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The opening ceremony of the International Forum on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education", organized by the Education Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), took place on May 5.

The purpose of the forum was to discuss internal and external quality assurance in higher education, development of research potential, and coordination of higher education institutions with the labor market.

In her opening speech, the Education Quality Assurance Agency Board Chair Ulker Sattarova informed the participants of the event about the work done by the Agency in the field of quality assurance, the results achieved and the plans for the future.

In his speech the Minister of Education Emin Amrullayev noted that the reforms implemented within the "Bologna" process in the educational space of Azerbaijan contribute to improving the quality of higher education. At the same time, the Minister stressed the importance of application of European standards and guidelines for quality assurance (ESG) in the European higher education area and full membership in the Quality Assurance Association (ENQA), as well as cooperation and exchange of experience with national agencies in this direction.

The forum was attended by Jolanta Silka, Chairwoman of the Latvian Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (AQA / AICA), Vicky Stott, Director of the UK Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (GAA), Lut Kroes, Director of the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) and Olgun Cicek, Vice President of the Central and Eastern European Network of Higher Education Quality Assurance Agencies (CEENQA). They touched on the organization of internal and external quality assurance in higher education in accordance with the standards and guidelines for quality assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area, the role of external quality assurance in improving the position of higher educational institutions in international rankings and other issues.

On the first day of the two-day forum, panel discussions were led by the chairman of the Higher Education Quality Assurance Council of Turkey (YÖKAK), one of the leading European and international quality assurance organizations, the director of the Accreditation Organization for the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO), Director of the Independent Accreditation and Rating Agency of Kazakhstan (IARA), Chairman of the Latvian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ACA/AIKA). They touched on the role of external quality assurance in improving the position of higher educational institutions in international rankings, the role of external quality assurance in developing the research potential of higher education institutions, and answered questions of participants of the event.

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On the second day of the forum, practical workshops by international experts will be held for representatives of higher education institutions (employees of the internal quality assurance structure, deans, heads of departments of education, etc.).