



# EDUCATION CONFERENCE



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI  
TƏHSİL NAZİRLİYİ



## *CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS*

### *“Finance and Entrepreneurial Activities in Higher Education: Challenges and Perspectives”*

#### *Education Conference 2017*

The US – Educated Azerbaijani Alumni Association is pleased to invite educational researchers to submit their proposals on “Finance, Entrepreneurship and Innovations in Higher Education: Challenges and Perspectives”.

#### **Important dates**

**Conference Date: April 29-30, 2017**

**Deadline for submission of abstracts: January 5, 2017**

**Deadline for submission of completed research papers: February 15, 2017**

**Deadline for registration: March 1, 2017**

#### **Conference details**

**Organizers:** The US – Educated Azerbaijani Alumni Association, ADA University, Azerbaijan Technological University (Ganja)

**Partners:** Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku American Center of Azerbaijan University of Languages

**Working language:** Azerbaijani (simultaneous translation from English and Russian)

Higher Education has played an important role in the process of joining to the global processes and integrating to the global production network. Shift to the knowledge-based

economy has increased the need for the highly qualified labor, innovations, and research. At the same time, recent global financial crisis hit all economies with varying degree. This resulted in the decline of public spending on education in general, and especially, on higher education. As a result of the pressured public budgeting, the higher education institutions faced the challenges of maintaining/improving quality of learning and research, and meeting the increased demand for access to higher education with fewer resources.

### **What is the goal of the Education Conference 2017?**

The conference aims to empower delegates from four different areas: policy makers, researchers, NGO's and entrepreneurs to discuss alternative ways to financing education to improve quality of learning, gain entrepreneurship skills, enhance research and innovations, widen access to higher education.

During the exhibition the researchers will present their findings on the relevant topics.

Its panel discussion will involve three representatives: policy makers, researchers, and entrepreneurs. The panelists will address the findings presented in the research papers presented during the exhibition.

Its four main panels and workshops cover the hot topics that are mostly debated on the policy and institution levels as in the Caucasus (especially Georgia and Azerbaijan) and in the EU member states (especially Eastern Europe).

#### *Panel Discussions*

##### **1. Efficiency and public spending on education**

This panel aims to increase awareness how the efficiency is being achieved in different systems. What are the ways for diversification of income at the tertiary education institutions? Why do we spend what we spend?

##### **2. Financing access to higher education**

This workshop aims to examine different policy mechanisms that enable students from different population groups to take equally advantage of quality education. What is education for all? What is the demand of the knowledge-based economy for the labor qualifications?

##### **3. Governance, entrepreneurship and technology in education**

This panel aims to examine the internal strength, external opportunities, and external threats that the universities face in the fast changing knowledge-economy. The panelists are expected to share practical experience, lessons learned on what factored into the success of the higher education institutions. What important steps the governments have taken, or should take to overcome economic challenges to reach the goal of a better future as for the university and for the country.

#### **4. Financing research and innovations in education**

This panel aims to bring in new ideas and analyze what are the most effective ways to spur innovation and real time research at HEI's. What are the strength and weaknesses of the private financing vs. public funding? What is the environment that spurs innovation at the higher education institution? How to create that environment? What polices and mechanisms needed to reach this goal?

The conference is being organized by AAA (US-Educated Azerbaijani Alumni Association) and ADA University in cooperation with Azerbaijan Technological University.

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

- Alumni educated under various programs abroad and interested in presenting their education research paper or policy analysis
- Independent researchers in the field of education
- Education specialists involved in both research and practice
- University professors

#### **International Applicants and Participants**

The conference is open for international applicants and participants as well. The travel cost and lodging are covered for admitted applicants by the organizers. There is no fee for those interested to participate at the conference though the expenses with travel and stay will not be covered by the organizers.

#### **Registration**

If you plan to attend the conference, you need to register by submitting the registration form found here [Registration Form](#)

#### **Presentation Formats**

- Poster presentation (Azerbaijani)
- Faculty showcase (English/Azerbaijani)
- Panel discussion (English/Azerbaijani)
- Workshop (English/Azerbaijani)

#### **Recommendations**

- You are expected to submit research papers, based on your experience and understanding of existing situation in the country;
- Each research work should clearly explain the impact of the results on educational policy, including, recommendations for reforms and changes in the field of education;

- Research projects should include references to literature from international academic articles;
- Research projects should include references to literature from international academic articles. Complete electronic sources (EBSCO, JSTOR, Oxford and Cambridge University Press, Emerald, Wiley-Blackwell, etc.) are available free of charge at the Baku American Centre of Azerbaijan University of Languages. For further information please contact the following e-mail address: [ircdirector@adu.edu.az](mailto:ircdirector@adu.edu.az);
- To protect confidentiality and provide transparency, all submitted abstracts and full papers will be coded prior the evaluation of experienced researchers.

### **Resources:**

AAA will have the following available for the applicants:

- Workshop on APA writing style and citations
- Workshop on research methods
- Researchers in need of discussion to identify research topics or receive other assistance may contact Sabina Hajizada at [sabinaramazanova1@gmail.com](mailto:sabinaramazanova1@gmail.com)
- For further information, please send request to the following e-mail address: [educonference@aaa.org.az](mailto:educonference@aaa.org.az)

**Baku American Center** will have the following resources available for the applicants/researchers:

- Workshops (individual and in groups) on using search engines through *EBSCO, JSTOR, Oxford and Cambridge University Press, Emerald, Wiley-Blackwell etc.*
- Free access to full-text E- journals
- For more information contact Aytaj Mesgerly 4413680/4410172 (ext. 229). When you call, please, note that you an applicant for the conference.

### **Requirements for Researchers**

#### **I. Criteria for Abstract Submission**

*Both abstracts and full research papers should follow the APA style.*

**Length: One page typed** (max. 300 words)

**Language:** Azerbaijani / English / Russian

**Format and subject:**

- Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced
- Names of author(s), email, research title, and organization represented by author
- Three key words (written below abstract)
- Connection of research and national educational strategy is clearly articulated
- The abstract describes research which takes an innovative approach to the field
- Abstract is submitted prior to the deadline

- Abstract/proposal clearly describes the goal of investigation, methodology, and the probable results
- A minimum of five main references are provided

Please, visit the link for the full APA guidelines

**APA guidelines:** [APA Guidebook](#)

***Main evaluation criteria:***

- Clarity of text
- Importance of research topic
- Academic approach
- Relevance to the Conference theme

**Submission:** Submit **your abstract** and a **resume** to the e-mail addresses provided below no later than **January 05, 2017**. Please include “*Abstract for Education Conference 2017 - Your Name*” in the subject line of the e-mail. Your abstract should be sent to educonference@aaa.org.az with cc: sabinaramazanova1@gmail.com

## **II. Criteria for the completed research project**

**Length:** Maximum 3000 words (including schedules and a list of literature)

**Language:** Azerbaijani / English / Russian

***Format and subject:***

- Times New Roman font, 12 size, double-spaced
- Names of author(s), email(s), title or research, and organization represented by author and email
- Three key words

***Main evaluation criteria:***

- Clarity of research methodology
- Importance of research topic
- Relevance to the Conference theme
- Academic/objective approach
- Substantiality and clarity of the text
- Research addresses priority directions of educational strategy
- Innovation
- Relevance of recommendations

**Submission:** Please submit final papers to educonference@aaa.org.az with cc: sabinaramazanova1@gmail.com no later than **February 15, 2017**. Please include “*Final Paper – Education Conference 2017 – Your Name*” in the subject line.

## **Contacts**

In case of any conference related questions or suggestions, please contact the Conference project manager Sabina Hajizada at [educonference@aaa.org.az](mailto:educonference@aaa.org.az).