

NAQA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 7, 2023

Present:

Advisory Board members. Tricia Bertram Gallant, Ian Welch, Irine Darchia, Jean-Hugues Chauchat, Lennart Ståhle, Olgun Cicek, Zbigniew Marciniak.

NAQA representatives: Andrii Butenko, Nataliia Stukalo, Olena Yeremenko, Oleksandr Dluhopolskyi, Liliya Janse, Oksana Trebenko, Alina Lepokhina, Iryna Simshah, Olena Loban, Anna Shylina, Maksym Folomeev.

Exused: Alison Johns, Tomáš Foltýnek, Jean-Hugues Chauchat

Agenda:

- Welcome words – NAQA Advisory Board Head Ian Welch and NAQA Head Andrii Butenko);
- NAQA Updates – NAQA Vice Head Nataliia Stukalo;
- Q&A and open discussion (NAQA members and Advisory Board members)

1. Welcome words

Ian Welch opened the meeting, emphasizing the importance of Advisory Board meetings for NAQA under martial law.

Andrii Butenko thanked all the members of Advisory Board and told about circumstances in which NAQA is currently working.

2. NAQA Updates

Nataliia Stukalo presented on current activities of NAQA, talking about challenges and achievements of 2023. NAQA Vice Head pointed out accreditation cases, stakeholder engagement, international cooperation and the main changes in legislation. Also, the future plans were outlined. Nataliia Stukalo kindly asked Advisory Board members for any recommendations and suggestions on NAQA

activity.

3. Q&A and open discussion

During the discussion **Ian Welch** was interested in creation international experts' pool. **Tricia Bertram Gallant** asked about peculiarities of international experts' selection. **Lennart Stahle** had a question concerning new legislation and academic integrity issues. **Zbigniew Marciniak** elaborated on institutional accreditation concept and suggested to align medical study programs to EU standards to facilitate the future process of joining the European Union by Ukraine, as the medical studies are regulated by a UE directive. **Olena Yeremenko** continued the topic of institutional accreditation, talking about the experience of Estonian agency HAKA and asked for sharing practices on this process. **Irine Darchia** talked about Involvement of the foreign graduates/alumni of Ukrainian HEIs in accreditation; warned about engagement of the Ukrainian diaspora and mentioned the necessity to avoid conflict of interests in the cases where there are still close ties with the Ukrainian community; offered to provide trainings for NAQA experts for free; suggested participation of Ukrainian experts as observers in authorization/institutional accreditation in Georgia. Also, accreditation of independent accreditation bodies in Ukraine was mentioned not to be speeded up. **Olgun Cicek** asked about clarification of some planned activities. All of Advisory Board members expressed their support to Ukraine and NAQA.

The next meeting: TBC.