ΔΙΠΑΕ CYQAA

ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΗΣ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ
CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 13.06.2024

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
  University of Nicosia

- **Town: Nicosia**

- **Programme of study**
  Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

  In Greek:

  Ρυθμιστική Τεχνολογία (1-1.5 ακαδημαϊκά έτη, 90 ECTS, Μάστερ, Εξ αποστάσεως)

  In English:

   Technology Regulation (1-1.5 academic years, 90 ECTS, Master of Arts, E- Learning)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** English

- **Programme's status:** New

- **Concentrations (if any):**

  In Greek: N/A
  English: N/A

A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- *The Higher Education Institution (HEI) based on the External Evaluation Committee's (EEC's) evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area. The answers' documentation should be brief and accurate and supported by the relevant documentation. Referral to annexes should be made only when necessary.*

- *In particular, under each assessment area and by using the 2nd column of each table, the HEI must respond on the following:*

    - *the areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
    - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*

- *The institution should respond to the EEC comments, in the designated area next each comment. The comments of the EEC should be copied from the EEC report **without any interference** in the content.*

- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on separate document(s). Each document should be in *.pdf format and named as annex1, annex2, etc.*

1. Study programme and study programme's design and development
(ESG 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9)

The MA in Technology Regulation has been considered to be fully compliant with all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has concluded that the University's Quality Assurance process is robust and multifaceted, involving internal and external teams, and feedback from various stakeholders. It was noted that the commitment to continuous improvement is evident, and the inclusion of student perspectives further enhances the overall quality control process. This approach ensures a comprehensive and well-rounded evaluation of programmes at different levels within the university. The programme's strengths lie in its cross- and interdisciplinary approach, providing theoretical legal understanding and practical skills. Targeting technology regulation stakeholders, it aims to deepen knowledge and broaden understanding in a comparative European and international context. It was further pointed out that the programme's delivery approach offers several advantages. Academic support combined with the effective use of Distance Learning Analytics, will contribute to student success and the programme's overall effectiveness. Overall, the evaluation committee were highly impressed with the programme's commitment to recognized standards, comprehensive support, and innovative delivery methods positioning it as a robust and learner-centric educational offering. Moreover, it was noted that the University closely monitors student performance through a 'Monitoring of Students' process, identifying challenges early in the semester for timely support. Various assessment methods are employed throughout the semester, providing continuous feedback to students. The University prioritizes a student-centred learning environment, emphasizing inclusivity and lifelong learning skills.

The EEC concluded that no serious improvements were identified. All the sub-sections were found to be fully compliant. The EEC has further made minor suggestions for further improvement. We address each one herein.

Areas of improvement and recommendations **by EEC**	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
As with the other programmes on the homepage of the University of Nicosia, where all information regarding the respective programme is presented completely and clearly, this should also be the case for the Master's degree technology regulation.	We of course agree with the recommendation, and as the EEC themselves note, this is a recommendation to be implemented once the programme is effective, and it is confirmed that it will be implemented immediately with the beginning of the programme as is the case with all other programmes of the University.	Choose level of compliance:
Including information on pass rates for existing programmes and an	We thank the EEC for their recommendation. The University	Choose level of compliance:

average duration for programme completion could provide additional context and benchmarks for prospective students.	produces such information at all levels (University / School / Department / Programme) per Degree Cycle (1st, 2nd, 3rd). Once this new programme has run for a few years, the relevant information will also become available at the programme level, contributing also to the cumulative information at the other aforementioned levels for the 2nd Cycle Degree programmes.	

ΔΙΠΑΕ
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2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment
(ESG 1.3)

The MA in Technology Regulation has been considered to be fully compliant with all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has concluded that the support system for both students but faculty staff regarding the pedagogical model for e-learning, as outlined above, is exemplary. Both students and lecturers can find the required support structure and guidance through the infrastructure provided by the University of Nicosia and the Faculty of Law in an outstanding manner. Furthermore, the learning outcome orientation with various assessment methods throughout and at the end of the semester, course, or unit, in combination with the extensive feedback structure, allows the staff to identify and support students in need, providing for an optimal learning experience for each student. Moreover, the University of Nicosia provides for a solid interconnection of theoretical and applied knowledge and the application of the latter to the former within this new programme. The support structure for students at the University of Nicosia was found highly sophisticated.

The EEC has further made a minor suggestion for further improvement. We address it herein.

Areas of improvement and recommendations **by EEC**	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
It is suggested by the EEC that the organisation of internship opportunities for students could be optimised by way of possible cooperations with companies in the relevant fields.	We welcome the recommendation of the EEC. We agree that of course internship opportunities should be available for students. As the EEC has noted the support structure of the University is highly sophisticated. Once the programme becomes effective, we will start targeting companies in the relevant fields in order to conclude MoUs which will enable students to find optimal internship opportunities in the programme.	Choose level of compliance:

3. Teaching staff
(ESG 1.5)

The MA in Technology Regulation has been considered to be fully compliant with all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has concluded that the programme was designed and is supported by an excellent and enthusiastic teaching staff. The University's highly sophisticated quality control system as well as their impressive pedagogical support structure regarding both classical teaching and particularly distance learning enhances the effectiveness of the teaching staff. The research strengths of the teaching staff provide a strong support for the future excellent teaching.

The EEC has further made a suggestion for further improvement. We address it herein.

Areas of improvement and recommendations **by EEC**	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The programme has an ambitious teaching agenda, given the number of teaching staff deployed, and the degree of assessment on the is also quite demanding on both students and staff (particularly given feedback requirements to students). While staff indicate that they are happy to manage the workload required, it is recommended that the School/program have a more formalised process for addressing the unexpected absence of key teaching staff, than the current ad hoc arrangements	We thank the EEC for their recommendation, noting that this relates to the future life of the programme, rather to its current state where it is about to run for the first time. Indeed, we are fully vigilant of the need to address unexpected absence of key teaching staff. The programme is currently fully staffed by Full-Time personnel. We shall, however, identify qualified Adjunct personnel (some of which are already employed by the School in other programmes and some which might act in a visiting capacity) so as to be in a position to be fully prepared for any type of unexpected absences.	Choose level of compliance:

ΔΙΠΑΕ
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ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΗΣ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ
CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
(ESG 1.4)

The MA in Technology Regulation has been considered to be fully compliant with all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has concluded that the programme demonstrates clear adherence to the ECTS and the Bologna Process Declaration as well as the selected criteria for student admission, and the University provides for a sophisticated student admission and grading structure. Pre-defined and published regulations regarding student admission are in place, access policies, admission processes and criteria are implemented consistently and in a transparent manner, pre-defined and published regulations regarding student progression are in place, processes and tools to collect, monitor and act on information on student progression, are in place, pre-defined and published regulations regarding student recognition are in place, fair recognition of higher education qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, are essential components for ensuring the students' progress in their studies, while promoting mobility.

The EEC has further made a suggestion for further improvement. We address it herein.

Areas of improvement and recommendations **by EEC**	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Insofar as is possible the programme director should consider if it might be possible to offer a range of options, e.g. 1 CW at 30% + thesis at 60% + engagement at 10%; 2 CW at 60% + thesis at 30% + engagement at 10% and allow the students to choose which mode of evaluation they wish to follow – this might also lighten the workload on faculty in terms of marking and feedback.	We thank the EEC for this recommendation, which as they also noted is not required, and refers mostly to an assessment of the life of the course as well. As the EEC notes the programme suggests a high workload for students in accordance with the ECTS assigned for each course. We are positive to offering a wider range of options for the course leaders to assess, but feel that it is important, since this is a DL course to maintain a high percentage of the overall assessment for the final exam. Hence, we will give an option to course leaders to choose from the range of 40-50% for the final exam, 30-40% for the coursework and 10-20% for engagement. This will be re-evaluated during the life of the programme, taking into account the recommendation of the EEC.	Choose level of compliance:

5. **Learning resources and student support**
    (ESG 1.6)

The MA in Technology Regulation has been considered to be fully compliant with all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has noted that the greatest strength of the programme is the extensive support system for all lecturers, faculty members, and all students is the extensive coverage of teaching and learning resources, physical resources, human support resources and student support service of the University of Nicosia.

No recommendations for further improvement were proposed.

6. Additional criteria for distance learning programmes

The MA in Technology Regulation has been considered to be fully compliant with all criteria of this section. No deficiencies in the quality indicators have been identified.

The EEC has concluded that the programme meets all sets of criteria and quality indicators set out by DIPAE in its announcements regarding Distance Learning programmes.

The EEC has further made a suggestion for further improvement. We address it herein.

Areas of improvement and recommendations **by EEC**	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Clarify in more detail the number of assignments/papers and their topics, along with instructions and additional study material in the course outline	We thank the EEC for its suggestion. We note that, as the EEC also acknowledges, and as per DIPAE guidelines, the study guides do not generally include the topics of papers themselves, since such topics are different each semester and are finalized by the course leader after the initial assessment of the class, and also taking into account recent developments (since the programme is technology oriented, topics for assignments are decided after taking into account the constant developments). Furthermore, additional study material on the topics of assessment depends on the topics chosen. We clarify that the number of papers per course are two, and as the EEC also notes, all study guides already include material on the papers/assignment, which are left to be further clarified per semester in the preside study guide announced to students. We consider that this is consistent with best practices and with DIPAE guidelines, and we note that anyway, as the EEC has noted the programme complies with all DIPAE guidelines and quality indicators.	Choose level of compliance:

ΔΙΠΑΕ
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B. Conclusions and final remarks

We wish to thank the EEC for the high level of professionalism they demonstrated during the evaluation process. The detailed discussion of all issues pertinent to the programme under evaluation, led to a very fruitful discussion between the members of the EEC, the representatives of the University and the faculty members of the programme. The discussion proved to be extremely constructive due to the expertise of the members of the EEC and their willingness to share their suggestions and recommendations for further improving the programme. The demanding set of questions allowed us to elaborate on specialized aspects and deep foundations of the programme and expand upon the content of the application form.

We have assessed and reviewed carefully the EEC report. We are pleased to note that the report is extremely positive, and we thank the EEC for their remarks and conclusions that are very supportive of the Program. We note that in their concluding remarks the EEC conclude that in the overall assessment, the University of Nicosia's Faculty of Law not only meets but exceeds the ESG/EQF standards. The programme showcases a commitment to excellence, adaptability to contemporary requirements, and a strong foundation for providing a high-quality master's degree experience. These comments are indeed the best possible feedback we could have expected for the programme.

We fully acknowledge that all programmes, especially new programmes, are always amenable to further improvement. Accordingly, the few suggestions for further improvement offered by the EEC are taken very seriously into account. We consider the suggestions of the EEC as very helpful and we will try to incorporate them to the widest extent possible. We note, however, that all comments and suggestion of the EEC do not hinder its substance or structure and do not refer to any deficiencies in the quality indicators, but rather refer to the life of the programme and are considerations that need to be addressed during the life of the programme, and which mostly do not require immediate changes or corrective actions. Indeed, the programme has been deemed compliant in all aspects. We acknowledge that the School will work hard, with the suggestions of the EEC in mind, in order to implement them during the life of the programme, once its first students are enrolled.

We thank once more the Committee for all the suggestions/recommendations, and note that there are no additional comments/recommendations in the final section.

ΔΙΠΑΕ
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CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

Name	*Position*	*Signature*
Prof. Achilles Emilianides	Dean of School of Law	
Dr. Christina Ioannou	Associate Dean of School of Law	
Dr. Christos Papastylianos	Head of the Department of Law	
Prof. Irini Stamatoudi	Associate Head of the Department of Law	
Dr. Dimitrios Koukiadis	Programme Coordinator	

Date: 13/06/2024