Form: 300.1.2/2

Higher Education Institution's Response on Regulated Professions Representative Form

A. General Comments

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK) for its representation and contribution in the evaluation of the Department and its two programmes BSc Computer Science and PhD Computer Science on June 26, 2025, in Nicosia. During the on-site visit, together with the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) members, the ETEK representative met the faculty supporting the programme, and had separate meetings with students and alumni of the programme from the Nicosia campus, as well as external stakeholders that are members of the Department of Computer Science Advisory Board.

We would like to also thank the ETEK for their ***very positive*** comments and their constructive feedback.

More specifically, the ETEK states, amongst other:

- *"The BSc program in Computer Science (CS) offered by the University of Nicosia (UNIC) fully complies with the core course requirements set by ETEK. The CS program requires 22 core Computer Science courses, covering a comprehensive range of subjects essential for professional registration. Consequently, upon successful accreditation by CYQAA, graduates will be eligible for registration with ETEK in the specialization of Computer Science, under the field of "Electronic Engineering, including Information Technology Engineering."*

- *"The PhD in Computer Science (3 academic years, 180 ECTS) adheres to the expected research and supervisory standards for doctoral-level qualifications, although professional registration for PhD holders is contingent upon prior undergraduate-level compliance with ETEK recognition criteria."*

- *"The Department of Computer Science at the University of Nicosia effectively maintains high educational standards, fosters industry collaboration, provides a supportive learning environment, and promotes inclusive practices. The Department benefits from an active advisory board, which includes representatives from leading organizations such as Google Brain, Cloudflare, Technion, KPMG, Expedia and Hellenic Bank — a strong example of structured stakeholder engagement aligned with ESG 1.1."*

- *"Students expressed satisfaction with their learning experiences, access to facilities, and the quality of academic support services. The curriculum provides a solid foundation in core and emerging areas of Computer Science, and several students reported securing job offers and scholarships following project-based placements, indicating the positive impact of employer collaboration and career support mechanisms."*

It should be noted that the BSc in Computer Science is accredited by ETEK (https://etek.org.cy/el/anagnorismena-programmata-spoudon).

B. Institution's response comments on recommendations:

Areas of improvement and recommendations **by Regulated Professions Representative**	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
1. "Nonetheless, although the academic and operational foundations of the UNIC Computer Science Department are robust, there is room to systematize external stakeholder involvement in alignment with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Implementing structured and regular stakeholder engagement processes would enhance programme quality and graduate outcomes through evidence-based continuous improvement."	While the Department currently maintains an Advisory Board, we agree that establishing a more structured framework — including regular meetings with all members and a formal mechanism for feedback — would enhance the relevance and responsiveness of our programmes. To this end, the Department is presented a plan to convene Advisory Board meetings at the end of each academic year, with the aim of reviewing current industry trends and advancements and ensuring their alignment with our curriculum. The composition of the Board will include the external advisory board members and is extended to include Athens-based industry partners, the Head and program coordinators, an Athens Campus representative as well as a student member.	Choose level of compliance:
2. "In particular, the involvement of external stakeholders in programme design (ESG 1.2) and in the ongoing monitoring and periodic review (ESG 1.9) would benefit from more formalized procedures. At present, stakeholder consultation for programme review is ad hoc, often limited to informal interactions with a small number of individuals. Establishing regular consultation intervals — such as annual or biannual meetings — and clearly defining expectations for stakeholder contributions	As suggested by ETEK, stakeholder involvement in program design and the ongoing monitoring and periodic review, will be formulated in a more structured, well-documented and transparent way as indicated in point 1, above.	Choose level of compliance:

(e.g., feedback on employability trends, curriculum relevance, and graduate readiness) would significantly enhance transparency and effectiveness."		
3. "Furthermore, while students currently benefit from practical, hands-on learning, the Department could strengthen alignment with ESG 1.6 by expanding structured internship opportunities and industry-linked experiences, thus enhancing students' transition into professional practice."	The programme provides opportunities from interactions with the industry in a number of ways, including: - Course projects which involve data collection from, and/or prototyping with a relevant business or other user group. Examples of courses which include such projects are: COMP-201 Systems Analysis and Design, COMP-401 Software Engineering, COMP-263 Human-Computer Interaction. - The industry placement courses in both programs (COMP-492 and COMP-449) promote the placement of good students in businesses that collaborate as partners on this scheme. The students' assignments, progress, and evaluation are followed in a systematic and structured way as part of the course COMP-492 Industry Placement (for BSc CS) and COMP-449 Industry Placement in Data Science (for BSc DS) which can earn the student 6 ECTS. - A final year project (COMP-498, COMP-499 for CS; COMP-494, COMP-495 for DS) that is completed in two semesters for 12 ECTS is a large piece of work that many times requires the student to work on a real business problem with reference to a specific industry sector. - Programme elective courses introduce current trends in the area of study and correspond to real industry needs, thus aim to equip the students with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in related areas. These electives are taught by faculty with specialization and often industry experience in the field of study.	Choose level of compliance:

C. Higher Education Institution Academic Representatives

Name	*Position*	*Signature*
Athena Stassopoulou	Professor and Head of the Computer Science Deparment	
Dimitris Drikakis	Professor and Dean of the School of Sciences and Engineering	

Date: 07/07/2025