

Date: 8th of May, 2018 The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation Official Municipal Post – 3, Tverskaya St. 11, Russia, 125993 Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation – Head of the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science Sergey Kravtsov Re: INQAAHE co-organized regional consultation meeting in the Eastern Europe within the frames of the UNESCO Global Conference on Quality Assurance initiative

Dear Mr. Kravtsov,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for Your Excellency's generous hospitality and contribution to the success of the INQAAHE co-organized regional consultation meeting under the auspices of UNESCO in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, entitled: *The role of quality assurance in higher education: challenges, developments and trends.*

When a function such as our stakeholders' meeting is a success, the credit goes to the hosts. Your Excellency's wise leadership, outstanding organisation and gracious hospitality of the event resulted in an immensely successful event with commendations for excellence from most, if not all, of the participants. Among other benefits, the consultation meeting has laid a firm foundation for extending the INQAAHE's contribution in the region in terms of promoting credibility, quality, and international visibility of the HE systems.

The role and contribution of the National Accreditation Agency (NAA) and AKKORK team have been exemplary under the lead of Lemka Izmaylova and Erika Soboleva respectively. Indeed, this is a strong manifestation of valued partners in making the INQAAHE' mission as a global enhancement platform a success. Your hospitality does serve as an excellent model for future events. Further, I would like to extend my special gratitude to NAA and AKKORK for the invaluable input to the INQAAHE organized Global Study on external and internal quality assurance, particularly for their inputs in the regional study on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Global Study is the first ever study on the QA worldwide and we hope it sheds light on the crucial aspects to be capitalized on for the future success of HE systems. Once again, we thank Your Excellency for the exceptional organisation, generous hospitality and invaluable contribution to the success of the event. INQAAHE would be honoured to share our expertise in any matter that would serve the higher education systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in general, and that of Russia, in particular.

Yours faithfully, Susanna Karakhanyan, PhD INQAAHE President