Quality Assurance for Reform and Transformation of HEIs in Uzbekistan - QUARTZ
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Ensuring Quality in Higher Education: Lifelong Learning

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Lifelong Learning (LLL) for All

Across All Age Groups	Spans an individual's entire life, from early childhood to adulthood and beyond. Ensures learning opportunities tailored to different stages of life and career development.
Across All Education Levels	Creates connections between different education levels and pathways to include early education, primary and secondary schooling, higher education, adult education, and vocational training.
Across All Learning Modalities	Recognizes formal learning (structured education leading to qualifications), non-formal learning (alternative or supplementary learning opportunities), and informal learning (self-directed and experience-based learning).
Across All Learning Environments	Extends beyond schools to include homes, workplaces, communities, libraries, museums, and digital platforms, bridging formal education and non-formal/informal learning.
For a Variety of Purposes	Empowers individuals to reach their full potential and adapt to evolving societal and economic needs. Promotes lifelong personal, social, and professional growth while fostering inclusive and advanced societies.

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What is Lifelong Learning?

Definition: Continuous, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for personal or professional development.

Formal Learning: Structured, institution-based education (e.g., schools, universities, vocational training).

Non-Formal Learning: Organised learning outside traditional institutions (e.g., workplace training, workshops, MOOCs).

Informal Learning: Unstructured learning from daily activities (e.g., self-study, learning from experience, mentorship).

Examples:
- Online courses and certifications
- Apprenticeships and internships
- Volunteering and self-directed learning

LLL: Key Commitments of the HEIs

Embed Lifelong Learning as a Strategic Institutional Priority

Provide Inclusive and Flexible Learning Pathways

Recognise and Validate Prior Learning (RPL)

Enhance the Quality of Lifelong Learning Provision

Strengthen Partnerships with Employers and Society

Promote Interdisciplinary and Innovative Learning Approaches

 Ensure Financial Support and Sustainability for Lifelong Learning

Support Professional Development of Academic Staff

Engage in National and International Policy Dialogue

Use Research and Data to Continuously Improve Lifelong Learning

European university charter for lifelong learning adopted by EUA. https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/european-university-charter-lifelong-learning-adopted-eua

LLL: Examples of HEIs Engagement

Flexible Learning Pathways	Micro-Credentials & Short Courses	Digital transformation - Blended & Online Learning	Collaborations with Industry & Society	Lifelong Learning Support Services
Stackable degrees - modular degree programmes that allow learners to accumulate smaller credentials over time, which can later be combined into a full degree.	Micro-credentials to certify the outcomes of small, tailored learning experiences to complement the current conventional learning opportunities.	MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) - freely available online educational resources that allow learners to access knowledge without financial or institutional barriers.	Work-based learning opportunities, internships and apprenticeships	Career counselling and upskilling programmes
Recognition of prior learning	Short courses for professional development certifications	Hybrid learning models	Recognition of prior experiential learning	Alumni continuing education opportunities
	Customised corporate training	Self-paced learning platforms	Extending faculty expertise to vocational training, e.g., integrating VTC in University structures	Community engagement and public lectures

LLL: General Pitfalls

Limited Recognition: Informal and non-formal learning outcomes may not be widely recognised.

Access Barriers: High costs, digital divide, and lack of flexible learning opportunities.

Fragmented Systems: Weak connections between different education and training systems hinder smooth transitions.

Trust Issues: Employers and institutions may not fully trust non-traditional learning pathways.

Time Constraints: Balancing learning with work and personal responsibilities.

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LLL: Future Development

Digital Transformation & Flexible Learning Pathways
- Increased use of online learning platforms and AI-driven education tools.
- Microcredentials and stackable degrees gaining acceptance.

Policy Innovations
- Strengthening national qualifications frameworks (NQFs) linked to European qualifications frameworks (EQF).
- Promotion of validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Stronger Integration
- Enhanced coherence between higher education, vocational training, and lifelong learning.
- Greater employer involvement in designing flexible learning pathways.

Support Mechanisms
- Financial aid for learners
- Workplace learning incentives
- Guidance and counselling services

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Thank you for your attention!

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