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| **On implementation of the first stage of the Agreement** № **7185093 dated October 16, 2017** |
| **Executor:** Moscow City University |
| **Provision of services on** Expansion of the Master’s degree programme in Educational Measurement and Evaluation to one of Europe and Central Asia countries |
| **Project Executive:** Elena N. Gevorkyan, First Vice-Rector of Moscow City University, Doctor of Economics, Professor, member of the Russian Academy of Education |

**Moscow, 2018**

The project ‘Expansion of the existing Master’s degree programme in Educational Measurement and Evaluation to a country of Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region’ implemented by the Moscow City University (MCU) and supported by the World Bank, aims to facilitate the exchange of existing knowledge and capacity building at the international level in measurement and evaluation of education in the countries of Europe and Central Asia (ECA).

The project is implemented within the joint programme of Russia and the World Bank ‘Russia Education Aid for Development’ (READ). This programme includes support for improving the quality of education in developing countries through the READ 2 Trust Fund, and  Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAD) aimed at increasing capacities, provided by the World Bank in order to support education development.

This project concerns Phase I of Activity 2 of Component 2 of the READ 2 RAS — expansion of the existing Master’s degree programme in Educational Measurement and Evaluation to a country of Europe and Central Asia region (ECA).

To implement Phase I, MCU in partnership with Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University (Abai University) adapted the MCU Master’s programme to the education legislation and requirements of Abai University. MCU developed a format for an agreement on joint implementation of the network educational programme by MCU and Abai University. A series of meetings was arranged to discuss the implementation plan of the programme, training of the teaching team, and financial matters. Representatives of Abai University were invited to speak at the International Symposium ‘Education and City: Partnership for Success’, organized by the MCU, to highlight the educational needs of Kazakhstan.

Russia and former Soviet countries experience the growing demand for experts in educational measurement and evaluation. This is the result of the international tendency of implementing evaluation and classification tools in order to provide objective evaluation of education quality. This tendency is also supported by advancement of the areas stated in the Bologna process.

In the conditions of the ongoing changes in the sphere of education, the exchange and spreading of experience between the countries of the former Soviet Union, which are the closest in terms of social and economic conditions, and also due to the established traditions and mentality, is significant for the construction of a system for assessing the quality of education. Systems for education quality evaluation at partner universities, as well as in Russia, need specialists capable of analyzing domestic and international practices of developing functional literacy of students, implementing mechanisms for its improvement, preparing educational and methodological support for educational activities in this direction, designing and developing elements of the system for evaluation and monitoring of education quality.

To develop a competitive evaluation system for education quality and outcomes, Moscow City University designed a Master’s programme **'**Assessment and Monitoring of Educational Outcomes in General Education' aimed at training professionals able to develop and distribute high-quality national toolset (which may be developed in reliance on international counterparts) for education quality evaluation: taking into account the up-to-date understanding of education quality in Russia and the world. The programme is aimed at training specialists competent to develop and conduct evaluation procedures in the framework of contemporary view on education quality and its evaluation. The programme was launched at MCU in 2016, and the first graduates received their Master’s degree in the summer of 2018.

The expansion and outspread of the existing Master's programme in the field of pedagogical (educational) measurements and evaluation, adjusted within the framework of the agreement with the partner university, will partially solve the problem of deficit of specialists in measurement and evaluation of education quality in Russia and Kazakhstan (ECA).

International cooperation of universities within the project on training qualified personnel in the field of education quality evaluation will provide an opportunity to examine the following experience:

- Experience of Russiaon the development, organization and implementation of the Unified State Examination (USE); on conducting national studies of education quality (NSEQ) as regular monitoring studies, the purpose of the studies is to analyze the current state of the education system and formulate programmes for its development; some tools successfully implemented in Russian schools on assessment of education quality, such as the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale  (ECERS), the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale  (SACERS), and the Student Achievements Monitoring (SAM);

*-* Experienceof Kazakhstan in building a national system for assessing the quality of education, in interacting with the institutions that develop, support and implement the system for assessing the quality of education, in introducing the Unified National Examination.

The Independent Systems for Evaluation of the Education Quality (ISEEQ) of Kazakhstan and Russia have much in common regarding their objectives and procedures. Training specialists in education quality evaluation will provide an opportunity to exchange best practices in assessing the quality of education, encourage the community of specialists in this field, develop unified approaches to tools for measuring functional literacy and developing educational programmes in accordance with the international and national trends in the development of education.

The results of the Phase 1 of the Project include:

1. **Selection of the partner university**

The network Master’s programme will be implemented on the platforms of MCU in cooperation with Abai University.

Being one of the top universities in Kazakhstan, Abai University has been selected as partner for the project. Abai University was founded in 1928 and now takes place among top 10 universities of Kazakhstan and the first place in the teachers’ training universities rating. Abai University is a multidisciplinary center for training research and academic staff and experts in the field of teacher training, economics and business, law and international relations, social and political sciences. As a large research and educational center on teacher training in Kazakhstan, Abai University is mostly focused upon research and innovative projects in the field of pedagogical sciences; it coordinates, supports and develops the research, methodological and creative potential of the educational organizations in Kazakhstan.

Abai University provides a platform for the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Scientific and Methodical Council of the Republic's Educational and Methodological Board regarding their work on education. The academics of Abai University have developed and introduced 240 standard curriculum disciplines on the specialities of higher and postgraduate education both in Kazakh and Russian languages.

There are a number of advantages for successful implementation of research activities at the University: highly qualified academics; necessary research infrastructure; government and private financing; modern facilities. In order to integrate education, research and practice, improve the quality of staff training, Abai University has developed a research and educational infrastructure. Abai University has been engaged in 10 joint research projects with international partners.

Abai University successfully implements a Master's degree programme 'Pedagogy and Psychology'. To launch the speciality 6M012400 'Educational Measurements', in March 2018 Abai University requested the Committee for Control of Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for a a license.

The demand for such a Master's programme is defined by its emphasis on the development of the education system. Evaluation becomes the basis for making decisions at various pedagogical and management levels.

1. **Signing the agreement on implementation of a network Master's programme on education measurement and evaluation between the partner universities**

Since September 2017 the partner universities have conducted face-to-face and remote meetings to approve implementation of the Programme and its network format (joint educational activity).

As the result of the negotiations, the parties signed the Agreement on Network Implementation of Educational Programme, signed on March 20, 2018, by Artemiy I. Rozhkov, Vice-Rector for Organizational, Legal and Economic Issues of Moscow City University, and Maktagali A. Bektemisov, the First Vice-Rector of Abai University.

Another result of the negotiations was the approval of the curriculum for the Programme 'Measurement and Evaluation of Educational Outcomes in Education System' by the speciality 6M012400 'Education Measurements' on March 28, 2018, at Abai University.

The partner universities proceeded to discuss the content and implementation plan of the network Master's Programme during the face-to-face meetings at Abai University and Moscow City University in April and May, 2018.

1. **Framing the budget plan and the financial sustainability concept for the network Master's Programme**

Within the Phase I of the project, the partner universities have developed a budget plan and a financial sustainability concept for the network Master's Programme.

In accordance with the legislation on education of the Russian Federation, the joint implementation of educational programmes by two educational organizations is considered as a network form that provides an opportunity for students to learn using the resources of several educational organizations, including foreign ones, and, if necessary, resources of other organizations. This Master’s Programme consists of two parts, which assumes that it can be implemented by both MCU and Abai University. The Russian legislation on education allows foreign educational organizations to participate in network eduational programmes. The licensing requirements of Federal Law No. 273-ФЗ are not applicable to such organizations, since their activities cannot be subject for regulation by Federal Law No. 273-ФЗ. This Law does not assume that the cost (value) of such an agreement must be an essential condition of an agreement on network form of implementing educational programmes. However, according to part 3 of Article 423 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, any contract is presumed to be paid for, unless the law or other legal acts, the content or essence of the agreement do not state otherwise.

To calculate the cost (value) of the agreement on network implementation of an educational programme that assumes realization by two or more educational organizations, there is a *standard method.* The base for calculation in this case is the total amount of funds received for the implementation of the entire educational programme in relation to the corresponding amount (groups) of students. This amount of funds will be distributed between the partner universities in proportion to the volume of the educational programme they implement. To calculate this amount for educational programmes of higher education, credit units can be applied.

1. **Adapting the Master's Programme developed and implemented at MCU to the education legislation and specific requirements of the partner country and university**

The MCU staff adapted the Master's Programme on measurement and evaluation in education to the education legislation and specific requirements of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Abai University.

The adapted Master's Programme includes disciplines that comprise training of specialists able to develop, design and implement the methods of the education quality evaluation system, to unite them into a unified quality evaluation system in accordance with the international and national priorities. The Master’s programme curriculum was approved by the Rector of Abai University on March 28, 2018.

The Programme includes fundamental disciplines (pedagogy, psychology, history and philosophy of science, foreign language, methodology and procedure of education research), as well as disciplines that can be considered as electives: educational policy; history and methodology of standardization of education and the establishment of a quality evaluation system (international comparative studies); culture-historical and activity-based approaches to psychology and education; discrete and probabilistic models of structural dialectics; developmental assessment of school education quality (SAM); modern technologies of education measurements; psychological aspects of education measurements; fundamentals of education measurements: qualimetry and testology; theory of education measurements; design of measuring tools in education; construction of a toolkit for evaluating educational outcomes; world experience in arranging examinations with high stakes; trends in changes in education measurements based upon results of international comparative studies of education qualty; assessment of educational environment (SACERS); assessment of educational environment (ECERS); modern grading system in classroom; continuous education; modern approaches to assessing the quality of education; education diagnostics as a tool for development of an educational organization; methods of mathematical statistics in psychological and pedagogical studies; statistical processing of education measurements; education quality management; designing of educational systems. The programme also includes teaching and research externship.

MCU staff have adapted all educational and methodological blocks of disciplines (hereinafter referred to as the EMBD), taking into account the State Compulsory Standard of Higher and Postgraduate Education approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated August 23, 2012, No. 1080, put into effect on September 1, 2013, and approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 13 May, 2016, No. 292 'On introducing changes and amendments to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan of August 23, 2012, No. 1080 "On approval of the state compulsory standards of corresponding levels of education"' and the working curriculum for the programme '6M012400 — Education Measurements', approved on March 28, 2018. The EMBD include the following structural components: short description of a discipline — purpose, objectives; calendar-thematic plan; a map of training and methodical provision; theses of lectures; standard evaluation criteria and recommendations for conducting current knowledge monitoring. Another section describes the main education tools that ensure the quality of educational achievements of students: interactive solutions, research and project solutions, social and psychological solutions, portfolio know-how.

The Master's Programme will equip the students with the competencies in education measurement and evaluation. The graduates of the Programme will be offered to choose a trajectory of further professional development, such as:

* Evaluating educational outcomes equipped with the technologies for designing a quality evaluation system in an educational organization;
* Designing measurement tools and supporting procedures of education quality evaluation in structures that evaluate the quality of education.

Based on the contemporary international standards in education quality and in accordance with the specific practical requirements of the partner University, the partners have drawn up a list of research topics for students.

MCU developed criteria for selecting applicants to the network Programme. They must have a Master's or Bachelor's degree, or a Specialist's qualification, and at least 1 year of experience in the field of education (as advantage). The main objectives of the entrance examination are to identify the level of knowledge of pedagogy and psychology fundamentals, as well as the modern educational practices agenda, basic approaches and methods of the education quality development.

The entrance examination will be carried out in written and oral form. It consists of two parts: answering questions on pedagogy and psychology, and writing an essay, which tests applicants’ abilities to create personal statements on a specific topic and competences in fundamental psychological and pedagogical conceptual framework. The applicants will be interviewed on the content of the essay.

1. **Selecting staff to realize training courses for the network Master’s programme from the sides of MCU and Abai University**

MCU selected and invited the leading Russian experts and specialists of the partner University with experience of development and practical implementation of training courses on education quality evaluation to implement the developed Programme. The list of the team involved in the training includes: specialists of MCU and Abai University; experts of the organizations that ensure practical implementation of the obtained results: leading organizations on education quality evaluation in Russia (Federal Institute of Education Measurement, Moscow Center for Education Quality, Federal Institute for Evaluation of Education Quality, etc.). The specialists’ CVs are presented.

1. **Developing the training plan for the teaching team to conduct courses of the network Master’s Programme**

To train the staff for teaching courses of the network Master's Programme, the partner universities carried out a number of activities in April and May 2018, such as meetings and workshops to discuss the content and structure of the Master’s Programme (at MCU and Abai University), lectures and discussions on specific issues: ‘Experience of developing and applying evaluation tools at MCU (SAM, ECERS, SACERS)’, ‘Evaluation of the professional competences of graduate students of Moscow City University and teaching staff: procedures and assessment tools’, ‘Theory and practice of criteria-based assessment in the education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan’, ‘Evaluation of the preschool education quality as a development tool’, ‘SACERS scale for the quality assessment of educational environment’.

MCU together with Abai University have developed a training programme for the teaching team, aimed at acquisition of general methodological approaches to solving the Programme's tasks, of unified approaches to forms and methods of training, of approaches to development of educational content, and at implementation of distance educational technologies.

The training programme for the teaching team includes full-time and online trainings (36 hours). Full-time training includes seminars and tutorials with experts for the purpose of developing a unified approach, training duration – 16 hours (two days). Online learning is planned for 20 hours and includes the following forms of work: teleconferences, webinars, forums.

MCU presented a training plan for the teaching team who will conduct the network courses of the Master's Programme, including a detailed description of the full-time and online trainings.

**Proposals on transition to Phase II**

Thus, the staff of MCU and Abai University are ready to proceed with the next stage of the project (Phase II) — the launch of the network Master’s Programme at Abai University in the Republic of Kazakhstan (ECA country). In order to do this, the following steps must be accomplished:

- Training the teaching team to conduct the network courses of the Master's Programme based on the developed plan;

- Presenting the network Master’s Programme and confirming its contents at an international seminar;

- Obtaining the official accreditation / certification for the network Master's Programme from the national authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Abai University sent an application to the Committee for Control of Education and Science in March 2018);

- Selecting applicants and enrolling the first students for the network Master’s Programme;

- Training students of the first cycle within the network Master’s Programme.

Further implementation of the project depends on the results of the Programme licensing, namely on the decision of the Committee for Control of Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the application by Abai University requesting a license for exercising educational activities on the speciality 6M012400 'Education Measurements'.