



Application for ENQA Affiliation by the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (EdNet)

Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (EdNet)

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EdNet's Official Application

I. Applicant's motivation for seeking ENQA affiliation

I.1: Please state the strategic reasons why your organisation wishes to establish a formal relationship with ENQA.

Agency "EdNet" for Quality Assurance in Education hereby requests your consideration of our application for affiliate membership in ENQA. Since our establishment and registration with the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2012, we have been committed to ensuring high-quality education both within our country and beyond.

Our Quality Manual as a basic document of the EdNet Agency and strategic development plan for 2025 incorporates the aspiration for the internationalisation of education and the integration of ENQA standards into our operations. We are convinced that establishing official relations with ENQA will provide us with a unique opportunity for the exchange of experiences and best practices in quality assurance, and spread commitment to the quality assurance of education in accordance to ESG and ENQA related quality culture. This will not only strengthen quality assessment standards in the Kyrgyz Republic but also promote the international recognition of our educational programmes.

The key reasons for our desire to become a part of ENQA are as follows:

1. To ensure that EdNet Agency's policies and standards correspond to the ESG. From the very beginning of its establishment, the EdNet Agency was adhered to ESG and developed accreditation policy in accordance, and therefore affiliation to ENQA would give us assurance that the Agency keeps the right track, so we could continue integration of ESG.
2. Internationalisation of education: we aim to broaden the horizons for our students and educational institutions by implementing the best international practices and traditions.

3. International quality assurance: Joining ENQA will enable us to collaborate with leading educational agencies, significantly improving the quality of our services and the assessment of educational programmes.

4. Development of education in the Kyrgyz Republic and beyond: We aspire to be a centre that supports the development of the educational system not only in Kyrgyzstan but also in the region, actively engaging employers, students, and the public in the assessment and advancement of education.

5. To increase recognition of ENQA in the Kyrgyz Republic. EdNet Agency, as the leading agency in the country always brings best practices and organizations to develop QA&A, therefore we seek to be the first in the country to bring ENQA in Kyrgyz Republic as the leading global QA&A organization.

The Agency "EdNet" conducts its activities for the benefit of the entire educational system of the Kyrgyz Republic, including higher, primary, and secondary vocational education. We accredit educational programmes and organisations, promote the public disclosure of evaluation and accreditation results, and foster an internal culture of quality assurance. Besides EdNet Agency is the key partner for the Ministry of education and science of the Kyrgyz Republic to develop legislative framework for QA and training of experts for accreditation.

The primary objective of our agency is to encourage and facilitate the first-class development of educational organisations and programmes, which is achievable only through integration with international quality assurance networks such as ENQA.

We are confident that collaboration with ENQA will enable us to effectively implement our objectives and achieve our strategic goals. We appreciate your consideration of our application and look forward to a positive response.

1.2: Please state the main reasons why your organisation seeks affiliation with ENQA rather than membership.

The organisation is based outside the EHEA

The organisation has not had an external review demonstrating compliance with the ESG

Other (please specify):

At this stage, it is crucial for us to become an affiliate member of ENQA, as this will allow us to integrate best practices and quality standards, as well as establish international cooperation. Nevertheless, the Agency 'EdNet' fully adheres to ESG standards. The status of affiliate member will serve as a foundation for the further development and improvement of our processes, which will enable us to aspire to full membership in ENQA in the future. We view this as a strategic step in our commitment to enhancing the quality of education in the Kyrgyz Republic and contributing to the international community of quality assurance in education.

II. Applicant's background and activities

2.1: Please provide a brief description of your organisation and its main activities.

The EdNet Agency is the first independent accreditation agency in Kyrgyzstan, established in 2012. Its primary goal is quality assurance and promoting a quality culture through independent accreditation of educational programs and institutions. Since the approval of independent accreditation in 2013, initiated by EdNet, the Agency has significantly impacted the educational system in Kyrgyzstan.

Recognized by the educational community, EdNet is the first agency included in the Register of accreditation bodies in Kyrgyzstan.

The mission of the Agency is to build community responsive education with the highest degree of credibility according to the international standards. The primary goal of EdNet is to encourage and facilitate the development of all educational organizations and their programs while ensuring compliance with essential requirements for official and international recognition, emphasizing diversity, equality, inclusion, and integration.

To achieve its mission, EdNet focuses on several key activities, including defining and ensuring compliance with quality standards in the accreditation of higher, secondary, initial vocational, and other levels of education. It evaluates and accredits educational programs and organizations, conducts audits of internal quality assurance systems, promotes public disclosure of evaluation and accreditation results, and supports the internationalization of the education system in Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, EdNet engages various stakeholders in assessing the quality of education and its overall development.

Key activities to achieve its mission include:

- Ensuring compliance with quality standards in the accreditation of various educational levels.
- Evaluating and accrediting educational programs and organizations and auditing internal QAS.
- Promoting public disclosure of evaluation and accreditation results.
- Supporting the internationalization of the education system in Kyrgyzstan.
- Engaging various stakeholders in assessing education quality and its overall development.

Additionally, the Agency conducts research and prepares expert opinions on its initiative or in response to government requests, and it coordinates quality assurance and accreditation activities both domestically and internationally.

2.2: Please list all entities that own, control or hold minority participation (i.e. trustees, shareholders, etc.) in your organisation.

The EdNet Agency operates as an independent, non-governmental organization with a clear mandate for ensuring quality in education. While the EdNet Agency is officially recognized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the government does not interfere with the decision-making process regarding accreditation. All final decisions are made by the Accreditation Council, a collegial body composed of independent experts. The council operates with full autonomy, ensuring that decisions are based solely on objective criteria and the results of external assessments.

Our agency follows the national regulations for the education system, but maintains independence from any government or political influence, especially in the areas of quality assurance and accreditation decisions. This ensures that our processes and outcomes align with international best practices and the rigorous standards.

The EdNet Agency for Quality Assurance in Education is a fully independent, non-governmental organization, which does not have a sponsoring or parent organization that oversees its operations. The agency was established with a private law foundation and operates autonomously in accordance with its internal regulations and the legal framework of the Kyrgyz Republic. While EdNet collaborates with various stakeholders, including governmental bodies, educational institutions, and international organizations, none of these entities have any direct influence or control over its accreditation decisions.

All decisions regarding accreditation, including final decisions by the Accreditation Council, are made independently, without any external interference or oversight from sponsoring or parent

organizations. The decision-making process is carried out by the Accreditation Council, which is composed of independent experts, ensuring the objectivity and impartiality of every accreditation evaluation.

2.3: What are your organisation's main sources of funding (e.g. self-funding, public funding, private funding)? In case of private funding, please identify the list of contributors.

There are several funding sources of the Agency:

- Accreditation fees from educational institutions.
- Participation in the education related projects funded by international organization as World Bank, ADB, UNESCO and others.
- Training fees for preparation of the experts throughout the country

2.4: If your organisation carries out accreditations, please provide a link to the list of institutions or programmes that your organisation has accredited in the past three years.

EdNet is committed to transparency and continuous improvement in the quality of education in the Kyrgyz Republic, so you can access the Register of Accredited Educational Programs by our agency at this link: <https://accreditation.asia/accreditation-results>. This register provides comprehensive information about the educational programs that have met our quality assurance standards. Experts panel's reports are provided on this link: <https://accreditation.asia/accreditation-experts> for all accreditations conducted by the agency since 2018 (officially accreditation became effective in the country since 2017).

2.5: What is your organisation's geographical scope (i.e. the geographical areas in which it performs its activities)?

The EdNet Agency for Quality Assurance in Education accredits a range of higher education institutions and programs, including universities, colleges, and vocational training institutions. EdNet operates as both an institutional and programmatic accreditor, ensuring the highest standards of academic quality and transparency.

Geographic boundaries of accreditation activity: EdNet operates primarily within the geographic boundaries of the Kyrgyz Republic, accrediting institutions and programs throughout the country. However, we also pursue opportunities to expand our accreditation services internationally, particularly in Central Asia and Asia-Pacific region, in accordance with the other international bodies. Our focus remains on enhancing the global recognition of accredited institutions, while promoting continuous improvement in higher education.