REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EURASIAN CENTRE FOR ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE for the period 2023 – June 2024
**Information on the activities of the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA) Non-Profit Organisation for January 2023 - June 2024**

<table>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2.  | Independence       | The agency should be independent and operate autonomously. It should be fully responsible for its operations and the results of those operations without the influence of third parties. | Independence includes organizational, operational and decision-making on accreditation.  
1) Organizational independence is based on the status of the Non-profit institution; Charter (approved on 19.01.2017); fulfillment of the requirements of the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan from November 1, 2016 № 629 "On approval of the requirements for the accreditation body in the field of higher and postgraduate education and the rules of recognition of accreditation bodies..."; By the decision of the Republican Accreditation Council (Minutes No. 2), the period of recognition and inclusion of the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA) in the Register of Recognised Accreditation Bodies of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been extended for 5 years until 14 March 2028. [Register of recognized accreditation bodies on the ENIC-KAZAKHSTAN website](http://www.ecaqa.org/o-nas/programma-obeschenya-kachestva-etsa). Standards for Accreditation, Internal Regulations (Provisions, Guidelines, Recommendations) and normative documents developed by ECAQA independently, as well |
|     |                    |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
3. **Functions/activities/procedures/methodology of the agency**

A detailed description of the aims and objectives of each activity, including how these activities fit the agency's profile, and the period of institutional or programme accreditation/evaluation/ audit (where relevant). If the agency undertakes new activities, it should be indicated. External quality assurance should be defined and developed specifically to ensure that it is fit for its purpose and objectives, taking into account relevant regulations. Stakeholders should be involved in its development and continuous improvement.

ECAQA activity is carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education" dated 27 July 2007 № 319-III (with amendments and additions as of 01.01.2024); the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 4 July 2018 № 171-VI ZRC "On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the expansion of academic and managerial independence of higher education institutions"; Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 1 November 2016 № 629 "On approval of the requirements for the accreditation body in the field of higher and postgraduate education and the rules of recognition of accreditation bodies in the field of higher and postgraduate education, including foreign" (as amended by the order of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 13.02.2023).

The main document is the **ECAQA Strategic Development Plan** for 2023-2025 (Order No. 34 of 27.12.2022).

The main documents that form the basis of the Strategic Development Plan of ECAQA for 2023-2025 are:

1) Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 7 July 2020 No. 360-VI ZRK, On the Health of the People and the Healthcare System, Section 4, Chapter 25 Educational Activities in the Field of Healthcare, Articles 220, 221, Clause 6
   https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/K2000000360#z2939

2) Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education" dated 27 July 2007 No. 319-III (with amendments and additions as of 02.09.2022,
Article 39 Clause 3, Subclause 4)
https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z070000319_z330)


7) Requirements of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates for graduates of medical universities to apply for residency programs in the USA https://wfme.org/accreditation/ecfmg-2023/, https://www.ecfmg.org/accreditation


In the development of the ECAQA Strategic Development Plan for 2023-2025 (Order No. 34 dated 27.12.2022), the recommendations of international experts from ENQA (June 2022, December 2023) and the WFME Recognition Team (2022) (Minutes of the Expert Council No. 3 dated 09.11.2022) were taken into account.

The main area of ECAQA's activity is accreditation of educational organisations and educational programmes. ECAQA operates on the basis of the following principles: transparency, objectivity, confidentiality, efficiency, involvement of all stakeholders, cooperation and partnership.
In accordance with the requirements of **ESG Standards**, 2016 (Part 2,3), the Quality Assurance Programme of the ECAQA has been developed ([http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/programma-obesechenyayakachestvaetsa](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/programma-obesechenyayakachestvaetsa)). The Quality Assurance Program of the ECAQA has been updated to include additions, including expanded lists of developed documents and the requirements of Order No. 595 of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 30 October 2018. On the approval of the Model Rules for the Activities of Educational Organisations of Relevant Types by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. [https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1800017657](https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1800017657)

As part of the Quality Assurance Programme (updated in 2021), in 2017-2019, ECAQA is the exclusive copyright holder for the Standards for Institutional Accreditation (Medical Education Organisations and Medical College) and the Standards for Specialised Accreditation in Medical and Pharmaceutical Education (General Medicine and Dentistry). ECAQA is the owner of the exclusive copyright for the Standards of institutional accreditation (medical education institutions and medical college) and standards of specialised accreditation in the specialties of medical and pharmaceutical education (general medicine, dentistry, medical and preventive medicine, public health, pharmacy, technology of pharmaceutical production, nursing) at all levels of education (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, residency, continuing professional development) including applied baccalaureate and VET.

ECAQA received an official letter from the Department of Science and Human Resources of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan №06-1-15/23395 from 01.10.2018 on the agreement of accreditation standards.

Regulations on structural subdivisions (departments) have been developed and put into effect (documents have been updated and extended until 17 September 2025), advisory councils and commissions (Expert Board, Accreditation Council, External Expert Commission). The "Internal Labour
Regulations”, "Regulations on the Complaints Committee”, "Regulations on the Appeals Committee”, "Regulations on Conflict of Interest”, "Regulations on Business Trips” are applied. All internal regulatory documents of ECAQA have been updated and supplemented (Expert Council, Minutes No. 1 dated 22 May 2023) and other internal documents regulating and governing the activities of ECAQA.

Regulations on Information Security and Regulations on Accreditation Experts have been developed and put into effect (Order No. 4 dated 8 February 2024).

By the official letter No. 04/1-07/2074 of 06.04.2020 from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova, ECAQA has the right to accredit medical education institutions and educational programmes in the Republic of Moldova.

The official letter from the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Quality of Education under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 15.04.2022, ref.No 01-187 (Annex 1), which is a special authorised body of state management and implementation of state policy in the field of quality control of education, Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Higher Education and Health Care Non-profit organisation is granted the authority to conduct international accreditation of educational programmes of medical education educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The official letter №06/94-1 from 26.04.2022 from the Agency for Supervision in the sphere of education and science under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan gives consent to conduct accreditation of educational institutions and educational programmes of the Republic of Tajikistan by the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Higher Education and Health Care.

In March 2024, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care and the Agency for Supervision in the Field of
Education and Science under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Since 2021, ECAQA has been participating as a non-governmental organisation in the ERASMUS+ AccelEd project (Accelerating Master and PhD level nursing education development in the higher education system in Kazakhstan). AccelEd project goal: strengthening nursing education in Master's programmes and introducing PhD level nursing education in the Republic of Kazakhstan by changing policies, legal frameworks and institutional structures involving Ministries of Health and Education, leading medical universities, health care organisations, health and education associations, international nursing communities.

From 2021 to 2023, ECAQA was a participant of the ENQA project and joined the working group on "Academic Integrity". ECAQA and 9 European Quality Assurance Agencies have been given the opportunity to participate in this international project. Along with participants from the UK, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Romania, Ireland, Slovenia and Belgium, ECAQA, representing the Republic of Kazakhstan, will be able to contribute by sharing its experience in combating academic dishonesty in higher education and promoting the principles of academic integrity and good academic behaviour.

Since 2021, ECAQA realises an international agreement with the partner organisation AppliedHE™ Pte LTD, Singapore to improve the accreditation process and external quality assurance mechanisms for vocational education and training and plans to implement a joint project on 3 Ratings (AppliedHE™ JOB-Ready Rating System, English-Ready Rating, On-line Ready and 3 Ratings (Preferred Employer Ranking, Preferred University Ranking, Responsible Research Ranking.

Some research results have been published. For example, the article by Sarsenbayeva S.S. and Nurmanbetova F.N., "Mechanisms for Ensuring the
| 4. Membership | The agency should be officially recognised and included in the registers and/or associations of accreditation bodies of OECD Member States: The European Quality Assurance Register or full membership in the Directory of Organisations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools DORA (Directory of Organisations that Recognise/Accredit Medical Schools) since 2018. | Since 2018, ECAQA has been included in and maintained membership in the Directory of Organisations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools DORA (Directory of Organisations that Recognise/Accredit Medical Schools) since 2018. |
membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education).

for International Medical Education Research (FAIMER) of the United States, a partner of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) in the Recognition of Basic Medical Education Accreditation Bodies Programme, and in the International Directory of the International Quality Group of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation of the USA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group (CHEA/CIQG) International Directory)


On 22 June 2022, the ENQA Council decided to grant the ECAQA full membership of ENQA for a period of five years. The ENQA Council concluded that ECAQA complies with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and thus fulfils the membership criteria according to Article 6, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedures for the external evaluation of ENQA accreditation bodies.

Letter from the ENQA President on the decision of the ENQA Council


On 10 October 2022, ECAQA was granted recognition status by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), which is valid until 31 October 2032 and applies to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. https://wfme.org/news/two-more-agencies-awarded-wfme-recognition-status-4/

The WFME has received strong evidence that the accreditation process, post-accreditation monitoring and ECAQA decision-making in accrediting medical universities and educational programmes are in line with good practice in the field of accreditation.

On 13-14 December 2023, an external evaluation of ECAQA took place with the participation of international experts from ENQA as part of the procedure for including ECAQA in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

On 19 June 2023, a Progress Visit of international experts from ENQA took place as part of the monitoring of ECAQA’s activities as a full member of ENQA since 2022.

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<tr>
<th>5. Information system</th>
<th>Availability of an information system (website) that provides necessary information on accreditation for users in three languages (Kazakh, Russian and English).</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The website <a href="http://www.ecaqa.org/">http://www.ecaqa.org/</a> is available in three languages. ECAQA is represented on social media <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ECAQAQA/">https://www.facebook.com/ECAQAQA/</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/ECAQAqa_org/">https://www.instagram.com/ECAQAqa_org/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/ECAQAqa_org">https://twitter.com/ECAQAqa_org</a>. The &quot;Register&quot; section has been automated, where information is presented in three languages (external expert commission reports of ECAQA, decisions of the Accreditation Council, accreditation certificates) of accredited educational organisations and educational programmes. <a href="https://www.ecaqa.org/reestr">https://www.ecaqa.org/reestr</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<th>6. Accreditation standards</th>
<th>Analysis of accreditation standards (regulations) that establish requirements for accreditation procedures in accordance with paragraphs 2-4) of Article 1 of the Education Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>ECAQA applies the <strong>Standards for accreditation for all levels of education and educational programmes</strong>, including Joint Degree Programmes, distance and MBA programmes, developed on the basis of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) International Standards for Quality Improvement in Medical Education (2015 revision, 2020 - for undergraduate education, 2023 – for residency programmes), WFME Standards for Master's Programmes in Medicine and Public Health, harmonised with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.</td>
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The Standards for accreditation of Doctoral programmes (PhD) are based on the ORPHEUS-AMSE-WFME Standards for PhD Education in the European Area (2016) and the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of Medical Schools of Europe (AMSE) allows ECAQA to carry out external evaluation with the participation of representatives of medical schools of universities and professional associations in Europe.

The Standards for accreditation for simulation training centres are developed based on the requirements of the Society in Europe for Simulation Applied to Medicine (SESAM), Denmark and implemented with the aim of quality assurance and implementation of international best practice principles and achievements in the field of simulation technologies, promoting the development of professional community in the field of simulation-based education.

The Standards for Institutional accreditation of Organisations of CPD and Non-Formal Education (new version of the document was reviewed and approved at the meeting of the Expert Council, Minutes No. 2 of 18.04.2021), Standards for Institutional Accreditation of Higher and Postgraduate Education (2nd edition of 11.01.2020) and Standards for Institutional Accreditation of Organisations of Technical and Vocational Education (approved by the ECAQA Expert Council No. 4 of 02 December 2019 and put into effect by the order of the Director General No. 66 of 06.01.2019) are applied.

The State Academic Standards for levels of education for the healthcare professions was approved by the Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan from July 4, 2022 № KR DSM-63 and registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on July 5, 2022 № 28716. (Link to the website)

ECAQA has developed Standards for accreditation of educational programmes of Continuing Integrated Medical Education based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher
| 7. | Development programme and (or) strategy of the organisation | Availability of a development programme and (or) strategy of the organisation, developed taking into account strategic and programme documents in the field of education. | During the reporting period, the main document was the Strategic Development Plan of the ECAQA for 2023-2025 (Order No. 34 dated 27.12.2022). ECAQA's Internal Quality Assurance programme was developed in 2017, updated in 2021 and is available at [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/programma-obescheniya-kachestva-etsa](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/programma-obescheniya-kachestva-etsa), as well as ECAQA's internal quality assurance processes with assessment results and analytical reports [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/obespechenie-kachestva-etsa/vnutrennaya-sistema-obespecheniya-kachestva](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/obespechenie-kachestva-etsa/vnutrennaya-sistema-obespecheniya-kachestva) |

| 8. | Slate of internal talent | The Agency should have sufficient and appropriate human resources, including at least 3 full-time staff members with a PhD, MD and/or PhD degree; annual professional development in quality assurance. | ECAQA has a full-time staff [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/rukovodstvo-i-sotrudnik](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/rukovodstvo-i-sotrudnik) and employees under a civil contract. The Head of ECAQA – Director General Saule Sarsenbayeva has a scientific degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences, academic title of Professor, academic business degree MBA, 32 years of work experience in education. ECAQA’s Adviser - Farida Nurmanbetova has a scientific degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences, Advisor and Assessor of WFME [https://wfme.org/about-wfme/people/dr-farida-nurmanbetova-assessor](https://wfme.org/about-wfme/people/dr-farida-nurmanbetova-assessor) ECAQA staff members have Master's degrees and scientific degree of Candidate of Medical Sciences Staff development is carried out in accordance with ECAQA’s strategic development plan. For the purpose of exchanging experiences and incorporating best practices in the field of accreditation into their activities, ECAQA staff participated in 25 national and international events on Quality Assurance in education from |
### January 2023 to June 2024, including the general assemblies of ENQA, INQAAHE, CEENQA, APQN.

From 30 April 2024 to September 2024, 4 ECAQA staff members, 2 members of the Accreditation Council, and 2 accreditation experts are participating in a series of training seminars by the World Federation for Medical Education on the topic "Exploring WFME Standards for PGME", organised by the WFME from April to September 2024. A total of 5 webinars are planned. The training is paid, and ECAQA covers the training costs for all participants.

| 9. Membership of experts | The system of training and selection of experts. Availability of not less than one foreign expert, and for foreign accreditation bodies not less than one Kazakhstani expert, having degrees of candidate of sciences or doctor of sciences, doctor of RhD or doctor on the profile and (or) being representatives of professional community with experience in the field of institutional and specialised accreditation or on the profile of training of specialists by the accredited educational organisation, representatives from among students. ECAQA has developed requirements for experts and nominates experts through foreign and national partner organisations. ECAQA is a full member of the associations of accreditation bodies of OECD member states - European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) and a member of the International Quality Group of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation of the United States of America (CHEA CIQG). The expert base has been enriched with medical experts and foreign representatives of educational organisations and currently stands at 498 people (during the reporting period, 19 experts were included in the external expert commissions for institutional and specialised assessments, including experts from the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and the Russian Federation). Expert section is available on the website [http://www.ECAQqa.org/kompetenttsii-ekspertov-po-akkreditatsii](http://www.ECAQqa.org/kompetenttsii-ekspertov-po-akkreditatsii). The Regulations on Experts were developed (Minutes of the Expert Council from 08.02.2024). |
For students nominated to the VEC, a "Students - Student Participation in Accreditation" section is available on the ECAQA website [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/studenty/uchastie-studentov-v-akkreditatsii](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/studenty/uchastie-studentov-v-akkreditatsii).

Formation of external expert commissions (EEC) for external evaluation of educational institutions and/or educational programmes is carried out by the ECAQA Expert Board. The EEC is composed of a foreign expert, academic experts - representatives of the professional community with experience in the field of institutional and specialised accreditation, representatives from among students, an expert representative of employers, an expert-student. Nomination of foreign experts is carried out within the framework of the goals and objectives of the Memoranda with 18 foreign partners (in 2023 a Memorandum of Co-operation was signed with the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria (The National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA), Republic of Bulgaria); In 2024, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care and the Agency for Supervision in Education and Science under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Before starting their work, members of the EEC sign the Code of Ethics of the Expert [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/eksperty/kodeks-ekspertov](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/eksperty/kodeks-ekspertov) and the Statement of No Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality.

ECAQA works in partnership with professional associations in the field of healthcare. ECAQA has an expanded base of professional and competent experts in the field of accreditation of medical, pharmaceutical and nursing education with relevant qualifications and experience in the field of institutional and specialised (programme) accreditation and in the relevant profile of training of health professionals.

The following are training events for experts on accreditation and quality assurance in 2023-2024:

1) February 23-26, 2023, Aktobe. At the SCOME CAMP 2023 International Student Forum, II Theoretical and Practical Forum on Post-Pandemic Reconstruction of Medical Education, Saule Sarsenbayeva conducted a training seminar on the topic "Ensuring the Quality of Medical and Pharmaceutical Education through the Accreditation Process: International and Domestic Experience" within the framework of cooperation (memorandum) with KazMSA.

2) June 6-13, 2023, Tashkent. Training of administrative and academic staff of medical educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Accreditation of basic medical education and the role of experts in accreditation", within the framework of the Agreement between ECAQA and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4) October 31, 2023, Director General of ECAQA Saule Sarsenbayeva, took part with a report on "Principles and Approaches to Quality Assurance of Medical Education" at the Conference of Rectors of Universities of Central Asia "Development of Quality Assurance Systems of Higher Education in the Central Asian Higher Education Area."

5) April 26, 2024, an online meeting of KazMSA members with representatives of student bodies and staff of student affairs departments from 8 medical educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan was organised. KazMSA made a presentation on their activities and shared their experience in creating a student organisation.

6) April 30, 2024, the Chair of the Accreditation Council, a member of the Accreditation Council, 2 accreditation experts, and 4 ECAQA staff members started the training programme "Exploring WFME Standards for PGME", organised by WFME from April to September 2024. A total of 5 webinars are planned.

| 10. | Council for accreditation | Information, composition, frequency of meetings, powers of members, decision-making on accreditation of educational organisations. | The composition of the Accreditation Council was approved by Minutes No. 2 of the meeting on May 19, 2023 and includes 15 members, including three foreign representatives from the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation. In accordance with Clause 3.7 of the "Regulations on the Accreditation Council," the terms of office of the members of the Accreditation Council have been extended from 2022 for 5 years (Order No. 32/1 dated 13 December 2022).

The composition of the Accreditation Council [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/onas/akkreditatsionnyj-sovet](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/onas/akkreditatsionnyj-sovet) is a strong and competitive aspect of ECAQA’s activity, as its members make professional and competent accreditation decisions regarding medical education institutions and their educational programmes.

The Accreditation Council is formed in accordance with the Guidelines of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). |
In 2023, changes were made to the composition of the Accreditation Council. The Director General of ECAQA Saule Sarsenbayeva initiated the exclusion of her candidacy from the Accreditation Council to avoid a conflict of interest. This does not contradict the "Regulations on the ECAQA Accreditation Council," where Clause 4.2 states that "Participation in the Council is voluntary and withdrawal from the Council can be carried out at one's own request." This decision was documented in Minutes No. 4 June 2, 2023.

The composition of the Accreditation Council is published on the website [www.ecaqa.org](http://www.ecaqa.org) in the section "Accreditation" - "Accreditation Council."

The website section "Past Events" includes information on the meetings of the ECAQA Accreditation Council. [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/sobytiya/proshedshie](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/sobytiya/proshedshie)

During 2023, the Accreditation Council held 9 meetings, and in the first and second quarters of 2024, 5 meetings were conducted.

In 2023, decisions were made regarding institutional accreditation for 11 educational organisations, including accrediting a Simulation Training Centre for a period of 5 years. Additionally, 52 educational programmes were accredited, with 48 programmes accredited for 5 years and 4 programmes for 3 years. Notably, this included accrediting 3 Bachelor's programmes from the Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health and the Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute. There were no refusals of accreditation or withdrawals of accreditation certificates in 2023.

In the first and second quarters of 2024, decisions were made regarding institutional accreditation for 12 educational organisations, 1 simulation centre, 7 Bachelor's degree programmes, 4 CIME programmes, 21 residency programmes, 12 Master's programmes, 1 PhD programme, and 8 TVET programmes. This included accrediting 3 Bachelor's degree programmes from Samarkand State Medical University and 1 Doctor of Medicine programme taught in English at the Medical School of Nazarbayev University.
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<th>11. Published information on accreditation</th>
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|   | The information system (website) of the accreditation body and the Unified Information System of Education contains published information (accreditation certificate, reports on external audit) on accreditation of educational organisation and (or) educational programme, including the decision on postponement and extension of the accreditation terms of the accreditation taken in the period of natural and man-made emergencies, restrictive measures, including quarantine on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (not later than 30 working days from the date of the decision).

The agency should publish regular reports that describe and analyse the overall results of their external quality assurance activities.

|   | Members of the Accreditation Council participated in events conducted within the framework of the ECAQA's international external review for inclusion in EQAR on 13-14 December 2023, and on 19 June 2024, as part of ECAQA's monitoring (Progress visit) as a full member of ENQA.

For the publication of accreditation results of educational organisations and/or educational programmes on the ECAQA website in January 2024, a section named "REGISTRY" has been created in three languages (Kazakh, Russian, English): (https://www.ecaqa.org/en/reestr-en). The section is automated.

Information about the decisions of the ECAQA Accreditation Council is sent by official letter to the Committee for Quality Assurance in Education and Science of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (registration in the journal of outgoing documentation of ECAQA) and to the National Centre for Higher Education Development of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for informing the public and all stakeholders: https://enic-kazakhstan.edu.kz/ru/accreditation/documents#

ECAQA publishes annual reports on its activities and makes them available on its website in three languages:

As a recognised accreditation body by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) until 2032, ECAQA will send information about the accreditation status of basic medical education programmes for publication on the WFME Accredited Basic Medical Education Programmes Portal (The WFME Portal).

The status of accredited educational programmes will also be communicated for inclusion in the World Directory of Medical Schools by WFME and the
| 12. | The education and quality assurance system in which the agency operates | ECAQA operates in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Education" dated June 27, 2007, No. 319-III (with amendments and additions as of January 1, 2024); the Quality Assurance Guidelines for Education Levels, Order No. 292 dated May 23, 2022, by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan; and the Rules for Recognising Accreditation Bodies, including foreign ones, and forming the registry of recognised accreditation bodies, accredited educational organisations, and educational programmes (Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 1, 2016, No. 629, registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on November 19, 2016, No. 14438).

**MISSION:** Ensure the introduction of international standards and principles of external quality assurance and enhancement of health professions education and evolve to meet the national health system needs and involvement of principal stakeholders in order to maintain public confidence.

**VISION:** The ECAQA is the leading specialized agency for the quality assurance in health professions education that recognized internationally and achieved its sustainability.

The mission and vision are published on the ECAQA website [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/missiya](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/missiya)

The Strategy section of the website has been updated [https://www.eqa.org/o-nas/strategiya](https://www.eqa.org/o-nas/strategiya)

| 13. | Organisational structure and management of the agency | The organisational structure of ECAQA was updated in 2022 and remains in effect to the present time [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/struktura](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/struktura) includes 4 departments (Accreditation and Monitoring; Planning and Administration; International Cooperation; IT and Public Relations). The foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER).

Reports from external expert committees on the evaluation of undergraduate educational programmes and decisions of the Accreditation Council will be posted in the Asia-Pacific Quality Register for Higher Education (DAQAR). ECAQA has been included in the APQR since 2019. |
### 14. Funding of the agency

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<tr>
<td>ECAQA opened a current account with JSC BankCentreCredit, TIN 600 700 016 904. BIC (bank) KCJBKZKX</td>
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<tr>
<td>The balance of ECAQA's financial resources is the task of the Planning and Administration Department. Every year, a budget plan is formulated, and a financial report is made, both of which are approved by the Director General and submitted to the ECAQA founder. Funding sources: contracts for conducting institutional and specialised accreditation.</td>
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### 15. Pricing policy and its components

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<td>The pricing policy for accreditation services is regulated by the Regulation on the Cost of the ECAQA Accreditation Procedure (developed on 03.09.2018, updated annually taking into account the country's pricing policy, exchange rates, and the MCI index). The cost of the accreditation procedure is competitive, as post-accreditation monitoring of organisations and educational programmes that have received full accreditation status (5 years) is carried out without funding from the accredited educational organisation. This condition is stipulated in the standard Agreement for conducting institutional/specialised accreditation.</td>
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### 16. Number of accredited organisations that have undergone:

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<th>- institutional - specialised accreditation.</th>
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<td>- institutional - specialised accreditation.</td>
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<td>In 2023, decisions were made regarding the institutional accreditation of 11 educational organisations, including the Training Simulation Centre of Astana Medical University for a period of 5 years. Additionally, 52 educational programmes were accredited, including 48 programmes for a period of 5 years and 4 programmes for a period of 3 years. This includes 5 Higher Medical Colleges, 2 National Research Centres, the UMC NU Corporate Fund, residency programmes of 2 major Scientific Research Centres, 9 residency programmes of the UMC NU Corporate Fund, 3 Bachelor's programmes of the Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health, and the Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute. There were no refusals of accreditation or revocations of accreditation certificates in 2023.</td>
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In the first and second quarters of 2024, decisions were made regarding the institutional accreditation of 12 educational organisations, 1 training simulation centre, 7 Bachelor's programmes, 4 CIME programmes, 21 residency programmes, 12 Master's programmes, 1 PhD programme, and 8 TVET programmes. This includes the accreditation of 3 Bachelor's programmes of Samarkand State Medical University, and 1 Doctor of Medicine programme in English at the School of Medical Nazarbayev University.

The website section "News" contains information about external visits of expert commissions on accreditation. [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/novosti](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/novosti)

Reports of ECAQA external expert commissions on the results of institutional and specialised (programme) accreditation of educational organisations and educational programmes, as well as the decision of the ECAQA Accreditation Council are available on the website in the "REGISTRY" section in three languages. [https://www.ecaqa.org/en/reestr-en](https://www.ecaqa.org/en/reestr-en)

Including the number of ECAQA-accredited educational institutions listed in world university rankings:

In 2023 and the first half of 2024, ECAQA accredited:

- 7 residency speciality programmes of Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University (KazNMU)* (Accreditation Council (AC) Minutes No. 3 of 05.06.2023);
- 25 residency/Master's/PhD programmes of Karaganda Medical University (KMU)** (AC Minutes No. 4 of 21.06.2023 and No. 5 of 27.06.2024);
- the "Doctor of Medicine" educational programme of the School of Medicine at Nazarbayev University (NU)***(AC Minutes No. 2 of 23.04.2024).
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<td><strong>17.</strong> Areas of training for which the agency accredits educational programmes</td>
<td>According to the Charter, ECAQA can accredit educational organisations and educational programmes in different fields and levels of education. Currently the focus of accreditation is on accreditation of educational organisations and educational programmes in health care.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18.</strong> Agency Profile. Membership in international associations by profile.</td>
<td>Educational organisations and educational programmes accredited by ECAQA correspond to the specialisation of the accreditation body (health care).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

April 18-22, 2022, ECAQA underwent an external evaluation by a recognition team from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) in the field of quality assurance for basic medical education.

In an official letter from WFME President Professor Ricardo León-Bórquez dated April 24, 2024, the Certificate of Recognition for ECAQA was renewed and now includes recognition of ECAQA in the territories of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Republic of Tajikistan until 31 October 2032. This enables compliance with the requirements of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for entry into clinical speciality residency postgraduate programmes in the USA since 2024.

[https://www.ecaqa.org/docs/05_kz/1%20WFME%20Recognition%20Certificate_ECAQA_new%20territory_Tajikistan.pdf](https://www.ecaqa.org/docs/05_kz/1%20WFME%20Recognition%20Certificate_ECAQA_new%20territory_Tajikistan.pdf)
ECAQA has signed and implements 18 memoranda with international accreditation agencies, associations and educational organisations (http://www.ECAQAqa.org/partnery), including with:


2) National Assessment and Accreditation Council NAAC, Republic of India, since 06.03.2018 http://www.naac.gov.in/about-us/collaborations;

3) By JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland, since 15.05.2018;


8) European Quality Assurance Agency (EQAA), Germany, since 16.10.2019 https://eqaa.eu/ru/about/agency/;

9) Agency for Accreditation of Educational Programmes and Organisations (AAOPO), Kyrgyz Republic, since 02.11.2019 http://www.aaopo.kg/index.php?option;
12) Association of Medical Quality Societies (AMQS), Russian Federation, 17.11.2020 https://asmok.ru/
16) Agreement on cooperation with the State Inspectorate for Supervision of the Quality of Education under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan (No. 01-187 dated 05.04.2020).
17) Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA), Republic of Bulgaria (29.05.2023).

19. External audit (inspections) for the last 5 years

The Agency conducts external assessment of quality assurance performance on a regular basis: once in five years. (Specify the reason and result of the external review, period of review; summary of the degrees of compliance with the standards reviewed, etc.).

- **June 19, 2024 - a progress visit by ENQA experts to the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA) took place.** International experts, including Patrick Van den Bosch – the ENQA Board member and Head of the Flemish Higher Education Council - QA, Belgium, and Nuria Comet Senal, project coordinator for Internal Quality Assurance at the accreditation agency AQU Catalunya, Spain, visited ECAQA. The purpose of the visit was to engage in a dialogue focused on the improvement and strategic development of ECAQA (ENQA Agency
Review Guide, 2021 version); and to discuss topics proposed by the accreditation centre (State Policy in Higher Education Quality Assurance: Responsiveness and Responsibility of QAA; Cross-border Accreditation in Medical Education: Regional and National Context; Quality Assurance in Postgraduate Medical Education: Challenges and Prospects). The visit proceeded according to the programme, with ECAQA ensuring the participation of members of the Accreditation Council, the Expert Council, accreditation experts, and student experts.

- On 13-14 December 2023, an external evaluation of ECAQA with the participation of international ENQA experts took place as part of the procedure for ECAQA’s inclusion in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).
- By the decision of the Republican Accreditation Council (Minutes No. 2 of 14.03.2023), the registration period of the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care in the Register 1 of recognised accreditation bodies of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan was extended for 5 years until 14 March 2028.
- On 18-22 April 2022 ECAQA underwent an external evaluation by an international team for recognition by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) in the field of quality assurance for basic medical education.
- On 22 June 2022, the ENQA Council decided to grant full membership to the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA) for a period of five years.
- In June 2021, ECAQA underwent an external international evaluation by an ENQA commission to obtain full membership status in ENQA.
- In November 2019, ECAQA underwent an external evaluation with a visit by an international team for inclusion in the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR).
| 20. | Internal quality control and professional behaviour | The agency should implement internal quality assurance processes related to defining, assuring and improving the quality and integrity of their operations. External quality assurance should take into account the effectiveness of internal quality assurance processes. | In accordance with the requirements of ESG standards, 2016 (Part 2), the Quality Assurance Programme of the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/programma-obesechenyakachestva-etsa](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/programma-obesechenyakachestva-etsa) and internal quality assurance of ECAQA with assessment results (questionnaires, analytical reports) were developed [http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/obeschenie-kachestva-etsa/vnutrennyaya-sistema-obespecheniya-kachestva](http://www.ECAQAqa.org/o-nas/obeschenie-kachestva-etsa/vnutrennyaya-sistema-obespecheniya-kachestva). Internal Labour Regulations of Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Healthcare Non-profit Institution (approved on 07.09.2017, Order No. 7, updated in 2023) are developed and applied. ECAQA staff and experts adhere to the core values and principles outlined on the ECAQA website [https://www.ecaqa.org/o-nas/o-nas](https://www.ecaqa.org/o-nas/o-nas), as well as the Expert Code of Ethics [https://www.ecaqa.org/eksperty/kodeks-ekspertov](https://www.ecaqa.org/eksperty/kodeks-ekspertov). The ECAQA activity report is compiled based on the analysis of internal quality control, and the content is communicated to the members of the Accreditation Council. The report is published on the ECAQA website. The ECAQA website includes a section on the "Internal Quality Assurance System," [https://www.ecaqa.org/o-nas/obeschenie-kachestva-etsa/vnutrennyaya-sistema-obespecheniya-kachestva](https://www.ecaqa.org/o-nas/obeschenie-kachestva-etsa/vnutrennyaya-sistema-obespecheniya-kachestva) where the results of thematic analysis are published (6). In 2024, the ECAQA Expert Board developed a checklist for assessing the internal Quality Assurance system of the ECAQA, which is planned to be applied in December 2024 (the end of the calendar year). Internal Quality Assurance is based on the results of external evaluations of ECAQA, following which improvement plans have been developed. During the period 2021-2024, 56 internal documents have been revised and updated. |
| 21. | Number of accredited organisations that have undergone identification of the fact of absence or ineffective functioning of the internal quality assurance system in the educational organisation, suspension and – none |  |  |
| institutional Number of accredited organisations that have undergone institutional and specialised accreditation and ceased educational activities | (or) deprivation of the license to conduct educational activities and (or) annexes to the license in two or more educational organisations accredited by the accreditation body |

Hearing at the Accreditation Council meeting on 27.06.2023, Minutes No. 5

**Director General**

Saule Sarsenbayeva