



RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

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School of Mining and Geosciences News

HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY-NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY SATREPS GRANT

1. BACKGROUND

Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable (SATREPS) is a science and technology diplomacy initiative that promotes international joint research using advanced science and technology from Japan in partnership with Kazakh Agency for International Development (KazAID) Official Development Assistance (ODA). SATREPS is a collaboration between Japan Science and Technology (JST) Agency, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) supported by the Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

For FY2024, JST called for SATREPS project proposals from researchers in Japan in three research fields—Environment/Energy, Bioresources, and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. **A total of 64 proposals were submitted by the close of applications on October 23rd, 2023.** The screening committee, composed of external experts, then reviewed the proposals and conducted interviews, including review from an ODA perspective, and provisionally selected 10 new projects, comprising five projects collaborating with Asian researchers, three projects with African researchers, and two projects with European researchers.

2. THE HOKKAIDO - NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY PROPOSAL



Figure 1. The co-applicants with the founding President of Nazarbayev University (left- Professor Fidelis Suorineni; Middle- Mr. Shigeo Katsu and Right- Professor Kawamura (8th June 2023).

Among the 10 selected projects is the one submitted by Professor Yohei Kawamura of Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan and Professor Fidelis Suorineni of Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan entitled: **“Next-generation Smart Mining Plus for Sustainable Resources Development”**.

This is the first time a project involving the Republic of Kazakhstan was selected, bringing the total number of countries selected for SATREPS projects to 57.

2.1 PROJECT DURATION AND VALUE

The duration of the project is five (5) years starting on 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2030, and the total value of the grant is US\$3.2million.

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The development of underground resources such as rare metals is essential to the realization of a decarbonized society. On the other hand, environmental destruction, such as carbon emissions and groundwater pollution from mining operations themselves, is a serious problem on a global scale. Kazakhstan is a natural resource-rich country with a wealth of underground resources, including rare metals, but its mining operations are causing environmental destruction. A sustainable mining development system that does not cause environmental destruction in Kazakhstan is indispensable for industrial development and improvement of the quality of life of the people. This research aims to contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society and measures against environmental destruction, which should become the norm for the global mining industry, through the construction and diffusion of a super-managed, environmentally conscious mine development system that utilizes smart mining technology and mine environment management technology, in which Japan has an advantage. The specific objectives of the project are:

1. Construction of an Environmental Monitoring System for Mines and Surrounding Areas Value
2. Construction and Implementation of a Digital Twin (Cyber Space)
3. On-Site Testing of Pollution Control and Immediate Treatment Technology, and
4. Institutional Design for «Smart Mining+» (including public awareness and understanding)

At the end of the project AltynGold PLC will serve as an example of a real sustainable, environmentally friendly model mine for Kazakhstan and central Asia to emulate.

3. NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY PROJECT TEAM

The Nazarbayev University project team led by Professor Fidelis Suorineni was identified based on the objectives of the project with participants from three Schools, namely:

School of Mining and Geosciences (SMG)

- Professor Fidelis Suorineni (Co-Applicant and Project Leader for Kazakhstan)
- Associate Professor Sergei Sabanov
- Dr George Mathews

School of Engineering and Digital Sciences (SEDS)

- Professor Huseyin Atakan Varol (Director of ISSAI)
- Professor Stavros Pouloupoulos

Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP)

- Dr Stefanos Xenaros (Adjunct Professor)

4. JAPAN PROJECT TEAM

The Japan side project team is lead by Professor Yohei Kawamura of Hokkaido University and consists of the following organizations in Japan that includes technology developers and providers, namely:

Hokkaido University

- Professor Yohei Kawamura (Co-Applicant and Project Leader for Japan)

Akita University

- Professor Tsuyoshi Adachi
- Mr. Daulet Sagzhanov (PhD candidate and employee of Kazakhstan Ministry of Industry and Construction)

Tsukuba University

- Professor Itaru Kitahara

National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology

- Professor Tetsuo Yasutaka

The project requires a physical mine in Kazakhstan and AltynGold PLC mine in Oskemen is with Mr. Talgat Irsaliyev (Managing Director) as the research collaborating partner.



Figure 2. Meeting of the project partners: Japanese delegation, Professor Fidelis Suorineni and AltynGold PLC management at the mine site in Oskemen (9th August 2024).

5. BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT TO NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY AND KAZAKHSTAN

The project is of enormous benefit to Nazarbayev University and Kazakhstan, and it is strongly supported by the NU management and government of the Republic of Kazakhstan through the Ministry of Industry and Construction.

Nazarbayev University will benefit from grant through equipment, faculty exchange and training graduate students and technologists:

5.1 EQUIPMENT

Under the grant NU will receive the following equipment:

1. Virtual Reality (VR) facility: A 360-degree Advanced Visualization and Interaction Environment (AVIE) theater – Extremely useful for academic and public relations including:
 - Research*
 - Teaching*,
 - Training* and
 - Public relations (PR): NU achievements, Virtual access to places of interest in Kazakhstan including archaeological sites and culture, Space and undersea exploration.

**Any school can use, and mining companies can rent to study and understand their data (e.g. exploration data) and mine performance.*

2. Electron probe micro analyzer (EPMA)

The Electron Probe Micro Analyzer (EPMA) is used for quantitative micro- analysis of various materials. This non-destructive technique has wide applications in materials engineering, mineralogy, biology, forensic analysis etc. It will add to more advance capabilities to cutting edge research equipment capacity of NU.

3. High speed camera
4. Smart sensors for surface and underground environmental monitoring, including water bodies, soil and plants.

Nazarbayev University will continue to have custody of the equipment at the AltynGold and access to data for research purposes at the end of the project. The necessary documentations including and MOU and NDA with AltynGold PLC are under preparation.

5.2 PERSONNEL TRAINING

The grant includes faculty, graduate and students and staff training in the two countries in an exchange program depending on need.

The project teams acknowledge the support of JST, JICA, The Ministry of Industry and Construction, AltynGold PLC and the Management of both Hokkaido University and Nazarbayev University for their strong support of the project.



School of Engineering and Digital Sciences News

NU SEDS ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2025 TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING AND DIGITAL SCIENCES!



As a part of Nazarbayev University's 15th-year celebrations, we are excited to welcome you to the *NU SEDS Annual Research Conference – «Transforming the Future of Engineering and Digital Sciences Research in Central Asia»* – taking place on April 10-11, 2025. After two years of hosting the NU SEDS Annual Research Week, we are thrilled to announce that this year, the event has evolved into a conference format. As in previous years, the event will be dedicated to celebrating Kazakhstan Science Workers' Day on April 12, honoring the vital contributions of scientists and researchers in Kazakhstan.

The inaugural Annual School of Engineering and Digital Sciences Research Conference is a significant event that brings together

prominent researchers, academicians, and students. The conference theme, *«Transforming the Future of Engineering and Digital Sciences Research in Central Asia»* emphasizes the collaborative spirit that fosters research, creativity, and advancement.

The NU SEDS Annual Research Conference will span two days and include a diverse range of activities, such as:

- **Plenary Sessions:** Featuring 7 distinguished speakers from around the world
- **Workshops:** Exploring cutting-edge topics in engineering and digital sciences
- **Poster Exhibitions:** Showcasing groundbreaking research from the SEDS community
- **SEDS Voices:** A platform for faculty members to share their latest research insights
- **Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition:** Presenting research in a concise and engaging format
- **Research Excellence Awards:** Recognizing outstanding contributions from students in the field

The conference is free to attend, but registration is required.

For registration and full details of the program, including information about the speakers, session topics, and locations, please visit the official [webpage](#).

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY SHARES AI IN SPORTS RESEARCH AT OCA SEMINAR



Researchers from Nazarbayev University (NU) recently took part in the [OCA Seminar](#) on AI Technology and E-Sports held in Kuwait City on February 22. During the event, Associate Professor Prashant Jamwal and master's student Yenlik Ultrarkova, who is also an IOC Young Leader, presented their work on using artificial intelligence to improve swimmer training programs.

The seminar brought together experts from across the region to discuss how AI can support athlete performance and training. NU's presentation focused on how smart technologies can help tailor training to individual athletes, with the goal of making training more effective and data-driven.

After the seminar, [NU representatives met with officials from the National Olympic Committee \(NOC\) of Kazakhstan](#) to talk about future cooperation. The NOC expressed interest in supporting science-driven approaches in sports and highlighted the growing role of AI in areas like athlete development and refereeing.

The meeting also included a discussion about Kazakhstan's involvement in international sports initiatives, with Yenlik Ultrarkova sharing her experience in the IOC Young Leaders Program. Both sides agreed on the importance of continuing collaboration to support research that can benefit athletes and sports professionals in Kazakhstan.



NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY | Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence

A REVIEW OF RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS

The first quarter of 2025 has been distinguished by a number of significant achievements and milestones for the Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence (ISSAI).

It is important to highlight that ISSAI consistently dedicates itself to advancing generative AI in Kazakhstan, making invaluable contributions on a daily basis. Beyond the notable events, the Institute is unwavering in its commitment to the development of various other projects, continuously growing in this field. Furthermore, there is an increasing interest in the Institute's work from governmental and quasi-governmental bodies, the private sector, and the wider public. In light of this, ISSAI is always honored to present its endeavors and accomplishments to esteemed guests.



On February 25, 2025, Nazarbayev University President, Professor Waqar Ahmad, hosted a reception for the ISSAI team

In this article, we are pleased to present the most noteworthy of ISSAI's achievements.

WORLD-LEADING AI EXPERT DR. KAI-FU LEE VISITED ISSAI



On January 11, 2025, ISSAI had the honor of welcoming Dr. Kai-Fu Lee, Chairman and CEO of Sinovation Ventures, one of China's leading venture capital companies and a global expert in AI.

ISSAI Founding Director, Prof. Atakan Varol welcomed esteemed guests and introduced key attendees of the meeting, including Nazarbayev University President Prof. Waqar Ahmad, Vice Minister of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan Ms. Dinara Chsheglova, NU Vice President Darkhan Bilyalov, ISSAI Executive Director Yerbol Absalyamov, and ISSAI Deputy Director of External Affairs and Product Madina Abdrakhmanova.

ISSAI's major research areas and key projects were presented by Madina Abdrakhmanova. She outlined ISSAI's pivotal role in advancing AI in Kazakhstan, highlighting speech and natural language processing technologies for the Kazakh language, along with significant progress in fields such as computer vision, augmented reality, and virtual reality. One of the highlights was ISSAI's first commercial AI product the Soyle App a multifunctional application for speech recognition, voice synthesis, and text and speech translation into four Kazakh, Russian, English, and Turkish languages. Madina also demonstrated a live demo of the Soyle App and Aibike, a photo-realistic digital avatar that interacts in Kazakh to Dr. Lee. The presentation then focused on the ISSAI Kaz-LLM project, with explanation of how ISSAI successfully developed and trained large language models with 8 billion and 70 billion parameters.

Dr. Kai-Fu Lee was highly impressed by the quality of ISSAI's projects, acknowledging the complexity of data collection and development involved. He praised the team for their accomplishments and engaged in a productive discussion about future collaboration opportunities. Dr. Lee concluded his visit by wishing ISSAI continued success.

ISSAI LAUNCHES ITS GROUNDBREAKING LANGUAGE-VISION MODEL OYLAN IN PILOT MODE



ISSAI HAS TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT LEAP FORWARD IN THE FIELD OF AI WITH THE LAUNCH OF OYLAN.

Oylan is a powerful model that can process both images and text, and it operates seamlessly in Kazakh, English, and Russian languages. This multilingual capability makes it highly versatile and positions it to have a major impact within Kazakhstan.

To train Oylan, ISSAI researchers developed the largest dataset ever created in Kazakhstan. This massive dataset includes over 10 million images and 50 million question-answer pairs, all meticulously tailored to the specific linguistic, cultural, and economic needs of the country. Oylan can be applied to various domains, including education, healthcare, industry and finance.

Despite limited computational resources, the ISSAI team developed innovative techniques to train Oylan efficiently. The public can now explore Oylan's capabilities through its pilot launch on the ISSAI Playground at oylan.nu.edu.kz, which also features voice interaction for a more intuitive experience. Additionally, developers can leverage Oylan's functionalities by accessing its API for integration into their solutions.

ISSAI SHOWCASED THE OYLAN LANGUAGE VISION MODEL AND SOYLE APP AT THE DIGITAL ALMATY 2025 IN ITS 6-SQUARE-METER BOOTH



From January 31 to February 1, 2025, ISSAI team participated in the Digital Almaty 2025 forum. The team led by Founding Director, Prof. Atakan Varol presented significant projects of the Institute.

ISSAI's dense booth attracted a diverse audience of experts, international guests, developers, students, and AI enthusiasts. ISSAI exhibition focused on the demonstration of the Soyle App, a multifunctional application for speech recognition, voice synthesis, and text and speech translation capabilities in Kazakh,

Russian, English, and Turkish, as well as Oylan, a powerful generative AI model that can process images and substantially surpass text processing capabilities of ISSAI's former language model KAZ-LLM.

Discussions spanned the applications of the Soyle App, Oylan, and other ISSAI innovations, exploring potential solutions for the banking, education, industry, and B2B and B2C markets

Guests actively engaged with the demonstrations, with notable attendees like Yuji Belez, a popular Japanese blogger with more than 4 million followers on Instagram and TikTok. As a big fan of the Kazakh language and culture, Yuji participated enthusiastically in the Soyle App demonstration, especially appreciating its translation and voice-over capabilities, and expressed his intention to recommend it to his followers.

On the second day, the ISSAI booth continued to draw significant attention from numerous visitors, including representatives from QazaqGas, Tengizchevroil, Kazakhtelecom, Samruk Kazyna, and the Telecommunication Company of Iran, among others. Distinguished guest Professor Emeritus Koichi Koganezawa from Tokai University commended the high quality of the Oylan model and expressed best wishes to the ISSAI team.

Throughout the forum, the ISSAI team received valuable feedback, identifying areas for enhancement in Soyle App and Oylan. The event underscored the genuine interest in ISSAI's projects, with many attendees present specifically to learn about the Institute's innovations and engage with the team.

ISSAI remains committed to advancing artificial intelligence in Kazakhstan and will strive to create groundbreaking AI models using local intellectual talent despite lack of research funds for this field.

For more information about research at ISSAI, please visit their [website](#).



NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY'S TACTILE ROBOTICS LAB TO HOST SPECIAL SESSION ON HAPTICS AND TACTILE ROBOTICS AT CLAWAR 2025

As part of an international research collaboration between Kazakh and Chinese scientists under the SZTU-NU grant led by Prof. Qiang Li and Prof. Zhanat Kappassov, Nazarbayev University's Tactile Robotics Lab will organize a special session on Tactile Robotics and Haptics at the upcoming [CLAWAR 2025 conference](#). This marks the lab's first time hosting a dedicated session at CLAWAR, a prestigious global platform focused on Climbing and Walking Robots and the Support Technologies for Mobile Machines.

The session will bring together leading experts from North American and European institutions, further strengthening NU's collaboration with top universities in China, including Shenzhen Technology University (SZTU). With a spotlight on the evolving intersection of AI, vision-language-action (VLA) models, and physical interaction, the session will explore how tactile sensing and haptic feedback are crucial to developing dexterous, responsive, and intelligent robotic systems. Topics will include the latest innovations in haptics, tactile perception, assistive robotics, and human-robot interaction, with the aim of advancing global dialogue and joint research in these transformative areas.

Learn more about the session at [NU Tactile Lab](#) website.



Prof. Zhanat Kappassov



School of Sciences and Humanities News

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY TO HOST ISAAC-2025: A GLOBAL GATHERING OF LEADING MATHEMATICIANS



ISAAC CONGRESS
ASTANA | 2025

Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev University is set to become the global hub for cutting-edge mathematical research as it hosts the ISAAC-2025 International Congress from July 21 to 25, 2025. ISAAC, *the International Society for Analysis, its Applications and Computation* - is a global non-profit scientific organization established to promote and advance analysis, its applications, and its interaction with computation. This prestigious event will bring together over 1,000 mathematicians and researchers from around the world, offering an unparalleled platform for innovation, collaboration, and discovery.

Organized by NU School of Sciences and Humanities, the congress will feature an elite lineup of speakers, including Fields Medalists, presidents of leading mathematical societies, and pioneers in key areas such as artificial intelligence, biomathematics, and neural networks.



The event will serve as a vital meeting point for experts shaping the future of mathematics across disciplines. With a rich scientific program, dynamic discussions, and networking opportunities, ISAAC-2025 invites scholars, researchers, and students to be part of this landmark event in the heart of Central Asia.

On behalf of the Astana ISAAC 2025 Organizing Committee, Durvudkhan Suragan, Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Nazarbayev University, was selected to serve as the Chairman.

For more information and registration please visit the [ISAAC-2025](#) main website.

NU PROFESSOR WINS SECOND PLACE AT DEEPTech BAIGE WITH AI-POWERED STROKE REHABILITATION PLATFORM



Professor Alexandr Pak from Biology Department took home second place at the Deeptech Baige final pitch competition, earning a prize of 10 million tenge for the innovative project [FLECTION.AI](#) - a digital therapeutic system designed to support post-stroke rehabilitation through AI-powered, gamified treatment.

Held at NU and attended by Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Yermek Kosherbayev, the competition brought together the top 10 startups from NU's diverse support programs, including Jas Venture, Go Abroad, and others. FLECTION.AI impressed the jury with its successful pilot involving over 200 patients in Astana clinics, and the team now has its sights set on entering the U.S. home rehab market.

The event marked the culmination of a rigorous selection process from nearly 100 applications, highlighting NU's growing role in supporting cutting-edge research and deeptech entrepreneurship. All finalists received mentorship and industry partnership opportunities, with plans already underway to scale Deeptech Baige nationally and establish it as a regular platform for university-led innovation.



Graduate School of Public Policy

GSPP PROFESSOR EXPLORES THE LINK BETWEEN SECURITY AND WELLBEING IN KAZAKHSTAN



Dr. Dina Sharipova
Associate Professor
GSPP

Dr. Alma Kudebayeva (KIMEP) and Dr. Dina Sharipova (NU) have published a new article titled *“Happiness in the Steppe: Exploring the Connection Between Security and Wellbeing in Kazakhstan”* in the February 2025 issue of *Post-Communist Economies*.

The article examines how perceived security - protection from violence, fraud, assault, and theft—relates to subjective wellbeing (SWB) in Kazakhstan. Using data from the Kazakhstan Household Budget Survey (N = 12,000), the study explores:

- Changes in wellbeing from 2018 to 2021,
- The impact of perceived security on life satisfaction, and
- Differences in wellbeing across regions affected by the 2022 riots and those that were not.

The authors found that overall wellbeing in Kazakhstan improved over the study period. Importantly, individuals who felt more secure reported higher life satisfaction. The study suggests that addressing perceptions of security could be a valuable pathway for policymakers seeking to enhance public wellbeing and reduce potential risks.

To read the full article proceed with the following [link](#).



Graduate School of Education

EDUCATION PROFESSOR GIVES INVITED RESEARCH TALKS IN MOROCCO

BY BRIDGET GOODMAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION, NUGSE



I was invited by Brian Seilstad, Director of Internationalization and Partnerships at Al Akhawayn University Ifrane (AUI) in Morocco, for a site visit February 21-28. We spoke with three groups of undergraduate and graduate students at AUI about theoretical and practical aspects of conducting research as multilingual scholars or with multilingual participants. We repeated this talk for the Applied Human Sciences Research Laboratory in Fes, Morocco and the Itqan Foundation for Research in Human and Social Sciences in Rabat, Morocco.



Presenters and attendees of a research talk in Fes

The lessons in the presentation stemmed from the book, [*Researching Multilingually: Conceptual and Methodological Failures, Struggles, and Successes*](#) for which we served as both co-editors and chapter contributors. The book appeared in print in January 2025. As part of the requested book promotion activities from the publisher, Multilingual Matters, we also used the time in Ifrane to record a “*Behind the Book*” video for the Multilingual Matters Youtube channel. We then engaged in a [hybrid discussion](#) with the series editors Richard Fay, Senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester, UK and Prue Holmes, Professor of Education at the University of Durham, UK. The conversation gave the series editors and audience members a chance to reflect and ask questions about the content of the book and applications to teaching and research practice.



Presenters and attendees of a research talk in Rabat

Of particular note during that discussion was concern about how to convince hard science researchers about the importance of multilingual awareness and “postmonolingual lenses” that recognize the power dynamics among languages and create space for multilingual identity and self-expression – for students, collaborators, and themselves - in the processes of research and publication.

AUI, like NU, is a well-resourced university with an emphasis on high levels of English language development and intellectual curiosity. It has an MOU with

Nazarbayev University and a former NU engineering professor on its faculty. Thus, much of the remaining time of the visit was spent talking about the teaching and research environment at the two universities and considering ways to support each other in student exchange, student recruitment, future research collaboration, or reciprocal site visits.



Co-editors and authors Brian Seilstad (left) and GSE professor Bridget Goodman (right) with their new book *Researching Multilingually: Conceptual and Methodological Failures, Struggles, and Successes*

“*Al Akhawayn*” is an Arabic word which means “*two brothers*” in honor of the joint Saudi-Moroccan venture which established the university. It is hoped that AUI and NU will also be two brother universities going forward from this visit.



CARCEIT news

The Central Asian Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Transformation (CARCEIT) is dedicated to advancing education research and innovation in Central Asia. As part of the Graduate School of Education at Nazarbayev University, CARCEIT aims to shape global knowledge, influence education policy and leadership, and build a robust regional research community. CARCEIT is dedicated to driving innovation and transformation of educational practices across the region.

Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2025, I am delighted to share the remarkable progress our research centre has made in just two years since its inception. Guided by our vision to become an international hub for educational research in Central Asia, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering research-informed innovation in policy and practice, as well as strengthening regional networks for systemic change.

This quarter has been particularly impactful. Our team has produced high-quality publications aimed at both policymakers and scholars, bridging the gap between research and practice. Through numerous knowledge exchange and capacity-building initiatives, we have expanded our reach, engaging with educators, researchers, and leaders across Kazakhstan and beyond.

A special highlight was the recognition bestowed upon us by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science of Kazakhstan, including prestigious medals and awards—an honour that underscores the relevance and rigour of our work. These achievements would not have been possible without the support of our partners, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

As we continue to grow, we invite you to join us in shaping the future of education in our region. Follow us on social media to stay updated on our latest research, events, and opportunities for collaboration. Together, we can transform the educational landscape—one innovation, one partnership at a time.

With gratitude and shared purpose,



Professor Naureen Durrani

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

National report on the state and progress of the education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Team members of the ICEP 2, "Nurturing Young Minds: Exploring the Role of Positive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the Health and Well-being of Young Children in Kazakhstan," contributed to the 2023 National Report on the State and Progress of the Education System of the Republic of Kazakhstan, authoring the section on ECEC. The analysis covered areas: (1) access to services; (2) quality of educational content; (3) evaluation and monitoring systems; (4) teaching workforce development; (5) infrastructure improvement. Their recommendations focus on equity and quality in ECEC by maintaining mini-centres in underserved areas, using GIS-based analyses to address demand-supply mismatches, and enhancing parental engagement. They also propose improving teacher qualifications, optimizing professional development, and aligning salaries with the national average. Standardized data collection and monitoring, tracking teacher satisfaction, retention, and workload, are essential for data-driven decisions. The National Report is available in three languages and can be accessed here: <https://taldau.edu.kz/publikaciya/nacionalnyj-doklad-o-sostoyanii-i-razviii-sistemy-obrazovaniya-respubliki-kazahstan-po-itogam-2023-goda>

National Centre for Education Research and Evaluation named after A. Baitursynuly "Taldau." (2025, January 6). *National report on the state and progress of the education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2023.*

Navigating transformations: Early childhood education and care in Kazakhstan

As part of the ICEP 2 project "Nurturing Young Minds: Exploring the Role of Positive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the Health and Well-being of Young Children in Kazakhstan," a new chapter titled "*Navigating Transformations: Early Childhood Education and Care in Kazakhstan*" has been published. The chapter provides a systematic review of ECEC policy and practice developments, tracing its evolution from the Soviet era to the present. It highlights lessons from the review in order to make recommendations for the model of ECEC in Kazakhstan.

Kulsary, A., Ibrayeva, L., & Hernández-Torrano, D. (2025). Navigating transformations: Early childhood education and care in Kazakhstan. In M. Makoelle & K. Kurakbayev (Eds.), *Teachers and teacher education in the post-Soviet context of Kazakhstan* (pp. 270–294). Brill. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004726345>

Systematic Review Protocol on the effects of PPIs on Young Children’s well-being

A recently published Q1 journal article within the ICEP 2 project “Nurturing Young Minds: Exploring the Role of Positive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the Health and Well-being of Young Children in Kazakhstan” presents a systematic review protocol focused on evaluating the effects of Positive Psychological Interventions (PPIs) on the mental health and well-being of children aged 0–7 years. While PPIs are gaining momentum as promising approaches to support child development, their effectiveness in early childhood remains uncertain. This PROSPERO-registered review (CRD42024518222) applies rigorous and transparent methods to synthesize evidence from multiple databases. The findings are expected to inform research, policy, and practice aimed at enhancing the flourishing of young children in educational and care settings.

Hernández-Torrano, D., Vella-Brodrick, D., Ibrayeva, L., Sergazina, M., Lewis, K., Burambayeva, A., & Kulsary, A. (2025). *Effects of positive psychological interventions on young children's mental health and well-being: A systematic review protocol*. *International Journal of Educational Research Open*, 9, 100135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedro.2025.100463>

Exploring assessment in Kazakhstani pre-service teacher education

CARCEIT Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Zhadyra Makhmetova published a book chapter titled “*Exploring Assessment in Kazakhstani Pre-Service Teacher Education*.” This chapter examines how Kazakhstani primary pre-service teachers (PTs) learn about and make sense of educational assessment during their university training. The study reveals that PTs’ understanding of assessment is shaped by their experiences as school pupils, university students, and student-teachers, leading to a multifaceted, but often control- and accountability-oriented, view of assessment. The chapter offers important implications for theory, policy, and the design of teacher education programs in Kazakhstan.

Makhmetova Zh. (2025). Exploring assessment in Kazakhstani pre-service teacher education. In M. Makoelle & K. Kurakbayev (Eds.), *Teachers and teacher education in the post-Soviet context of Kazakhstan* (pp. 314–337). Brill. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004726345_016

Environmental sustainability in healthcare: A qualitative study of the perspectives of nursing, medical and public health students in Kazakhstan

The study “Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare: A Qualitative Study of the Perspectives of Nursing, Medical and Public Health Students in Kazakhstan” published in *Nurse Education in Practice* (Q1 journal in education and general nursing categories), emphasized the five themes, which are the “impact of the environment on health,” “environmental sustainability practices in healthcare care,” “the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in environmental sustainability in healthcare,” “intrinsic motivation to engage in environmental sustainability practices in healthcare” and “challenges and barriers to practising environmental sustainability in healthcare” (Balay-odao et al., 2024). The study recommends embedding environmental sustainability into the curriculum of future healthcare professionals. The idea may be achieved through interdisciplinary collaboration and internal motivation building, and then health education can fully prepare students to be leaders in sustainable practice during their careers. The results further indicate that educators and policymakers will prioritize sustainability in healthcare education to prepare future healthcare professionals to meet environmental challenges in this area.

Balay-odao, E. M., Colet, P. C., Almazan, J. U., Kuntuganova, A., Syzdykova, A., Kavashev, Z., Smagulova, M., Dauletkaliyeva, Z., Seidakhmetova, A., & Cruz, J. P. (2024). Environmental sustainability in healthcare: A qualitative study of the perspectives of nursing, medical and public health students in Kazakhstan. *Nurse Education in Practice*, 76, 103917.

Perspectives of Healthcare Practitioners on Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare: A Qualitative Study

The other study, “Perspectives of Healthcare Practitioners on Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare: A Qualitative Study,” published in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (Q1 in general nursing category), highlights the “Environmental Sustainability Practices in Healthcare,” “Purposes of Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare,” “Impact of Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare in Patients,” “Challenges in Implementing Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare” and “The Role of Healthcare Leadership in Improving Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare” (Cruz et al., 2024). According to the study, strong healthcare leadership and organizational commitment are the driving forces behind the practice of environmental sustainability in healthcare. Further, the study emphasized that policymakers and healthcare leaders should establish a policy to integrate healthcare sustainability practices into the organization.

Cruz, J. P., Balay-odao, E. M., Almazan, J. U., Manabat, A., Smagulova, M., Kavashev, Z., Gusmanov, A., Syzdykova, A., Dauletkaliyeva, Z., Seidakhmetova, A., & Colet, P. C. (2024). Perspectives of healthcare practitioners on environmental sustainability in healthcare: A qualitative study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.16327>

CONFERENCES

The **Regional Universities Team's** proposal for the **CIES 2025 Conference** has been **accepted**. The paper, titled "**Understanding Identity, Hierarchy, and Rationality in Kazakhstani Regional Universities through Their Strategic Plans**" ([link](#)), explores key institutional dynamics shaping regional universities in Kazakhstan.

This study explores how 15 regional universities in Kazakhstan develop their identities, organizational structures, and strategic goals through their development programs. Using Seeber et al.'s (2014) framework, the analysis reveals how these universities navigate national policies, global pressures, and local challenges. The findings highlight a shift toward New Public Management and show how strategic plans reflect identity, hierarchy, and rationality, offering insights into the evolving roles of regional universities in post-Soviet contexts.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Methodological Perspectives on the Study of Child and Youth Well-Being in Kazakhstan: Historical Trends and Current Research



On March 4, 2025, Dr Daniel Hernández-Torrano, Professor of NUGSE and post-doctoral research fellows of CARCEIT, Dr Laura Ibrayeva and Dr Zhadyra Makhmetova were speakers at the scientific and methodological seminar “*Methodological Perspectives on the Study of Child and Youth Well-Being in Kazakhstan: Historical Trends and Current Research,*” hosted by Astana IT University.

Professor Daniel Hernández-Torrano and Dr Laura Ibrayeva presented research on mental health challenges among university students, emphasizing the importance of support services, coping strategies, and institutional interventions to enhance student well-being. Dr Zhadyra Makhmetova presented research on well-being in Kazakhstani schools during emergency times. Their insights contributed to a broader discussion on fostering well-being in educational settings. The event, organized by Astana IT University’s Department of General Education Disciplines, brought together experts from NUGSE, CARCEIT, UNICEF, and Astana IT University. Discussions covered key challenges, including school autonomy, gender disparities in well-being, and professional development for crisis management. This seminar reinforced the need for continued interdisciplinary research and policy-driven solutions to support the well-being of children and youth in Kazakhstan.

Spreading Hope and Peace: Positive Peace Education Project Gains Media Recognition and Engages Communities Across Kazakhstan

Beyond academic writing, the Positive Peace Education team has been actively working on community engagement and dissemination. They regularly update the public on the project's progress through social media, ensuring the accessibility and visibility of their work. Project member Aizat Arystanbek has been sharing regular updates on Instagram ([@positivepeace.kz](https://www.instagram.com/positivepeace.kz)) and [LinkedIn](#), helping to foster discussions on positive peace education among educators, researchers, and policymakers.

Additionally, the project recently gained wider recognition in the media. *The Astana Times* featured an article on March 22nd, highlighting the initiative's efforts and broader themes of renewal, hope, and cultural reconnection in Kazakhstan, including the connection between Positive Peace and the Nauryz celebration. [Read the full article here](#)



The screenshot shows a news article from the website astanatimes.com. The article title is "Nauryz Brings Feeling of Renewal, Hope, and Return to Roots" and it is categorized under "NATION". The author is Asseel Satubaldina. The article text describes the Nauryz holiday in Kazakhstan, mentioning grand concerts, traditional feasts, and the holiday's significance in promoting unity, renewal, and peace. Below the text is a photograph of a public square where a group of people in traditional Kazakh attire are performing a dance. A large crowd of people is gathered around the performers, and a white van is visible in the background.

With ongoing research and a strong focus on community engagement, the ICEP team continues to build momentum in promoting Positive Peace Education in Kazakhstan.

Building for the Future: Positive Peace Education Team Plans for Sustainability and International Collaboration through Cambridge Peace Hub

The Positive Peace Education research team, in collaboration with project partners, is actively discussing the long-term sustainability of the initiative. Ensuring that the project's impact extends beyond its initial implementation remains a key priority.

As part of these efforts, Professor Hilary Cremin, the project's co-Principal Investigator from Cambridge University, is in the process of establishing a Peace Hub at Cambridge University. This hub aims to serve as a centre for peace education research, collaboration, and professional development. The Positive Peace Education team is engaged in discussions on how this initiative can support further research and provide ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers involved in peace education. By fostering international collaboration and expanding professional learning opportunities, the project seeks to create lasting change in schools and communities. Updates on these developments will be shared as the discussions progress.

Contributing to the Quality Assurance Framework for Transnational Education in Kazakhstan



On March 26–27, 2025, the British Council in Kazakhstan and QAA hosted a seminar on enhancing Transnational Education (TNE). Discussions focused on the newly introduced TNE Quality Assurance Framework, barriers to implementation, and strategies for policy alignment. Participants emphasized the need for clear quality standards, institutional capacity-building, and stronger coordination between local and international partners. CARCEIT Postdoc scholar Zhadyra Makhmetova shared insights from the *Strengthening Regional Universities* project, stressing the importance of contextual understanding in applying TNE standards across diverse Kazakhstani institutions. As a working group member, she provided contextual expertise on regional universities and contributed her knowledge in academic quality enhancement and assurance. The working group began its work online in January 2025, developing initial recommendations, and later convened for in-person discussions on March 26–27, 2025. The framework is designed to support

the continuous enhancement and assurance of TNE, ensuring alignment with international standards while addressing the unique needs of Kazakhstan's higher education landscape.

Transforming Schools to Empower Girls in STEM



On 24th January, Professor Naureen Durrani, CARCEIT director, gave a talk at Astana IT University as part of a panel dedicated to promoting gender equality in STEM. The event aimed to share findings from a CARCEIT-funded project, where Molder Amanzhol and her team showcased their innovative use of AI-generated images to capture the experiences of female STEM undergraduates in Kazakhstan. This research was funded by CARCEIT under the Educational Impact Project **GSE2024004**, titled *"Visualizing Success using AI-generated images: Unveiling Challenges and Success Strategies of Undergraduate Women in IT Degrees."* Dr Zumrad Kataeva discussed the experiences of women faculty in STEM fields in Tajikistan.

Key data shared revealed that only 35% of STEM graduates worldwide are women, and just 31% in Kazakhstan. Early gender stereotypes in schools remain a major barrier, affecting girls' confidence and participation in STEM. Actionable steps have been presented including revising textbooks, training teachers, promoting role models, offering career guidance, and engaging families and industry to create inclusive STEM pathways from an early age.

The Role of Schools in Gender Equality



Professor Naureen Durrani delivered an insightful talk at the library on The Role of Schools in Promoting Gender Equality. This event (<https://nu-kz.libcal.com/event/4354583>) was organised as part of International Women's Day 2025 #AccelerateAction. She presented findings from various **ongoing** projects, highlighting how educational systems can either challenge or reinforce gender stereotypes. The talk emphasised the need for critical engagement with gendered narratives in textbooks and classroom practices to foster a more equitable society.

CAPACITY-BUILDING EVENTS

The completion of the ‘Peace Ambassadors’ project

The “Peace Ambassadors” initiative has become a successful example of integrating peace education into school environments. A total of 10 students and 10 teachers from various schools across Kazakhstan were selected to participate in the project and attend seminars at Nazarbayev University, organized by the Positive Peace Education research team. The participants represented the Akmola, Zhambyl, East Kazakhstan, Ulytau, and Mangystau regions, as well as the cities of Taraz, Zhezkazgan, Astana, Kokshetau, and Aktau. Following the workshop, from September to December 2024, they worked on designing and implementing school-based projects and strategies aimed at conflict resolution, bullying prevention, and fostering a peaceful school atmosphere.

The final results, released in 2025, include insights from 10 school initiatives, examples of implemented activities, and recommendations for similar future projects. These recommendations summarize effective school-based peace education practices, with the hope that they will inspire other schools to adopt similar approaches and contribute to building a more harmonious society. The team has shared the results on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DE14I_Du9X4/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

**10 КЛЮЧЕВЫХ РЕКОМЕНДАЦИЙ
ДЛЯ РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ ПРОГРАММ
МИРНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ:**

- **Привлечение местных сообществ** для участия в школьных проектах, укрепления поддержки и долгосрочной заинтересованности.
- **Обучение школьных психологов и учителей** принципам позитивного мира через специализированные тренинги.
- **Организация тренингов и встреч с родителями** для внедрения мирных практик в воспитание детей.

@positivepeace.kz

positivepeace.kz и ru_carreit
Nazarbayev University

positivepeace.kz Проект "Амбассадоры Мира" завершён!

Мы рады представить основные результаты и рекомендации участников проекта, реализованного исследовательской группой Высшей школы образования Назарбаев Университета (@nu_carreit) при поддержке Фонда Социального Развития (@fns_rsd).

"Амбассадоры Мира" стал успешным примером внедрения мирного образования в школьную среду. Для участия в проекте были отобраны 10 учащихся и 10 учителей из различных школ Казахстана. Участники представляли регионы: Акмолинскую, Жамбылскую, Восточно-Казахстанскую, Улытаускую и Мангистаускую области, а также города Тараз, Жезказган, Астана, Кокшетау и Актау.

Все участники вместе со своими учителями приняли участие в трёхдневном семинаре "Разрешение конфликтов для формирования и поддержки мирных школ", который прошёл в Назарбаев Университете в Астане в июле 2024 года. С сентября по декабрь 2024 года они разрабатывали и внедряли проекты и стратегии по разрешению конфликтов, предотвращению буллинга и созданию мирной школьной атмосферы.

Данные результаты включают опыт 10 школьных проектов, примеры мероприятий и рекомендации для подобных инициатив. Эти рекомендации направлены на улучшение школьных практик, и мы надеемся, что они будут способствовать распространению мирного образования в других школах и формированию гармоничного общества.

В карусели результаты и рекомендации, которыми мы гордимся!

Благодарим всех участников, педагогов и партнёров за вклад в проект и за то, что сделали его реальностью! Каждый шаг к миру начинается с понимания, эмпатии и совместных действий. Давайте вместе создавать среду, где уважение, сотрудничество и поддержка станут основой для каждого ученика и учителя! 🌍

#ueduzk #sdgrants #socialimpact #peaceambassadors #eugse #positivepeacekz

10 нед.

Нравится tgulbagira и ещё 29

19 лайков

Добавьте комментарий...

Supporting PhD Students at Abay National University



CARCEIT Postdoctoral Research Fellow Laura Ibrayeva led an academic session on research methods for first-year PhD students at Abay National University on February 28, 2025. The online session offered foundational guidance on research design, data collection, and analysis, supporting students in developing strong methodological skills for their doctoral studies.

Online Learning Course on Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare

Dr Cruz's research team is pleased to announce the design and implementation of an online learning course as part of *The Qaz Green Health Project: Developing Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare Competence of the Present and Future Healthcare Workforce in Kazakhstan*.

A key objective of the project is to develop short and continuing education courses on environmental sustainability in healthcare for healthcare workers and undergraduate healthcare students. This course is designed for integration into medical universities and hospitals across Kazakhstan to enhance environmental competence in healthcare.

Course Design and Implementation

Following the ADDIE Model (*Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate*), the course materials were developed and reviewed by three environmental sustainability experts for validation before implementation. The courses will be introduced in hospitals and medical universities in Astana, Shymkent, and Karaganda. Participants' attitudes and competencies in sustainable

healthcare will be assessed using a standardized questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

About the Course

The project developed two courses:

- *An Introductory Course on Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare for Health Professions Students*
- *An Introductory Course on Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare for Healthcare Workers*

Designed using Articulate Storyline, the courses were collaboratively developed by the research team, including content creation, adaptation, translation, and structuring. Research Assistants Meruyert Smagulova and Zulyar Kavashev managed content development and course delivery via Articulate Storyline and Moodle LMS. The courses consist of five sequential modules, each building progressively to enhance learning.

Course Format

- **Mode:** Self-paced, online
- **Duration:** 6 weeks (for healthcare students); 8 weeks (for healthcare workers)
- **Platform:** Moodle LMS
- **Activities:** Readings, quizzes, reflections, and forum discussions

Course Modules

Module 1: Impact of climate change and ecosystem crisis on human health

Module 2: Negative Impacts of Healthcare Systems on the Environment

Module 3: Sustainable Health Systems

Module 4.1: Sustainable Clinical Practice

Module 4.2: Leadership, Professionalism, and 21st Century Skills for Sustainable Healthcare

Module 5: Quality Improvement for Sustainable Healthcare

This initiative marks a significant step in integrating environmental sustainability into healthcare education in Kazakhstan, equipping professionals with the skills needed for sustainable healthcare systems.

EMERGING RESEARCH FINDINGS

ICEP 1: Positive Peace Education in Kazakhstan

1. ICEP 1 'Positive Peace Education' conducted a **systematic literature review on the implementation of Positive Peace Education (PPE) in Schools**. PPE is enacted differently across various contexts, influenced by national policies, institutional structures, and sociocultural dynamics. While some countries integrate PPE into formal curricula through structured peace education programs, others emphasize community-based and informal approaches.
 - Curriculum integration and policy alignment. In some regions, PPE is embedded within national education policies (Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Colombia), aligning with global frameworks such as UNESCO's peace education guidelines. Countries with strong policy support tend to implement structured programs that emphasize civic education, human rights, and conflict resolution.
 - Teacher agency and school-level practices. In contexts with decentralized education systems, teachers play a crucial role in shaping PPE through their pedagogical choices. Some adapt PPE principles based on student engagement, fostering interactive and student-led discussions (US, Sierra Leone, India), while others struggle with limited training and resources.
 - Challenges of standardization vs. flexibility. While standardized frameworks provide consistency, they may also limit adaptability to local needs. Some initiatives prioritize flexibility (Colombia, India, Germany), allowing schools to design context-specific approaches, but this can lead to a lack of clear guidance, compounded by institutional factors such as limited support, insufficient resources, unclear implementation guidelines, and inadequate staff training.
2. ICEP 1 research team is also developing a paper exploring **how teachers' beliefs and practices in implementing PPE are shaped by internal and external factors within the context of Kazakhstani schools**. Data for this study were collected through pre- and post-project interviews, teachers' weekly reflections, and classroom observations with the 53 Kazakhstani teachers, as well as an analysis of their positive peace focused Action Research projects by employing a qualitative research approach. Preliminary findings reveal that teachers' perceptions of PPE and their views on its effectiveness and efficiency facilitate its implementation in daily teaching practices.
 - External factors, such as administrative support, internal school policies, teaching standards, and excessive workload (overall, systemic/structural violence), either foster or limit PPE implementation.
 - The findings demonstrate the significance of teachers' personal beliefs and their influence on their instructional practices. Only after internally changing/shifting their perceptions of PPE (or cultivating their own sense of inner peace) and recognizing its potential, teachers can fully implement PPE in their schools/classrooms.

- At the same time, classroom-context factors, such as positive changes in student engagement and relationships facilitate the changes in internal factors like teachers' commitment to PPE, thus fostering teacher agency in addressing systemic barriers.
3. As part of the ICEP 1 project, a manuscript, examining the policy document Unified Moral Education Program (hereinafter referred to as the Moral Education Program) (*Бірмұмас Тәрбие Бағдарламасы*), which was introduced in 2023 is being developed. It will analyse how data collected from seven schools as part of a research project on positive peace education in Kazakhstan aligns with the values outlined in the program. The research questions addressed in the paper are:
- “According to the Unified Moral Education Program, what are the key values to be taught in Kazakhstani schools, and why?”
 - How do the findings on values/moral education from the positive peace education project align with, contradict, and/or add to these values?

Through discussion of these questions, the paper will provide a case study of ways in which peace education is and is not reflected in a specific national moral education policy. This case study may usefully contribute to international literature on the relationship between peace education and moral/values education in contexts undergoing rapid social change.

4. The ICEP 1 research team is also developing a paper, **studying a leading positive peace education in schools**.

Since limited research has documented how positive peace education can be led at schools, this paper explores how school senior leaders, such as school principals, vice-principals, and psychologists implemented positive peace education in their school settings and what specific challenges they had to mitigate, when leading such initiatives. This study adopted a qualitative design, employing semi-structured interviews as the primary instrument of data collection, supplemented by reflexive field notes of the research team and document analysis. This study is guided by transformational learning theory (Mezirow, 2000), which focuses on key notions such as frames of reference, critical reflection and discourse (Fleming, 2018), to highlight the phases of transformational learning, that school leaders went through. Preliminary findings are:

- Implementation of positive peace initiatives often begins with a "disorienting dilemma," an emotional disturbance or a sense that something doesn't quite fit (Mezirow, 2000).
- Teachers experience transformational learning processes, which include:
 - Self-examination is often accompanied by feelings such as fear, guilt, anger, or shame.
 - A critical reassessment of previously held assumptions about teaching, learning, and well-being.
 - Reflection on the personal and professional factors that shape their educational practices.

The paper concludes with practical recommendations for enhancing teacher support and fostering conditions for meaningful transformation.

ICEP 2: Nurturing Young Minds: Exploring the Role of Early Childhood Education in Promoting the Health and Well-being of Young Children in Kazakhstan

1. As part of the ICEP 2 project, a qualitative study was conducted with emerging research findings on young children's well-being in Kazakhstani kindergartens. With limited research capturing children's own perspectives, particularly in non-WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic) contexts, this study explores what truly makes children happy in ECEC settings. Using the Draw, Write, and Tell (DWT) method, researchers engaged 316 children (ages 4–7), analysing their experiences through the PERMA-H framework, a model emphasizing well-being dimensions such as Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Accomplishment, and Health.

Key Findings:

- Positive Emotions: Children frequently expressed happiness through nature, play, and toys.
- Engagement: Activities like imaginative play, artistic expression, and learning were central to their joy.
- Relationships: Connections with peers, teachers, and family played a vital role in their well-being.
- Meaning, Accomplishment, and Health: Though mentioned less often, children found happiness in celebrations, personal achievements, and physical activities.

These findings highlight the importance of child-centred approaches in ECEC, highlighting the need to create environments that promote joy, engagement, and social connections. The study offers practical recommendations for educators and policymakers to enhance children's well-being and holistic development in ECEC settings.

2. ICEP 2 research team also conducted a systematic literature review on the effects of positive psychological interventions (PPIs) on the mental health and well-being of young children. The review analysed 17 studies that met strict inclusion criteria, providing compelling evidence of the effectiveness of these interventions in early childhood settings. These are the emerging findings of the research:
 - Hedonic Well-being: PPIs have a positive effect on the positive emotions, life satisfaction, and happiness of young children.
 - Eudaimonic Well-being: PPIs have the potential to foster young children's empathy, self-regulation, and prosocial behaviours.
 - Mental Health Outcomes: PPIs contribute to reductions in behavioural issues and social withdrawal.

Among the various PPIs studied, socio-emotional learning and mindfulness-based interventions demonstrated the greatest positive impact on young children's well-being. In contrast, interventions with shorter durations or indirect approaches were found to be less effective. These findings highlight the importance of integrating evidence-based psychological interventions into early childhood education and care to foster mental resilience and emotional well-being from an early age. The study provides valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and practitioners, offering guidance on designing interventions that meaningfully enhance children's mental health.

ICEP 3: Strengthening Regional Universities in Kazakhstan

The regional universities' research team has collected both qualitative and quantitative data to explore institutional transformation and engagement. This includes 63 interviews with university faculty, middle and senior administrators, and 11 interviews with external stakeholders, such as regional akimats and industry representatives. Additionally, the quantitative survey gathered 530 responses from university faculty and administrators.

These rich data sources inform the development of several manuscripts:

- Understanding Organizational Transformation in Comprehensive Regional Universities through Strategic Planning
- The Dynamics of Organizational Identity Change and Formation at Regional Universities in Kazakhstan
- External Engagement of Regional Universities in Kazakhstan

Through this research, the team aims to provide insights into how regional universities navigate change, shape their institutional identity, and strengthen external partnerships.

RECOGNITION

We are proud to announce that members of the CARCEIT team have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to education and science in Kazakhstan by the Minister for Higher Education and Science, **Sayasat Nurbek**.

- **Prof Naureen Durrani (CARCEIT Director)** and **Adil Ashirbekov (CARCEIT Senior Manager)** received medals for their exceptional work.
- **Prof. Lynne Parmenter** and **Prof. Daniel Hernandez-Torrano**, Principal Investigators at CARCEIT, were also honoured with medals for their contributions.
- **Prof. Ahmet Aypay**, another CARCEIT Principal investigator, and **Assistant Professor Alper Calikoglu** received a certificate of appreciation for their dedication and contribution to advancing education and research.



RESEARCH PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



In this issue, we are delighted to present you an overview of research activities conducted under the auspices of Nazarbayev University.

Since its inception in 2011, Nazarbayev University faculty members and researchers have released 9,954 peer-reviewed publications indexed by Scopus, and have been cited 154,686 times for 2011-2025 period. The approximate number of citations per peer-reviewed publication is 15.5. The overall H-index of NU is 120, whereas H5-index is 77 (Source: SciVal, April 2025).

The Field-Weighted Citation Impact of NU over 2021-2025 years is 2.16, meaning that our publications have been cited more than twice as often as would be expected based on the global average for similar publications.

International collaboration is widely recognized as a key factor that positively influences citation metrics. By expanding professional networks and fostering global partnerships, collaboration often leads to the production of highly cited publications.

During the period from 2021 to 2025, NU exhibited a significant commitment to international collaboration, as evidenced by the production of 3,400 research papers in partnership with 3,330 organizations from 131 different countries. These collaborative efforts accounted for 63.1% of the total number of publications indexed by Scopus. The map above illustrates how these collaborations are spread throughout the world. The overall Field-Weighted Citation Impact of these co-authored papers is 2.74, reflecting the tendency of international collaborations to produce higher-impact, more widely recognized research.

For getting more comprehensive information on the research performance at NU, please have a look at the following [report](#) generated by [SciVal](#) research evaluation platform.

If you have any questions regarding the provided information, please contact Saule Sadykova (ssadykova@nu.edu.kz)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW				
#	Title	Funder	Deadline	Link
Medicine				
1	HIV Prevention and Alcohol (R01 Clinical Trials Optional)	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) National Institutes of Health (NIH) United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	May 7, 2025	↗
2	In Vivo High-Resolution Imaging for Inner Ear Visualization (R01 Clinical Trial optional)	National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) National Institutes of Health (NIH) United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	June 3, 2025	↗
3	BRAIN Initiative: Brain Behavior Quantification and Synchronization-Next Generation Sensor Technology Development (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)	National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	June 13, 2025	↗
4	Cancer Prevention and Control Clinical Trials Planning Grant Program (U34 Clinical Trials Optional)	National Cancer Institute (NCI) National Institutes of Health (NIH)	June 25, 2025	↗
General				
5	CHRONOS (Computationally-Intensive, High-Impact Research On Novel Outstanding Science)	Swiss National Supercomputing Centre	May 19, 2025	↗
6	Project Funding	Li Ka Shing Foundation	Rolling basis	↗
Biological Sciences				
7	Innovations for Exceptionally Low-Cost Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Manufacturing	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)	May 31, 2025	↗
Renewable energy				
8	Grant application	Energy Foundation	Rolling basis	↗
PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED				
General				
9	FY 2025 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program	Department of Energy - Office of Science	September 30, 2025	↗

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

10	Catalyst grants	The Catalyst Fund	Rolling basis	↗
Medicine				
11	Climate Impacts Awards: Unlocking urgent climate action by making the health effects of climate change visible	Wellcome	April 30, 2025	↗
12	Bioengineering Research Grants (BRG) (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	National Institutes of Health (NIH) United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	June 5, 2025	↗
13	Mental Health Award: Leveraging longitudinal data to transform early intervention in mental health	Wellcome	July 22, 2025	↗
14	Contraceptive Development Research Center (P50 Clinical Trial Optional)	Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) National Institutes of Health (NIH)	November 12, 2025	↗
STEM				
15	Innovation Fund 2024 - Batteries - Manufacturing of electric vehicles battery cells	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) European Commission (EC)	April 24, 2025	↗
16	Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research	American Physical Society (APS)	May 1, 2025	↗
17	Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Office-Wide Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)	Department of the Navy (U.S. Navy) United States Department of Defense	June 20, 2025	↗
Education				
18	Research Grants on Education: Small	Spencer Foundation	Mid-April, 2025	↗
Renewable energy				
19	Demonstration of stationary fuel cells in renewable energy communities	Horizon Europe	April 23, 2025	↗
Arts and Humanities				
20	U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Grants Program	Department of State	April 30, 2025	↗
Life / Natural / Social Sciences and Humanities				
21	The Einstein Foundation Award	Einstein Foundation	April 30, 2025	↗
22	Pro-active grants	Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)	Rolling basis	↗

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Environment				
23	Research Grants EREF - Environmental Research and Education Foundation	EREF	May 1,2025 December 1,2025	↗
Nanoscience				
24	Mildred Dresselhaus Prize in Nanoscience and Nanomaterials	American Physical Society (APS)	June 3, 2025	↗
Astrophysics, Nanoscience and Neuroscience				
25	Kavli prizes	Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters	July 1, 2025 (open date)	↗

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