

# Enhancing Quality and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education: The case of Kazakhstan

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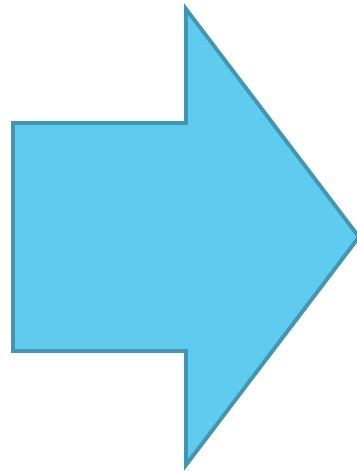
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# Kazakhstan in Bologna process: Achievements

- ✓ In 1997, Kazakhstan ratified Conventions on the Recognition of Qualifications Related to Higher Education in the European Region (*Lisbon Conventions*)
- ✓ In 1999, Kazakhstan transition to a two-tier system of higher education by adopting the Law "On Education" (*bachelor's and master's degree*)
- ✓ In 2010, introduction of three-cycle higher education system consisting bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies
- ✓ In 2011, National quality assurance system was built and it have been transferred to an independent agencies
- ✓ In 2012, National qualifications framework based on study results and ECTS
- ✓ National quality assurance system tied with National qualifications framework
- ✓ In 2019, National higher education qualifications framework and self certification report developed and presented to WG QA in Prague
- ✓ In 2020, all universities in Kazakhstan started issuance of Diploma supplement

# Challenges and measures

- ▶ **Quality imbalance between leading and regional universities**
- ▶ **The language barrier remains a serious challenge.**
- ▶ **Limited research funding**



- ✓ Academic and research excellence centers
- ✓ English-language programs and attracting foreign professors.
- ✓ Expanding integration into international research consortia
- ✓ Digital quality assurance tools and integration with global monitoring platforms



## Key achievements: Qualification recognition

- ❑ National Qualification Framework
- ❑ Full implementation of ECTS and Diploma Supplement
- ❑ Established ENIC/NARIC Kazakhstan
- ❑ Simplified recognition of diploma from leading universities
- ❑ Expansion of joint and double-degree programs

## Key achievements: Quality assurance

Accreditation is  
voluntary



**BUT, without  
accreditation** HEI not  
entitled

- ✓ To issue diploma
- ✓ To receive grants

Ministry forms  
Registers

Register 1  
List of recognized  
accreditation  
bodies

Register 2  
List of accredited  
HEI

Register 3  
List of accredited  
programs

12 accreditation  
agencies

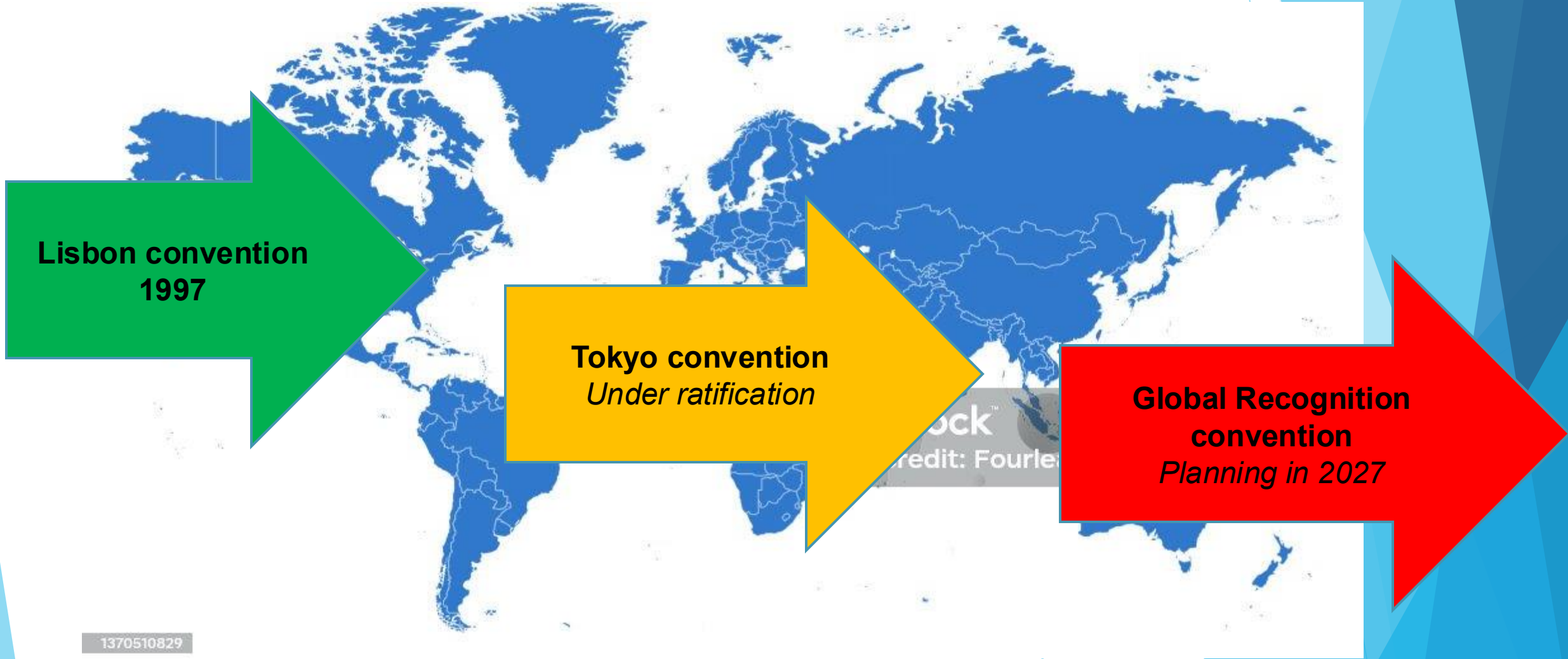
6 Kazakhstani

6 Foreign

107  
accredited  
HEI

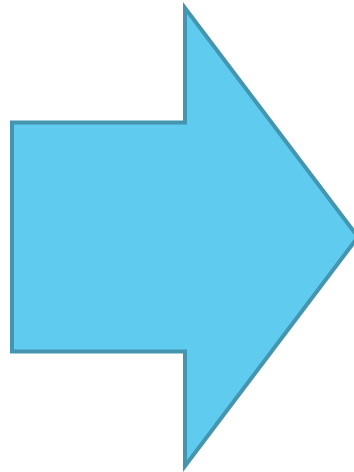
5830  
Accredited  
programs

# International conventions in QUALIFICATION RECOGNITIONS



# Challenges and measures

- ▶ Difficulties with recognition of professional qualifications
- ▶ Insufficient employer awareness of the ECTS system and international standards sometimes hinders the full use of the advantages of international diplomas.
- ▶ Recognition of non-formal and informal learning outcomes remains underdeveloped.



- ✓ Automatic recognition of diplomas
- ✓ Broad use of the Diploma Supplement in English
- ✓ Development of mechanisms for recognition of professional qualifications at the level of regional agreements

# STRATEGIC PARTNERS FORUM

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