

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: Date.

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
NKUA
- **Town:** Nicosia
- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle) Programme 1 – Economics

In Greek:

Programme Name

In English:

Programme Name

- **Language(s) of instruction:** Greek
- **Programme's status:** Choose Status
- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English: Concentrations



The present document has been prepared within the framework of the authority and competencies of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, according to the provisions of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws” of 2015 to 2021 [[L.136\(I\)/2015 – L.132\(I\)/2021](#)].

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)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
It would be good if there were more opportunities for international students - like exchange programs or activities that help them feel more included and involved	The Department of Economics acknowledges the importance of having opportunities for international students. The Cyprus branch is committed to establish exchange programs and other activities for international students to help them feel more included and involved. We are also committed to having guest lectures by renowned academics who will give an international perspective to the programme of studies.	Choose level of compliance:
Quality assurance system of the connection with society could be strengthened.	<p>The Department of Economics acknowledges that the quality assurance system of the connection with society can be further strengthened. To this end, the Cyprus branch is committed to undertaking the following actions:</p> <p>Strengthening Collaboration with External Stakeholders Development and Implementation of Procedures and Tools for collecting feedback from external stakeholders regarding graduates' qualifications, as well as the design, structure, and quality of the Institution's Study Programmes.</p> <p>Establishment of Advisory Committees or Informal Support Councils comprised of representatives from external bodies and organizations (Central Advisory Council and Councils per Department or Study Programme).</p> <p>Further Initiatives for Institutional Communication and Feedback</p>	Choose level of compliance:

	<p>Establishment of Advisory Committees or Informal Support Councils comprised of members from external bodies and organizations, both at the Institutional Level and at the Study Programme Level.</p> <p>Development of a dedicated questionnaire to collect feedback from external stakeholders, which will be distributed to them for input.</p> <p>Creation of a Stakeholder Registry to be utilized in the internal and external evaluation processes of the Study Programmes, as well as in evaluations related to international university rankings.</p> <p>Strategic Actions – Communication and Outreach</p> <p>Transition from the model of “personal acquaintance” to a model of official institutional communication with external stakeholders.</p> <p>Improvement of the procedures for informing stakeholders about the results of the external evaluation and accreditation of the IQAS and the Study Programmes.</p> <p>Establishment of Events specifically addressed to external stakeholders.</p>	
Strengthening cooperation with external stakeholders in program evaluations is recognized as an area of improvement for the Branch.	<p>The Department of Economics acknowledges the importance of involving external stakeholders in program evaluation. The Cyprus branch will establish feedback procedures with external stakeholders to support curriculum development and ensure that the program remains up to date with industry standards and societal needs. We have also planned further activities to strengthen the bond between the graduates and the labour market through talks by market participants and mentoring schemes.</p>	Choose level of compliance:

Clear communication to students of appeals processes and related mechanisms.	<p>The Department of Economics recognizes the importance of clear communication to students regarding appeals processes and related mechanisms. Your excellent point about the student appeal processes and the related mechanisms will be used to inform our already established processes at the home institution. We take this issue very seriously and strive to implement the right procedures for the benefit of our students.</p> <p>Here we provide some additional Information about the established processes at NKUA:</p> <p>Student Ombudsperson</p> <p>At the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the institution of the <i>Student Ombudsperson</i> has been established and is in operation, with the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing student requests regarding problems they face with academic and administrative services, and seeking solutions to these issues; • Facilitating communication between students and the university's administrative bodies and services; • Examining student reports or complaints concerning violations of university legislation and codes of conduct; • Informing students of their rights and obligations as members of the University Community. <p>Contact Information</p> <p>Postal Address: Student Welfare Directorate Building (15 Ippokratous Street – 1st floor)</p> <p>Telephone: +30 210 368 8274</p> <p>E-mail: sinigrosfitti@uoa.gr</p>	Choose level of compliance:

	<p>Professor Mr Ioannis Tasopoulos has been appointed as the <i>Student Ombudsperson</i>. Students may meet with the Ombudsperson by prior arrangement via email at sinigorosfititi[at]uoa[dot]gr.</p> <p>https://en.uoa.gr/about_us/services_units/student_ombudsman</p>	
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2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment (ESG 1.3)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
It is important to maintain the strong tradition of pluralism within and across the programmes in the new Branch.	The Department of Economics has a long-standing tradition of promoting pluralism in Economics. There is strong commitment that the Cyprus branch will maintain that pluralism within and across the programmes and this will also be a guiding principle when appointing new staff in the department.	Choose level of compliance:

3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
It is imperative that NKUA implement its recruitment teaching plans for the staffing of the Cyprus Branch.	The University is committed to implement its recruitment teaching plans for the staffing of the Cyprus Branch plans as scheduled. More specifically, the home department is committed to properly provisioning the branch from its first days of operations in a fashion that is planned, coherent and offers continuity in teaching and research so that the phasing in of students is as seamless as possible. From the beginning and in proportion to the number of students recruited so that they are properly supported, the branch is organized to have: Five (5) teaching staff working full-time across fields of knowledge and with complementing expertise in teaching and administrative duties. One (1) special teaching-staff fully focused in developing and maintaining processes and quality of provision. We are also paying plans for up to five visiting professors and one or two special scientists to help with knowledge exchange and mentoring of the branch staff in maintaining the level of provision at the standards of the parent department. Furthermore, we are committed not only to recruit staff but to also utilize visiting and other positions so that the students acquire a wide exposure to well renowned academics.	Choose level of compliance:

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

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
At present the EEC has no specific concerns but the Branch needs to ensure excellent systems as above.	We would like to thank the EEC report for its kind recommendation. We will ensure the creation and implementation of systems similar to the home institution not only in their structure but also in their efficiency, always taking into account the Cypriot legislative procedures and the good practices in the EHEA.	Choose level of compliance:

5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Creating a stronger student community through e.g. student clubs and alumni collaboration is recommended. The smaller student cohort lends itself to building up a strong community.	The Department of Economics acknowledges the importance of creating a strong student community through student clubs and alumni events and agrees that the smaller student cohort at the Cyprus branch offers an excellent opportunity for building up a strong student community. Efforts will be made to encourage the development of student clubs and alumni collaboration to strengthen the academic community and enrich student experience. It is important to note that the home department has a strong alumni cohort of Cypriot students which will be utilised to provide support and a sense of community to the branch students.	Choose level of compliance:

6. Additional for doctoral programmes **N/A** (ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Choose level of compliance:

7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
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CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION



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B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
The EEC is confident that it will be a good addition to the learning landscape.	We want to thank the EEC panel for its concluding remarks and we intend to continue with enthusiasm the delivery of our pluralist economics programme at the Cyprus branch.	Choose level of compliance:

The proposed Programme capitalizes on the existing programme delivered by the Department of Economics at NKUA in Athens. The Programme incorporates all the bodies of knowledge that are inherent in the undergraduate programme of Economics. The faculty are enthusiastic about the prospects of the new Programme. They have an established record in research and in teaching. Facilities and resources planned for the Programme are of good standard. The planned student numbers are consistent with the numbers of faculty being recruited. The Programme has good potential for societal relevance in Cyprus and beyond.

C. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Stelios Kotsios	Head, Department of Economics, NKUA	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
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Date: Click to enter date

