Doc. 300.1.1

Higher Education Institution's Response

Date: 15.5.2023

- Higher Education Institution: University of Cyprus
- Town: Nicosia
- Programme of study
 Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

In Greek:

ΔΙΔΑΚΤΟΡΙΚΌ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΉ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ In English:

Ph.D. IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY (6-16 SEMESTERS/273 ECTS, Ph.D.)

- Language(s) of instruction: GREEK AND ENGLISH
- Programme's status: Currently Operating
- 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 <u>without any interference</u> 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 |
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| Consider being more flexible than the current "one size fits all" approach of curriculum design (with all courses of the same size), and more flexible about maximum student numbers allowed in the courses (1.2). | The curriculum design is decided by the departmental board of the Department of Education. All education Ph.D. programs follow the same format/design i.e., same ECTS per course. Changing the design of the program (increase or decrease the number of ECTS per course) will cause a number of problems to the rest of the programs because students from other education graduate programs take instructional technology courses and in the case of a different ECTS system students may not be able to complete in time the amount of ECTS required to graduate. Deciding on a different curriculum design is something that needs to be decided by the Department and not by one single program. However, a departmental committee (I am a member of this committee) has been formed to examine this issue carefully. | Choose level of compliance: |
| The current study guide information about courses does not do justice to the interactive and practical approach followed in practice (which is a strong suit), so public information can be improved on this aspect. (1.3) | In regards to the maximum student numbers, now that the program will have an independent status (and will no longer be part of the general pedagogical Ph.D. program, which imposed certain restrictions), will be more flexible in terms of the number of students allowed to enter the program and the courses. A main concern that the Coordinator of the program had about the description of the courses in the study guide was the fact that the application materials (including all information about the courses) was already four years old at the time of the program evaluation (site visit), and outdated in terms of what was really happening in the courses. But this is already addressed since the coordinator of the | Choose level of compliance: |





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| | program submitted to the EEC new | |
| | descriptions of the courses some days | |
| | before the evaluation visit. In some | |
| | cases, the titles of the courses | |
| | changed. These updated materials | |
| | have been uploaded to the DIPAE's | |
| | server, so DIPAE can easily check this. | |
| | It seems that the EEC did not have the | |
| | time to examine the new descriptions | |
| | since they wrote in their report that | |
| | the course descriptions were four | |
| | years old. In addition, the Department | |
| | of Education has already submitted to | |
| | the Dean of the Graduate School at | |
| | UCY the new titles and new | |
| | descriptions of the courses and upon | |
| | approval all new descriptions will | |
| | appear on the public website of the | |
| | UCY. The new descriptions clearly | |
| | address the interactive and practical | |
| | approach followed in the teaching of | |
| | the courses. | |
| International recruitment of | There is currently not an analysis of | Choose level of compliance: |
| academic staff would also bring new | how attractive the Department could | · |
| expertise. (Is there any analysis of | be for international scholars. But due | |
| how attractive the Department | to the high international rankings that | |
| could be for international scholars, | our Department of Education has been | |
| if Greek was not an absolute | receiving, this gives us some indication | |
| necessity?) | that international scholars will find our | |
| | department attractive. | |
| | | |
| Why is there no parallel programs in | Greek is not an absolute necessity for | |
| English? | the program. The program can be | |
| | taught in English if English speaking | |
| | students apply for the program. | |
| | | |
| | Currently, the Department of | |
| | Education is developing a distance | |
| | education graduate program. | |
| | Instructional Technology is part of this | |
| | distance education program. The goal | |
| | here is to recruit international | |
| | students/scholars and to offer the | |
| | instructional technology program in | |
| | parallel both in Greek and English. | |
| As it is, the teaching staff of the | As I explained to the EEC, this is an | Choose level of compliance: |
| program is adequate for the small | issue that the University has to decide, | |
| number of students. This in turn | and not the program. It is not so easy | |
| make it vulnerable to changes in | and simple to hire new professors at | |
| personnel. The students clearly | UCY. This is centrally decided and it | İ |





| averaged the need for a second | dananda an haw mush manay tha | |
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| expressed the need for a second | depends on how much money the | |
| professor on the topic of | Government of Cyprus allocates to | |
| instructional technology. | UCY for hiring new academic staff. | |
| What has been done to find out | As it was stated to the EEC, | Choose level of compliance: |
| what the students at the beginning | prospective students go through an | ' |
| of their studies actually know and | interview process. During the | |
| are capable of learning? | interview process they are asked a | |
| | number of questions that are relevant | |
| | to their success in the program. In | |
| | addition, they need to submit a | |
| | transcript from previous programs of | |
| | study and thus it is very easy to check | |
| | for prerequisites such as for example | |
| | computing skills, research skills, | |
| | theoretical foundations, instructional | |
| | design knowledge, and good English | |
| | skills. If the student does not have the | |
| | necessary entry skills then he or she is | |
| | rejected. In the case where a student | |
| | applying for a Ph.D. in instructional | |
| | technology does not have a master's | |
| | degree in instructional technology, it is | |
| | strongly recommended to him/her to | |
| | first pursue a master's degree in | |
| | instructional technology before | |
| | applying for a Ph.D. in instructional | |
| | technology. In the case of applicants | |
| | who have completed a master's | |
| | degree in instructional technology | |
| | from our department and want to | |
| | continue with a Ph.D., it is easy to | |
| | assess whether the student can | |
| | successfully complete a Ph.D. since the | |
| | coordinator of the program knows the | |
| | students very well. | |
| | The program so far has a zero-dropout | |
| | rate thus this is a strong indication that | |
| | all students admitted in the program | |
| | are appropriately selected. | |
| How is the field levelled for students | All courses include projects and it is | Choose level of compliance: |
| in the beginning of their studies? I.e. | explicitly mentioned in the new syllabi | chiese level of compliance. |
| what is done to ensure that the | that formative assessment takes place | |
| students have the skills and | in the form of a number of progress | |
| knowledge to cope with the | reports throughout the semester. This | |
| program? | is done to ensure that students are on | |
| | the right track and allows the | |
| | instructor to diagnose and handle | |
| | learning difficulties effectively on time. | |
| | 1 on the states checkery on time. | l |





| | Also, due to the small number of students, there is time to supervise each student individually and support their learning so they succeed in the program. A strong apprenticeship model is in place. | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Is there an in-depth analysis of what a Ph.D. from the program needs to know, is this firmly linked to an analysis of employability? | Yes, the design of the program is based on what an instructional technology Ph.D. graduate must know to work as an instructional technologist specialist in the corporate or assume an academic career at a university setting, not just in Cyprus, but Europe of elsewhere. Thus, all course work is directed toward this aim. It is also worth mentioning that the program prepares students to work in demanding workplaces where specialized skills (research skills, design thinking, computer science skills, computational thinking skills, technology-enhanced pedagogical reasoning skills, etc.) are required. Research is a major component of their course work and students are required to collect research data, analyze, present research findings at international conferences and publish in top tier instructional technology journals. The course work in the program is highly challenging but the strong ongoing support from the faculty ensures students' success in | Choose level of compliance: |
| Is there an analysis of how much work goes into each course? Is the workload (and the cognitive level of the content) realistic given the starting skills and knowledge of the students? The answer given by the students was positive. | the program (apprenticeship model). As the EEC stated, the students answered this question and stated that the workload is realistic given their starting skills and knowledge. There is of course a preliminary analysis of how much work goes into each course and that is how the assessment criteria are decided. In addition, as the teaching of the courses is very student-centered, reflection in action and on action during the semester as well as ongoing discussions with the students about the demands of the courses provides feedback to the faculty, and if needed, | Choose level of compliance: |







| | changes are made to better satisfy the needs of the students. | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Is the 12 ECTS modular structure of the curriculum optimal, i.e. does every type and level of content need an equal time frame? The EEC has not found this to be the case. Naturally it makes planning technically easier – but should this be the main concern? Is it at the cost of the quality of instruction of the program as a whole? | The 12 ECTS modular structure of the curriculum is decided by the Faculty Board of the Department of Education and each program has to follow it. This is the current situation. However, currently the Department decided to examine how to offer its courses in more flexible ways for various lengths of time. I am a member of this committee and we are looking into ways of how some courses can be implemented in different time frames (i.e., some course will have a 2-week duration, some others a four-week duration and so on). Once, we manage to do this, then I believe we will be able to discuss the 12-ECTS modular structure and how we can change it. | Choose level of compliance: |
| The number of students that is allowed to enter is very low. This program serves both society (contributes to solving problems) and to the academic community (research output; international collaborations). Allowing more students to enter the program would also contribute to the quality of the program (larger classes means more diversity regarding interests, problems that are tackled, interaction between students) and to the sustainability of the program (less vulnerable). | Now that the program will have an independent status and will no longer be part of the general pedagogical Ph.D. program, it will be allowed to accept more students into the program. The previous status-being a specialization under the general pedagogical Ph.D. program- imposed some restrictions on the number of students allowed to enter the program but now this will no longer be the case. | Choose level of compliance: |
| | | Choose level of compliance: |
| | | |

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

| Areas of improvement and | Actions Taken by the Institution | For Official Use ONLY |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| recommendations by EEC | • | |
| Placement of the IT program within | Of the 11 students who entered the | Choose level of compliance: |
| the Education Faculty would assume | Ph.D. program, two were students | |
| that the computer science and | with a master's degree in computer | |
| educational science approaches and | science, 8 graduated and only one | |
| models are at least equally | of the ones who graduated was a | |
| represented. We have become | computer scientist. Thus, obviously | |
| more convinced, after speaking | most students who enter the | |
| various stakeholders, that this is | program are teachers. As for the | |
| actually the case. The program | course content, only one course | |
| leader mentioned at some point | requires students to use computer | |
| that she "did not want teachers but | programming skills, the rest are | |
| computer scientists", but we later | based on a strong pedagogical | |
| came to understand that actually | reasoning perspective enhanced by | |
| many teachers follow this program. | technology. | |
| If not the case, it would be our | | |
| recommendation to have both sides | | |
| of the same medal represented in | | |
| both the program content and | | |
| students. | | |
| We strongly suggest there should be | I have addressed this issue in detail | Choose level of compliance: |
| room for more tailored and | in the previous section explaining | |
| personalised setups of the curricula. | that the design of the curriculum is | |
| Especially for an educational science | decided by the departmental board | |
| program that advocated | of the Department of Education. | |
| personalised learning. The Faculty | However, we are taking the EEC's | |
| should "teach as they preach". | recommendation seriously and the | |
| | department has already formed a | |
| | committee to examine how to move | |
| | away from the one-size-fits all | |
| | approach to courses so that the | |
| | program can become more | |
| | personalized and flexible. | |
| In the course descriptions there is | This was the case with the course | Choose level of compliance: |
| mention of lots of references and | descriptions that were submitted | · |
| books. Although there is a | four years ago. As I explained in the | |
| distinction between mandatory and | previous section, I have already | |
| recommended literature, it is not | updated the course descriptions | |
| always clear what is what and for | and uploaded them to DIPAE's | |
| which learning activities it should be | server, but it seems that the EEC | |
| studied. The course descriptions | had no time to look at the updated | |
| were not very inspirational. It was | materials. The bibliographical | |
| stated that descriptions on paper | references in the new course | |
| are never passionate, but we feel | descriptions are categorized in a | |
| there could be better mention of | | |
| and a decider interition of | | |







| Iwas never told by UCY that the EEC cone representative PhD thesis (preferably worked out and accepted in English) but did not receive them in time. Iwas never told by UCY that the EEC shed me to provide them with the theses (preferably in English) and of course I did so immediately. One of the PhD thesis submitted to the EEC won an international award as Best Dissertation Thesis (research by Elena Macrides). Choose level of compliance: | the didactical approach in the study guides, which after all is a strong point in this program. | way that matches the units covered in the course. | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| format of 12 EC courses which are taught in a weekly schedule of three-hour meetings. Many topics in instructional technology and education research require attention, but not on a 12 EC scale. Introducing smaller modules would make the programming more varied and flexible. Also, more intensive formats (e.g., a one week with 18 hours of active participation of students) could be considered. In the standard of the programming more varied and flexible. Also, more intensive formats (e.g., a one week with 18 hours of active participation of students) could be considered. In the standard of the program has to follow it. This is the current situation. However, as I stated, currently the Department is examining how to offer its courses in more flexible ways for various lengths of time. I am a member of this committee and we are looking into how some courses can be implemented in different time frames (i.e., some courses will have a 2-week duration, some others a four-week duration and so on). Once, we manage to do this, then I believe we will be able to discuss the 12-ECTS modular structure and how we can change it. We are definitely working toward the direction recommended by the EEC. Qualitative methodology seems to receive less attention. It is either a small part of an integrated course with a strong emphasis on quantitative methods, or an elective. Qualitative research often rests on other paradigms than quantitative research; discussing these requires a more independent | one representative PhD thesis (preferably worked out and accepted in English) but did not | requested one representative PhD thesis. The day of the site visit at about 17:30 the EEC asked me to provide them with the theses (preferably in English) and of course I did so immediately. One of the PhD thesis submitted to the EEC won an international award as Best Dissertation Thesis (research by | Choose level of compliance: |
| Qualitative methodology seems to receive less attention. It is either a small part of an integrated course with a strong emphasis on quantitative methods, or an elective. Qualitative research often rests on other paradigms than quantitative research; discussing these requires a more independent If a Ph.D. student comes directly from the master's program offered at our department, then the student must take the qualitative research methods course because the quantitative research course is mandatory in the master's program. Most Ph.D. students end up taking both courses because they see the | format of 12 EC courses which are taught in a weekly schedule of three-hour meetings. Many topics in instructional technology and education research require attention, but not on a 12 EC scale. Introducing smaller modules would make the programming more varied and flexible. Also, more intensive formats (e.g., a one week with 18 hours of active participation of | As I explained in the previous section, the 12 ECTS modular structure of the curriculum is decided by the Faculty Board of the Department of Education and each program has to follow it. This is the current situation. However, as I stated, currently the Department is examining how to offer its courses in more flexible ways for various lengths of time. I am a member of this committee and we are looking into how some courses can be implemented in different time frames (i.e., some courses will have a 2-week duration, some others a four-week duration and so on). Once, we manage to do this, then I believe we will be able to discuss the 12-ECTS modular structure and how we can change it. We are definitely working toward the | Choose level of compliance: |
| Recommendations on improving the format and the procedures for strict format and accepts only a | receive less attention. It is either a small part of an integrated course with a strong emphasis on quantitative methods, or an elective. Qualitative research often rests on other paradigms than quantitative research; discussing these requires a more independent point of view. Recommendations on improving the | If a Ph.D. student comes directly from the master's program offered at our department, then the student must take the qualitative research methods course because the quantitative research course is mandatory in the master's program. Most Ph.D. students end up taking both courses because they see the importance for taking both. The university website follows a | Choose level of compliance: |





methodology and evaluation of each course is announced in public but without specific details. Detailed information is given to students at the beginning of each course.

each course. Thus, we cannot upload as much information as we would like on the departmental website. However, the new course descriptions provide now more specific details about student assessment and are more informative than before. As the EEC stated, detailed information to the students is given at the beginning of the semester.

3. Teaching staff

(ESG 1.5)

| Areas of improvement and | | |
|---|---|--|
| recommendations by EEC | Actions Taken by the Institution | For Official Use ONLY |
| The current leadership is an | As we told the EEC, we are severely | Choose level of compliance: |
| important strength but at the same | hampered by university regulations | |
| time a weakness or potential risk. | and governmental restrictions. The | |
| The committee feels that without | EEC, as they wrote in their report, | |
| the leader this program would not | are very well aware of this. The | |
| sustain. PhD students can only be | faculty staff of the program and the | |
| trained to lecture to some extent, | department of education are highly | |
| and there should at least be another | receptive to the recommendations | |
| staff (second) position on the topic | made by the EEC and use them for a | |
| of IT/ET in the program. The | persuasive argument in the Senate | |
| teaching staff seems highly | to express urgency in the matter of | |
| receptive to take aboard the | hiring a new faculty member. | |
| suggestions made by the EEC | Thou already gave us normission to | |
| (combining with other programs, flexible curricular setup, opening up | They already gave us permission to offer an online version of the | |
| to English), but appears seriously | instructional technology program in | |
| hampered by university regulations | English, which is expected to start in | |
| and political restrictions. We | in about three semesters. | |
| observed some interesting 'shift of | in about times semesters. | |
| responsibility mechanisms' with | | |
| teachers pointing at the department | | |
| regulations, the department | | |
| pointing at new agency restrictions, | | |
| and feel that some interference on | | |
| the governmental level might be | | |
| counter-productive. We sincerely | | |
| feel this vicious circle should | | |
| somehow be broken. | | |
| Our recommendation therefore | | |
| goes out to the Rectorate to give | | |
| some more leeway for innovative | | |
| initiatives and offerings. Such a first | | |
| step could be to allow an online | | |
| version of this program in English. | | |
| The growth of the program might also be a risk in the sense that than | | |
| no longer the same personal | | |
| attention and supervision can be | | |
| provided without increasing the | | |
| staff. | | |
| Promotion procedures seem to | The coordinator of the program is | Choose level of compliance: |
| value research output the most. | very well aware of the need to show | and the control of th |
| This has an effect on the efforts of | innovation in the instructional | |
| the staff: they have many | technology program. While, this | |





| publications, which is good of course. However, Instructional Technology also is an area of innovation, problem solving and design of technological solutions to problems in areas like robotics, virtual reality, gaming, hybrid teaching, big data and artificial intelligence. Contributions to these areas seem not to be valued explicitly in the staff evaluation and promotion procedures. This may affect the program: staff will be biased towards research and not towards innovation. | issue has not been raised in any of the promotion procedures, the program through the efforts of the coordinator has been involved in the design and development of innovative computer-based environments such as adaptive computer-based systems (i.e., e-TPCK system), PAUL (a personalized computer-based system), AI procedures for analyzing big data (see publications of the coordinator of the program on data analytics), and the efforts continue with new recent successful collaborations with the computer science department at UCY in developing an AI system to measure performance in sports. Likewise, the coordinator is developing standards for introducing AI in the corporate sector. Many of the publications of the coordinator of the program are related to the innovative component of the program. | |
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| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Choose level of compliance: |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | 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 |
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| Since the program consists of very small numbers of students, everybody pretty much knows each other. So the need for centralized platforms for student monitoring is not that high. However, we would suggest that to Learning Management System (LMS) holding study materials and monitoring of progress (i.c. Blackboard) will be linked to the student information system used by the supportive staff (i.c. Bannerweb), in such a way that progress and completion of courses is automatically signalled towards the student info system. The student's portal does not create and send any automatic notifications in the case of a student getting low grades. A recommendation would be that the portal notifies in that case the academic advisor or the tutor of the student in order to intervene. | It is true that BannerWeb does not contain monitoring information about the students, only summative data. Successful completion of courses is automatically signaled toward the student account in the BannerWeb system. The teaching staff are responsible for monitoring student progress throughout the semester. The administration personnel monitor the ongoing student performance from one semester to the next. If students seem to be falling behind the instructor is informed to meet with the student. | Choose level of compliance: |
| Also, there is no mechanism/procedure in place for giving students the chance to complain about the process of teaching and learning or to assess a tutor's performance. | Maybe it was not mentioned to the EEC, but twice in the semester, students are asked to comment on the quality of the courses, anonymously, and suggest changes. Specifically, for EDU 583, students are asked to write a reflection paper at the end of the semester about how the course helped them develop thinking skills and suggest changes in the teaching methodology of the course. However, we are such a small community that everybody feels very comfortable with each other and it is often the case that students ask for permission to suggest changes in the course procedures. The coordinator of the course has a | Choose level of compliance: |







| | close relationship with all students admitted in the program and often asks students to inform her about any difficulties they face and or things they would like to see different. The teaching staff communicate freely with each other and it is often the case that they collaborate to improve the teaching of their courses. | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
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| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Choose level of compliance: |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | 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 |
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| Tools and development approaches for immersive learning (like Serious Gaming) and XR (VR, AR and MR) applications should be further explored (both in the course content as lab facilities) since these are very timely ET applications for a variety of vocational learning solutions nowadays. | We do have VR equipment in the lab and use it in our courses. Based on the EEC's recommendations, I have already discussed with the department chair the purchase of a VR/AR platform that costs 15000 euros and he is looking into ways of how to buy it given the recent budget cuts. | Choose level of compliance: |
| It was claimed (by oral communication) that the dropout was 0%. It would have been nice to have seen some actual statistics of student numbers, dropout rates, and throughput times (speed of study), and student feed-back. | Prior to the site visit, I requested statistics from the department and I included them in the powerpoint presentation as follows: • Number of students admitted since 2011: 11 • Number of students graduated: 8 • 1 male • 7 females • Currently enrolled students: 3 • 3 females • Success rate: 100% Speed of time ranges from 3 years | Choose level of compliance: |
| We have asked for student evaluations (both on the program and course level), but were told that student evaluations were not for external communication and only for internal use. Evaluations on the program level were available on faculty level, but neither provided to the committee on their request. | to 8 years. According to the Senate's decision course evaluation data are not to be used for external communication and only for internal use by the course instructor. As for the program data, I requested from the University to provide me with evaluation data obtained from the graduates upon completion of their program of study and was told that there was no data yet at the program level. Based on the EEC comment, I took the initiative and created an online questionnaire that will be forwarded to the graduates of the instructional technology program during the end of their studies. | Choose level of compliance: |
| Resources seem to be good with respect to open source software | As I mentioned before, we do have VR systems, but maybe it was not | Choose level of compliance: |



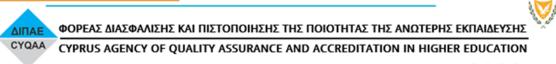


| and robotics systems, but lack other materials (Arduino's; Virtual Reality). The small number of students that enrol in the program may influence the available budget negatively. Perhaps closer cooperation with the Department of Computer Science and IT-companies may result in sponsorships for these resources. | made clear to the EEC. If you check the powerpoint presentation you will see that I mention VR in the resources. Yes, we do collaborate with the computer science department at UCY and also with the computer science department at NTNU in Norway in order to have access to such resources that often times they are too expensive for UCY to afford. | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| The university's mechanisms for counselling for the postgraduate students need to work as good as for undergraduate students. Even though the majority of postgraduate students study in part time because they work, a mechanism / procedure should be in place in order to track any student problems on time, like financial problems. | The administration personnel are tracking financial problems. In regards to the instructional technology program it has never brought to my attention by a student or the secretaries that a student is facing financial problems. | Choose level of compliance: |

6. Additional for doctoral programmes

(ALL ESG)

| Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC | Actions Taken by the Institution | For Official Use ONLY |
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| We could not assess the final quality of reports and theses, since these were not provided in time to the committee. | It was unfortunate that I was not informed by UCY that the EEC has asked for reports and theses, even though I specifically asked if I needed to submit theses and student work. I was asked to submit theses on the day of the site visit which of course I did immediately. I want to mention that I submitted award winning Ph.D. theses that were recognized internationally as best dissertation theses (i.e., the Ph.D. thesis by Elena Macrides). | Choose level of compliance: |
| Because we only received positive but oral praise, and no proof of final quality on paper, we can only rate standard 6.2 as partially compliant. | I hope that now will be rated as compliant since theses of high quality have been submitted. | Choose level of compliance: |
| One wonders why the management of the university allows only two students per year to enrol. Enrolling more students makes better use of the qualities of the staff and will make the program more sustainable. | Now that the program will have an independent status (as opposed to being a specialization of the general pedagogical Ph.D. program), there will no longer be restricted to accepting only two students per year. | Choose level of compliance: |
| The program could be in English, as well as include a distance education version. This could attract more students. | Yes, this is something that is currently implemented. As I mentioned before, a distance education program in instructional technology has been proposed (along with other specializations) and we are waiting for instructions in regards to the next steps to be taken. | Choose level of compliance: |
| The explicit selection criteria for enrolment and the learning outcomes of the doctoral program focus predominantly on research. The role of innovation and skills for innovation remain implicit. Staff member and graduates state that being able to do, and actually designing (and not just investigating) an innovation, is part of the doctoral program: it is | It was not made explicit to the EEC, but all Ph.D. students actually design and develop an innovative solution to a pedagogical problem as part of their course work (i.e., 3D digital escape rooms, adaptive and personalized simulation and modeling computer-based environments). The same happens with their Ph.D. thesis. Students must first design from scratch the | Choose level of compliance: |





| recommended to make this more | technology-enhanced environments | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| explicit. | before researching them. | |

7. Eligibility (Joint programme)

(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: |
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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 thankful for the trust placed in it. The opportunities to observe and talk with the students and staff of the Department have been frank and eye-opening. We have learned a lot. | We also thank the EEC for the rich constructive, and in-depth discussions we had during the site visit. We have also learned a lot from them and listened very carefully to everything they brought up. | Choose level of compliance: |
| We recommend that the program is supplemented or extended with an English-language version of the program. Opening up an international English Doctoral program would provide ample opportunities for more students, external funding, and thereby development of the personnel (larger, more varied and more international). This would further enhance the visibility and reputation of the University, Department and program. | As I mentioned before, we have submitted an application to UCY for an online English-language version of the instructional technology program (along with other specializations) and we awaiting instructions for our next action (probably to prepare the application for evaluation by DIPAE). | Choose level of compliance: |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Choose level of compliance: |
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C.

D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

| Name | Position | Signature |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Charoula Angeli-Valanides | Professor | chAngeli |
| Click to enter Name | Click to enter Position | |
| Click to enter Name | Click to enter Position | |
| Click to enter Name | Click to enter Position | |
| Click to enter Name | Click to enter Position | |
| Click to enter Name | Click to enter Position | |

Date: 15.5.2023





