Form: 300.1.4/5

Regulated Professions Representative Form

Section 1: Regulated Profession Details

Regulated Profession: Computer Science

Full Name of Representative	YIANNIS ZAPITIS
Position/Title	PROFESSIONAL BODY (ETEK)
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Section 2: Observations Regarding Legislation

Please provide specific observations related to the legislation governing this profession:

The profession of Computer Science in Cyprus is regulated by the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK), according to Law 224/1990. The evaluation of degrees, diplomas, and equivalent qualifications in computing and engineering fields by ETEK follows a clearly defined legislative framework outlined explicitly in their official documentation. Specifically, for recognition, programs must adhere to the criteria specified in ETEK's official documents, particularly the "Criteria and Framework for Recognition" and the "Registration Guide for Information Technology (Computer Science)." These documents clarify that eligible programs must have a minimum duration of four academic years, comprising at least 240 ECTS credits, and include a minimum of twelve semesterlong core computing courses.

The BSc programs in **Computer Science** (CS) and **Data Science** (DS) offered by the University of Nicosia – Athens Campus (UNIC-Athens) fully comply with the core course requirements set by ETEK. The CS program requires 18, and the DS program 16, 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."

Detailed criteria and official guidelines are publicly accessible through the following official ETEK resources:

- Criteria and Framework for Recognition: <u>https://www.etek.org.cy/el/kritiria-anagnorisis-5</u>
- Registration Guide for Computer Science: <u>https://www.etek.org.cy/el/odigos-eggrafis-ETEK-pliroforiki</u>

Section 3: Additional Comments

Any further comments:

The University of Nicosia Athens Campus demonstrates significant strengths in maintaining high educational standards, fostering strong industry collaboration, creating supportive learning environments, and promoting inclusive practices. The evaluation process identified specific areas where further development aligned with ESG 2015 standards could enhance the institution's existing practices.

Regarding External Stakeholder Involvement in Internal Quality Assurance (ESG 1.1), it is recommended that the institution formalize and clearly document the roles and responsibilities of external industry stakeholders within its quality assurance framework. While existing advisory groups provide valuable input, their engagement could be strengthened through more structured and transparent processes.

Similarly, stakeholder involvement in Program Design (ESG 1.2) and Ongoing Monitoring and Periodic Review (ESG 1.9) would benefit from structured and formally documented procedures. Building on current informal practices, the use of tools such as feedback forms, meeting minutes, and surveys (also addressing ESG 1.7 – Information Management) would help capture stakeholder insights more systematically. Clear communication of these inputs (ESG 1.8 – Public Information) would further improve transparency and strengthen stakeholder relationships.

Establishing regular intervals, such as annual or biannual consultations, along with clearly defined expectations for stakeholder contributions (e.g., graduate employability data, employer feedback, skills gap analysis, and future skills trends), would enhance the effectiveness of stakeholder input and support alignment with labor market needs and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

From the perspective of the professional body, increasing student participation in structured internships and industry-linked projects would better align with employer expectations and facilitate smoother transitions into the workplace. While the Computer Science program offers a solid selection of electives in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, the Data Science curriculum would benefit from the inclusion of similar applied content to meet industry demands and address emerging digital challenges.

Detailed recommendations, requirements, and observations are documented in separate departmental and program-specific evaluation reports, which should be referenced accordingly.

Representative's Signature:

Date: 31/5/2025