

**Summary of roundtable “Partnerships as Tools for Development and Internationalization: Lessons from Universities in Kazakhstan and Central Asia” facilitated by Kadisha Dairova**

The roundtable session was attended by 12 participants.

In the introductory part the facilitator gave a brief overview of the current status of internationalization process in Central Asia and Kazakhstan followed by a more detailed introduction of Nazarbayev University and its partnership model.

The case of Nazarbayev University and its strategic partnership model that serves as a tool for development and internationalization of higher education in Kazakhstan raised strong interest of the participants and they got involved in a heated active discussion and exchange of ideas.

The following topics were discussed by the participants:

- Sharing Nazarbayev University’s experience with other Kazakhstani universities – whether partners are involved
- Challenges of internationalization of Nazarbayev University – international accreditation and recruitment of international students
- University governance system – centralized or decentralized
- Curriculum design – whether it is copied from partner universities or adapted to local needs
- Research publications – by partners, or Nazarbayev University faculty, or joint research
- Attraction of international students:
  1. Challenges
  2. Tools for attracting international students
  3. Financial aid (tuition discounts, scholarships, etc.)
- Cost of tuition fees for international students.

Most of the participants expressed an interest in collaborating with Nazarbayev University. For instance, currently we are following up on our preliminary discussions with Pennsylvania State University regarding collaboration with their College of Engineering.

Based on the discussions we propose the following:

1. NU could organize a collaborative session during the AIEA 2018 Conference with leading Kazakhstani and Central Asian universities actively involved in the Bologna process that has been serving as an accelerator of internationalization by increasing a number of partnerships and opportunities for student, faculty and staff academic mobility. Such kind of session could be a good example of implementation of the Bologna principles in the context of globalization framework.
2. At the current stage of moving to a new stage of partnership – transition from a “service provider and client” relationship to a mutually beneficial partnership, a joint session with NU’s strategic partners on the development of partnership relations and opportunities arising for both sides could serve as a real showcase of academic strategic partnerships in the context of internationalization and reforms in Kazakhstan’s higher education system.