implementation of specific activities of joint projects.

5.2 The Parties undertake not to disclose confidential information received from each other and to use the information received only for the purposes provided for in this Agreement.

5.3 In order to properly execute the Agreement, the Parties shall annually agree on the list of projects to be implemented jointly by the Parties.

5.4 To coordinate interaction and ensure monitoring and effectiveness of the implementation of activities under this Agreement, as well as to participate in the commission as an observer of the Parties, responsible persons from the State Inspection and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan are appointed:

The responsible representative from the State Inspection is: Nazarov Baisun Fayzillayevich - Head of the Department for Accreditation;

The responsible representative from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan is: Ismailov Uktam Safayevich – Head of the Department of Medical Science and Education of the Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

5.5 The Agreement is tripartite and does not affect the relations of the Parties with other third parties, as well as the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other agreements to which they are parties.

5.6 Questions of interpretation and application of the provisions of this Agreement, as well as possible controversial issues arising from the Agreement, as well as possible controversial issues arising in its implementation, shall be resolved through consultations or negotiations between the Parties.



5.7 This Agreement may be amended and supplemented as necessary by mutual written consent of the Parties. Amendments and supplements to the Agreement shall enter into force after the Parties have signed the relevant protocols, which will be an integral part of this Agreement.

5.8 The Parties shall be governed by the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

5.9 This Agreement is signed in three counterparts of equal legal force, one counterpart for each Party.

**State Inspectorate for  
Supervision of the Quality  
of Education under the  
Cabinet of Ministers of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Head of the State  
Inspectorate**

**Tashkenbayev  
Ulugbek Negmatovich**

**Ташкенбаев  
Улугбек Негматович**  


**Ministry of Health  
Of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**First Deputy Minister of  
Health**

**Inoyatov  
Amrillo Shodievich**

**Иноят  
Амрилло Шодиевич**  
  


**Eurasian Center for  
Accreditation and Quality  
Assurance in Higher Education  
and Health Care**

**Director General**

**Sarsenbayeva  
Saule Sergazievna**

  


