

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Uzbekistan Higher Education Experts (HEREs)**

**following the results of 2021 activities,**

**as well as based on the resolution of the 9th Annual Conference of Experts**

**"PERSPECTIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN"**

**and 5th Republican Conference**

**"ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY: ROLE IN  
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH"**

### **Goals and objectives of the conferences:**

- Improving the effectiveness of the development of innovative approaches in higher education based on familiarizing teachers, researchers and university students with the best practices of the EU countries and Uzbekistan and summarizing the work of higher education experts (HEREs) for 2021.
- Promoting the principles of the Bologna process in organizing bilateral mobility and strengthening the process of internationalization of the higher education system.
- Analysis of best practices, exchange of knowledge, experience gained during the mobility of Erasmus + ICM projects and the implementation of learning outcomes and scientific developments in Uzbekistan.

The participants noted the importance of the reports and topics that were covered at the conference, as well as progressive trends in the reform of higher education (HE) in Uzbekistan:

- The importance and significance of the state policy of Uzbekistan in the field of HE, focused on granting autonomy to universities, was noted. According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 11, 2019 No. PP-4391, the powers and rights granted to higher educational institutions that are switching to a self-financing system, apply to state higher educational institutions that are granted financial independence. According to the Decree of 2021, from January 1, 2022, 35 leading state higher educational institutions have been granted financial independence.

- Guidelines for the HE development strategy are given, an analysis of the decisions and recommendations indicated at the HE Ministerial Conference of the EU countries in Rome (November 19, 2020) is given:

Building an inclusive, innovative and connected European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2030. 1) Inclusive. Each student will have equal access to higher education and will receive comprehensive support in completing their education and training; 2) Innovative. This will allow the introduction of new and more consistent methods and practices of learning, teaching and assessment, closely linked to research; 3) Interconnected. The common framework and instruments of the EU countries will continue to facilitate and expand international cooperation and reforms, the exchange of knowledge and the mobility of staff and students.

The experts noted the importance of these principles in the development of the HE strategy of Uzbekistan.

- At the conference, the productivity of the activities carried out by the NEO office and HEREs experts for the development of higher education in the republic was noted, the rich content of the scientific and methodological journal of experts "Perspectives of higher education development" (in particular, issues No. 9 and No. 10) was noted, its inclusion in the list of the scientific journals of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as indexing in international analytical systems Google scholar, Ciberleninka, etc.

- Participants received full, meaningful information about the new requirements for Erasmus+ projects for 2022, both from the speech of the NEO representative and the master class on project development conducted by HEREs experts;

- Speeches by coordinators and participants of existing and completed Erasmus+, ICM projects provided useful information to those who are going to develop new projects.

*Conference programs will be attached.*

## CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Taking into account the importance of the newly adopted regulatory documents on the academic, financial and organizational independence of 35 universities of the Republic of Uzbekistan PP-60 "On additional measures to ensure the academic, organizational and managerial independence of state higher educational institutions" and PP- 61 "On measures to provide financial independence to state higher educational institutions", **to expand educational activities in the field of studying all aspects and principles of the Bologna Process.**

2. Due to the fact that the scientific and methodological journal "**PERSPECTIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT**" is included in the analytical systems indexing scientific journals and articles, the editorial board calls **to improve the quality of publications and expanding the geography of authors for further promotion and increase its rating.**

3. Considering that HEREs and NEO experts regularly analyze the experience of EU universities, hold **seminars and annual conferences** on the development of HE, including **the introduction of ECTS and the autonomy of universities, to assist MHSSE to organize seminars on relevant topics for university authorities** in the republic. Plan relevant information workshops with the participation of European experts and Erasmus+ project partners.

4. HERES conference - 2021 showed the relevance of master classes and Case Study seminars on project development and studying the experience of developed and existing projects. This is especially important with a number of changes to the application process and cost-based budget planning starting in 2022. **Heads of universities, departments of foreign relations and a team of experts, together with NEO, will focus on organizing seminars, presentations and other information events on the Erasmus + Higher Education Capacity Building (CBHE), Erasmus Mundus and Jean Monnet projects.**

5. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan gives special attention to the digitalization of the economy, improving the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in international ratings and indices listed in the Decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (No. UP-6079 of October 5, 2020 and No. UP-6003 of 2 June 2020), the conference recommends the creation of a system and programs for **the development of methods for assessing the readiness of universities for the digitalization of the educational process according to the following criteria:**

- Condition of distance education (DE) system, including activities in a pandemic;

- **Access to electronic scientific educational resources** of world publishing houses (EBSCO Information Services, Springer Nature, Elsevier (Scopus), Web of Science, etc.) and efficiency of their use;
- Formation of **electronic scientific and educational resources**;
- Renovation and modernization of the **technical infrastructure of the education system**;
- Development or updating of **curricula on digital economy and education**.

6. According to technological progress and the current state of digital transformation in HE, identifying the need to revise the professional role of specialists and changing the demand for new qualifications: innovations are needed in the educational sphere of Uzbekistan aimed at attracting **modern methods of teaching and learning (with elements of artificial intelligence, Internet, data analytics and other advanced technologies and solutions of the digital educational environment)**. Supporting such innovations should be reflected in the relevant methodological and guiding principles of higher education, taking into account of the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for the successful work of a future university graduate in the digital economy.

7. In order to smoothly integrate the HE of the Republic of Uzbekistan into the global educational world in the digital economy, there is a need to revise and improve educational models, which should be able to flexibly and adaptively reflect changes in technology. It is recommended to **initiate (with preliminary promotion of the role of HE in the digital era and holding a series of seminars) relevant projects to develop new educational models, institutional approaches and structures of the university leadership in the digital economy (including changes in the financing of education ( university autonomy), changes in the duration of training (development of micro-credit courses and short-term professional development trainings), and changes in teaching methods**.

8. Considering to improve the ranking of universities, an important role belongs to their publication activity in high-ranking journals, there is a great need to conduct **methodological seminars (including proofreading) on writing scientific articles and dissertations, publishing in Scopus and Web of Science journals** , as well as working with analytical systems and databases of world publishing houses, primarily for doctoral students and applicants for scientific degrees.

9. There is a need to include courses in **science metrics, world information resources, ethics of publications, patent science in the curricula for master's**

**and doctoral studies** in order to improve the level of dissertations and scientific research in general.

10. Paying attention to the global trends in modern society for the preservation of the environment, to note the importance and necessity of the green measures and efforts taken in higher education towards the formation of the **“Green University” culture and the organization of conferences, seminars and trainings on related topics (“Green Space”, “Green Plan”, etc.)**.

11. Noting the need to develop **“targeted projects” of CBHE and ICM** aimed at supporting the solution of topical socio-economic issues in the regions of the republic, in particular, taking into account of the new environmental situation in the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region, to promote the organization of trainings, seminars in the universities of the region to involve the public and universities in solving environmental problems through new CBHE and ICM projects.

12. Taking into account the current state of the academic environment in universities, it is recommended to introduce subjects on research methods and methodologies (post-graduate courses) into the educational programs of postgraduate education in Uzbekistan in order to support young scientific personnel and increase their active involvement in current research and studies, with a broad study of the best world experience in the formation of the scientific potential of universities in the formation of competencies in determining the direction and subject of **dissertation research (research proposal)**, mastering the **methods of scientific analysis and empirical / experimental research (including Quantitative, Qualitative analyses)**.