

## **ADA University**

### *Overview*

Located in Baku, at the center of an increasingly significant part of the world, ADA University has gone through exciting and remarkable growth since its inception. It started as Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - a training institute to meet the urgent needs of expanding diplomatic service in 2006. In September 2012 Academy moved to a new “green” and “smart” campus in Baku’s thriving downtown. Innovating at the cross section of academia, business, and public and international affairs, Academy went through a significant program expansion launching new graduate and undergraduate programs. In short period of time, Academy has grown from a small office into a state-of-the-art campus while asserting itself on the world’s academic map by attracting renowned scholars, accomplished practitioners and talented students from around the world. Distinguished by noteworthy contributions to the advancement of education, knowledge and service both in Azerbaijan and beyond, the transformation of the Academy into ADA University was legalized on January 13, 2014 when President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed a decree affirming the University status to ADA.

Today, ADA University consists of four schools. Along with School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), ADA has launched a School of Business (SB), School of Education (SE) and School of Information Technologies and Engineering (SITE). Within these Schools University offers following degree programs:

#### *Graduate programs:*

- Master of Arts in Diplomacy and International Affairs (MADIA)
- Master of Public Policy (MPP)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Executive MBA (dual degree program in partnership with Maastricht School of Management)

#### *Undergraduate programs:*

- Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (BAIS)
- Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs (BAPA)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)
- Bachelor of Science in Economics (BSE)
- Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS)
- Bachelor of IT and System Engineering (BITSE)

Also within the University has been created department of Executive Education, which provides broad range of trainings and short-term courses for national and international civil servants and representatives of national corporate sector.

In addition to academic programs, ADA has the first substantial foreign language library in Azerbaijan. It is combining research and teaching while seeking fresh insights into the challenges Azerbaijan faces as an increasingly important player on the international scene. Against this background, ADA's vision is to grow into an education institution with international status to prepare both innovative global leaders who are committed to fostering advanced research in a thought-provoking academic setting, and socially responsible citizens who will make a difference in the region and throughout the world. This vision, in turn, translates into the following four-pillar mission for the institution:

- Prepare global leaders for future;
- Promote innovation in teaching, research, learning and administration;
- Develop accountable citizenship and social responsibility;
- Expand and maintain a thriving location, where all of the above takes place.

ADA is fully committed to making a sustainable and consistent progress toward this mission. For this purpose, a concerted effort is currently being undertaken in the following six areas to foster institutional development and build foundation for sustainable operation for many years ahead:

- Continue to develop a student-centered education model;
- Develop human resources;
- Expand degree and non-degree programs;
- Develop infrastructure and library services;
- Obtain international recognition; and
- Ensure sustainable development.

Today ADA University keeps expanding its international cooperation with different Universities. Moreover, the proximity of the University to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as its close relationships with the governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations offer unparalleled opportunities for further development.

# **QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OF AZERBAIJAN**

**Duration:** 36 months

## **Summary Description:**

The Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions of Azerbaijan proposal comes from the real needs to support and strengthen quality assurance in several universities. The project intends to bring the best practice of EU Universities in issues of quality assurance management system to Azerbaijan; create comprehensive framework for quality assurance; to develop QA offices in universities; support and assist universities in getting international accreditation.

## **Objectives:**

Project's intended objectives are:

- to create frameworks for quality assurance and international accreditation
- to establish new or support development of existing offices of Quality Assurances in Higher Educations institutions in Azerbaijan;
- support the introduction and further implementation of international (OECD/UNESCO) and European standards and guidelines on Quality Assurance;
- help Universities with pre-accreditation preparation and accreditation processes;

## **Target groups**

The direct target groups of this projects is ADA University, Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan as well as several other local Universities.

## **Main Activities**

In order to achieve the aims of the project, the partnership will implement the following activities:

- A survey of Quality Assurance Offices of EU Universities to collect information on the way these Universities address the issue;
- A survey of Quality Assurance agencies in EU to collect information on the way these agencies address the QA;
- Identification of best case examples and best practices in EU Universities;
- Preparation of strategic plan and toolkit on QA for the member Universities;

- Choosing the best fitting accrediting agency in Europe and negotiate the terms and conditions for accreditation of the member universities;
- Launching the process of establishment of QA office or starting strengthening existing ones;
- Launching the process of pre-accreditation or accreditation for partner University

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Strategic plan for QA offices to follow for the next 5 years
- Common standards and procedures for QA
- QA toolkit
- Launching pre-accreditation or accreditation process
- Establishment links between accreditation agencies and partner Universities
- Final report

### **Dissemination and exploitation of results**

- Organizing two major conferences in Quality Assurance with participation of all Higher Education Institution of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Education;
- Organizing workshops for universities on issues of quality assessment and accreditation process;
- Dissemination QA procedure toolkit among HEI of Azerbaijan.

Coordinator: ADA University

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