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**The experts of the JSC “Information Analytic Center” (IAC) Timur Buldybaev, Azat Tishtybaev and Kaidar Nurumov took an active part in the Institutional Research Forum of Nazarbayev University “Using data to support academic quality, planning and decision-making in higher education”, held on October 10-11, 2019.**

**Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University, KIMEP University, Satbayev University, KazGUU University and University of Leiden attended the Forum.**

**Azat Tishtybaev, a Director of the Department of Educational Statistics and Information System Maintenance of the IAC, briefed the Forum participants on the introduction and development of data on the level of higher education within the National Education Database (NED). Listeners learned about how the mechanism of tracking the full trajectory of students’ development at all**

levels – from preschool to higher education – is built and why this is done. They were acquainted with the NED functions, the structure of its data, the interaction and integration scheme and the vision for further development.

Timur Buldybaev and Kaydar Nurumov, director and expert of the Department of Applied Research of the IAC, presented IAC analytical products developed on the basis of Big Data analysis: SEDA information system (System for Education Data Analysis) and platform prototype for analyzing the thematic structure of news texts. The presentation of the IAC specialists was devoted to the experience of using quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis for making managerial decisions at the national and international levels, as well as to the peculiarities of the communication process when transmitting analytic conclusions to decision makers.

An interesting discussion took place about the current situation and trends in the development of higher education in Kazakhstan, the possibilities of using various mechanisms for collecting and analyzing data, as well as the development of analytical culture for working with data in their educational institutions.

In general, the Forum discussed the use of institutional research data in Kazakhstani universities and how they can be used in the future to support academic quality, planning and decision-making.

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