

NAQA Advisory Board meetings minutes

Part 1

Date: 14 October 2025

Present:

Advisory Board Members: Anca Prisacariu, Aqim Emurli, João Manuel Livramento Dias da Silva, Mariam Kilanava, Martin G. Erikson, Ulf Hedbjörk, Irine Darchia.

NAQA representatives: Andrii Butenko, Nataliia Stukalo, Artem Artiukhov, Oleksandr Khymenko, Oleksandra Osiuk, Maksym Folomieiev, Oxana Trebenko, Olena Knysh, Anna Shylina, Tetiana Kovalska, Tamara Sverdlyk, Maryna Nakonecha.

Agenda:

1. Welcome words and NAQA Updates
2. ENQA/EQAR Review
3. Academic integrity issues
4. UQAF-2025 Reflections

Moderator: Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice-Head

5. Plans, Activities and Priorities from NAQA Advisory Board
6. Q&A and Open Discussion

Moderator: Anca Prisacariu, Head of NAQA Advisory Board.

Discussed:

Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice Head, informed that, considering NAQA Advisory Board members are based in different countries and time zones, preferences for the most convenient time are currently almost evenly divided between the two proposed dates. To ensure effective participation and information sharing, it was decided to hold the session in two parts: the first on 14 October, and a follow-up meeting on 15 October for those unable to attend the first one.

1. Welcome words and NAQA Updates

Andrii Butenko, Head of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA), opened the meeting by expressing his sincere respect and appreciation to all members of the Advisory Board for their active involvement, constructive dialogue, and continued support of NAQA's mission and initiatives.

Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice Head, extended her greetings to all participants and provided an overview of NAQA's ongoing activities and plans for the 2024-2025 academic year. She informed the members that, as of now, NAQA plans to accredit 2,915 study programmes, including 836 study programmes with delayed external evaluation. In the coming year, NAQA intends to organise approximately 120 events, of which around 50 will be directly hosted by NAQA, while the remaining events will

involve NAQA's participation as a partner or contributor. She also noted that NAQA is currently implementing 12 international projects, including several within the Erasmus+ framework, as well as other international cooperation initiatives.

Regular training sessions for experts continue to be conducted. Over the course of the year, the planned number of candidates and participants is as follows:

- Students: more than 500
- Academic and teaching staff: more than 300

In terms of professional development, the expected participation includes:

- Advanced training: more than 200 participants
- Training on report writing: more than 200 participants
- Leadership training within the Expert Council: around 100 participants

Nataliia Stukalo also presented the latest materials on the topic of Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine, highlighting NAQA's efforts to facilitate international collaboration and ensure transparency in cross-border quality assurance processes.

Tetiana Kovalska, Specialist of the PR and International Cooperation Department, provided information about the publication "Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine: A Guide for Foreign Agencies and Ukrainian Universities". She also reported on two webinars organised by NAQA:

- "Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine: Practical Tips for Foreign QA Agencies" (in English)
- "Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine: Recommendations for Ukrainian Universities" (in Ukrainian)

All related materials are publicly available on NAQA's official website.

2. ENQA/EQAR Review

Nataliia Stukalo then drew attention to the forthcoming External Review of NAQA, scheduled for December 2025, underlining its strategic importance for NAQA.

Anna Shyлина, Leading Specialist of the PR and International Cooperation Department, presented detailed information on all preparatory stages for the external evaluation by ENQA/EQAR.

Nataliia Stukalo emphasised that support from NAQA Advisory Board members in this process is essential, particularly in the form of consultations, expert recommendations, and feedback during the preparation phase.

3. Academic Integrity Issues

Artem Artiukhov, NAQA Board Member and Chairman of the NAQA Ethics Committee, presented current information regarding the implementation of NAQA's Academic Integrity Policy. He explained the Algorithm for reviewing reports (complaints) concerning violations of academic integrity, detailing the procedures and stages of review. He also highlighted the main challenges that often arise in handling such cases and discussed possible ways to improve the efficiency and transparency of the process.

4. UQAF-2025 Reflections

Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice Head, reported on the successful organisation and outcomes of the traditional Ukrainian Quality Assurance Forum – UQAF-2025. She noted that the Forum generated considerable interest among stakeholders in higher education. In total, over 1,000 registration forms were submitted, and approximately 1,000 participants attended the event, including representatives from 301 universities, 51 rectors, 109 vice-rectors, as well as students and employers.

Nataliia Stukalo presented an overview of the Forum's main working formats – panel discussions, workshops, and presentations – and summarised the key discussion topics. She also expressed appreciation for the active participation of international partners, among them Aqim Emurli, Vice Head of the Advisory Board.

Aqim Emurli shared his reflections on the Forum, noting that UQAF-2025 serves as an excellent platform for exchanging ideas, achievements, and experiences among educators and quality assurance professionals. He highlighted that such initiatives play an important role in building networks, inspiring innovation, and strengthening cooperation within the academic community. He also commended the high level of organisation of the Forum, especially given the challenging circumstances caused by martial law in Ukraine, and expressed appreciation for NAQA's professionalism and resilience in maintaining international engagement and communication.

Maryna Nakonechna, Leading Specialist of the PR and International Cooperation Department, presented an overview of the main feedback received from participants of the Ukrainian Quality Assurance Forum – UQAF-2025. The feedback demonstrated a very high overall evaluation of the event and highlighted the importance and value of such a format for professional exchange and networking.

Nataliia Stukalo thanked all forum participants and the international colleagues involved, emphasising that such active engagement confirms the forum's role as an excellent platform for exchanging experience and ideas. She announced that the next year's event is preliminarily planned to take place in Western Ukraine, and NAQA would be pleased to invite the members of the Advisory Board to take part.

5. Plans, Activities and Priorities from NAQA Advisory Board

Anca Prisacariu, Head of Advisory Board, proposed to discuss further Plans, Activities and Priorities from the NAQA Advisory Board to support and strengthen NAQA's work. She drew attention to the following possible areas of contribution areas where NAQA Advisory Board Members themselves want and can contribute:

1. Strategic Guidance and Policy Shaping
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy
3. Quality Standards and Review Processes
4. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
5. Monitoring and Feedback
6. Project-Based Involvement
7. Regular, Meaningful Engagement

Nataliia Stukalo presented the main current areas for NAQA Advisory Board's contribution, in particular:

- Advisory support from the NAQA Advisory Board members in preparation for the external review of NAQA by the ENQA/EQAR expert panel;
- Consultancy support for Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine;
- Development of the model of institutional accreditation and the post-accreditation monitoring procedure within the system of external quality assurance in higher education.

Anca Prisacariu suggested developing a joint document – the Annual Workplan of the Advisory Board of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA) – where all Advisory Board members and NAQA representatives could outline their ideas and proposals for collaboration and implementation of specific initiatives.

Decision: It was agreed to prepare a draft of the mentioned document and to provide online access for all Advisory Board members to contribute and edit.

6. Q&A and Open Discussion

Irine Darchia expressed her full support for the proposal and shared her willingness to provide consultancy on documentation and preparation for the external review of NAQA by the ENQA/EQAR expert panel, as well as to contribute to NAQA's capacity-building efforts.

Oxana Trebenko, Head of the Analytics and Training Support Department, discussed the training of experts and the organisation of workshops and webinars with international speakers to strengthen professional competence. She emphasised that NAQA is open to advice and recommendations in this regard.

Ulf Hedbjörk supported the idea of creating an Annual Workplan, describing it as an excellent foundation that will facilitate structured cooperation, the implementation of relevant recommendations, and professional exchange on various

topics. He shared his own experience with external reviews and stressed the importance of supporting NAQA in preparing for the external review by the ENQA/EQAR expert panel.

Martin G. Erikson also shared his experience, expressed his support for NAQA, and confirmed his readiness to be actively engaged in various formats of cooperation.

Aqim Emurli noted that the Advisory Board has a great opportunity to be meaningfully involved in NAQA's activities, as all 15 members can contribute to different areas, share their expertise, provide professional advice and recommendations, and support each other in implementing these plans. He emphasised his openness to any ideas and collaboration proposals.

Anca Prisacariu thanked all participants for their active engagement and concluded that the draft of the Annual Workplan of the Advisory Board of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA) will be prepared in an online format and shared with all members for further input and refinement.

Part 2

Date: 15 October 2025

Present:

Advisory Board Members: João Manuel Livramento Dias da Silva, Amanda McKenzie, Fadila Bentayeb, Ian Welch, Tricia Bertram Gallant, Zbigniew Marciniak

NAQA representatives: Andrii Butenko, Nataliia Stukalo, Artem Artiukhov, Oxana Trebenko, Olena Knysh, Anna Shylina, Tetiana Kovalska, Tamara Sverdlyk, Maryna Nakonecha, Lidia Fesenko, Tetiana Sabadosh,

Agenda:

1. Welcome words and NAQA Updates
2. ENQA/EQAR Review
3. Academic integrity issues
4. UQAF-2025 Reflections
5. Plans, Activities and Priorities from NAQA Advisory Board
6. Q&A and Open Discussion

Discussed:

Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice Head, informed that, considering NAQA Advisory Board members are based in different countries and time zones, preferences for the most convenient time are currently almost evenly divided between the two proposed dates. To ensure effective participation and information sharing, it was decided to hold the session in two parts: the first on 14 October, and a follow-up meeting on 15 October for those unable to attend the first one.

1. Welcome words and NAQA Updates

Andrii Butenko, Head of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA), opened the meeting by expressing his sincere gratitude and respect to all members of the Advisory Board for their active engagement, constructive dialogue, and continued commitment to supporting NAQA's mission and initiatives.

Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice Head, welcomed all participants and provided an update on the Agency's current activities and plans for the 2024–2025 academic year. She informed members that NAQA is currently planning to accredit 2,915 study programmes, including 836 for which the external evaluation had been postponed. Over the next year, NAQA aims to organise around 120 events, approximately 50 of which will be directly hosted by NAQA, while the remainder will involve the Agency as a partner or co-organiser.

She further noted that NAQA is currently implementing 12 international projects, several of them within the Erasmus+ framework, as well as other international cooperation initiatives.

Regular training sessions for experts continue to be conducted. The expected numbers of participants for the year are as follows:

- Students: over 500
- Academic and teaching staff: over 300

In terms of professional development, participation is projected as:

- Advanced training: over 200 participants
- Training on report writing: over 200 participants
- Leadership training within the Expert Council: around 100 participants

Nataliia Stukalo also presented updated materials on Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine, highlighting NAQA's ongoing efforts to enhance international cooperation and promote transparency in cross-border quality assurance processes.

Tetiana Kovalska, Specialist of the PR and International Cooperation Department, shared information about the publication “Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine: A Guide for Foreign Agencies and Ukrainian Universities”. She also reported on two webinars organised by NAQA:

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All related materials are publicly available on NAQA's official website.

2. ENQA/EQAR Review

Nataliia Stukalo then drew attention to the forthcoming External Review of NAQA, scheduled for December 2025, emphasising its strategic importance for the Agency.

Anna Shylina, Leading Specialist of the PR and International Cooperation Department, presented detailed information about the preparatory stages for the external evaluation by ENQA/EQAR.

Nataliia Stukalo noted that support from the NAQA Advisory Board members will be crucial throughout this process – particularly in the form of consultations, expert recommendations, and constructive feedback during the preparation phase.

3. Academic Integrity Issues

Artem Artiukhov, NAQA Board Member and Chair of the NAQA Ethics Committee, provided an update on the implementation of NAQA's Academic Integrity Policy. He outlined the Algorithm for reviewing reports (complaints) regarding breaches of academic integrity, explaining the main procedures and stages involved in case consideration. He also highlighted the key challenges that frequently arise in addressing such cases and discussed possible ways to improve the effectiveness and transparency of the review process.

4. UQAF-2025 Reflections

Nataliia Stukalo, NAQA Vice Head, reported on the successful organisation and outcomes of the Ukrainian Quality Assurance Forum – UQAF-2025, which attracted significant interest from the higher education community. In total, more than 1,000 registration forms were submitted, and approximately 1,000 participants attended the event, including representatives from 301 universities, 51 rectors, 109 vice-rectors, as well as students and employers.

She summarised the Forum's main working formats – panel discussions, workshops, and presentations – and presented an overview of the key discussion themes. Nataliia Stukalo also expressed her appreciation for the active involvement of international partners, including Aqim Emurli, Vice Head of the Advisory Board.

Maryna Nakonechna, Leading Specialist of the PR and International Cooperation Department, shared an overview of participants' feedback on UQAF-2025, which demonstrated a very high overall assessment of the event and underscored the value of such a platform for professional exchange and networking.

Nataliia Stukalo thanked all forum participants and international colleagues for their engagement, noting that such participation reaffirms the Forum's importance as a vibrant platform for sharing experiences and ideas. She announced that the next year's event is preliminarily planned to be held in Western Ukraine, and NAQA would be delighted to invite NAQA Advisory Board members to participate.

Tricia Bertram Gallant inquired about the current status of the Law of Ukraine on Academic Integrity.

Artem Artiukhov responded that on 18 June 2025, the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Education, Science and Innovation recommended that the Verkhovna Rada adopt the draft Law of Ukraine “On Academic Integrity” (No. 10392 of 8 January 2024) in its second reading and as a whole, subject to necessary technical and legal adjustments.

Nataliia Stukalo added that NAQA is currently awaiting the final adoption of the law.

Zbigniew Marciniak shared the experience of Polish colleagues regarding academic integrity matters and presented several cases that could be useful for NAQA in improving its procedures for reviewing reports (complaints) concerning violations of academic integrity.

Artem Artiukhov thanked him for the valuable insights and noted the differences between the Ukrainian and Polish legal frameworks concerning academic integrity.

5. Plans, Activities and Priorities from the NAQA Advisory Board

Nataliia Stukalo provided an update on the Plans, Activities and Priorities from the NAQA Advisory Board discussed at the 14 October meeting. She proposed to review the suggestions already raised and to share additional ideas to be included in the draft Annual Workplan, which will be made accessible to all Advisory Board members for contribution.

She outlined the main areas currently identified for cooperation:

- Advisory support from NAQA Advisory Board members in preparation for the external review of NAQA by the ENQA/EQAR expert panel;
- Consultancy support for Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine;
- Development of the model of institutional accreditation and the post-accreditation monitoring procedure within the system of external quality assurance in higher education;
- Consultancy support on academic integrity issues.

Additionally, she recalled the broader areas of potential Advisory Board contribution:

1. Strategic Guidance and Policy Shaping
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy
3. Quality Standards and Review Processes
4. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
5. Monitoring and Feedback
6. Project-Based Involvement
7. Regular, Meaningful Engagement

Nataliia Stukalo noted that Anca Prisacariu, Head of NAQA Advisory Board, had proposed developing the Annual Workplan of the Advisory Board of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA), which already includes several suggestions. All members are invited to contribute further ideas and comments to enhance this document.

Maryna Nakonechna presented the draft version of the document, which will be circulated to all Advisory Board members for review and input.

Nataliia Stukalo reminded participants that possible areas of collaboration had been discussed during the 14 October meeting and reaffirmed NAQA's openness to all additional proposals.

6. Q&A and Open Discussion

Ian Welch commented that training sessions and webinars for experts could be further improved and effectively implemented, expressing his readiness to contribute to the development and delivery of this initiative.

Oxana Trebenko welcomed the idea, confirming that NAQA is ready to support and implement such activities.

Zbigniew Marciniak provided his recommendations regarding the external review of NAQA by the ENQA/EQAR expert panel.

Nataliia Stukalo expressed her gratitude to all participants for a productive and substantive discussion.

The next meeting: TBC.