

Cooperation Agreement

Between

the *Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)*

and

the *Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der
Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der
Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik e.V. (ASIIN)*

December 20, 2013



Preamble

IAAR is a nonprofit organization created to improve the competitiveness of higher education institutions, technical and professional organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan on national and international levels by conducting procedures of accreditation and academic rankings. The purpose of IAAR's activity is to provide organizational and technical support for conducting procedures of institutional and specialized accreditation of educational institutions as well as to elaborate standards and criteria for accreditation.

ASIIN is a not-for-profit accreditation agency carried by an all-embracing alliance of academic/professional associations and higher education institutions in Germany. All activities of ASIIN are aimed at securing and further expanding high standards for the quality of HE. With regard to programme development, ASIIN focuses on the fields of engineering, informatics, mathematics and the natural sciences. With regard to organizational development of HEIs, ASIIN focuses on the introduction of quality management and continuous improvement processes.

On the basis and with the conviction that the activities of both parties are aimed at the common purpose of further developing the quality of higher education and of setting standards in the quality assurance of higher education,

the "Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)" and the "Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik e.V. (ASIIN)" (in the following: the contracting parties) agree to conclude the following cooperation agreement in order to establish effective cooperation in the field of quality assurance, training of competent experts, implementation of joint educational projects, exchange of experience in the field of education.

§ 1 – Goals of the Cooperation

The cooperation takes place with the goals of

- furthering the building of internal and external quality assurance systems for higher education and building staff capacity for the implementation of these systems;
- identifying good practice in external quality assurance;
- enhancing transparency in the European Higher Education Area and among international organizations in the field of independent accreditation at a global level;
- supporting the quality management of higher education institutions;
- working together in international projects aiming at quality improvement and assurance in higher education;
- supporting international academic and professional mobility and networking.

§ 2 – Actions

These goals shall be attained through:

- sharing experience in the field of procedures and mechanisms of accreditation in higher education institutions and degree programmes;
- the promotion of cooperation in international accreditation processes by exchanging experts. In accordance with the “Rules and Requirements for National Registers of Accreditation Institutions, Accredited Education Institutions and Education Programs”, this includes the participation of Kazakh experts as a member of an expert team to be recommended by Kazakhstan’s Accreditation Institutions listed in National Register 1.
- mutual information about the execution and development of the accreditation procedures of the respective contracting parties and of the jointly executed accreditation processes;
- informing each other regularly about their activities in the stated areas of activity;
- organising and carrying out workshops on specific topics related to quality assurance in higher education. These workshops target both internal quality assurance in higher education institutions and external quality assurance in accreditation agencies;
- giving their members and peer evaluators the opportunity to participate in training seminars for their evaluating activities;
- working together in identifying sources of funding for the implementation of workshops, trainings and capacity building activities;
- mutually promoting and disseminating the activities of both parties.

Further areas of activity may be specified in agreement between both parties.

§ 3 – Costs

In principle, each contracting party will assume its own costs and those of its representatives incurred for participating in actions taken under this cooperation agreement.

The costs related to each of the defined activities will be specified before the implementation. With regard to trainings and workshops organized by one of the parties, the costs may be stipulated in separate agreements.

§ 4 – Cooperation with other (Accreditation) Institutions

This agreement is not exclusive and does not impede each of the contracting parties to sign agreements with other evaluation and/or accreditation bodies.

The Parties shall consider this Agreement as a declaration of intent not involving legal and financial obligations of the joint activity.

The Parties also recognize that any actions within this Agreement shall not infringe any powers and rights of either Party.

§ 5 – Language

The contracting parties agree to formulate cooperation agreements and all other written documents concerning their cooperation in English.

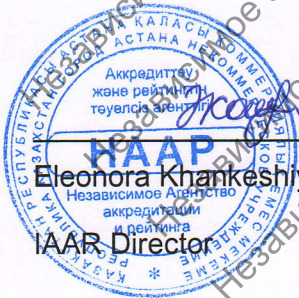
§ 6 – Termination of the Cooperation

This Agreement comes into force upon being signed by the both Parties and shall be valid until terminated with the mutual consent of both Parties or at the request of one of the Parties with the prior notice of other Party not less than three months. Termination of this Memorandum shall not entail termination of contracts concluded between IAAR and ASIIN.

§ 7 – Final Regulations

1. Changes or additions to this cooperation agreement must be provided in written form and signed by both contracting parties to be valid.
2. The respective managing directors of the contracting parties are in charge of the implementation of this cooperation agreement.
3. This cooperation agreement enters into force through the signature of both contracting parties.

Düsseldorf, December 20, 2013



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