

Ref. Number 07.14.290.055.001

**FINAL REPORT OF THE CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND
ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**EVALUATION - ACCREDITATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

IN GREEK:

Βιοποικιλότητα Και Οικολογία(3-8 Έτη, 240 ECTS ,PhD)

IN ENGLISH:

Biodiversity and Ecology (3-8 Years/240 ECTS, PhD)

**OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION
of the University of Cyprus**

This Final Report was prepared on the basis of Article (20)(2)(f)(i) of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation in 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].

THE PROCEDURE:

On 25 October 2023, the legal representative of the Higher Education Institution University of Cyprus, submitted an application (Doc. 200.1), based on Article (17) of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws” of 2015 to 2021, for the evaluation-accreditation of the programme of study:

IN GREEK:

Βιοποικιλότητα Και Οικολογία(3-8 Έτη, 240 ECTS ,PhD)

IN ENGLISH:

Biodiversity and Ecology (3-8 Years/240 ECTS, PhD)

This application is registered with the reference number: 07.14.290.055.001

In the framework of competences conferred on it by the relevant legislation, the Council of the Agency has constituted an External Evaluation Committee (EEC), which after initially examining the institution's application for programme evaluation and accreditation, performed an on-site visit at the institution on 24 and 25 September 2024.

The EEC met with the head of the institution, the head of the relevant department, the programme's coordinator, members of the academic staff, members of the administrative staff, students and/or their representatives and the Internal Quality Assurance Committee.

Additionally, the EEC examined the institution's facilities (library, computer labs, labs, teaching classes, research infrastructures, etc.), various documents presented and/or requested by the EEC, the School's/Faculty's structure and the programme's position in it, the CVs of the teaching staff and their relationship to the institution as teachers in regard to any other duties and teaching.

The EEC has documented its findings and recommendations and drew up the External Evaluation Report in the Doc. 300.1.1.

CYQAA Council's Decision

The Council of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education, during its **117th** Summit on **31 March 2025**, according to the Article (20)(2)(f)(i) of the "Quality Assurance and Accreditation in 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], and based on the suggestions of the External Evaluation Committee, and the comments of the institution on the External Evaluation Committee report, **decided that the programme is accredited to be delivered in English.**

The Agency informs the Institution within six months and no later than the end of the Fall Semester 2025-2026 to:

- **Adapt the new course on quantitative data analysis to include examples relevant to Biological disciplines (e.g., ecology, evolution), and evaluate the integration of widely used statistical tools such as R and Python, which are freely available and aligned with current practices.**
- **Ensure timely updates regarding academic staff recruitment**

The current accreditation begins in the Fall semester of the academic year **2025–2026** and ceases to be in effect at the end of the Spring semester of the academic year **2029-2030**.

Based on (4)(c) of the relevant Law, it is noted that "the above accreditation is valid for the period provided by the provisions of the Law and is repeated every five (5) years and that the procedure starts at the request of the institution, which must, and shall be submitted at least sixteen (16) months before the expiry of the previous accreditation".

Additionally, based on the Article (17)(3)(g) during the period of validity of the Accreditation, the Agency acting of its own motion, may examine whether the criteria continue to be met and if they are not met, then the Agency shall revoke the Accreditation, and immediately inform the institution concerned.



(Professor Mary Ioannidou-Koutselini)
President of the Board of the
Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and
Accreditation in Higher Education

10 April 2025