

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The National Quality Assurance Agency for Education under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

and

Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES)

1. General Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “**Memorandum**”) expresses the intention of the National Quality Assurance Agency for Education under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the “**Agency**”) and A3ES – Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as “**A3ES**”) to develop cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education, including institutional and programme assessment and accreditation, internal quality assurance, and the exchange of international experience and good practices.

This Memorandum is non-financial and framework in nature, does not create any financial obligations for the Parties, and does not replace or override the procedures and requirements established by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan or the Portuguese Republic.

2. Objectives of the Memorandum

The objectives of this Memorandum are to:

- develop institutional dialogue between the Agency and A3ES;
- facilitate the exchange of international experience and best practices in the field of quality assurance in higher education;
- support the development of quality assurance systems, institutional quality culture, internationalisation, and continuous improvement in higher education;
- establish a foundation for further practical cooperation within the framework of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Portuguese Republic.

3. Main Areas of Cooperation

Within the framework of this Memorandum, the Parties express their readiness to develop cooperation in the following areas:

3.1. Expert Cooperation

- engagement of A3ES experts as international external evaluators, consultants, or observers in institutional and programme accreditation procedures, in accordance with the procedure and conditions determined by the Agency;
- facilitation of the expansion of the Agency’s pool of international experts through informing the A3ES network about opportunities for professional participation.

3.2. Professional Development and Exchange of Practices

- organisation of job shadowing programmes, short-term internships, and study visits for Agency staff based at A3ES and its partner organisations;

- joint organisation of seminars, trainings, and educational events on quality assurance, academic and institutional management, strategic development of universities, and leadership in higher education.

3.3. Methodological and Advisory Dialogue

- exchange of experience and good practices on standards, criteria, procedures, and methodologies for institutional and programme quality assurance;
- exchange of experience on internal quality assurance systems in higher education institutions;
- exchange of experience on European and international quality assurance standards and approaches;
- advisory discussion of draft regulatory and methodological documents in quality assurance.

4. Principles of Cooperation

Cooperation under this Memorandum shall be carried out on the basis of the following principles:

- compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Portuguese Republic;
- respect for the institutional mandates and powers of the Parties;
- independence, objectivity, and avoidance of conflict of interest;
- transparency and professional ethics;
- mutual respect and trust.

5. Confidentiality

The Parties undertake to observe confidentiality with respect to information obtained in the course of cooperation, in accordance with applicable legislation and the internal rules of the Parties.

6. Term and Final Provisions

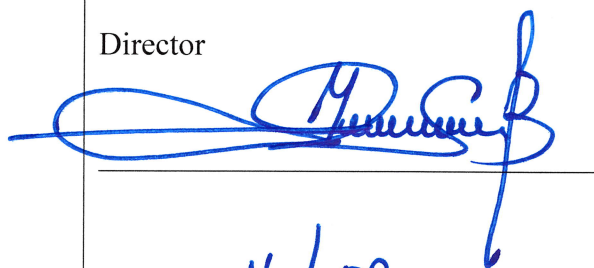
This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties and shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by providing written notification of its intention to the other Party. In such a case, this Memorandum shall cease to have an effect one month after the receipt of the relevant notification.

Should this Memorandum be terminated, it shall not affect the joint programmes and projects launched within it until their full implementation. This Memorandum may be extended, amended, or terminated by mutual written consent of the Parties.

This Memorandum is executed in two originals, each having equal legal force in English language.

The National Quality Assurance Agency for Education under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

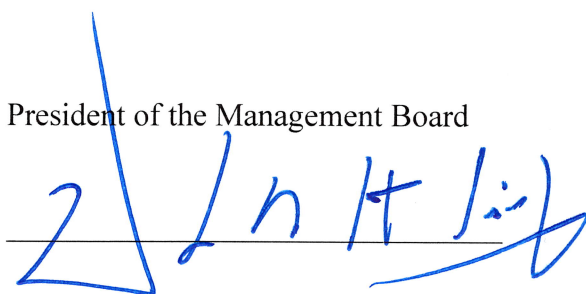
Director



Date: 16/09 2026

A3ES – Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education

President of the Management Board



Date: 16th Sept 2026