

The Impact of Global University Rankings on Higher Education Management and Policy in Kazakhstan

Aida Sagintayeva^{1,*} and Kairat Kurakbayev²

Abstract

This paper discusses the relevance of global ranking systems as a policy instrument of strategic planning, quality management and public accountability of higher education institutions (HEI) in Kazakhstan. Being one of the world's fastest growing economies, Kazakhstan has set priorities on developing a knowledge-based society for global competition. Celebrating its 20th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union, the nation has become the first of five Central-Asian countries to introduce its higher education institutions in global rankings. Yet, there is little empirical work or theoretical treatment of the influence of global rankings on the government's educational policy of Central Asian states. In addition, both the increasing impact of global and national rankings of HEIs in Kazakhstan and the government's decision to motivate local academic institutions to take top tiers in global ranking systems prompt us to better understand how higher education institutions respond to the rankings.

Keyword: Kazakhstan; Global Rankings; Higher Education

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^{1,*} Aida Sagintayeva: Director, Centre for Educational Policy, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan; E-mail: asagintayeva@nu.edu.kz

² Kairat Kurakbayev: Senior Research Manager, Centre for Educational Policy, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan; E-mail: kkurakbayev@nu.edu.kz