

Doc. 300.1.4

Date: 13/6/2023

Follow-up Report (for a CYQAA accredited Institution/Department/ Programme of study)

- Higher Education Institution: European University Cyprus
- Town: Nicosia
- Type of Evaluation: Programmatic
- Accredited on CYQAA Council's Summit Number: 82nd Summit
- Date of Accreditation: 16/05/2022

If applicable:

- School/Faculty: School of Law
- Department: N/A
- Programme of Study Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)
Programme Bachelor
In Greek:
"Νομική – Κυπριακό Δίκαιο (4 Έτη/240 ECTS, Πτυχίο)"
In English:
"Law - Cyprus Law (4 Years/240 ECTS, LLB)"
- Programme's type: Conventional
- Language (s) of instruction: Greek



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 (CYQAA), 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] and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

A. Internal Quality Assurance Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Prof. Loizos Symeou	Vice Rector of Academic Affairs, Chair of Committee on Internal Quality Assurance	European University Cyprus
Prof. Andreas Efstathiades	Professor, Faculty Representative, School of Business Administration	European University Cyprus
Prof. Elpida-Niki Emmanouil-Nikoloussi	Professor, Faculty Representative, School of Dentistry	European University Cyprus
Prof. Spyros Spyrou	Professor, Faculty Representative, School of Humanities, Social and Education Sciences	European University Cyprus
Dr. Stamatina Yannakourou	Associate Professor, Faculty Representative, School of Law	European University Cyprus
Dr. Konstantinos Lampropoulos	Associate Professor, Faculty Representative, School of Medicine	European University Cyprus
Prof. Chryssoula Thodi	Professor, Faculty Representative, School of Sciences	European University Cyprus
Dr. Pieris Chourides	Associate Professor, Quality Assurance Expert	European University Cyprus
Dr. George Panayiotou	Associate Professor, Quality Assurance Expert	European University Cyprus
Ms. Athanasia Ktena	Administrative Lead, Office of the Vice Rector of Academic Affairs, Administration Representative	European University Cyprus
Mr. Marcus Yerolemou	Student Representative, (Undergraduate Student)	European University Cyprus
Mr. Michalis Katsouris	Student Representative, (Graduate Student)	European University Cyprus



B. Guidelines on content and structure of the Follow-up Report

- *CYQAA has a consistent follow-up process for considering the action taken by the institution toward the improvement and further development of the CYQAA externally evaluated and accredited institution / department / programme of study. The present Follow-up Report should recount, synoptically, institutional action taken toward the implementation of the remarks indicated in the CYQAA Final Report.*
- *The Follow-up report should provide evidence {via website links} and appendices at the end of the report on how the remarks of the Council of CYQAA have been adhered to.*
- *The remarks indicated in the CYQAA Final Report should be copied from the corresponding report and be followed by the institution's response.*
- *The institution may add any other institutional action taken towards the implementation of ESG aiming at the improvement of the institution / department / programme of study.*

1. Remarks on the CYQAA Final Report

The CYQAA Final Report made three recommendations as follows:

- a) **Strengthening research: Establish processes to support staff's research activities.** This may include establishing time release from teaching duties (i.e., 3 hours per semester) so that faculty members can be more actively engaged in research. Time release will be granted provided that the applicant faculty member has submitted a clear plan and by examination of his/her previous research output. More importantly, provide incentives for networking with researchers from other universities in Europe to participate in European-funded projects, to gain experience in autonomous research.

The above recommendation should be settled over a one-year time horizon

- b) **Student's admission criteria must be clarified and be more specific**
- c) **Further reduction of non-legal courses**

The recommendations b) and c) should be settled before the beginning of the Fall semester 2022-2023.

Recommendations (b) and (c) were settled before the beginning of the Fall Semester 2022-2023 as appear in our response (07.14.327.060, dated 7 June 2022) on the form 300.1.4./1 "Report in Compliance with the Recommendations".

In the following section we provide our response to Recommendation (a) which was to be settled over a one-year time horizon.



2. Institution's Response

The School Council, in collaboration with the Rectorate started the implementation of a four-fold initiative aimed at enhancing the research capabilities of the School of Law's academic staff as suggested by CY.Q.A.A.

First, an institutional program of deduction of teaching time (subject to conditions) is now proposed to the staff. Each semester it is then possible for the academic staff to request a Teaching Hours Reduction (THR) which can take the form of the removal of one or two courses from their workload. During the Spring Semester 2023, Dr Antigoni Alexandropoulou, Dr Charalambos Stamelos and Dr. Thalia Prastitou were recipients of Teaching Hours Reduction. Similarly, for Fall 2023, five (5) faculty members received THR.

Overall, it should be noticed that the system of Teaching Hours Reductions has recently been entirely recasted for all the university, including the School of Law, with a system of point accumulation offering incentive to researchers to publish articles, submit book proposals, participate to EU research schemes, speak in conferences, and to enhance networking. Each activity provides points that can be transferred, after application, as THR and give the academic staff further time for research. It has also been adopted that administrative tasks may give rise to research points attribution. In conclusion, the more research is done, the more the staff is exempted from teaching obligations and can focus on more research, but also the more the administrative burden, the less the teaching load, in order to give to the academic time to conduct research.

Then, incentives are now proposed for staff networking with researchers from other universities. For instance, some members of the staff have participated in COST programs on networking (e.g. Dr. Philippe Jogleux, COST Program on Digital Human Rights) and a specific position in the School is dedicated to Erasmus programmes, with the task to promote interaction with other universities (Dr. Thalia Prastitou-Merdi) and develop, through Erasmus +, further cooperation with academics internationally.

Furthermore, there have also been webinars and updates from the University to inform the staff on these new possibilities. For example, on two meetings with the Office of the Vice Rector of Research and External Affairs, research opportunities under the DG Justice were presented and Law Faculty were encouraged to explore possible networks to submit proposals.

Finally, the institution has updated the policy on the **Bi-Annual Performance Appraisal of Faculty & Special Teaching Personnel** in order for everyone to make a two-year plan, which allows for a self-evaluation of the research process.



C. Other institutional action taken towards the implementation of ESG aiming at the improvement of the institution / department / programme of study.

It should be highlighted that the University has revised and modernized its annual system of awards, with Annual Awards for Excellence in Research and Teaching. These awards are delivered during a special ceremony. They are established to recognize academic staff of our university who have demonstrated outstanding performance in research and teaching in the relevant period and, as such, have contributed significantly to the promotion of Academic Excellence. These prestigious awards and their remuneration constitute another substantial incentive for researchers of the Law School.



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CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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D. Signatures of the Internal Quality Assurance Committee

Name	Signature
Prof. Loizos Symeou	
Prof. Andreas Efstathiades	
Prof. Elpida-Niki Emmanouil-Nikoloussi	
Prof. Spyros Spyrou	
Dr. Stamatina Yannakourou	
Dr. Konstantinos Lampropoulos	
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