



Ref. number: 7.14.290.100

(Doc. 400.2.1)

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

**EVALUATION - ACCREDITATION OF THE PROGRAM OF STUDY**

**IN GREEK: Ειδική και Ενιαία Εκπαίδευση, 3-8 έτη, 273 ECTS (Διδακτορικό).**

**IN ENGLISH: Special and Inclusive Education, 3-8 years, 273 ECTS (PhD)**

**OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION**

***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 and 2016 [N. 136 (I) / 2015 and N.47 (I) / 2016].

**THE PROCEDURE:**

On 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2019, 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 and 2016, for the evaluation-accreditation of the program of study:

**IN GREEK: Ειδική και Ενιαία Εκπαίδευση, 1.5-4 έτη, 3-8 έτη, 273 ECTS (Διδακτορικό).**

**IN ENGLISH: Special and Inclusive Education, 3-8 years, 273 ECTS (PhD)**

This application is registered in the file with the reference number: 7.14.290.100

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 program evaluation and accreditation, performed an on-site visit at the institution on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The EEC met with the head of the institution, the head of the relevant department, the program'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, research infrastructures, etc.), various documents presented and/or requested by the EEC, the School's/ Faculty's structure and the program'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 in other programs of study.

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 53<sup>rd</sup> Summit on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 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 and 2016 [N. 136 (I) / 2015 and N.47 (I) / 2016], and on the basis of the suggestions of the External Evaluation Committee, the comments of the institution on the report **decided that the program is accredited to be delivered in Greek.**

**According to the recommendations of the EEC and the decision of the Agency, the Institution is required, within six months and no later than 30 September 2020, to provide evidence and data confirming compliance with the following:**

1. Link students' research topic to existing research projects and advertise relevant studentships.
2. Establish processes to ensure progression of MA students who go on to the PhD programme.
3. Augment the current criteria with criteria for accepting a PhD thesis and communicate them clearly and in advance to prospective students.
4. Improve the clarity/ transparency of the criteria of evaluation and how these are communicated, in written form, to students including evidence about the rules of marking as well as the reliability or moderation of marking. The institution should publish the criteria in advance and ensure that these are in line with EQF, level 8.
5. Update course references to include enough critical discourse about inclusion and an up-to-date review of the international literature.
6. Augment instructional methods by further exploitation of the capabilities provided by contemporary ICT (i.e. discussion fora, wikis, development joint writing and presentations)

The current accreditation begins in the **Winter** semester of the academic year **2020 – 2021** and ceases to be in effect at the end of the **Spring** semester of the academic year **2025 – 2026**.

On the basis of Article (4) of the relevant Legislation, 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, on the basis of Article (17) (3) (f) 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

Date: 25 May 2020