

**Technical Assistance Mission Seminar
“Development of Inclusive Higher Education”
June 12-13, 2025**

Venue: Astana IT University, Astana, Mangilik El Avenue, 55/11. EXPO Business Center, block C1, 2nd floor, Room C1.2.237L.

Format: offline

Registration link for the seminar:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoXCMAoJmxg79YrQDKO6-bCWvyPkiDvpr7Kzu-7_hPO4Gk8g/viewform

Working languages of the event: Kazakh, Russian, English.

Organizers:

- Higher Education Reform Experts of Kazakhstan (HERE)
- National Erasmus+ Office in Kazakhstan
- Committee for Higher and Postgraduate Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Participants:

Vice-Rectors for Academic Affairs, Vice-Rectors for Social and Educational Work, Representatives of the Centers for Inclusion of Higher Education Institutions, researchers, experts, policymakers.

Invited EHEA experts:

- Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt, Higher Education Policy Expert, Institute for the Development of Education (Croatia);
- Ana Skledar Matijević, Higher Education Policy Expert, Institute for the Development of Education (Croatia).

Objectives:

- To raise awareness of the importance of ensuring equity and inclusion in higher education and to identify existing challenges in the Kazakh and European Higher Education Area (EHEA) context.
- To gain an in-depth understanding of existing EHEA policies, frameworks and good practices that can support equity and inclusion in higher education.
- To prepare the foundation for designing a roadmap to address key equity and inclusion priorities in Kazakh higher education.

Moderator: Ainash Kudysheva, Member of the Board, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, South Kazakhstan Pedagogical University after O.Zhanibekov, HERE member.

AGENDA

Day 1, Thursday, 12.06.2025.

	WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS
09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serik Omirbayev, First Vice-Rector of Astana IT University, Chair of the HERE ▪ Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation Section of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan ▪ Gulzhan Jarassova, Deputy Chair of the Committee for Higher and Postgraduate Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan
10:15 - 10:30	Introductory remarks by EHEA experts Presentation of experts' background, experience and impact on equity and inclusion in higher education (HE) at EHEA and national level
10:30 - 10:40	Tour de table: introductions of local participants The Moderator provides a brief overview of participants, including their institutional background, position, and region.

	TOPIC 1: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXT
10:40 - 11:00	Equity, inclusion, diversity and the social dimension of higher education: key terms and policies in the EHEA context Presentation by EHEA experts
11:00 - 11:30	Group discussion Moderated by EHEA experts Questions relevant for the discussion: Priority Level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How would you assess the current priority level of equity and inclusion in Kazakh higher education? - What are the key challenges in making equity and inclusion a higher policy priority in Kazakhstan? Focus Areas (Dimensions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In your opinion, is the primary focus on availability, access, or completion of higher education in Kazakhstan? Why? - How can policymakers in Kazakhstan broaden the focus to include wellbeing and completion alongside access? Approaches to Equity and Inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which type of student support—merit-based, equal support for all, or targeted support for disadvantaged students—do you think is most effective for promoting equity in Kazakhstan? Why? - What kind of support mechanisms are currently lacking in Kazakhstan's higher education system to ensure equity and inclusion?



	TOPIC 2: CHALLENGES
11:30 - 11:50	Equity and inclusion challenges in EHEA and key factors that lead to inequalities Presentation by EHEA experts
11:50 - 12:10	Coffee break
12:10 - 12:50	<p>Equity and inclusion challenges in Kazakh higher education: Case studies presented by participants and group discussion</p> <p><i>Three participants prepare and deliver a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation during this session. The presentation should relate to the session's overall theme and address challenges related to equity and inclusion—either at the presenter's higher education institution or, in the case of public authority representatives, within the broader higher education system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Olga Andrushchenko, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Pavlodar Pedagogical University after Margulan ✓ Amangeldi Zhumadilov, President of Salymbekov University, HERE member, Kyrgyzstan ✓ Gulvira Akybayeva, Vice-Rector for Academic Work, Astana IT University <p><i>Moderator introduces the speakers, followed by the individual presentations. Afterward, the Moderator facilitates a short panel discussion with the presenters and/or takes questions from the audience to moderate a broader discussion.</i></p>
	TOPIC 3: POLICY RESPONSES
12:50 - 13:10	How to define policy responses to equity and inclusion in higher education: presentation of proposed methodology Presentation by EHEA experts
13:10 - 13:25	Case study: Croatian higher education's journey towards equity and inclusion in higher education Presentation by EHEA experts
13:25 - 14:25	Lunch break
14:25 - 14:55	<p>Policy responses in Kazakh higher education: Case studies presented by participants</p> <p><i>Three participants prepare and deliver a 5-minute PowerPoint related to the session's overall theme and highlight the policies that a particular higher education institution or public authority has implemented to address the equity and inclusion challenges they have identified within their institution or the broader higher education system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Banu Narbekova, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Kazakh National Pedagogical University after Abai, HERE member ✓ Zhadyra Konurbayeva, Vice-Rector for Science and Innovation, D.Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University, HERE member ✓ Aigul Nurpeissova, Member of the Board for Academic Affairs, North Kazakhstan University after Kozybayev <p><i>The Moderator introduces the speakers, followed by the individual presentations.</i></p>

14:55 - 15:25	<p>Group discussion Moderated by EHEA experts</p> <p>Questions relevant for the discussion:</p> <p>Policies/Practices in Place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants and Scholarships: What are the strengths and weaknesses of existing grant and scholarship schemes in Kazakhstan? - Tuition Waivers: How effective are tuition waivers in increasing access, and what improvements are needed? - What other national or university-level policies are currently in place to support equity in higher education? <p>Policies/Practices to Adopt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Support Offices: How feasible is it to expand student support offices across Kazakh universities? - Flexible Admissions: What are the main challenges and benefits of introducing more flexible university admissions policies? - What new policies or practices should be prioritized to enhance equity and inclusion in higher education? <p>Implementation Feasibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which proposed measures for equity and inclusion are most realistic to implement in the short term? - How can universities and national authorities collaborate to overcome feasibility challenges?
TOPIC 4: PLANNING FOR NEW ACTIONS	
15:25 - 15:45	<p>Policy support: Overview of EHEA level frameworks and instruments to support equity and inclusion in HE and how Kazakhstan can make use of them Presentation by EHEA experts</p>
15:45 - 16:05	<p>Monitoring the Implementation of Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education: Overview of Indicators and Tools at EHEA, National, and Institutional Levels Presentation by EHEA experts</p>
16:05 - 16:30	<p>Wrap-up of Day 1, plan for Day 2</p> <p><i>EHEA experts wrap up Day 1 and announce the plan for Day 2. The Moderator and HERE experts provide their summaries of the day and explain how the work conducted today will be relevant for the activities planned for tomorrow.</i></p>

Day 2, Friday, 13.06.2025.

	TOPIC 5: FOCUS ON INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:25	Creating an Institutional Framework for Inclusive Higher Education: Support for Students and Teaching Staff Presentation by EHEA experts
10:25 - 11:00	Fostering an inclusive teaching environment: Implementing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to support diverse learners Presentation by EHEA experts
11:00 - 11:30	Group discussion: What works in the national context? Moderated by EHEA experts Questions relevant for the discussion: Which frameworks and practices seem most needed and feasible? What are the main institutional and systemic barriers?
11:30 - 11:50	Coffee break
11:50 - 12:10	European trends, policies and practices to support well-being in HE Presentation by EHEA experts
12:10 - 12:40	Group discussion: Well-being in higher education - challenges in the national context Moderated by EHEA experts Questions relevant for the discussion: Which of the frameworks and practices presented by EU experts seem most needed and feasible in your national context? To what extent are these frameworks and practices already implemented in higher education institutions in your country? What are the key challenges in adapting and sustaining well-being initiatives in higher education?
12:40 - 13:00	Final inspiration - community engagement for equity and inclusion: building collaborations with local communities to address joint challenges Presentation by EHEA experts
13:00 - 13:15	EHEA experts and Moderator wrap-up: lessons learnt and roadmap for next steps <i>EHEA experts wrap up the seminar. The Moderator and HERE experts provide their summaries of the seminar and explain how the work carried out during the event will contribute to the future enhancement of equity and inclusion in Kazakhstan.</i>
13:15 - 13:30	Participant feedback and evaluation Moderated by the Moderator and EHEA experts Awarding certificates

Useful EHEA resources:

Rome Ministerial Communiqué, 19 November 2020. EHEA Ministerial Conference. Available at https://www.ehea.info/Upload/Rome_Ministerial_Communique.pdf

Rome Ministerial Communiqué. (2020). Annex II to the Rome Ministerial Communiqué: Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the European Higher Education Area. Rome: EHEA Ministerial Conference. Available at https://www.ehea.info/Upload/Rome_Ministerial_Communique_Annex_II.pdf

Tirana Ministerial Communiqué, 30 May 2024. EHEA Ministerial Conference. Available at <https://ehea.info/Download/Tirana-Communique.pdf>

Bologna Follow-up Group. (2024). Indicators and Descriptors for the Principles of the Social Dimension in the European Higher Education Area. Tirana: Bologna Follow-up Group. Available at [https://ehea.info/Download/BFUG-WG-on-SD-Indicators-and-Descriptors-Final%20\(1\).pdf](https://ehea.info/Download/BFUG-WG-on-SD-Indicators-and-Descriptors-Final%20(1).pdf)

Scukanec Schmidt, N. and Onita, H. (2024). BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024: Final Report for the Period 2021-2024. Tirana: Bologna Follow-up Group. Available at [https://ehea.info/Download/Social-Dimension-Final-Version%20\(1\).pdf](https://ehea.info/Download/Social-Dimension-Final-Version%20(1).pdf)

European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice. (2022). Towards equity and inclusion in higher education in Europe. Eurydice report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. Available at <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/towards-equity-and-inclusion-higher-educationeurope>

European Education and Culture Executive Agency: Eurydice. (2024) *The European higher education area in 2024 – Bologna process implementation report*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024. Available at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2797/483185>

Scukanec Schmidt, N. and Dragojevic, D. (2024). Report on Peer Learning Activities for the Social Dimension in the European Higher Education Area. Erasmus+ Project 'Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension across the European Higher Education Area'. Available at https://inclusivehighereducation.eu/sites/default/files/1%20PLA%20Final%20Report_PLAR-UPAGs_2024%20final.docx.pdf

Šćukanec Schmidt, N., Skledar Matijević, A, and Anić, Z. (2023). 'Linking quality assurance and the social dimension of higher education', NESET report, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. doi:10.2766/146281. Available at <https://nesetweb.eu/en/resources/library/linkingquality-assurance-and-the-social-dimension-of-higher-education-literature-review-and-mappingnational-practices/>