

Brief Biographies of Authors



Aitzhan Kulumzhanova is a *PhD Candidate, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University and European Public Law Organization (EPLO)*, with a focus on the *Bologna Process in the Constitution of the Central Asia Higher Education Area*. She is also the Head of the Higher Education Internationalization Office of the National Center for Higher Education Development of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, an independent observer of EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education). Since 2010, Aitzhan has been leading international cooperation in various local universities. For the past two years, she has been running the Higher Education Internationalization Office of the Center, where she oversees student and academic mobility programs funded by the government and universities, approves academic curricula, monitors and analyses data on mobility, oversees the Register of accreditation bodies, higher education institutions, and educational programs, and ensures the implementation of the principles of the Bologna Process in educational institutions.

Luca Lantero is the Director General of CIMEA, the Italian Information Center for Academic Mobility and Equivalence. He is one of the main experts at Italian and international level on higher education systems, on bogus diplomas and accreditation mills, transnational education, accreditation, and the digitalization of processes applied to recognition, particularly with the advent of blockchain and AI. From 2018 to 2020 he was the Head of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) Secretariat of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). He is currently President of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee and Head of the ASEM Education Secretariat. In 2022, Luca was elected a member of the Bureau of the Ethics, Transparency, and Integrity (ETINED) platform of the Council of Europe. In 2024, he was appointed Associate Professor of the European Law & Governance School (ELGS) and Director of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance (IHELG) housed by the European Public Law Organization (EPLO). He is the Director of the Centre for preventing and countering fraud in education and one of the expert participating in the Recognition and AI Working Group, both initiatives established by the Council of Europe. His scientific output is extensive and he participates in national and international research projects and programmes in the field of higher education studies. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Rivista Universitas.
