

Ref. number: 07.14.336.039

(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: Επιστήμη Δεδομένων (Εξ Αποστάσεως, 1.5 έτη, Μεταπτυχιακό Δίπλωμα, 90 ECTS)**

**IN ENGLISH: Data Science (Distance Learning, 1.5 years, Master of Science, 90 ECTS)**

### **OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION**

#### **University of Nicosia**

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 2019 N. [136 (I)/2015 to 35(I)/2019]».

#### **THE PROCEDURE:**

On 23 April 2019 the legal representative of the Higher Education Institution **University of Nicosia** 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 2019 N. [136 (I)/2015 to 35(I)/2019]», for the evaluation-accreditation of the program of study:

**IN GREEK: Επιστήμη Δεδομένων (Εξ Αποστάσεως, 1.5 έτη, Μεταπτυχιακό Δίπλωμα, 90 ECTS)**

**IN ENGLISH: Data Science (Distance Learning, 1.5 years, Master of Science, 90 ECTS)**

This application is registered in the file with the reference number: 07.14.336.039

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 4 July 2019.

The EEC met with the head of the institution, the head of the relevant department, the program's coordinator, members of the academic staff, and 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 49<sup>th</sup> Summit on 20 and 21 January 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 2019 [N. 136 (I) / 2015 and N.47 (I) / 2019], and on the basis of the suggestions of the External Evaluation Committee, the comments of the institution on the report and the Feedback Report , **decided that the program is accredited to be delivered in English.**

**The Agency requires the University to:**

- **implement measures and provide incentives to the academic staff for the conduct of research (i.e., exemptions from teaching time).**
- **Give guidance to coordinators of the distance learning programs to develop specific interactive activities.**
- **make use of the virtual and audiovisual environment in the process of learning activities and materials (appropriate simulations), so that students are encouraged to be active learners rather than passive.**
- **Involve students in the learning process when engaging in weekly activities.**
- **Make sure interaction (student-teacher, student- material), is part of the peer review / feedback from the teacher.**
- **Reconsider the policy in regard to the conduct of a Masters dissertation. CYQAA recommends that dissertation is compulsory.**

**Overall, the Agency requires the University within six months and no later than Fall 20-21 to comply with the above and send a Follow up report (Doc. 300.1.4).**

The current accreditation begins in the **Spring** semester of the academic year **2019 – 2020** and ceases to be in effect at the end of the **Fall** semester of the academic year **2024 – 2025**.

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 February 2020