UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER OF SCIENCE

in DIGITAL DEEP TECH DRIVEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY

STUDY GUIDE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Mytilene, January 2026

CONTENTS

1 The University of the Aegean

The University of the Aegean was founded in 1984 (Presidential Decree 83/1984) with its first Departments starting their operation from 1985 to 1994. During the first phase of its development, seven Departments were established on four islands, Lesvos, Chios, Samos and Rhodes.

From 1997 to the year 2000, the second phase of development was implemented with the establishment of nine more Departments, reaching the number of sixteen , which was accompanied by the spatial expansion on the island of Syros. In 2009 a new Department was established in Lemnos, with the total number of Departments amounting to seventeen.

Today, with 18 Departments, 45 Postgraduate Programs, Summer Schools and Lifelong Learning Courses, the University of the Aegean is ranked among the largest Universities in the country. The administrative headquarters of the University of the Aegean reside at Mytilene, while its Schools and Departments currently operate in the islander cities of Mytilene, Chios, Karlovasi, Rhodes, Ermoupolis and Myrina, forming a university Network that covers all the Prefectures of the Aegean. The mission of the University of the Aegean, a public University in Greece, is defined by three axes: Education, Research and Social Contribution.

The main feature of the departments of the University of the Aegean is the development of new disciplines, usually interdisciplinary, which meet both the needs of modern Greek and global society, as well as the requirements and expectations of its students for studies of high scientific value, combined with excellent prospects for professional development.

1.1 History

The establishment of the University of the Aegean, historically, has its roots in 1918, when, in the wider context of the national and economic upheavals that followed the armistice of Mudros (17/30 October 1918), Greece was authorized by the Council of Four, in April 1919, to occupy the area of Smyrna militarily.

Then the professor at the University of Berlin, Konstantinos Caratheodory, proposed the establishment of a new University. Therefore, in view of the finalization of Greece's sovereign rights over the "Zone of Smyrna", the eminent mathematician submitted, on October 20, 1919, "*A Plan for the establishment of a new university in Greece, submitted to the Greek Government*". He proposes the establishment of an Ionian University based on the expansion of the Greek territory and the indisputable fact that the Greek world is a mediator between the Slavic and Turkish-Arab world and the world of the West. This international prestigious scientist considered that Athens, as the unique education center of Hellenism, is no longer sufficient for its needs, especially in terms of its eastern part. He also proposes three possible headquarters locations for the establishment of the new University: Smyrna, Thessaloniki and Chios, with a number of selection criteria for each. The Founding Decree of the University of Smyrna was issued on December 1, 1920 by the High Commissioner of Greece.

Konstantinos St. Caratheodory undertook the task of coordinating the initial efforts. The first plans included the establishment of Schools which would promote the development of the area as a key spot for the overseas Hellenism, while, when it was almost ready to operate, the University was considered just as good as other well-known European Universities. However, it never opened its doors to students due to the Asia Minor Catastrophe in 1922.

1.2 Organizational Structure

1.2.1 Rectorate

The Rector of the University of the Aegean is Dimitrios Papageorgiou, Professor of the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication.

Vice-Rectors:

- Vice-Rector for Administrative and Academic Affairs: Stylianos Xanthopoulos, Professor of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial - Financial Mathematics of the School of Sciences.

- Vice-Rector for Finance: Ioannis Seimenis, Professor of the Department of Mediterranean Studies: Archaeology, Linguistics, International Relations of the School of Humanities.
- Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation: Petros Kavasalis, Associate Professor of the Department of Financial and Management Engineering of the School of Engineering.
- Vice-Rector for Internationalization, Outreach and Student Affairs: Efstratios Georgoulas, Professor of the Department of Sociology of the School of Social Sciences.

2 The Department of Cultural Technology and Communication

The Department of Cultural Technology and Communication belongs to the School of Social Sciences and is located in the city of Mytilene (Lesvos Island, Greece) and accepts students from the 1st and 4th scientific field.

In the last few decades, Cultural Informatics has begun to develop globally as an innovative and dynamic field, within which New Technologies are used to analyze, study and promote culture while creating new cultural trends.

As a result of these new scientific dynamics, the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication - which is unique in Greece - was founded in 2000, aiming to cultivate and promote knowledge regarding culture and cultural heritage and exploit Information Technologies in culture and cultural management issues.

Specifically, the Department focuses on the methods and techniques by which digital technology represents, reshapes and promotes culture, aiming to educate scientists and executives who will combine the creative production of quality and cultural content with information and multimedia technologies.

The Department of Cultural Technology and Communication is a prime example of an academic environment, where interdisciplinarity is a daily practice through the fruitful synthesis of the fields that the Department cultivates, thereby demonstrating its important role in shaping the relevant research fields, both nationally and internationally.

2.1 Field of Study

The mission of ICT is to train young scientists in the combination of Informatics, Communication, and Cultural Studies in order to utilize cutting-edge technologies for the production, promotion, creation, management and dissemination of digital

cultural content. More specifically, the objectives of the Department's Curriculum can be summarized as follows:

- Cultivation of interdisciplinary thinking through the creative combination of knowledge from the fields of Humanities, Informatics and Communication
- Utilization of information technologies in matters of culture and cultural management
- Design and development of interactive applications and audiovisual productions, with the aim of preserving and promoting cultural heritage at national and international level.

The Curriculum includes:

- Basic principles of cultural theory for the understanding, management and transmission of cultural information
- Basic principles of management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- Theories of communication and digital media for the realization of audiovisual works
- Theories of museology and museum pedagogy for the implementation of applications for museums and related cultural organizations
- Theories and models of learning for the design, implementation and evaluation of learning scenarios and digital applications of educational technology
- Principles of Application Programming
- Basic principles of database design data and information systems
- Methods and Tools of digital representation and eXtended Reality (XR)
- Key concepts and applications of AI with a focus on culture
- Theories and models of design of interactive and web applications for the promotion and promotion of cultural heritage.

2.2 Departmental Strategy

The strategic planning of the Department is fully in line with the Strategy of the University of the Aegean for the *development of new interdisciplinary subjects, which meet both the needs of modern Greek and global society, as well as the requirements and expectations of its students for studies of high scientific value, combined with excellent prospects for professional rehabilitation.* In this context, the Department introduced a new scientific discipline, which, given the cultural and cultural capital of Greece, has strong prospects to be a key pillar for the development of the national economy.

This design was evaluated particularly positively both during the External Evaluation of the Department in 2014 and in 2021 during the Accreditation of the Undergraduate Studies Program of the Department, according to the results of which the Undergraduate Studies Program in Cultural Technology and Communication **fully complies with the principles of the Quality Standard of the Undergraduate Program**

of HAHE and the Quality Assurance Principles of the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

The Department's development strategy focuses on the holistic strengthening of its mission, with the prospect of continuous development and expansion of its activities. It includes: the operation of quality Study Programs adapted to the modern developments of science as well as to the needs of students and society, the dynamic strengthening of research activity, the further development of the internationalized and international dimension of both education and research, the constant upgrading of infrastructure, the increasingly active and substantial contribution of the Department to the local community.

The implementation of the above strategy is linked to a series of goals and actions that are reflected in the strategic planning of the Department and include:

- The development of new, internationally oriented, postgraduate study programs in cutting-edge subjects such as Cultural Marketing, Artificial Intelligence and other emerging/disruptive technologies with an emphasis on applications in the field of culture
- Attracting new academic staff with high scientific training
- The constant communication with research and labor market bodies
- The annual surveys of students and graduates in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit (MO.DI.P) of the institution
- The strengthening of the institution of Summer and Extended Internships
- The utilization of funding frameworks (national and international resources) to support research and improve research infrastructures.
- The exploitation of research results (by patenting, or through the creation of spin-offs)
- The improvement of the extroversion of the Department by developing new ones and strengthening the already existing collaborations with Departments of the University of the Aegean, with Departments from other Universities in Greece and abroad
- The attraction of resources in cooperation with Regions, Municipalities and other local bodies
- The offer of educational programs for lifelong learning and skills development, targeted at the needs of the local community.

2.3 Career Prospects

Graduates of the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean have as their main professional occupation the design and development of software, multimedia applications and digital audiovisual products for the production, promotion, management and educational exploitation of cultural information.

In particular, the graduates of the Department can be employed as:

- Specialists – responsible for the design and development of digital applications of cultural content
- Responsible management, organisation, Projection of digital or digitised cultural content
- Persons responsible for the promotion of cultural organizations / events in audiovisual media and on the Internet
- New technology consultants for Cultural and Creative Industries and cultural organizations according to their needs (promotion, documentation, communication, education, entertainment)

The graduate can work in the private sector in: (institutions)

- Multimedia production companies with a focus on culture (digital applications, websites, organization of cultural events and exhibitions),
- Companies or stations producing and processing image and sound as directors or editors,
- Information systems design and development companies,
- Companies for the management of musical, cinematic, visual and other artistic events
- Private libraries and archiving and documentation centers
- Private museums and galleries (management, enrichment of collections, education and distance learning, publications, e-guides)
- Publishing houses and services related to the printed and electronic press
- Advertising Agencies.

The graduate can work in the public sector in: (institutions)

- Primary and Secondary Education Schools with the Qualifications for the Appointment of Division PE86 (former PE19) Informatics of Secondary Education Teaching Staff of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (Presidential Decree 118/1995, Government Gazette 75, vol. A΄), as supplemented by the provision of article 39, par. 2 subparagraph d. of Law 3794/2009 (Government Gazette 156, vol. A΄)
- In positions of Cultural Management, according to the new qualification list of the public sector [Presidential Decree 85/2022 (Government Gazette A' 232)].
- Services of the Ministry of Culture and other bodies (e.g. Local Authorities) dealing with the management, organization and promotion of cultural events and the promotion of cultural data
- Public libraries and archiving and documentation centers
- Museums and galleries (management, enrichment of collections, education and distance learning, publications, telematics)
- Institutional services and directorates of the European Union dealing with cultural management issues.

2.4 Academic Staff of the Department

2.4.1 Professors

- Kavakli Evangelia
- Anagnostopoulos Christos-Nikolaos
- Kalloniatis Christos
- Caridakis Georgios
- Bounia Alexandra
- Papageorgiou Dimitrios
- Pavlogeorgatos Gerasimos
- Sampanikou Evangelia
- Stathi Irini
- Tsekouras Georgios
- Chourmouziadi Anastasia

2.4.2 Associate Professors

- Kotis Konstantinos
- Kasapakis Vlasios
- Katapoti Despina
- Boubaris Nikolaos

2.4.3 Assistant Professors

- Aivaliotis Konstantinos
- Kitsiou Angeliki
- Poulou Despina
- Stefanopoulou Evdokia
- Chrysanthi Angeliki

2.4.4 Special Educational Staff

- Nikolarea Aikaterini

2.4.5 Special Teaching Staff

- Mavrofidis Thomas
- Bakalis Christos
- Sideri Maria
- Simou Stavros
- Hatzigeorgiou Triada

2.4.6 Special Technical Laboratory Staff

- Iliadis Giannis
- Kargas Panagiotis
- Spathis Alexandros

2.5 Administrative Staff

- Kaitatzis Theofanis, Assoc. Manager of Secretariat

- Miltiadou Artemis, Undergraduate Studies
- Karavia Chara, Postgraduate Studies
- Dimopoulou Efi, PhD Studies

2.6 Infrastructure

In order to meet the teaching and research needs of the Postgraduate Program, postgraduate students have access to the material and technical infrastructure of the respective Department and the University as a whole in accordance with the applicable Legislation and the Regulations of the Institution (Library, laboratories, etc.).

3 The Postgraduate Program "Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy"

The M.Sc. programme «Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy» is established within the framework of the European project 3D-CIRCULAR (Digital Deep tech Driven Circular Economy) which started in January 2025, has a duration of four (4) years, and is funded under the programme DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-DIGITAL-07 (Grant Agreement No. 101226256). Specifically, for the first two (3) cohorts of operation, the organisational and operational costs of the M.Sc. programme, including the tuition fees for students from EU countries, are covered by the funding of this project.

The following Universities, that also serve as partners in the aforementioned project, are participating in this Master Program and have agreed to be actively involved in the educational process through their teaching staff:

- University of Malaga (Spain),
- Polytechnic University of Milan (Italy),
- Wageningen University (Netherlands),
- NOVA University Lisbon (Portugal),
- University of Maribor (Slovenia),
- Technical University of Denmark (Denmark),
- University of Oslo (Norway),
- Technical University of Dortmund (Germany),

In addition, the École des Ponts Business School (France) will support the programme by providing distinguished professors to deliver targeted, seminar-style lectures.

3.1 Subject – Objective

The Postgraduate Program entitled "**Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy**" is part of the strategic planning of the University of the Aegean, is governed *by scientific coherence and* aims at the further promotion of knowledge, *the development of research and the* arts, the satisfaction of the educational, research, social, cultural and development needs of the country, *in the high-level specialization of the* graduates in theoretical and applied areas of specific disciplines, special thematic units or sub-branches of the disciplines of the first cycle of studies of the relevant Department.

The subject of the Postgraduate Program "**Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy**" is to focus on the interdisciplinary coupling of advanced digital technologies with the principles of the circular economy. The operation of the Postgraduate Program is considered necessary and important both from a scientific and social point of view, because it contributes to addressing contemporary challenges and is aligned with the strategic priorities at international, European and national level. Economy" has been designed to offer its graduates a unique combination of digital and "green" skills. **The main objective is to reskill and upskill the workforce** – both young talent and active professionals – in digital technologies and circular

economy practices, contributing to closing the skills gap and developing a thriving digital circular economy in the EU.

The M.Sc. focuses on applied knowledge, offering a clear **bridge between theory and practice**: students are trained to design, implement and evaluate solutions that utilize digital tools to achieve circular economy goals (e.g. optimization of resource use, waste reduction, product life cycle monitoring, digital product passports, circular business models). Thus, the program responds to a **modern scientific gap**, where knowledge around the circular economy and green policies is rarely linked to high-level digital analysis and design techniques.

In addition, the M.Sc. is designed as **professionally oriented**: through courses, workshops, case studies and collaborations with businesses and organizations, it cultivates **specific professional profiles** (e.g. digital transformation executives for the circular economy, sustainable production consultants, ESG & sustainability reporting executives, green innovation executives). In this way, it transforms theoretical knowledge into **Convertible skills** directly usable in the labor market, in industrial sectors such as manufacturing, energy, agriculture, waste management, transport and construction.

3.2 Master's Degree

The M.Sc. awards a Master of Science Diploma in *Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy* ("M.Sc. in Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy").

The Master's Degree Certificate (diploma) is an official public document, the format of which is determined by decision of the Senate. It is drawn up and awarded in both Greek and English. Master's Degree Programmes lead to a qualification at Level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The diploma is signed by the Rector, the Head of the Department, and the Department Secretary. The grade of the diploma is classified as follows: **5.00–6.49 GOOD**, **6.50–8.49 VERY GOOD**, and **8.50–10.00 EXCELLENT**.

The register of M.Sc. graduates is signed by the Department Secretary, the Head of the Department, and the Rector of the University. A Diploma Supplement, issued in both Greek and English, is attached to the diploma in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of Law 3374/2005 (Government Gazette A' 189) and Ministerial Decision Ref. No. Φ5/89656/Β3/13.8.07 (Government Gazette Β' 1466).

3.3 Structure and Bodies of the Postgraduate Program

For the establishment, organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program, the competent bodies/committees are:

- The Senate of the Foundation
- The Postgraduate Studies Committee (E.M.S.)
- The Assembly of the Department

- The Coordinating Committee (C.C.) of the Postgraduate Program
- The Director of the Postgraduate Program
- Postgraduate Student Evaluation and Selection Committee.

The responsibilities of the bodies of the Postgraduate Programs are as follows:

3.3.1 Senate (par. 1 article 82 of Law 4957/2022)

The Senate is the competent body for the issues of academic, administrative, organizational nature of the Postgraduate Programs. The Senate has the following responsibilities regarding the Postgraduate Programs and any others provided for by the Internal Regulation of the Institution, provided that they have not been specifically assigned by law to other bodies of the Institution:

1. approves the establishment of a Postgraduate Program or the amendment of the decision establishing the Postgraduate Program,
2. approves the extension of the duration of the operation of the Postgraduate Program,
3. establishes the Curriculum Committee, in the case of interdepartmental or inter-institutional or joint Postgraduate Program,
4. decides to abolish the Postgraduate Programs offered by the HEI.

3.3.2 Postgraduate Studies Committee (par. 1 and 2 article 79 of Law 4957/2022)

In each Higher Education Institution (HEI), by decision of the Senate, following a proposal by the Deanships of the Schools of the HEI, a Postgraduate Studies Committee is formed. The Committee is responsible for:

1. the submission of an opinion to the Senate of the HEI for the establishment of new postgraduate study programs or the modification of the already operating postgraduate study programs, after evaluating the requests of the Departments' Assemblies for the establishment of new postgraduate study programs, their relevant feasibility and viability reports and the costing of the operation of the Postgraduate Program, as well as the possibility of their referral, if the report is not sufficiently reasoned or the accompanying reports are not complete,
2. the preparation of a draft Regulation for the second and third cycle of studies programs of the HEI and its submission to the Senate,
3. the preparation of a model draft Regulation of the operation of a postgraduate study program,
4. the control of compliance with the Operating Regulations of postgraduate study programs,
5. the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation, the Regulation and the decisions of the governing bodies of the HEI by the postgraduate study programs,
6. monitoring the implementation of the procedure for exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees,

7. any other competence defined by the Internal Regulation.

3.3.3 Assembly of the Department (par. 2 article 82 of Law 4957/2022)

The Assembly of the Department is responsible for the organization, administration and management of the Postgraduate Program and in particular:

- sets up Committees for the evaluation of the applications of prospective postgraduate students and approves their enrollment in the Postgraduate Program,
- assigns the teaching work to the instructors of the Postgraduate Program,
- recommends to the Senate the amendment of the decision for the establishment of the Postgraduate Program, as well as the extension of the duration of the Postgraduate Program,
- sets up examination committees for the examination of postgraduate diploma theses of postgraduate students and appoints the supervisor or co-supervisor per postgraduate diploma thesis,
- ascertains the successful completion of the studies, in order to be awarded the title of the Postgraduate Program,
- approves the report of the Postgraduate Program, following the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee (C.C.)

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the responsibilities of par. 1. and 4. may be transferred to the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program.

3.3.4 Coordinating Committee (C.C.) (par. 1 and 2 article 81 and par. 3 article 82 of Law 4957/2022)

The C.C. consists of the Director of the Postgraduate Program and four (4) members of the Teaching Research Staff (D.E.P.) of the Department, who have a related subject to that of the Postgraduate Program and undertake teaching work in the Postgraduate Program. The members of the C.C. are determined by decision of the Assembly of the Department for a two-year term.

The C.C. is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the operation of the program and in particular:

- prepares the initial annual budget of the Postgraduate Program and its amendments, if the Postgraduate Program has resources in accordance with article 84, and recommends its approval to the Research Committee of the Special Account for Research Funds (E.L.K.E.),
- prepares the report of the program and recommends its approval to the Assembly of the Department,
- approves the expenditure of the Postgraduate Program,
- approves the granting of scholarships, contributory or not, in accordance with the provisions of the decision establishing the Postgraduate Program and the Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral studies,

- recommends to the Assembly of the Department the distribution of teaching work, as well as the assignment of teaching work to the categories of instructors of article 83 of Law 4957/2022,
- recommends to the Assembly of the Department the invitation of Visiting Professors to meet the teaching needs of the Postgraduate Program,
- prepares a plan for the modification of the curriculum, which is submitted to the Assembly of the Department,
- recommends to the Assembly of the Department the redistribution of courses between the academic semesters, as well as issues related to the qualitative upgrading of the curriculum
- exercises any other competence provided for by the provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

3.3.5 Director of the Postgraduate Program (par. 4 article 81 and par. 4 article 82 of Law 4957/2022)

The Director of the Postgraduate Program comes from among the faculty members of the Department at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor and is appointed by decision of the Assembly of the Department for a two-year term, with the possibility of renewal without restriction.

The Director of the Postgraduate Program has the following responsibilities:

- presides over the C.C., prepares the agenda and convenes its meetings,
- proposes the issues related to the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Program to the Assembly of the Department,
- proposes to the C.C. and the other bodies of the Postgraduate Program and the HEI issues related to the effective operation of the Postgraduate Program,
- is the Scientific Coordinator of the program in accordance with article 234 and exercises the corresponding responsibilities,
- monitors the implementation of the decisions of the bodies of the Postgraduate Program and the Internal Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral study programs, as well as the monitoring of the implementation of the budget of the Postgraduate Program,
- exercises any other competence, which is defined in the decision to establish the Postgraduate Program.

By decision of the Research Committee, a deputy Scientific Coordinator of the project/program may be appointed, if this is deemed necessary, following a decision of the Assembly.

3.3.6 Committee for the Evaluation and Selection of Candidates for Postgraduate Students (par. 2a, article 82 of Law 4957/2022)

The Committee consists of at least three Faculty Members of the Department and is appointed by decision of the Department's Assembly. The Committee's task is the following:

- Evaluation of all submitted supporting documents, in accordance with the current legislation and the academic criteria that may have been set (The check of the completeness of the supporting documents is carried out by the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program and the Department)
- Checking language proficiency
- Conduct personal interviews
- Compilation of minutes of evaluation and ranking of candidates for admission to the Postgraduate Program.

The final ranking of the Candidates based on the list of criteria of the Program and the proposal for the selection of Candidates based on this ranking is submitted for ratification to the Assembly of the Department. The Assembly of the Department may set up additional Committees where it deems it necessary. All proposals or decisions of the Committees are approved by the Assembly of the Department.

3.3.7 Administrative and Secretarial Support

The secretarial coverage of the Postgraduate Program, as well as any technological and financial support, is covered either by existing permanent Staff of the Department, or by the recruitment process that burdens the budget of the Postgraduate Program.

The Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program has the duty of secretarial support of the Program, (indicatively) the preparation of the candidate admission process, the keeping of the financial data of the Program, the secretarial support of the C.C., the registration of scores, etc.

Administrative employees who support the Postgraduate Programs outside their working hours at the University, as well as those who have been assigned a project related to the Postgraduate Programs, may be remunerated for the services they provide, at the expense of the budget of the Postgraduate Program.

3.4 Number and Categories of Admissions

The number of admissions per year is set at a maximum of two hundred and fifty (250) postgraduate students.

Holders of the first cycle of studies of a Higher Education Institution (Universities and Technological Educational Institutes) of the country or equivalent institutions abroad are admitted to the Postgraduate Program. According to article 304 of Law 4957/2022, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), in order to determine whether a foreign institution or a type of title of a foreign institution are recognized for the acceptance of an application and registration for admission to a postgraduate study program or the preparation of a doctoral dissertation, are bound by the National Register of Recognized Higher Education Institutions abroad and the National Registry of Types of Degrees of Recognized Institutions of Foreign Institutions of D.O.A.T.A.P.

In case the degree has been awarded by an Institution included in the list of foreign institutions that award degrees organized through a franchise agreement with private entities in Greece of article 307 of Law 4957/2022, the competent Secretariat of the Department must request a Certificate of Place of Study from the foreign University. If the place of study or part thereof is certified as the Greek territory, the degree is not recognized, unless the part of the studies that took place in the Greek territory is located in a public HEI.

In the event that a foreign institution or degree has not been registered in the relevant registers, DOATAP examines ex officio or upon request from the competent Secretariat of the Department whether the necessary conditions are met and by decision includes them in the registers.

Also, graduates from the Higher Military Educational Institutions (A. S.E.I.) (Articles 1 and 88 of Law 3883/2010 - Government Gazette 167/A΄/24.09.2010), the Hellenic Police Officers' School (par. 5 article 38 of Law 4249/2014 - Government Gazette 73/A΄/24.03.2014), Fire Academy's Firefighter School (par. 14 article 69 of Law 4249/2014 - Government Gazette 73/A΄/24.03.2014) and the Coast Guard Cadet School of Ensigns of the Hellenic Coast Guard (S.D.S.L.S. – EL.AKT.) (Article 1 of Presidential Decree 75/2018 – Government Gazette 145/A΄/07.08.2018). Also, students of domestic institutions are admitted, provided that they have completed their obligations and have submitted a relevant certificate by the date of their enrollment in the Postgraduate Program.

All candidates should have an adequate knowledge of the English language (which is the language of instruction).

3.5 Criteria and Procedure for the Selection of Candidates for the Postgraduate Programs

3.5.1 Announcement

Each year, the Postgraduate Program of the Department, following a decision of the Assembly, publishes, at least one (1) month before the deadline for submission of applications, an announcement, in an appropriate medium, including the website of the relevant Department and the Institution, related to the Postgraduate Program, the start of which is scheduled for the next academic year or semester of studies.

The announcement states the admission requirements (including remote interview), the categories of graduates, the number of entrants, the method of admission, the selection criteria, the deadlines for submitting applications as well as the supporting documents required, etc.

3.5.2 Submission of Applications

Candidates' applications must be accompanied by the required supporting documents in accordance with the announcement. The application and the electronic copies of the

supporting documents are submitted electronically in a system that will be specified in the announcement. The required supporting documents submitted by each candidate are as follows:

1. Application form
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Photocopy of degree/diploma or Certificate of Completion of Studies
4. Photocopy of the Certificate of Analytical Grades of undergraduate courses indicating the degree of the degree/diploma
5. Two letters of recommendation
6. Copy of Bachelor's or Diploma thesis (if prepared).
7. Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals or peer-reviewed scientific conferences or other publications (if any).
8. Evidence of professional or research activity (if applicable).
9. Certificate of sufficient knowledge of the English language.
10. Photocopy of passport or national identification document.
11. A photo.

3.5.3 Selection Criteria

The Assembly of the Department determines by its decision the selection criteria or the definition of additional criteria which are taken into account in the selection of postgraduate students, and the details of the implementation of the criteria. The above are made known to the candidates with the announcement of the Postgraduate Program and are indicative of the following:

- Academic qualifications (degrees)
- Grades and relevance (to the subject of the Postgraduate Program) of degrees
- Grades of courses – and especially of the Bachelor's thesis or Diploma thesis – if they are relevant to the subject of the Postgraduate Program.
- Possession of a second bachelor's/diploma or master's degree
- Scope and duration of work and research experience
- Letters of recommendation from faculty members of a university and/or from an employer
- Remote interview using digital media
- Additional criteria set by decision of the Assembly of the Department

The first phase of the evaluation is preliminary and is based on data deduced from the necessary supporting documents submitted.

The criteria in the first phase are as follows:

Criterion	Weight
Epistemological background	30%
Skill set	30%
Analytical – synthetic ability	20%

The total points from the first evaluation phase have a weighting factor in the final score equal to 80%.

The second phase includes an interview in a synchronous or asynchronous way of all candidates, in which the particular inclination, dynamics and general academic personality of each and every one of them is judged. The second phase has a weighting factor of 20%.

3.5.4 Preparation of the Evaluation List

Based on the established criteria, the Student Evaluation and Selection Committee prepares the Evaluation List of the candidates and submits it for approval to the Assembly. In particular, the Commission will:

- first draws up a complete list of applicants
- rejects candidates who do not meet the minimum criteria in case such criteria have been set by the Assembly, or their file is incomplete in terms of any supporting document
- conducts an interview with the participation of those candidates who meet the minimum criteria
- prioritizes the candidates in terms of points
- draw up the final selection list.

The final list of successful candidates is approved and ratified by the Assembly and published on the website of the Postgraduate Program.

Successful candidates must register with the Secretariat of the Department within a deadline to be set by the Assembly of the Department. In the event of a tie between candidates, all those who tied with the last one are considered successful candidates.

3.5.5 Registration of Selected Candidates in the Postgraduate Program

The selected candidates are enrolled in the Postgraduate Program within the deadline announced by the Secretariat.

In case of non-registration of one or more students, any runners-up will be invited to enroll in the Program, based on the ranking order in the approved evaluation table.

3.6 Registration Fees, Tuition Fees and How to Pay them

For **all cohorts** of the Postgraduate Program, the candidates admitted to the program, following the evaluation process, are required to pay a registration fee of five hundred (500) euros. This fee is non-refundable for all candidates regardless of their final decision to attend or not.

For the **first three (3) cohorts of the** Postgraduate Program, the tuition fees of postgraduate students **coming from Greece and other EU countries** are fully covered by the European 3D-CIRCULAR (Digital Deep tech Driven Circular Economy) funded

by the DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-DIGITAL-07 program (Contract No. 101226256). For postgraduate students coming **from countries outside the EU,** the tuition fees are five thousand (5,000) euros.

From the **fourth (4th) cohort of the Postgraduate Program onwards**, the tuition fees for postgraduate students **coming from Greece and other EU countries** are five thousand (5,000) euros, while for postgraduate students coming **from outside the EU** the tuition fees are seven thousand (7,000) euros.

From the **fourth (4th) cohort** of the Postgraduate Program onwards, where there will be tuition fees for postgraduate students from EU countries, it is reminded that the current legislation (Law 4957 Government Gazette 141/21.07.2022 vol. A') provides for an exemption from the payment of tuition fees, based on social/economic and excellence criteria, cumulatively, in a percentage of postgraduate students that reaches thirty percent (30%) of the total number of enrollees per academic year.

Tuition fees are paid in two equal instalments: the first instalment upon the announcement of those admitted to the M.Sc. Program, to reserve the place, and the second instalment at the beginning of the second academic semester. For students granted tuition fee exemption, any fees already paid will be refunded in full.

The payment of tuition fees is made to the Special Account for Research Funds (E.L.K.E.) which is responsible for their management.

Postgraduate students are required to fulfill their financial obligations on time. In case of non-compliance the students may be temporary suspended or removed from the Program based on the decision of the Department's Assembly.

Enrolled students of the Postgraduate Program may study free of charge if they meet the economic or social criteria of article 86 of Law 4957/2022. A prerequisite for granting the right to free study due to economic or social criteria is the fulfilment of the conditions of excellence during the first cycle of studies, which corresponds at least to the possession of a grade equal to or greater than seven and a half out of ten (7.5/10), provided that the evaluation in the basic degree submitted for admission to the Postgraduate Program has been carried out in accordance with the ten-point evaluation scale of a domestic Higher Education Institution (HEI), otherwise, this criterion is applied mutatis mutandis according to the respective evaluation scale, provided that the degree submitted has been awarded by a foreign institution.

The total number of students studying for free may not exceed the number corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total number of students enrolled per academic year. If, during the numerical calculation of the number of beneficiaries of the exemption from tuition fees, a decimal number is obtained, rounding is done to the nearest whole unit. If the number of beneficiaries of the exemption exceeds the percentage hereof, the beneficiaries are selected in descending order until the number is completed.

The submission of applications for tuition fee exceptions takes place after the completion of the evaluation and admission process. According to Article 3 of 108990/Z1/08.09.2022 M.D.:

- This exemption applies exclusively to enrolment in one (1) postgraduate program organized by a Greek Higher Education Institution
- The exemption does not apply for students that have accepted scholarships from other institutions
- Third-country nationals do not have the right to apply for tuition fee exemption.

3.7 Registration of Postgraduate Students

The registration of admitted postgraduate students each year takes place within deadlines announced by the Director of the Postgraduate Program.

The candidate, before registering:

- acknowledges that the new European General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679, which came into force on May 25, 2018, establishes a uniform legal framework for the protection of personal data in all EU Member States. The University of the Aegean keeps personal data of its postgraduate students. It is also informed that the University of the Aegean collects additional data of its postgraduate students, which include personal data. The retention and processing of the above data is carried out with the aim of registering and then academic management, communicating with his/her relatives in cases of emergency, as well as ensuring his/her access to electronic services provided, throughout his/her studies.
- provides consent to the retention and processing of his/her personal data for all the aforementioned processing purposes
- declares that the information it has submitted as well as the supporting documents are accurate, true and genuine copies of the originals
- takes note of the Postgraduate Studies Regulation and declares in writing that it accepts the rules of operation of the program
- declares his/her email address in which he/she wishes to receive personalized correspondence.

3.8 Duration of Study

The duration of studies of the Postgraduate Program for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma (M.Sc.) is set at three (3) academic semesters.

The Postgraduate Program will be full-time.

The maximum allowed time for the completion of studies is set at five (5) academic semesters. Specifically, postgraduate students are entitled to one (1) academic semester in addition to the prescribed duration of their studies in order to complete

their postgraduate studies. In addition, by decision of the Assembly of the Department, following the recommendation of the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program, an extension of the prescribed time limit of these (3+1) academic semesters may be granted, upon request of the interested parties and only for serious non-culpable reasons, such as professional and health reasons. In any case, the application of the interested party must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documents documenting the request.

3.8.1 Suspension of Attendance

Postgraduate students, upon their application, may request a justified temporary suspension of studies which does not exceed two (2) consecutive academic semesters. The semesters of suspension of student status are not counted in the prescribed maximum duration of regular study. The possibility of granting suspension of studies to a postgraduate student is carried out upon their application, proposal of the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program and a decision of the Assembly of the Department. In his/her application, the postgraduate student must state the reasons, the period of time of the requested suspension of studies and attach any relevant supporting documents.

The suspension process is broken down into the following steps:

1. Application of the interested party, at the beginning of the acad. semester to the Assembly of the Department, in which the reasons for which he/she requests the suspension will be stated. The relevant supporting documents (if any) are attached to the application.
2. A relevant reasoned decision of the Assembly of the Department, stating that during the suspension of attendance, the student status is lifted and all the relevant rights of the student are suspended.

Those postgraduate students who have received an educational leave from their Work Agency for their studies in the Postgraduate Program are not entitled to suspension of studies during the same period of time.

3.8.2 Deregistration of a Student

The Assembly of the Department, following the recommendation of the C.C. and after the invitation of students to express an opinion in the context of the right of prior hearing, may decide to deregister postgraduate students if:

- have exceeded the maximum limit of absences
- have failed the examination of a course or courses and have not successfully completed the program
- have exceeded the maximum duration of study in the Postgraduate Program, as defined in these Regulations, unless there are demonstrably serious and exceptional reasons, which are examined on a case-by-case basis by the Assembly
- have committed an offence falling under copyright law (Law 2121/93) during the writing of their papers and/or have violated the applicable provisions

regarding the treatment of disciplinary offences

- have not paid the prescribed tuition fee at the appropriate time, where and as provided
- the students themselves have submitted an application for deletion to the Secretariat of the Department (in this case the application is automatically approved by the Assembly).

3.9 European Credit Transfer System

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is a tool of the European Higher Education Area (HELEX) with the aim of greater transparency of studies and consequently the improvement of the quality of Higher Education. Its purpose is to strengthen and facilitate academic recognition processes between European partner institutions with different national education systems, using simple and workable mechanisms.

3.9.1 Credits of the Program of Study

The number of credits of each course of the Postgraduate Program demonstrates the workload that each postgraduate student is required to pay in order to achieve the objectives of an educational component, depending on the respective learning outcomes and the knowledge, abilities and skills that are sought to be acquired upon its successful completion. The workload includes all planned learning activities such as lectures, seminars, studying, preparing assignments, exams, etc.

3.9.2 Workload

The workload consists of the estimated time it is typically needed for a graduate student to complete all the learning activities (such as attending lectures, seminars, assignments, independent personal study and exams) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes. Sixty (60) ECTS credits correspond to the workload of a full-time formal learning academic year and related learning outcomes. In the matching that has been carried out for the courses of the Postgraduate Program, one credit unit (PM) has been assigned to twenty-five (25) hours of workload.

3.9.3 Credit Yield

In order to obtain a diploma in the Postgraduate Program, the accumulation of 90 ECTS is required. The number of credits assigned to each component is based on its weight in terms of the workload that postgraduate students need to achieve learning outcomes in a formal education context.

3.9.4 Transfer of credits (ECTS)

Credits awarded in one program can be transferred to another program offered by the same or a different institution. This transfer can only take place if the institution awarding the qualification recognizes the credits and the learning outcomes associated with them. The Postgraduate Program "Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy" complies with the European Credit Transfer System and implements a complete

process of transfer and recognition of academic credits. The system of application and accumulation of academic credits has been established and is also applied in any case where the educational activities of the Postgraduate Program Study Guide are of a similar material and level to educational activities in which the postgraduate student has been successfully examined in his/her previous completed or non-completed studies.

3.10 Program Language

The teaching language for all courses is English. The language of the Master's thesis is English.

3.11 Teaching Staff

3.11.1 Director of the M.Sc.

Professor **Christos Kalloniatis** holds a degree in Informatics Engineering from the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, a Master's degree from the Department of Informatics of the University of Essex and a PhD from the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean. He currently serves as a Professor at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean and is the director of the PrivaSI laboratory "Technologies for the Protection of the Environment". Privacy and Information Technology Applications in the Social Sciences". He served as President of the Department from 2020-2024 and as Deputy Chair from 2017 to 2020 in the same Department. He is a regular member of the plenary session of the Personal Data Protection Authority and has also served as a member of the plenary session of the Authority for Communication Security and Privacy (ADAE). His research interests include the analysis and modeling of security and privacy requirements in traditional information systems as well as in cloud computing, and artificial intelligence environments, privacy protection technologies as well as issues related to security and privacy protection in cultural information systems. He is the author of over 150 articles in international journals and peer-reviewed conferences and a visiting professor at European universities. Before starting his academic career, Dr. Christos Kalloniatis served in various positions in the public administration, such as in the North Aegean Region and the Ministry of Interior, Decentralization and e-Government. He is a collaborator of the Information and Communication Systems Security Laboratory of the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean as well as the Laboratory of Secure Systems

of the University of Piraeus. He has participated in a number of research and development projects. (https://kalloniatis.aegean.gr/).

3.11.2 Lecturers

Agnes Mlicka is a Development Consultant at the NGO European Green Cities (EGC), with an expertise in urban sustainability and stakeholder engagement, as well as designing and facilitating learning processes. She has over 3 years of experience working with EU funded projects in sustainable urban development, where she contributed to replication design, policy development, communication & dissemination, and stakeholder involvement within technology and human science R&D projects. Furthermore, she has over 10 years of teaching and facilitation experience, with a Postgraduate Certificate in Special Study in Supporting Learning, and a Professional Diploma in Digital Learning Design.

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Dr. **Aikaterini-Georgia Mavroeidi** holds a BSc from the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean and a Master degree on Cultural Informatics and Communication from the same University. She has also achieved a Master degree on Information Security from the University of Brighton. Additionally, she holds a PhD from the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean. Her PhD dissertation focused on privacy awareness through gamified educational programs. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral researcher at the University of the Aegean. She is also the CEO and Co-founder of PRIVACT spin off of the University of the Aegean. Her skills include computer graphics and user interface design with the focus on user experience and usability evaluation. Her second master degree broadened her knowledge on Information Security. Based on that, her skills include also analysis and modelling of security and privacy requirements, software architecture and risk management. Her dissertation of this master was about usable security. In addition, her interests lie in the area of usable privacy.

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Alessia Boscarato is a PhD student in the Manufacturing Group at the Department of Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering, Politecnico di Milano. She holds a BSc and MSc in Management Engineering, with a master's thesis focused on the circular economy. Her research focuses on developing assessment methods to foster the creation of industrial symbiosis networks. She is also involved in European projects related to circular and sustainable manufacturing, as well as consultancy projects for manufacturing companies on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), environmental sustainability metrics, and impact analysis. In addition, she contributes to teaching activities within the BSc program in Management Engineering at Politecnico di Milano.

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Alon Rozen, Dean of Ecole des Ponts Business School and Professor of Innovation and Management, has a long history with the school. Apart from being an alumnus of Ecole des Ponts, he was also invited to come back as Assistant Dean and later on, as Executive Dean, before finally taking the position of Dean and Managing Director. His purpose has been to initiate a turnaround and scale up the ambitions of the only business school which is part of the illustrious Grande Ecole (the French Ivy League) engineering schools. In the last few years alone the school has rebranded, relocated, and launched many groundbreaking initiatives – a project-based MBA in Innovation Management, an Executive DBA programme with experiential learning labs, a specialised E-MBA in China, an experience-designed executive education business unit, multiple EU research programmes, an African subsidiary, a research centre dedicated to the circular economy, a tri-continent Policy and Competitiveness initiative, and a lab dedicated to digital innovation, among others. Alon Rozen has experience both in academia (20 years) and consulting (25 years). In fact, his experience in consulting covers fields as diverse as IT, telecom, services, hi-tech manufacturing, wine and spirits, luxury, hotels, real estate development, sports and entertainment, business development, investment assessment, as well as the music industry. While working in France and internationally, Alon has taught a wide range of subjects to a diverse range of classrooms. Despite his management responsibilities, Alon still insists on teaching courses on startups (related to topics such as innovation, entrepreneurship, business modeling, and business planning) as well as finance – primarily to engineering and MBA students. Alon Rozen began his undergraduate studies in International Marketing in Boston and later transferred to the University of Paris 1 – Pantheon-Sorbonne, where he obtained a B.A.

degree with honours in Economics with a specialisation in Money and Finance. He later completed an MBA at Ecole des Ponts Business School in Paris, which included the Negotiation and Arbitration programme at Harvard's Kennedy School in Boston. He also holds a PhD ABD from the International School of Management (ISM) (Paris). His doctoral research was focused on the wine sector in France in the face of the increased globalisation of world wine markets.

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Amir Taherkordi is a Full Professor at the Department of Informatics, University of Oslo (UiO). He received his Ph.D. degree from the Informatics Department, UiO in 2011. After completing his Ph.D. studies, Amir joined Sonitor Technologies as a Senior Embedded Software Engineer. From 2013 to 2018, he was a researcher in the Networks and Distributed Systems (ND) group at the Department of Informatics, UiO. He has so far published several articles in high-ranked conferences and journals, and he has experience from several national (Norwegian Research Council) and international (European research funding agencies) research projects. He is an Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing and IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering. Amir's research interests are broadly on resource-efficiency, scalability, adaptability, dependability, mobility and data-intensiveness of distributed systems, such as Internet of Things (IoT), Edge/Cloud Computing, and Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), as well as applying AI for Sustainability.

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Andrea Capaccioli (M) holds a PhD in ICT from the University of Trento (Italy), and a master's degree in Work, Organization and Information Systems from the University of Trento in Italy). His main research interests included Participatory Design, Human-Computer Interaction, commons studies. Andrea's thesis is about the participatory design of ICTs tools for renewable energy management. He worked as a National Expert for OECD, working on the HEInnovate project as an expert for digital transformation, curating the chapter on Digital Transformation of the HEInnovate report for Italy, as well as other supporting activities for the project. As a Design Researcher for Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe he worked in creating and validating use cases in various sectors (e.g., cyber-security, manufacturing and healthcare) for new innovative services based on advanced technology: AI, machine learning, robotics.

Andrea joined Deep Blue srl in July 2020 and he is involved in several European projects (e.g., INDIMO, STRATEGY, XMANAI) as an expert in design research, human factors, and cybersecurity. He is contributing to the identification and analysis of end-users' and stakeholders' needs for human-factors methods, explainable-AI needs, resilience methods and tools. He contributed to write two white papers on Human Factors in Cybersecurity published by the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors.

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Angela Donati is a psychologist with extensive experience in training, coaching, and facilitation in complex organizational environments. Since 2009, she has been working on the enhancement of individual and team performance through the development of behavioral competencies, interpersonal dynamics, and decision-making processes. Since 2018, her professional focus has been on Human Factors and performance in safety-critical domains, working with high-reliability teams such as ESA Ground Control and Astronaut teams, ATC and ATSep at Eurocontrol, the Fire Brigade Drone Unit, and Resident Neurosurgeons. Her core expertise includes the design and delivery of Crew Resource Management (CRM) training programmes, with a particular emphasis on leadership, teamwork, effective communication, briefing and debriefing practices, and systems thinking. (https://www.linkedin.com/in/angela-donati-coaching-and-training/)

Angeliki Loizou holds a Diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering (five-year integrated Master's degree) from the National Technical University of Athens and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Cyprus International Institute of Management (CIIM). She currently serves as Head Standards Officer at the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS), with extensive expertise in standardisation at international, European, and national level. With more than 20 years of professional experience, Angeliki has been actively involved in standardisation activities within the electrotechnical and digital technologies sectors, contributing both at technical and policy level. Her work covers a broad spectrum of domains, including electrical and electronic technologies, energy, ATEX, security, societal and citizen security, and emerging digital technologies. In her role at CYS, she manages and coordinates national standardisation activities, oversees National Technical Committees and Mirror Committees, and monitors the

work of European and International Technical Committees and advisory bodies. Angeliki represents Cyprus as a Permanent Delegate on the Technical Board of the European Electrotechnical Organisation (CENELEC) and serves as Secretary within the International Electrotechnical Organisation (IEC). She has led and contributed to several EU-funded projects focusing on standardisation, education, and awareness-raising activities, particularly in the areas of digital transformation and stakeholder engagement. Her work includes the development and delivery of training seminars and lectures aimed at strengthening understanding of standardisation processes across different sectors and professional audiences.

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Anh Dao is a senior consultant at e-Circular ApS, with expertise in circular supply chain management, digitalization, and strategic data management. She has over 20 years of experience in operations management and consulting spanning multiple industries and countries, where she has advised organizations undergoing major operational and digital transformations. She is also an experience researcher and has taught at Carleton University, the University of Toronto, Stenden University of Applied Sciences, and HUFLIT, delivering courses in strategic management, international business, supply chain management, and data analytics management. She has contributed to a number of international and national initiatives in the area of supply chain and product transparency, including involvement in several EU-funded projects, particularly in the develop and application of Digital Product Passport to enhance circular value chains.

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Antri Constantinou is a senior research and project manager with over 13 years of international experience in sustainability, circular economy, and green innovation. She has held key roles at PwC Cyprus, the Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation, and in the UK at the London Waste and Recycling Board (Advance London) and the London Fire Brigade, where she led major initiatives on sustainability strategies, circular business models, and green transition pathways. As Senior Research Development and Implementation Expert at EPBS, she drives the development of competitive EU research proposals, oversees the implementation of funded projects, and contributes to research-informed teaching in sustainability, digitalisation, and entrepreneurship. Antri

holds an MSc in Green Chemistry and Sustainable Industrial Technologies from the University of York and has co-authored several scientific publications in sustainability, circularity, and green innovation.

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Ashish Mohite is the Chief Technology Officer at Hyperion Robotics, based in Finland, and is one of Europe's leading experts in 3D printing for construction. He holds a PhD in Architecture from Aalto University and has over 10 years of experience uniquely blending hands-on architectural expertise with automated technology. A driving force in the transformation of the construction industry, Ashish leads the development of Hyperion Robotics' sustainable concrete mix. His work effectively bridges the gap between academic research and industrial application, focusing on how automation and digital fabrication can facilitate a global transition toward a circular economy.

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Ms **Athina Panayiotou** is the Director General of the Cyprus Organization for Standardization (CYS) and the Cyprus Certification Company (CCC), both government-owned private entities. She has been a Lead Auditor and Lead Trainer for management systems since 2004, and these include Environmental, Quality, Food Safety, Sustainability, Energy, Business Continuity and other related areas. She is an approved Trainer by the Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) of Cyprus for her field of expertise, with more than 500 hours of professional teaching experience. A scientist with both undergraduate and postgraduate studies (Biochemist, Microbiologist, Food Science), she has been utilising her technical knowledge, following the work of various technical committees on CEN/CENELEC level as well as in ISO. Ms Panayiotou is also an elected Board member of the International Network of Certification Bodies, IQNet, holding the position for 2 terms and representing certification bodies with more than half a million cerfifications against the requirements of european and international standards worldwide. She represents IQNet in various Governance Bodies, with a role as the official delegate of IQNet in the project of UNIDOS regarding the development of KPI's related to the UN 17 Goals for Sustainable Development. Additionally, she is also a member of many professional bodies and committees for matters such as ESG policies, Gender equality, Sustainability and others. She actively participates in Research work, through European-funded programs and projects in cooperation with

higher academic institutions. Her previous work experience includes working for an International Audit firm ("big-4") and for an International Pharmaceutical Company.

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Beata Michaliszyn-Gabryś is a senior researcher at Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas with expertise in environmental management. She has 30 years of experience in environmental management and policy implementation. She carried out research on policy, sustainability, circular economy, sustainable consumption patterns. She has contributed to projects, programmes and initiatives, including involvement in EU-funded projects (RT&D Programs, INTERREG and LIFE), plans programs strategies, reports and expertise.

Prof. **Christos-Nikolaos Anagnostopoulos** is a Professor of Informatics at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean. He is the Director of the Intelligent Systems Laboratory and Director of the Intelligent Computer Systems MSc Programme. He holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens. His research interests include computer vision, computer graphics, artificial intelligence, 3D reality modeling and digitization, and mixed reality technologies, with a strong focus on applications in Cultural Informatics and Digital Culture. Since 2003, he has taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses related to Digital Culture, including programmes such as Cultural Informatics, Digital Culture, and Monuments Management. He has participated in 21 European and national funded research projects, serving as university project leader in ten of them. His work includes multimodal geometric documentation of monuments, digital documentation of excavations using advanced sensing technologies, 2D and 3D digitization of cultural heritage, mixed reality applications, digital storytelling, serious games, and the development of cultural portals and repositories.

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Chrystalleni Papadopoulou serves as the Head of the Training, Research, and Personnel Certification Division at the Cyprus Certification Company Ltd. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and a Master's degree in Polymers Science and Technology (MSc). With more than fifteen years of professional experience, she has developed extensive expertise in the fields of certification and standardisation. Chrystalleni is the Coordinator of the Company's European funded projects and has substantial experience in the management, implementation, and monitoring of EU-funded initiatives. She is a Management Systems Lead Auditor for internationally recognised standards, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and EMAS, with specialisation in environmental management systems. In addition, she is an approved Greenhouse Gas Emissions Verifier, a CE marking assessor for products within the Building Sector and a Lead Assessor for educational and training programmes evaluated against legislative and other regulatory requirements. Furthermore, Chrystalleni is a certified Lead Trainer approved by the Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) of Cyprus, specialising in management systems, quality management, and environmental management. Her professional experience includes the design and development of training programmes, as well as the establishment and organisation of the company's training Academy, which has been formally approved by the competent authority. She also actively contributes as a member of the auditor evaluation team, where she is responsible for mentoring, guiding, and assessing auditors during the approval process.

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Costas Mylonas is a Research and Development Software Engineer at UBITECH, specializing in the design and implementation of data-driven energy services and smart grid analytics. He received his Diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Patras, Greece, in 2016, and his M.Sc. in Energy Science and Technology from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Switzerland, in 2020. During his master's studies, he conducted research at the ABB Corporate Research Center in Switzerland. He has more than nine years of experience developing advanced algorithms for dynamic pricing, optimization models for virtual power plants (VPPs) targeting aggregators, and AI-based digital assistants leveraging Generative AI/LLMs. His work supports digital empowerment and energy literacy for citizens, as well as decision support for grid operators through active learning, digital twins, and explainable AI techniques. He is actively

involved in research on state-of-the-art AI and data-driven approaches for the energy sector and plays a key technical role in multiple EU-funded research and innovation projects supported by the European Commission, contributing to deep-tech energy solutions, use-case design, and technical requirements definition. (http://www.linkedin.com/in/costas-mylonas-a0ab761b6)

Dr. **Daniel Gregory** is the Research Manager at Circularise and a specialist in the intersection of materials science and digital transparency. He views the Digital Product Passport (DPP) as the future "single source of truth" for a digitized economy—a tool capable of unlocking benefits ranging from streamlined customs to enhanced consumer trust. In this course, Daniel draws on his industry experience to guide Master's students through the regulatory landscapes, digital tools, and circular business models that define advanced manufacturing. A 2023 Oxford PhD graduate with LEED AP credentials, Daniel combines academic rigor with practical application, primarily overseeing student projects to ensure they address real-world challenges in achieving a waste-free circular economy.

Daniel van den Hove is an experienced executive, board member, and academic specialising in digital transformation, IT strategy, and enterprise governance. He is currently Partner at Asfalys, where he advises senior leaders in both the private and public sectors on executing digital transformation, strengthening governance and strategic alignment, and optimising investments to deliver tangible business outcomes. His work is grounded in recognised best-practice frameworks such as COBIT, ITIL, ValIT, RiskIT, eSCM, and SIAM. Deeply engaged in the digital leadership community, Daniel van den Hove serves as Co-President of the Cercle du Numérique (CIO-Club) and as a Board Member of BELTUG, and is actively involved in professional associations including ISACA, CIONet, OCEG, and ECISG. He is a frequent speaker on the evolving role of the CIO, digital and IT trends, business–IT alignment, and enterprise governance. Alongside his advisory work, he has a strong academic profile as a Professor of strategy and IT governance, with long-standing teaching and academic leadership experience at Solvay Brussels School and other institutions, where he has designed and delivered executive education programmes such as The CIO Foundation and Retail and Technology. Earlier in his career, he held senior international leadership roles, including CIO and Corporate Vice President Global IS at Estée Lauder Group, multiple CIO positions, and global executive roles in technology, operations, customer care and

business development, giving him a uniquely pragmatic and strategic perspective on digital leadership.

Dev Ramanujan is an Associate Professor at the Technical University of Denmark, with expertise in circular economy, sustainable design and manufacturing and visual analytics. He has over 10 years of experience in the research and development of theories, techniques, and tools for sustainable and circular product development. He co-leads the Danish National Centre for Remanufacturing and coordinates the bi0SpaCE Horizon Europe project. He has contributed to numerous European and Danish research and development projects, in close collaboration with industry.

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Elena Demosthenous is a Head Standards Officer at the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS) with expertise in quality management, healthcare, occupational and consumer health & safety, and food. She has over 20 years of experience in standardisation and certification, both at CYS and as an associate of the Cyprus Certification Company (CCC). She is the National Member of the Technical Board of the European Standardisation Organisation (CEN), which is responsible for managing the work of all CEN Technical Standardisation Committees. She actively participates in a number of European and International Technical Standardisation committees and at national level she manages several committees responsible for the development of national or private standards and technical specifications. Elena is a certified trainer in topics such as Standards and Standards Development, Healthcare, Patient Satisfaction and safety, Quality management, Occupational and Consumer Safety, CE Marking, Use of standards in Public tenders, etc. She is also a Certified Lead Auditor for Quality Management Systems and Environmental Management Systems in a variety of sectors including chemicals, healthcare, manufacturing, food and services. She is also actively involved since 2007 in hospital accreditation surveys with an ISQua accredited organization.

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Elisa Prati is a senior User Experience designer and researcher. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Design and Master's Degree in Interaction Design, both with honors, from the University of San Marino. She conducted research at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, where she also completed her PhD in Industrial Engineering. Her doctoral thesis, titled "Development of methods and tools to design human-centered systems 4.0", focuses on how to design human-machine and human-robot interaction considering the new challenges of the Industry 4.0 and 5.0 context, with an emphasis on prioritizing user experience. Her research findings have been published in numerous scientific papers and presented at international conferences. Elisa has also gained extensive experience in UX and usability analysis, primarily in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors, collaborating with leading companies in these fields.

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Elisa Spiller (F) holds a Ph.D. in Legal Studies. Her expertise covers fundamental and human rights theory and protection, legal protection by design and by default, legal impact assessment methodologies, automated decision-making, and AI regulation.

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Enrique Dominguez is a Full Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Malaga (Spain) with +20 years' experience teaching courses related to AI at graduate and postgraduate level. Prof. Dominguez's expertise spans machine learning, deep learning, metaheuristic optimisation, and with a strong focus on smart industry applications. His significant contributions to research and innovation are internationally recognized, frequently collaborating with international partners, and developing cutting-edge AI methodologies for diverse applications in EU-funded projects and industry collaborations.

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consultancy projects related to environmental sustainability in collaboration with manufacturing companies and coordinator of research activities linked to projects funded by the European Commission. He is involved in teaching activities in Politecnico di Milano (i.e., courses of Industrial Plant Management and Operations Management in the Food Industry); in collaboration with Politecnico Graduate School of Management and MADE Competence Center I4.0; and in collaboration with post-graduation courses (ITS). He is also author and co-author of scientific publications in international journals, books and conferences.

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Rodrigo Roman Castro holds a Computer Engineering degree (2003) and a PhD in Computer Science (2008), both from the University of Málaga, where he is currently an Associate Professor. Dr Roman's research focuses on cybersecurity for novel paradigms, such as the Internet of Things, the cloud-edge continuum, and artificial intelligence. He is personally and professionally interested in blockchain technologies and has integrated them into various aspects of his research. He has also directed courses on this topic for different user profiles, ranging from technical experts to end users. (https://www.linkedin.com/in/rodrigoromancastro/)

Roman Vitenberg is a Professor at University of Oslo (UiO), as well as the Director of the Blockchain Lab at UiO. He has previously led 7 projects and acted as a co-PI for 8 additional projects. Prior to joining UiO, he spent 3 years as a research staff member at IBM Research. His research interests are broadly in the area of distributed applications, middleware and algorithms. He is an Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Service and Network Management and was a Steering Committee member for ACM DEBS and ACM/IFIP Middleware conferences. He has over 80 publications in peer-reviewed venues (including premier venues such as ACM Computing Surveys, IEEE/ACM ToN, ACM PODC, IEEE ICDCS, with acceptance rate below 14 percent) and 5 filed patent and patent applications. His papers were presented best paper awards at ACM/IFIP/USENIX Middleware, ACM SAC, and ACM DEBS conferences.

(https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ctaGqwoAAAAJ&hl=en)

Ruben Rios is Associate Professor at University of Malaga (Spain), with expertise in cybersecurity. He has over 15 years of experience in teaching and research. He has contributed to national and international conferences and projects, including involvement in EU-funded projects, industry collaborations, and standardization organization.

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Salvador Perez-Canto is a Full Professor in the Department of Business Management and Marketing at the School of Industrial Engineering, University of Malaga (Spain). He began his academic career at the university in 2000. He holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering (2001) and a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering (1997). He teaches in both Master's and Doctoral programs. His main areas of expertise include Circular Economy, Management Systems, and Production Systems Optimization. He has 26 years of experience in research, teaching, and industry collaboration. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles in leading journals such as Sustainable Development, European Journal of Operational Research, Reliability Engineering & System Safety, and Technovation. He has also contributed to numerous Spanish and international conferences and has participated in multiple European and national research projects. In 2005, he was a Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University (USA), and in 2018 at the University of Technology Sydney (Australia). He is currently a member of the research group "Operations and Sustainability: Quality, Information & Communication Technologies, and Labor Risk Prevention".

Dr. **Saman Sarbazvatan** is a passionate technologist with more than two decades of hands-on cross-sectoral experience. Saman works on the convergence of Circular Economy, Digital Economy, and Sustainable Competitiveness as a practitioner, professor, researcher, and senior advisor. Saman works with academia and industry to bridge the gap between research and practice. Saman works at the intersection of Technology, Education, and Business, focused on Digital and Responsible Innovation and Transformation. He is the COO and Vice Dean of Ecole des Ponts Business School of Ecole des Ponts (ENPC), the Founding Director of the Paris Tech Center for Good, and a senior advisor and professor of Technology, Circular Economy, Innovation, and Competitiveness. Saman is an Industry 5.0 thought leader and the Chair of Harvard European Chapter of Microeconomics of Competitiveness

network. Saman helps entrepreneurs, investors, executives, and decision makers at the forefront of the Digital & Responsible Transition toward Industry 5.0 and has a profound passion for leveraging Tech for Good. He focuses on the applications and implications of enabling technologies in propelling inclusive, impact-oriented, and purpose-driven innovations in business, industrial, and economic models toward SDGs, ESG, CSR, and Circular Economy.

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Sergio Terzi is Full Professor of Industrial Technologies at Politecnico di Milano. Author of more than 150 paper, member of IFIP WG 5.1 and 5.7. Chairman of the Italian section of IEEE TMS. His main interests are in sustainable and circular manufacturing, twin transition and digital manufacturing. Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Management at Politecnico di Milano. Founder of Miraitek, a spin-off company of Politecnico di Milano in the field of smart and digital manufacturing.

Sofía Louise Martínez Martínez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Organization and Marketing at the University of Málaga, with expertise in Entrepreneurship and Strategy. She holds a PhD in Economics and Business, a Master's degree in Applied Sociology, and Bachelor's degrees in Business Administration and Law. She has over seven years of academic experience focused on Entrepreneurial University models, ecosystem engagement, and the analysis of entrepreneurial phenomena. Her research has been published in leading academic journals, and her teaching covers venture creation, innovation, and business model design. She has extensive experience coordinating academic entrepreneurship programmes aimed at fostering University–Business Collaboration and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems. She actively participates in major national research initiatives on entrepreneurship and innovation and is a member of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) and the Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey (GUESSS) teams in Málaga. At the national level, she serves as President of the Early Career Network of the Spanish Academy of Management (ECN-ACEDE). Regarding project engagement, she has broad experience in project coordination and participation in EU-funded projects focused on bridging university–industry boundaries, SME growth, and innovation, including dissemination and valorization of research results. Sustainability is a core

component of her research profile, and she is a member of the Sustainable Entrepreneurship Chair at the University of Málaga.

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Soledad Díaz Campos is an executive with over 24 years of experience at the Spanish Association of Science and Technology Parks (APTE), where she serves as Managing Director. She is a leading expert in innovation ecosystems, institutional cooperation, international projects, strategic development and digital transformation, with deep knowledge of the Spanish R&D&I landscape. In her role at APTE, she has driven key national initiatives in talent development, gender equality, technology transfer, regional growth and the promotion of emerging technologies. She is a member of AMIT-MIT, participates in the International Women in IASP Network and in the European Projects Working Group of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, and is also a member of the CDTI Advisory Board.

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Stefanos Gurov holds a PhD in Computer and Information Systems Engineering from the Technical University of Sofia, with a research focus on virtual machines and operating systems optimisation. He also holds a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in computer and information systems engineering, complemented by professional certifications in networking and security. He currently serves as ICT Standards Officer at the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS), where he is responsible for managing and coordinating national standardisation activities in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector. His work includes monitoring European and international standardisation developments, coordinating National Technical and Mirror Committees, and promoting the adoption and effective implementation of European and International standards in Cyprus. Stefanos has extensive professional experience across public administration, academia, and applied ICT environments. He has worked for several years in the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry of Cyprus, contributing to large-scale information systems, database management, geospatial and seismic data infrastructures, and the preparation of technical specifications and tender documents for national digital platforms. In parallel, he has academic teaching experience as a Part-time Lecturer (Scientific Associate) at the European University Cyprus, where he taught the undergraduate course Database Management Systems. His technical

expertise spans operating systems, databases, software development, networking, cybersecurity, AI systems and digital infrastructures. Stefanos is actively EU-funded projects, supporting digital transformation, interoperability, Cybersecurity and the alignment of emerging technologies with policy and regulatory frameworks.

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Stella Stavroulaki is a Junior Project Manager at the Circular Economy Foundation (CEF), graduate of the Department of Business Administration at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB). She has built professional experience across auditing, financial management, and European project management, working with large audit and consulting firms as well as technology-driven companies. Her background includes work in audit, management control, and forensic accounting, where she supported compliance, internal control frameworks, and financial investigations. She has also held a treasury role in a company operating in the digital and mobile marketing sector, contributing to cash management, financial monitoring, and the alignment of financial operations with fast-paced business environments. In recent years, she has been actively involved in EU-funded projects, focusing on project management, dissemination and exploitation activities, and the development of business models. Her work supports the sustainability, impact, and market uptake of project results. Stella combines strong analytical skills with a structured, results-oriented approach, contributing to the effective delivery and long-term value creation of complex European and international initiatives.

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Tanguy Swinnen is a senior digital transformation leader and enterprise architect with extensive experience in IT governance, architecture, and innovation-driven change across healthcare, utilities, public services, and technology-intensive industries. He is recognised for his ability to make complex problems accessible, structuring digital initiatives so that they deliver concrete business outcomes without sacrificing agility or creativity. In recent years, he has held executive roles guiding organisations through periods of rapid transformation, notably as xCare Factory Unit Manager at Zorgi, where he industrialised a Digital Factory in the Belgian healthcare sector, significantly improving delivery reliability, quality, and internal credibility while integrating AI and modern development practices. As Chief Digital Officer at OncoDNA, he

supported the company's transition from start-up to scale-up, embedding digital capabilities into the business model, supporting M&A-related IT due diligence, and aligning product development with regulatory and commercial requirements. Alongside these roles, Tanguy Swinnen has spent many years as an independent consultant and enterprise architect, advising executive teams on IT strategy, operating models, data and architecture governance, and large-scale organisational change. He has worked with both public and private organisations to establish architecture practices, design capability-based roadmaps, and align portfolios and investments with strategic intent. He also has a strong academic and thought-leadership background, having lectured at Solvay Brussels School and other institutions on IT governance, enterprise architecture, and Green IT. With an education spanning engineering, management, philosophy, and IT governance, he combines analytical depth with a pragmatic, human-centred approach to digital leadership.

Dr. **Taniya Kapoor** is an Assistant Professor with the Artificial Intelligence Group at Wageningen University & Research. She is one of the youngest Assistant professors in the Netherlands. She was awarded her PhD from TU Delft in three years, a feat accomplished by less than one percent of PhDs in the Netherlands. She did postdoc research at TU Delft and was subsequently awarded the AI Schmidt Postdoc Fellowship at the University of Oxford. Taniya's research lies in the interface of artificial intelligence and physical knowledge. Her research provides a new perspective on the digital and sustainable transformation of traditional scientific challenges. She aims to develop artificial intelligence techniques that understand the existing knowledge of underlying systems and utilize this knowledge to solve real-life problems.

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Vanessa Arrigoni has been working in Deep Blue as Human Factors, Training and Digital Learning expert since 2015. Her expertise covers the application of Human Factors in everyday life and in safety critical systems. She is involved in both consulting and EU co-funded projects as technical expert, project manager, and trainer.In the past years, she developed a deep expertise in the Civil Aviation, Space and Healthcare domains thanks to strong collaborations with partners and clients from all over Europe such as EUROCONTROL, THALES, LUFTHANSA, ESA (European Space Agency), ASI (Italian Space Agency), and Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta. As Head of Training, she is responsible for the

strategic steering and coordination of all training activities within Deep Blue. She leads and contributes to a range of projects focused on the design and delivery of innovative CRM and soft skills training and learning solutions for key stakeholders, including air traffic controllers, new astronaut candidates, and neurosurgeons. In addition, she contributes to work streams focused on assessing the impact of emerging technologies on human roles and skills, as well as on the design of research and innovation projects in the field of human-centred AI. (https://www.linkedin.com/in/vanessa-arrigoni-77027238/)

IDr **Vasilis Tountopoulos** holds the position of CEO at ZELUS. His main activities involve leading the business development, innovation, and commercialization activities of the company solutions in the fields of digital solutions for corporate sustainability, cybersecurity, and data management and visualization. He, also, provides consulting services on project management, technical specifications, and research-driven innovation for national and EU co-funded research projects and drives the delivery of the next generation of the ZELUS products and services. He has more than 25 years of experience in EU and National co-funded and commercial ICT projects, leading activities with respect to the analysis of customer needs and business requirements, the specification of technical design and the development of business modelling and commercialisation opportunities for new technical solutions. In the recent years, he has been engaged with the analysis of the strategic, organisational, and technological dimensions of cybersecurity in the context of the established EU regulations (Cybersecurity Act, Cyber Resilience Act, Cyber Solidarity Act) and directives (NIS2) and the application of breakthrough AI-assisted technologies for cybersecurity awareness, analysis, and maturity assessment in various business sectors and vertical domains. He has also extensive expertise in the analysis, specification and application of data-driven digital and green transformation technologies in various business sectors. His interests include AI analytics, interoperability, big data management and visualisation, cybersecurity and data protection, distributed information systems, and mobile technologies. Vasilis holds a PhD degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and a diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Patras.

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Vasilis Mpisketzis holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Athens and a research fellowship in Numerical Modelling and High-Performance Computing at Goethe University Frankfurt. At Zelus he works as a software engineer in developing AI and machine learning solutions for a variety of business applications. He delivers attention-based recommender systems and API-first AI services, enhancing interoperability across components. His upcoming focus is on full-cycle AI integration, from feature stores to monitoring and validation, working on different application sectors.

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Dr. **Vassilis Sitokonstantinou** is an Assistant Professor at the Artificial Intelligence Group of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), working on AI for scientific discovery in Earth and Environmental Sciences with a focus on sustainable agriculture and food security. His research combines causal machine learning with deep learning to study complex agroecosystem dynamics. Before joining WUR, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls at the University of Valencia and previously led AgriHUB at the National Observatory of Athens, developing machine learning for Earth observation methods for climate-smart farming and the monitoring of agricultural policies.

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3.12 Vocational Rehabilitation of Graduates

The Master program «Digital Deep Driven Circular Economy» offers a clear career orientation responding to the modern requirements of the labor market which are shaped by the twofold transition towards to "green" growth and digital transformation. Based on its interdisciplinary approach, it strengthens the professional readiness of the participants by offering a comprehensive training that combines the principles of the circular economy with advanced digital technologies and methods of analysis, planning and decision making.

The graduates acquire a highly competitive set of knowledge and skills which allow them to fulfill highly demanded positions, such as consultants and sustainability executives, circular business model managers, data analysts for environmental and operational applications as well as digital transformation executives specializing to efficient management of resources. The utilization of «deep tech» tools and practices (indicatively: artificial intelligence, IoT, blockchain, digital twins) offer to the graduates the ability to transform strategic sustainability goals into measurable interventions and feasible solutions.

The professional prospects span to a broad spectrum of industries where the implementation of the circular economy is a strategic priority: manufacturing and industry, energy, agriculture, waste and resources management, construction and supply chain. In these environments, the graduates can contribute to the ecological design of products and services, the optimization of material and energy flows, the reduction of waste and emissions as well as the development and monitoring of performance indicators and compliance to regulatory frameworks.

Finally, the vocational rehabilitation is further strengthened by the connection of the educational process with real organization and business needs utilizing applied projects, use cases and tasks which simulate or solve authentic problems. In this way, the graduates don't only obtain the theoretical background but also, they develop the ability to design and implement solutions, which contributes to their immediate integration into the labor market or/and for further academic and research development.

3.13 Academic calendar

The academic calendar is posted on the website of the Postgraduate Program at the beginning of the academic year and is updated whenever there are changes.

3.14 Curriculum

The Postgraduate Program begins in the winter academic semester of each academic year. A total of ninety (90) credits (ECTS) is required to obtain a Master's Degree. During their studies, postgraduate students are required to attend and successfully examine postgraduate courses, to engage in research, as well as to prepare a Master's Thesis.

A postgraduate student can participate in a course's final exam only if the student has attended to at least 60% of the teaching hours. In any case the professor is responsible for the verification of participation and attendance. In case that the students' absences exceed the 40% limit for each course of the semester then the student face the possibility of deregistration. This issue is examined by the C.C., which gives its opinion to the Assembly of the Department.

The teaching of the courses of the Postgraduate Program will be carried out exclusively by distance learning means. Educational activities not guided by teaching staff, individual and/or group study and practice of postgraduate students in individual courses, are carried out through their remote access to appropriate services of an asynchronous distance-learning system.

The technological equipment which is required by every student in order to successfully complete the courses of the semester and their evaluation is a computer with internet access equipped with a microphone, loudspeaker and a camera which can be adjusted to technological developments.

The specific terms and conditions for the organization of a Master's Program using synchronous and asynchronous distance learning methods, as well as issues related to the organization of the educational process with distance learning methods, are mentioned in the Regulation of Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies of the University of the Aegean (Government Gazette 4551/B/17.07.2023).

Courses are organized into academic semesters, take place on a weekly basis and are conducted purely in English.

3.14.1 List of Courses per Academic Semester

The courses offered per academic semester are described below. In addition, students will be informed well in advance about seminar-style lectures that may be scheduled.

First Academic Semester			
CODE	**COURSE TITLE**	**COURSE TYPE**	**CREDITS**
UA-MC1	Introduction to Digital Circular Economy	Mandatory	8
UA-MC2	Circular Economy and Digital Product Passports	Mandatory	8
UA-MC3	Standardisation and EU Regulatory Compliance in Digital Circular Economy	Mandatory	8
UA-TC1	Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Circular Economy Ecosystems	Mandatory	6
TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR			**30**
Second Academic Semester *(In the 2nd semester students will have to attend the two compulsory courses and choose to take another three of the seven elective courses offered.)*			
CODE	**COURSE TITLE**	**COURSE TYPE**	**CREDITS**
UA-TC2	Blockchain Technologies for Circular Ecosystems	Mandatory	6
UA-TC3	Data Analytics and Lifecycle Assessment in Circular Economy	Mandatory	6
UA-EC1	Energy Transformation with Deep-Tech Driven Energy Transformation	Elective	6
UA-EC2	Circular Economy and Digital Health	Elective	6

UA-EC3	Sustainable Manufacturing and Industry 4.0	Elective	6
UA-EC4	Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain for Circular Supply Chain Management (AI and Blockchain)	Elective	6
UA-EC5	Smart, Circular and Resilient Cities and Regions	Elective	6
UA-EC6	Data-driven Circular Economy for Social Economy	Elective	6
UA-EC7	International Conference/Bootcamp on Digital Deep tech Driven Circular Economy	Elective	6
TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR			**30**
Third Academic Semester			
CODE	**COURSE TITLE**	**COURSE TYPE**	**CREDITS**
UA-DCT	Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (M.Sc. thesis)	Mandatory	30
TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE THIRD SEMESTER			**30**
TOTAL CREDITS OF THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM			**90**

3.14.2 Courses Description per Academic Semester

First Academic Semester

(UA-MC1) - Introduction to the Digital Circular Economy (Compulsory): This is a core course that introduces students to the principles of the circular economy and the role of digital technologies in promoting sustainable development. It examines how digital transformation supports circular systems, resource optimization and sustainable development, with an emphasis on the transition from linear to circular systems and the benefits of digital tools in this process.

(UA-MC2) - Circular Economy and Digital Product Passports (Compulsory): The course explores the concept of Digital Product Passports (DPPs), which are critical for product traceability and facilitating circularity. After the course, students should be able to understand how DPPs provide transparency in the product lifecycle, allowing businesses to track products from design to use and disposal, as well as comply with sustainability regulations. The course also examines the technical and regulatory aspects of DPPs.

(UA-MC3) - Standardization and Compliance with the EU Regulatory Framework in the Digital Circular Economy (Compulsory): The course covers the standards and regulatory framework within the European Union regarding digital technologies and sustainability. Students will study the EU AI Act, the regulations and standards for Digital Product Passports, as well as other key policies and directives guiding the transition towards the circular economy. The course focuses on how businesses must comply with these laws and adapt their strategies to meet regulatory requirements.

(UA-TC1) - Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Circular Economy Ecosystems (Compulsory): The course explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics are leveraged to optimize processes within circular ecosystems. Students will examine applications such as automated waste separation, material recovery, and advanced industrial/manufacturing processes. The course highlights the role of AI and the improve the efficiency and scalability of circular economy systems.

Second Academic Semester

(UA-TC2) - Blockchain Technologies for Circular Ecosystems (Compulsory): The course offers an in-depth exploration of how blockchain technology supports transparency, traceability, and decentralization within circular business models. Students will learn how blockchain is applied to supply chain management, ensuring compliance with sustainability standards and best practices, and facilitating the tracking of materials in the entire life cycle of the products.

(UA-TC3) - Data Analysis and Life Cycle Assessment in the Circular Economy (Compulsory): The course introduces data analysis and processing techniques, as well as related tools used to conduct a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of sustainable products. Students will learn how to use data to measure and optimize the environmental footprint of products and services. data analytics in decision-making for sustainable circular business practices.

(UA-EC1) - Energy Transformation with Deep-Tech Technologies (Elective): The course examines how deep-tech innovations, such as AI, IoT and blockchain, can be applied to transform the energy sector in a green and sustainable direction. Students will learn how to optimize energy systems, integrate renewable energy solutions and manage energy resources more efficiently, principles of the circular economy.

(UA-EC2) - Circular Economy and Digital Health (Elective): Students will learn how circular economy principles can be applied to the health sector with the aim of enhancing sustainability. The course explores digital tools for managing the lifecycle of medical devices, improving resource utilization in health systems, and reducing waste. The emphasis is on sustainable healthcare practices and innovative solutions for the reuse and recycling of health products.

(UA-EC3) - Sustainable Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 (Elective): The course examines how Industry 4.0 technologies, such as AI, robotics and IoT, can be integrated into industrial/production processes to promote sustainability. Students will explore how these digital technologies contribute to a more efficient and sustainable production system that aligns with the principles of the circular economy, focusing on reducing waste and optimizing resource use.

(UA-EC4) - Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain for Circular Supply Chain Management (Elective): The course covers how Artificial Intelligence and blockchain technologies can improve the efficiency, traceability and transparency of circular supply chains. Students will learn how these technologies are applied to optimize material flows, monitor resource use and reduce waste, while ensuring compliance with circular economy principles.

(UA-EC5) - Smart, Circular and Resilient Cities and Regions (Elective): The course examines how digital technologies can be used to develop smart, circular and resilient urban and regional environments. Students will learn about the role of IoT, AI and data analytics in optimizing urban resources, improving waste management and strengthening the resilience of cities to future challenges, such as climate change and resource depletion.

(UA-EC6) - Data-Driven Circular Economy for the Social Economy (Elective): The course focuses on how data analytics and digital technologies can support circular economy initiatives in the field of social economy. Students will learn how to leverage data-centric knowledge to optimize resource use, enhance sustainability, and promote social impact through circular models in cooperatives, social enterprises and grassroots organisations.

(UA-EC7) - International Conference/Bootcamp on the Digital Circular Economy (Elective): The course provides students with structured academic recognition (ECTS) for their participation in an international conference on digital deep-tech innovations that drive the transition towards a circular and sustainable economy. Through lectures, research presentations and workshops, students explore how technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain, robotics, and advanced materials enable circular business models, resource efficiency, and system resilience.

3.14.3 Postgraduate Thesis (M.Sc. Thesis)

Third Academic Semester

(UA-DCT) - Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (Compulsory): The course allows students to design and implement an original research or innovative project at the intersection of digital technologies and the circular economy. By leveraging the knowledge gained during the master's degree, students will identify a real sustainability challenge, formulate a research or innovation question, and apply rigorous methodologies to produce actionable findings, prototypes or policy/strategy proposals. Under academic supervision and, where appropriate, in collaboration with industrial, public or social actors, students will combine advanced digital tools (e.g. AI, data analytics, IoT, digital twins, blockchain) with circular economy principles (e.g. resource efficiency, product life extension, industrial symbiosis, regenerative models). The thesis can be theoretical, empirical, design-oriented, or practice-oriented, but must demonstrate critical engagement with the literature, methodological excellence, ethical awareness, and a clear contribution to a digital, circular, and climate-resilient economy.

The Postgraduate Diploma Thesis is prepared in groups, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation for the preparation of the Master Thesis, under the supervision of a Lecturer in the Postgraduate Program (Supervisor), in the context of the provisions of the current legislation and concerns a subject that is scientifically included in the Postgraduate Program. The postgraduate student has the right to submit a topic, provided that he/she has successfully completed all the courses of the first two semesters. Other information on the procedures to be followed and the overall framework for application, supervision during preparation, writing, presentation and evaluation are included in the relevant Regulation for the Preparation of the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis.

3.15 Learning Outcomes

3.15.1 Knowledge

After the successful completion of the course, the student will possess comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of the circular economy as an interdisciplinary field, understanding its historical development, core principles and pillars, as well as its connection to contemporary frameworks of sustainable development across all levels of analysis. The student will have acquired substantiated knowledge of the political, social, legal and regulatory parameters shaping circular transitions at European and international level, including European Union policies, corporate sustainability frameworks, and key regulatory instruments related to artificial intelligence, data, digital product passports and environmental compliance. In parallel, the student will understand the role of international and European standardisation bodies, circular economy indicators and monitoring frameworks, as well as the principles of ethics, ecology, data protection and governance that underpin digital circular systems.

Furthermore, the student will have acquired advanced knowledge of the digital technologies used within the context of the circular economy, such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, big data, digital twins, automation and distributed ledger technologies, as well as their applications in industrial systems, supply chains, energy systems, healthcare, cities and the social economy. The student will possess knowledge of life cycle assessment methodologies, sustainability indicators and life cycle data, together with the technical and conceptual foundations of data analysis, machine learning and interoperability. Finally, the student will understand the ethical, social and human-centred considerations associated with the application of digital technologies in complex, sustainable and circular systems

3.15.2 Skills

After the successful completion of the course, the student will have developed the ability to apply systemic and analytical thinking to the design, evaluation and support of data-driven circular economy strategies. The student will be able to make appropriate use of evaluation frameworks, circularity indicators, life cycle assessment methodologies and data analysis tools in order to substantiate decision-making and propose interventions within complex circular ecosystems. At the same time, the student will be able to integrate regulatory requirements, compliance issues, data governance considerations and ethical parameters into the design of circular solutions, taking into account organisational, social and institutional constraints.

Furthermore, the student will have acquired practical and integrative skills in the design and assessment of digitally supported circular applications in sectors such as industry, supply chains, energy, healthcare, cities and the social economy. The student will be able to design and analyse digital product passport architectures, traceability systems, data flows and digital twins, as well as to apply techniques of artificial intelligence, automation and distributed technologies for the optimisation of resources and processes. Finally, the student will possess skills in case analysis, data synthesis and impact assessment, enabling the translation of technical and scientific findings into well-substantiated policy, strategy and design proposals, with an emphasis on sustainability, transparency and social responsibility.

3.15.3 Abilities

After the successful completion of the course, the student will have developed the ability to assume a responsible role in the design, coordination and support of strategic circular economy initiatives in complex and uncertain environments, taking into account social, ecological, regulatory and digital parameters. The student will be able to exercise professional and ethical judgement in decision-making, assess social and environmental impacts, and ensure transparency, accountability and compliance with applicable regulatory and institutional frameworks. At the same time, the student will be able to coordinate interdisciplinary teams and manage stakeholders, balancing regulatory requirements, organisational constraints and sustainability objectives.

Furthermore, the student will possess the autonomy to make well-substantiated strategic decisions regarding the adoption and governance of digital technologies in circular systems, such as artificial intelligence, automation and distributed technologies, in accordance with the principles of ethics, data protection and social responsibility. The student will be able to assume responsibility for ensuring reliable communication, risk management, oversight of complex projects and the alignment of technological choices with long-term organisational and public objectives. Finally, the student will be able to contribute autonomously to the formulation of strategic directions and to decision-making processes that support sustainable, socially responsible and resilient circular transitions at organisational, sectoral and territorial levels.

3.16 Preparation of assignments

Postgraduate students, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation and the Study Guide of the Postgraduate Program, may prepare assignments in the context of the examination of the course. For more information on the preparation of the assignments, see the respective regulation.

3.17 Preparation of a Master's Thesis through Erasmus

Postgraduate students are given the opportunity to conduct their Master's Thesis through the program LLP Erasmus in European Union countries or in third countries in collaboration with Universities or Research Institutes. For more information refer to the Master Thesis Preparation regulation.

3.18 Services offered

3.18.1 Electronic Services of the Postgraduate Program "Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy"

The Postgraduate Program "Digital Deep Tech Driven Circular Economy" provides its postgraduate students with a set of electronic services to serve their academic activities.

3.18.1.1 Websites of the Postgraduate Program, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication, University of the Aegean

The central point of information and posting of announcements is the website of the Postgraduate Program (https://3d-circular-msc.aegean.gr), the website of the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication (https://www.ct.aegean.gr/) and the website of the University of the Aegean (https://www.aegean.gr/).

3.18.1.2 E-mail

The University of the Aegean provides students with an e-mail account, which they can use as their personal electronic address. The Department Secretariats and other

University Services use this address to communicate with students. E-mail can be managed via the e-mail management website.

In addition, students have access to a wireless network (Eduroam).

3.18.1.3 Zoom platform

The Zoom teleconferencing application allows up to 100 people to connect simultaneously and exchange images and audio. Participants can access it from any device with an internet connection, such as a computer, tablet, or mobile phone. The services provided through the application include video webinars, Zoom rooms, screen sharing, use of an online whiteboard and chat, and allow for unlimited online meetings for courses or other activities.

3.18.1.4 Electronic Secretariat (student registry)

The Electronic Secretariat application is the information system through which students can access the services of the Department Secretariat via the web. Through the electronic secretariat, they can:

- register for each semester at the Department
- declare their courses for each semester
- check their course grades
- submit requests to the Secretariat for the issuance of certificates (issuance of study certificates, issuance of detailed grades certificates, certificates for insurance agencies, tax authorities, parents' employers, military service, etc.)

Students use the Uni-Student (UniverSis)

3.18.1.5 Infrastructure supporting distance learning

3.18.1.5.1 Microsoft TEAMS

For supporting synchronous teaching, the University of the Aegean has installed the Microsoft Teams platform, which is the centrally supported solution. The Microsoft Teams platform can support synchronous teaching for an audience of up to 250 people in real time through the Microsoft Teams Meetings feature. In addition, the University has a limited number of shared licenses for the Microsoft Live Events subsystem, through which a lesson can be broadcast to a large audience in near real time.

For the timely preparation and participation of lecturers and postgraduate students in distance synchronous teaching, registration with the DILOS365 service (Section 0) using their institutional account is required (Section 3.18.2).

3.18.1.5.2 The Big Blue Button (BBB) platform

The Big Blue Button (BBB) platform is an open-source teleconferencing system designed for online teaching and learning. It can be used for online seminars, courses, group work, etc.

Instructions for using the BBB platform are provided by the Electronic Services of the University of the Aegean at https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/tilekpaidefsis/odigies-platformas-bbb.

3.18.1.5.3 eClass Platform

The eClass platform is a comprehensive Electronic Course Management System. It follows the philosophy of open-source software and supports asynchronous and synchronous distance learning without restrictions or commitments. The service can be accessed using a simple web browser without the need for specialized technical knowledge.

The Open eClass platform has a modern and adaptive user interface based on Bootstrap 3X, so it can be adapted to the screens of different devices, including computers, tablets, and smartphones. The platform is compatible with international standards (SCORM, IMSCP), which ensure the reusability, accessibility, and resilience of educational material to technological changes, as well as interoperability between e-learning systems.

The main features of the platform are:

- Creation and management of e-courses
- User management
- Educational content management
- Information, communication, and collaboration tools
- Assessment and feedback tools

All students (undergraduate and postgraduate) of the University of the Aegean have access rights, while only faculty members and teaching staff with a permanent position at the institution have the right to create courses (Special Teaching Staff, Special Technical Laboratory Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff).

3.18.1.5.4 Moodle distance learning platform

The Moodle platform is a comprehensive e-learning management system. It follows the philosophy of open-source software and supports asynchronous and synchronous distance learning without restrictions or commitments. The service can be accessed using a simple web browser without the need for specialized technical knowledge. The platform, which includes collaboration capabilities via BBB or Zoom, allows courses to be conducted using the synchronous distance learning method. The main features of the platform are:

- Creation and management of online courses
- User management
- Educational content management
- Information, communication, and collaboration tools
- Assessment and feedback tools.

All students (undergraduate and graduate) of the University have access rights, while only Faculty members and teaching staff with permanent positions at the University (Special Teaching Staff, Special Technical Laboratory Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff) have the right to create courses.

3.18.1.5.5 Virtual Campus

The M.Sc. Program, in addition to the aforementioned distance-learning infrastructures of the Institution, will make use of the **pan-European digital and inter-university campus** developed within the framework of the European project 3D-CIRCULAR, in which it participates and coordinates. This **Virtual Campus** focuses on the development of advanced knowledge and skills for the circular economy and constitutes the **primary operational environment** through which both the educational activities and the training activities associated with the M.Sc. Program will be delivered.

The Virtual Campus operates as a **unified, flexible, and accessible e-learning environment**, that integrates different digital modules and technologies, can function in combination with the Institution's existing digital environments, and is capable of supporting distance education, virtual mobility, and collaboration among multiple partners at a European level.

The Virtual Campus:

- enables structured and traceable onboarding of learners,
- supports modular, skills-oriented learning delivery aligned with industry needs,
- ensures accessibility and inclusiveness across linguistic, social, and physical dimensions,
- and generates verifiable evidence of participation, assessment, and certification in line with EU funding requirements

Particular emphasis is placed on **skills development**, including hands-on, practice-oriented learning components, competence assessment, and structured certification pathways. As a result, the Virtual Campus supports not only the delivery of content, but also the measurable acquisition and evaluation of skills

In addition, it supports **selection and enrolment** processes that comply with principles of **gender equality and social inclusion**, as well as with **security, privacy, and data-protection guidelines**.

Finally, the general obligations for **record-retention, substantiation, and reporting** are fulfilled, meaning that the Virtual Campus serves as a reliable source of evidence for the implementation and outcomes of the educational process.

Each stage is supported by a designated platform:

- **DreamApply** governs admissions and onboarding (Πλήρης Οδηγός Χρήσης),

- **LearnWorlds** governs learning delivery, assessment, and certification (Learnwords),
- **Weglot** ensures multilingual access across the environment.
- **accessiBe** ensures accessibility and inclusive interaction**.**

3.18.2 Guide for the Activation of Electronic Services of the Postgraduate Program and the Academic Unit

3.18.2.1 *Create and Manage an Institutional Account*

The Information Technology and Communications Service (YPE) of the University of the Aegean (UO) provides members of the academic community with access accounts to the University's data network.

Beneficiaries of accounts are lecturers (faculty and 407), students (undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral candidates), University employees (permanent, IDAX, project contractors), employees of the University's research programs.

Requests for the creation of access accounts are forwarded to the Ministry of Health in the following ways only:

- Postgraduate Students – PhD Candidates: At the beginning of each academic year through the Secretariat after the end of the registration period.

Each beneficiary maintains only one access account. Secretariats and agencies do not maintain access accounts. (E-mail accounts that may be maintained by these services are always forwarded to a mailbox of an account belonging to a natural person).

The YPE creates the accounts and communicates to the users all the necessary information required to access the University's data network. The assignment of names to the accounts (decision of the Rector's Council - meeting number 100/24.09.2001), follows specific rules of nomenclature

When creating the accounts, the YPE assigns one-time passwords, consisting of a random sequence of characters that users are asked to change the first time they log in to the system. Passwords must have a specific duration (2 months), after which users must enter a new password, for security reasons

3.18.2.2 *Password rules*

As of Tuesday 01.06.2021, the following applies to passwords:

- The password will have a duration of 180 days from the last change
- 30 days before the change, a relevant information message will appear when accessing the email via https://webmail.aegean.gr
- After the end of the 180 days and if the user has not changed the password, he/she will not have access to the electronic services of the University of the Aegean network

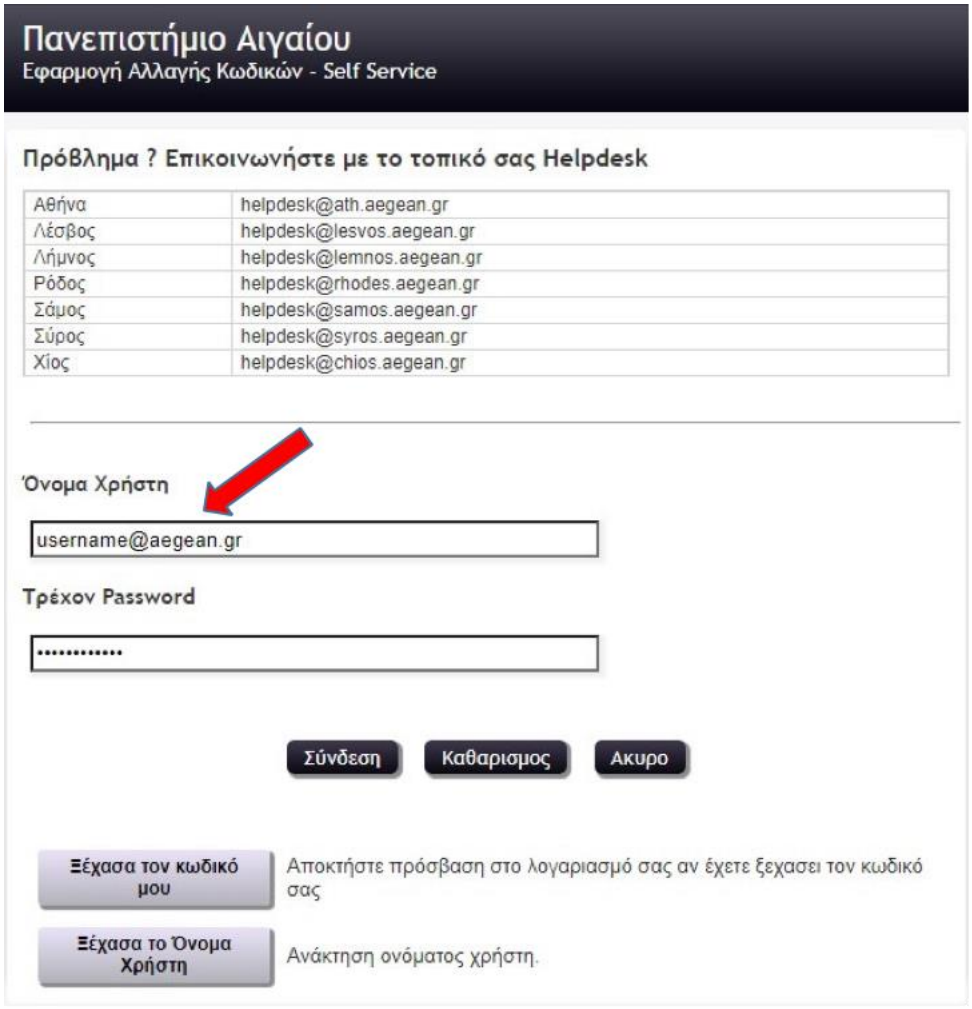
The new password must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum length of 11 characters
- Contain at least 3 of the following character categories
    - At least one lowercase letter of the Latin alphabet **[a-z]** o At least one uppercase letter of the Latin alphabet **[A-Z]** o At least one numeric **digit [0-9]**
    - At least one special character such as the following **()!@#$^&*,.? -+_={}[]**
- It must not contain characters of the Greek alphabet
- Not contain part of the user's name
- It must not contain common words or continuous characters (e.g. test, password, qwerty, 1111, aaaa, etc.)
- Not previously used as a password in your account at the University of the Aegean (password history check)

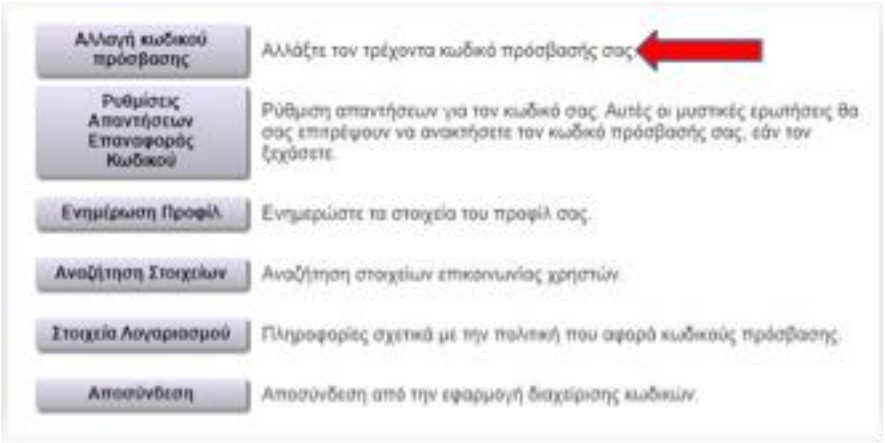
On page https://ype.aegean.gr/generatesecurepassword you can find recommended secure passwords that meet the above requirements.

All users who have not recently changed their password should do so, in order not to have problems using the offered electronic services. Below you will find the two ways you can change your password.

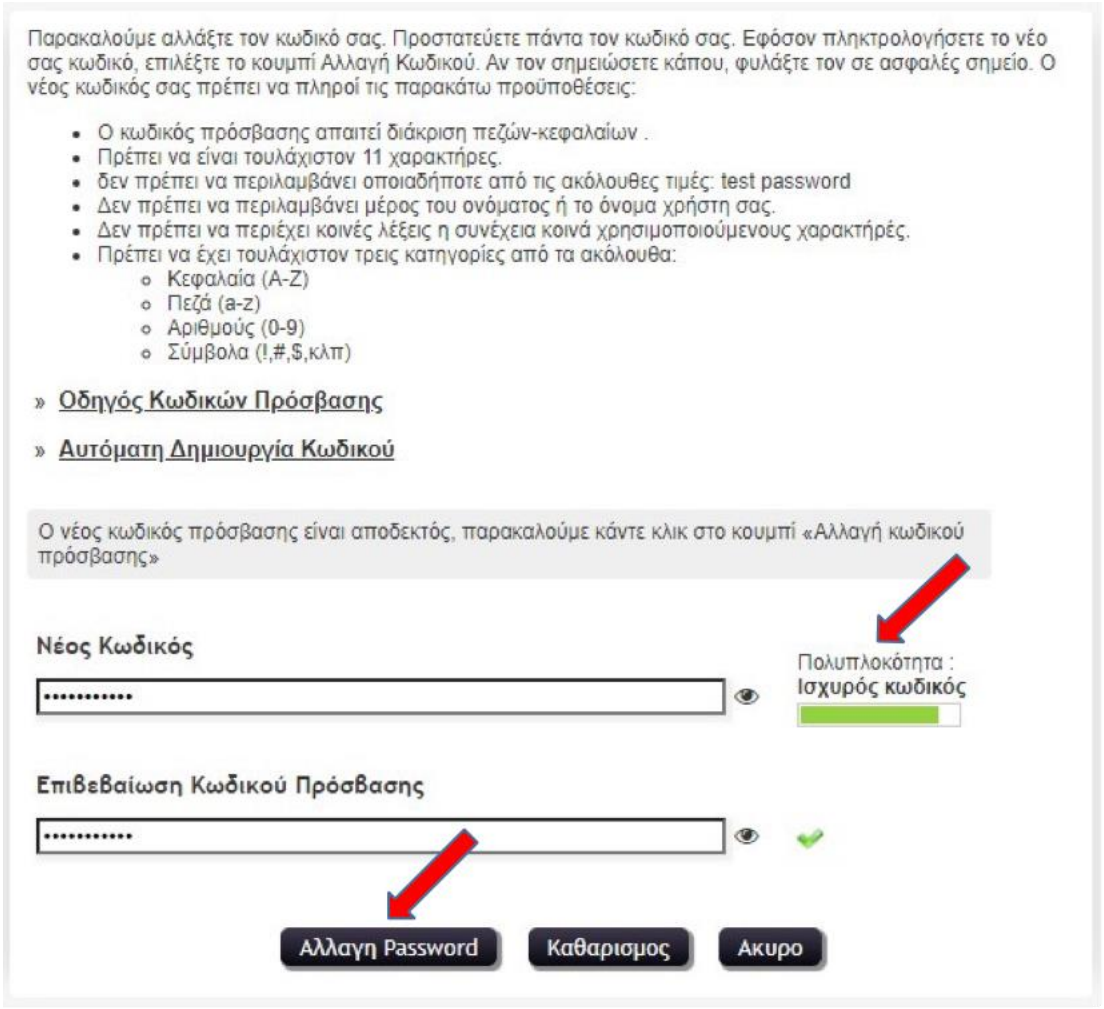
Through the **https://password.aegean.gr** page
You will enter https://password.aegean.gr address https://password.aegean.gr/, where you will log in by putting your username in your Username by adding @aegean.gr and the Current Password you are using. Whatever your email is (e.g. username@les.aegean.gr) you will log in as a username@aegean.gr.



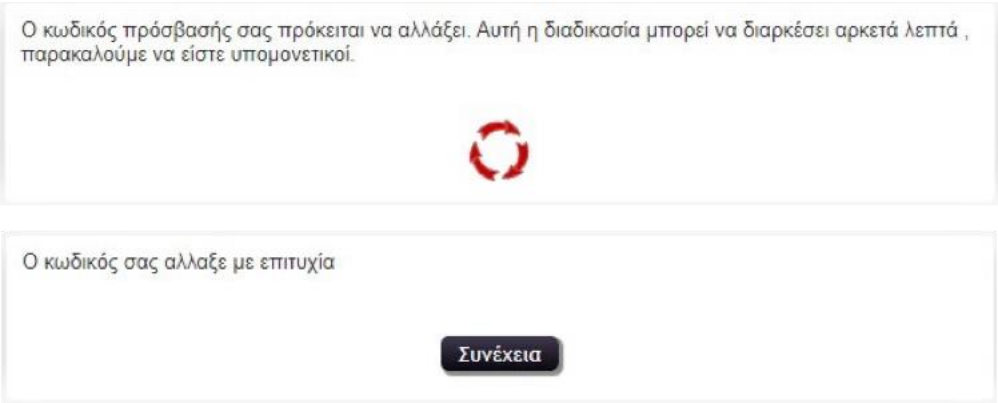
You'll then select Change **Password**, and there are options available to set up your account.



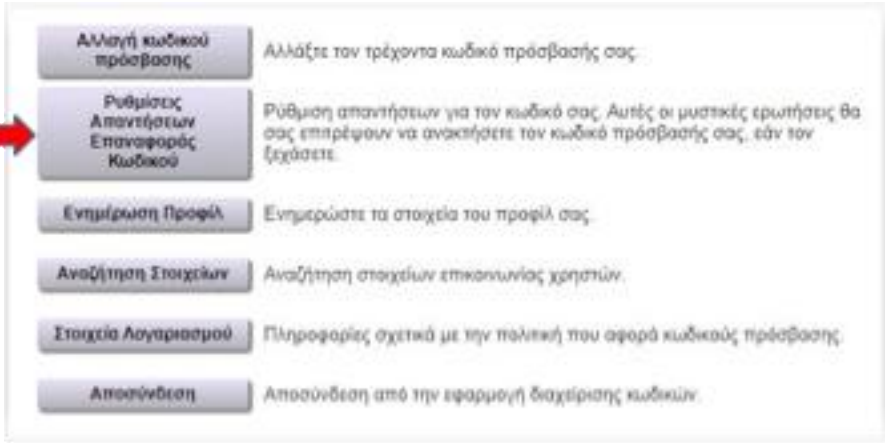
As you type the New Password, it will show you its security level depending on its complexity. You can see the password you have entered by selecting the button with the symbol 👁. As soon as you re-enter the new password in the Password Confirmation, as long as you have met all the above conditions, the **Change Password** button will become active and you can press it.



A hold message will appear, followed by a success message.



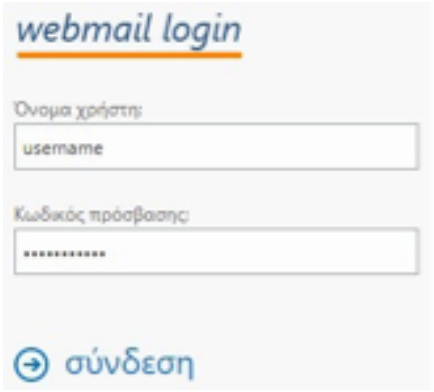
You can select the **Password Reset Response Settings** to reset the password in case of loss.



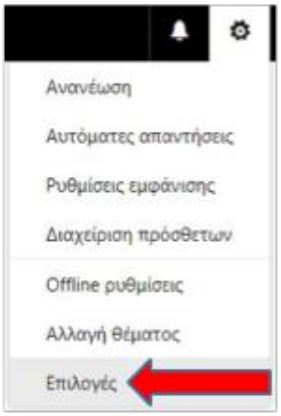
You will select a question from the items in the list and type the answer just below in the field with the symbol **".** You can see the answer you have typed by selecting the button with the symbol . When you have completed all the questions the **Save Answers button** will become active and you can press it. Finally, you will select **Confirm Answers and Continue**.

By e-mail https://webmail.aegean.gr

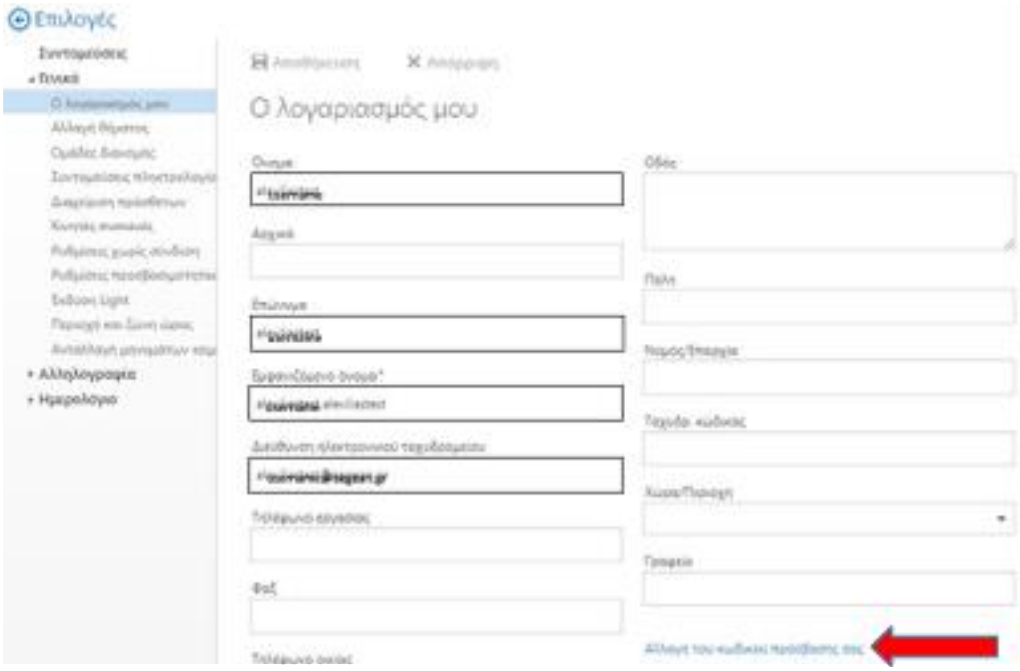
You will enter https://webmail.aegean.gr addresshttps://webmail.aegean.gr/, where you will log in by entering your username and the Current Password you are using in your Username.



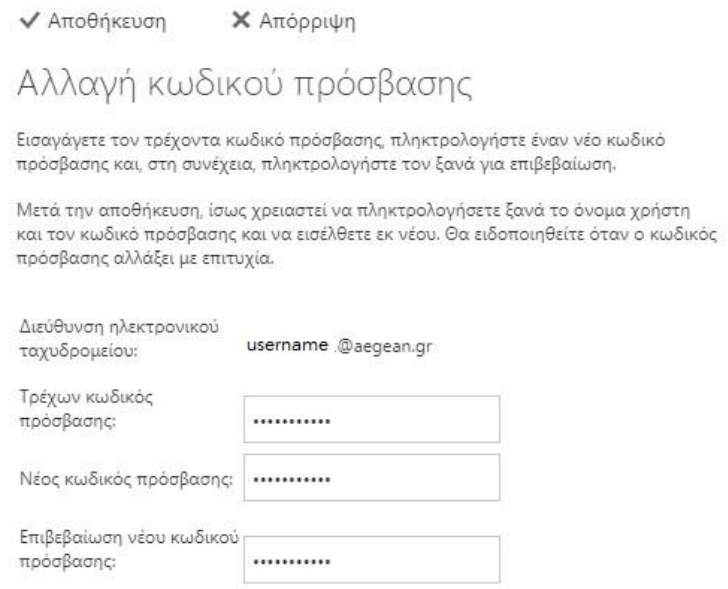
On the top right side, you will select the button with the symbol and from the **Options menu**.



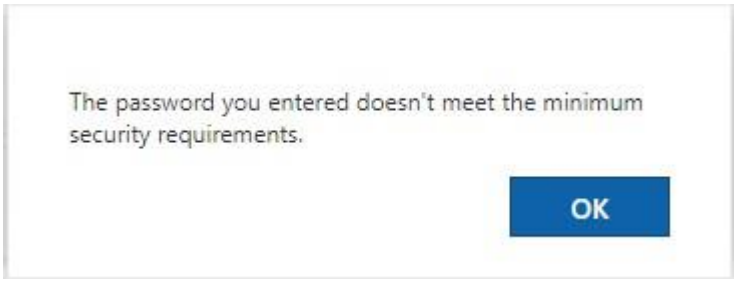
From the menu on the left, you will select **General** and **My account**. At the bottom right is the option **Change your password**.



You will first need to enter your current password. You will then enter your New password, according to the above conditions and confirm your new password, and then select Save at the top **left**.



In case the password requirements are not met, an error message will appear.



If the password change is successful, you will log out of the webmail and you will have to log in again with the new password.

3.18.3 Electronic Services of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports

A few hours after the institutional account is created, in order to complete the automated update of intermediate subsystems, it is possible to register in the following additional systems:

3.18.3.1 *Electronic Academic Identity Service*

Image 1: Home academic id service website (https://academicid.minedu.gov.gr)

After the creation of the institutional account, there is the possibility of registering in the Electronic Academic Identity https://academicid.minedu.gov.gr service, which also has the role of a Student Ticket Card (pass) and is used for identification in the educational procedures of the University (e.g. exams).

It is noted that the electronic academic identity service is provided directly by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.

3.18.3.2 *DELOS365 Platform*

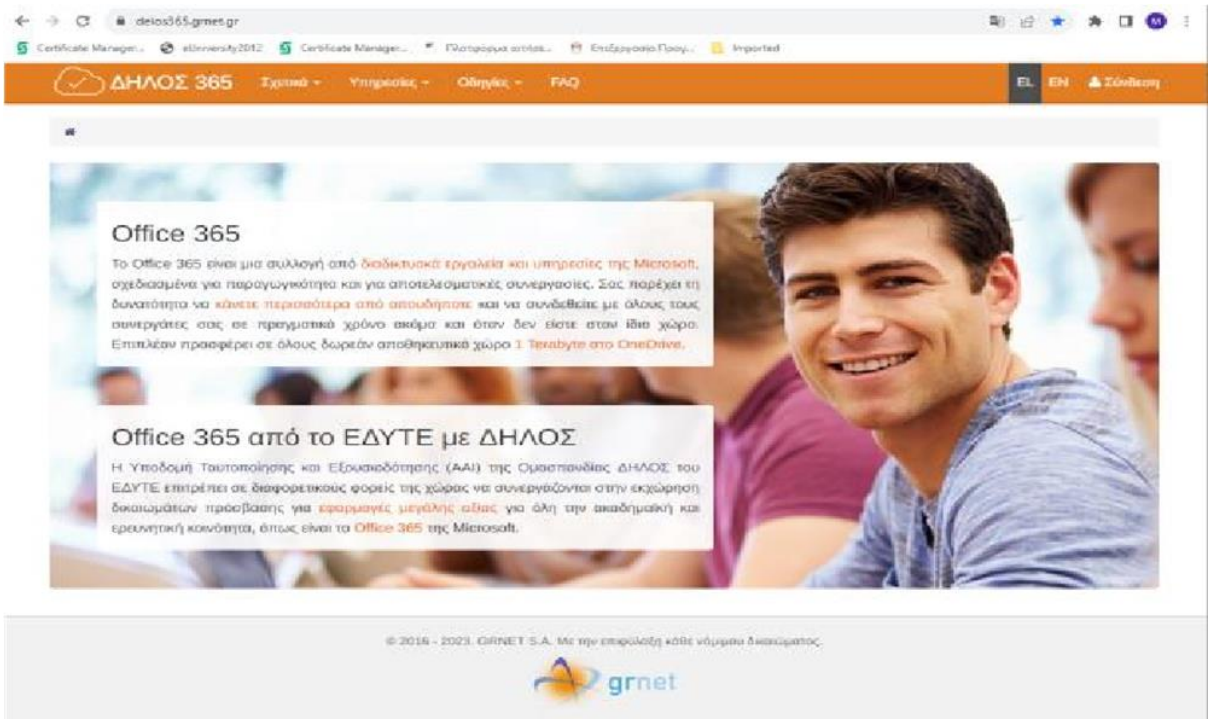


Image 2: Home website of the DELOS365 platform (https://delos365.grnet.gr)

By registering on https://delos365.grnet.gr platformhttps://delos365.grnet.gr/ , you gain access to the Office365 software and the Microsoft Teams application. To register, it is sufficient to visit the page and log in with the institutional account created. The creation of the account in Office 365 and Microsoft Teams is done directly on the Microsoft online infrastructure and may take up to one day to fully activate all services.

3.18.4 Support Services for Postgraduate Students of the University of the Aegean

3.18.4.1 *Online Student Services Website*

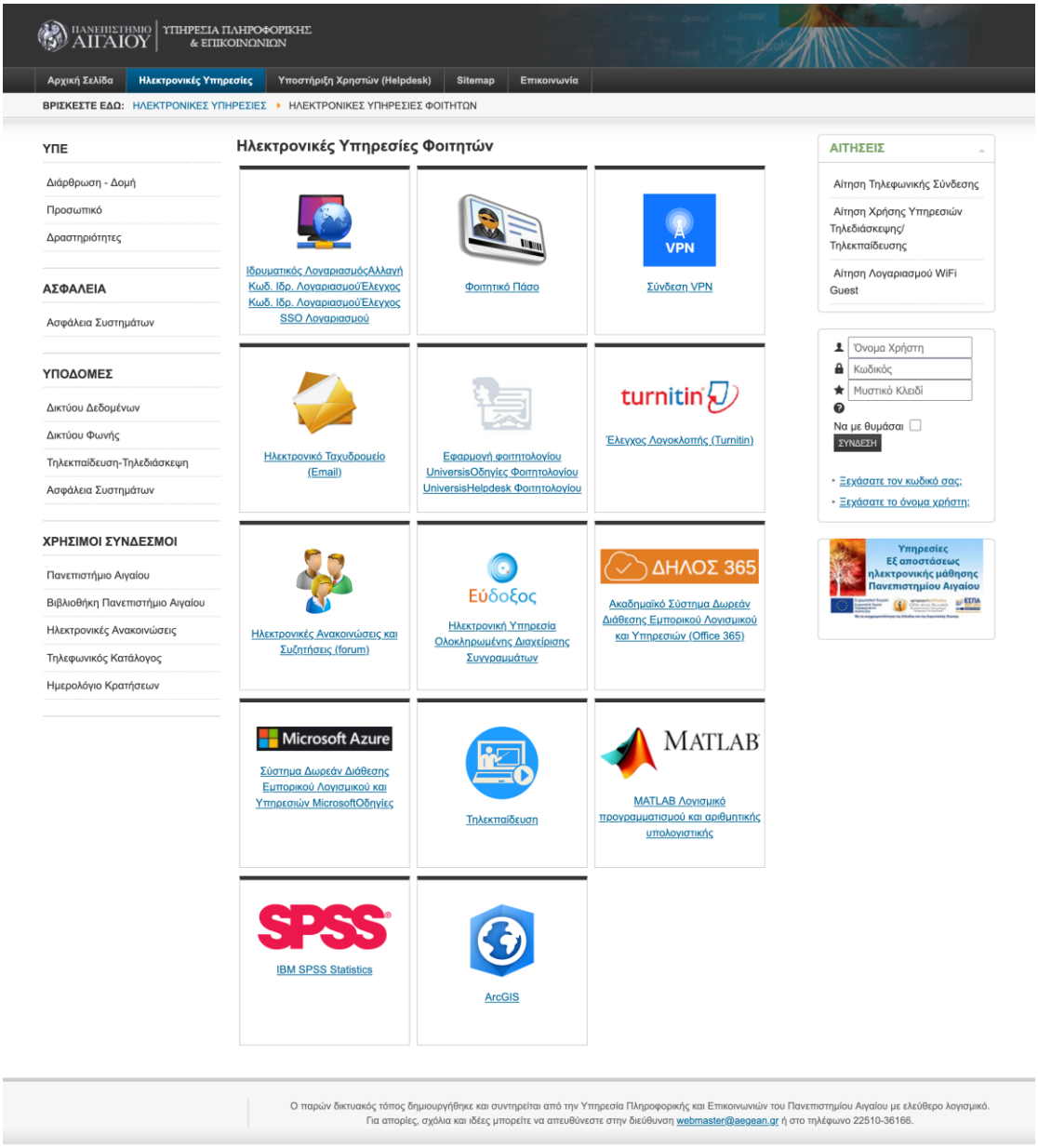


Image 3: Software distribution website (https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/eypiresies-student)

Free commercial software for educational use is available through https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/eypiresies-student page, which includes instructions for each available software. Please note that the availability of the software depends on the Department of study.

3.18.4.2 *Wireless Network Services and Virtual Local Area Networks (VPNs)*

For some services or the use of software, a connection to the network of the University of the Aegean is required. This is also possible remotely, from a personal computer, using the Virtual Local Area Network VPN Service provided by the Network Center of the University, following the instructions on https://ype.aegean.gr/eservices/vpncon page

Access is available to the pan-European wireless network Eduroam, which operates in a large number of academic and research institutions in Greece and Europe (https://ype.aegean.gr/yphresiesdiktioudedomenwn/wifi/wifi-eduroam).

3.18.5 Support Services for Postgraduate Students from External Bodies

In addition to the services of the University of the Aegean, the institutional account gives access to services provided by external bodies that may be needed during the studies, such as the following:

- Other services of the National Infrastructures for Research and Technology: https:/grnet.gr/education/

3.18.6 Services of the Academic Unit

3.18.6.1 Catering of Postgraduate Students

In all the academic units of the University of the Aegean, on all six islands, there are dining halls, which provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. The halls operate daily and on weekends and holidays, from September 1st to June 30th of each academic year, except for the Christmas and Easter holidays.

The University of the Aegean provides the right to free meals to a certain number of students. This number depends on whether or not the applicants meet the criteria set by the Law but also on the amount of the relevant fund of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

However, students who are not entitled to free meals are also given the opportunity to use the dining halls, regardless of social and economic criteria, by paying the amount of two euros and seventy cents (€2.70) per day for all three (3) meals.

Greek legislation sets conditions on the basis of which potential beneficiaries of free meals are selected, while also setting the criteria for ranking beneficiaries in order of priority. Based on this ranking, free meals are provided to the number of students allowed by the budget.

At the University of the Aegean, in addition, a **process of continuous renewal** (every 15 days) of the list of beneficiaries is applied, so that students who do not make use of their right to free meals are replaced by runners-up students.

Applications for free meals are submitted electronically to the special information system, throughout the academic year. It is not required to submit supporting documents in printed form to the Student Welfare Offices.

Applications for free meals/accommodation as well as the required supporting documents are submitted only electronically. The supporting documents are entered into the system as files in PDF format.

Active students**, undergraduates, postgraduates, doctoral candidates are entitled to free meals, as long as they do not already hold a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree respectively and are:**

- **Single persons under 25** years of age with a family income of less than €45,000. This limit is increased by €5,000 for each additional child in the family. In addition, it is increased by €3,000 per additional child of the family who is an active student.
- **married** people with an income of less than €45,000. This limit is increased by €5,000 for each minor child in the family.
- **Single people over 25** years old with an income of less than €25,000.

The case-by-case amounts are reduced by 10% in case the family's permanent residence and the Department of study are located in the same Municipality.

Special cases

Priority is given to students who:

- They or a parent (for unmarried students who have not exceeded the age of 25) or spouses if they are married, receive unemployment benefit.
- are members of a large family or a family with three living children.
- They have a sibling who is an undergraduate student (to obtain a first degree) who is studying in a city other than the family's permanent residence.
- have lost one or both parents and do not exceed the age of 25.
- are children of an unmarried mother with at least one unidentified child under the age of 25.
- suffer from a serious illness or have a family member (parent, sibling, spouse or child) with a disability.
- They are children of victims of terrorism and do not exceed the age of 25.

The supporting documents must be scanned and converted into digital files in .pdf format and attached to the online application, which is submitted to https://merimna.aegean.gr/sitisistegasi/.

3.18.6.2 *Housing*

The University of the Aegean has the possibility of accommodating a certain number of students free of charge on each island. This number depends on the available infrastructure or the amount of the relevant envelope available.

Specifically, the University of the Aegean has 672 beds for the accommodation of students, distributed by University Unit (163 in Lesvos). The application period for free housing begins each year with the start of the submission of income tax returns and ends on a date determined by the Central Directorate of Studies & Student Welfare. The right to free housing applies to the current academic year. Those who have been selected as beneficiaries must submit a new application and supporting documents for the renewal of the right to free housing. The new application

submission aims to update the data of each candidate as well as the ranking order of the interested parties, after the departures of graduates and the arrival of freshmen. First-year students apply upon enrollment. The lists of beneficiaries of free housing and runners-up are announced in the first ten days of October, after the completion of the registrations of first-year students. Beneficiaries of free housing retain their right until June 30 of the current academic year and from September 1 to September 30 of the following academic year.

The following have the right to submit an application for free housing:

- Active undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students, as long as they do not already hold a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree respectively.
- The above students who themselves or their family do not own a house or have the usufruct of a house in the city where their school is based and at a distance of less than 40 kilometers from it and their place of permanent residence (owned or leased) is at a distance of more than 40 kilometers from the headquarters of their Department.

3.18.6.3 *Medical Care*

Undergraduate and postgraduate students and doctoral candidates, who do not have other medical and hospital care, are entitled to full medical and hospital care in the National Health System (NHS) with the relevant costs covered by the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (EOPYY), in accordance with article 33 of Law 4368/2016 (A' 83). The terms, conditions and procedure for the provision of care are determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Finance, Education, Research and Religious Affairs and Health.

3.18.6.4 *Student Housing Allowance*

Electronic applications for the granting of the housing allowance **are submitted** through the website of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious **Affairs https://stegastiko.minedu.gov.gr**, in the special application for the housing allowance. A prerequisite for submitting the application is that the student for whom the allowance is granted must be a Greek citizen or a citizen of another European Union country, to hold an Academic Identity Card in validity and also be a holder of a Tax Identification Number. It is clarified that citizenship concerns only the person of the student and not the person's parents or guardians.

A. Application procedure

The application is submitted by the beneficiary of the allowance, i.e. the person who is considered to be the student's burden, in accordance with the provisions of article 11 of Law 4172/2013 (A' 167). In the case of divorced or separated spouses, the beneficiary of the allowance is the parent who is dependent on the student and presents him as a protected member.

Exceptionally, the beneficiary will be the student himself if: a) he is orphaned by both parents or b) his parents are residents abroad or c) he is over twenty-five (25) years old, or d) he is obliged to submit a tax return and is not considered a dependent member, according to article 11 of Law 4172/2013 (A' 167).

To enter the electronic application, the beneficiary (parent or student) will use the username and password, which were granted by the AADE for the electronic services of TAXISnet. The entry of the passwords serves as a declaration of consent for the cross-checking of its data. The applicant must fill in the following information in the corresponding fields of the application:

a) the Academic Identity Number and the AMKA of the student b) the Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the student and the other parent, if the beneficiary is the parent, while in case the beneficiary is the student, he/she declares only the VAT number of his/her spouse (if any) c) the number of the electronic lease contract, d) his/her bank account number (IBAN) as well as his/her contact details (telephone, e-mail).

3.18.6.5 ***University of the Aegean Library***

Since its inception (1986), the Library has successfully responded to the challenge of reconciling the countervailing trends imposed by the geographical dispersion of its Branches and the need for a single Library Service with a common policy on library science and material processing and on issues of strategy, planning and development.

The objectives of the Library are not limited to the classic aspirations of an Academic Library, i.e. to support and treat the educational and research process of the members of the Academic Community, but, due to the peculiarities of the area in which it operates (rich intellectual and cultural tradition), they also extend to the promotion, promotion and preservation of the intellectual wealth of the Greek archipelago.

At the same time, the Library aspires to remove the geographical isolation of the Aegean islands, providing its users with modern information services in order to become a Library-Information Center, not only of the University of the Aegean, but of the Aegean area as a whole. The Mytilene Library Branch has been operating since

1986 in parallel with the opening of the University of the Aegean in Mytilene and from July 2025 it is housed in the new buildings of the School of Social Sciences on University Hill.

In the Mytilene Library Branch, there is a reception area and a service point for users (counters) and the services of borrowing, returning and booking books are provided, while lockers for the storage of personal belongings are provided, in which users lock their personal belongings when entering the Branch. At the disposal of users, there are also reading rooms and user terminals for searching, while there is also a room with audiovisual material projection equipment, as well as a photocopier for users.

The Library's collection of printed documents consists of approximately 180,000 volumes of books and 58 subscriptions to scientific journals related to the disciplines of the six (6) Faculties and the eighteen (18) Departments of the University of the Aegean. The Library also maintains special collections, such as the Grey Bibliography (i.e. bachelor's and diploma dissertations, postgraduate theses, doctoral dissertations, technical reports), audiovisual media, databases and statistical publications, while in its Branches there are thematic collections that have come from donations.

Material is classified using the DEWEY decimal classification system, cataloged according to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2, and subject indexing is done based on the Library of Congress's Thematic Headings.

The material is placed in open access bookshelves.

The search for the material is done from the online Catalog of the Library Automation System (V-Smart 5.0), either at the special terminals that exist for this purpose within the Library, or from the workplace of each user who has access to the Library Portal.

Also, through the unified search engine of electronic sources of HEAL-Link, it offers the possibility of a single search to all active subscriptions of HEAL-Link (electronic journals and books), as well as to the archives of electronic journals of previous years. Access is controlled through the institution's declared IP addresses and through users' institutional accounts.

3.18.6.6 *European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)*

The University of the Aegean provides the possibility of issuing the European Health Insurance Card (E.K.A.A.) for postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Program, who move to European Union countries and do not have other medical and hospital care.

3.18.6.7 *Student Groups*

On the initiative of students as well as other members of the academic community, a number of student groups have been created, which are nuclei of life and culture for both the University of the Aegean and the local communities of the University's islands. Student portals have also been created, which provide useful information and communication opportunities. So, in addition to studies and Associations, there is the possibility for students to participate in groups that deal with dance, theater, music and a number of other activities to develop actions and initiatives based on their interests.

- Astronomy team
- Theatrical - CURTAIN
- Theatrical - REHEARSAL
- Theatrical - ARTIFICIAL
- Theatrical - FOS
- Diving team - TRITON
- Cinematic Gang
- Music Group http://www.aegean.gr/φοιτητικές-ομάδες/λέσβος/μουσικής
- Ballet
- Fencing Team
- ZOGRAFIZO Painting Group
- Environmental Interest Group - Dryades
- Radio LOFOS
- Photographic team "36 FRAMES"
- Dance Group EROTOKRITOS
- ORFEAS Dance Association
- Contemporary Dance

3.18.6.8 Aegean University Sports

"Aegean University Sports" enables students to engage in a variety of sports activities and events, depending on their interests and sports preferences. By participating in the representative university teams of individual and team sports of the sector, there is the possibility of representing the University in national university sports events and in European or global Universities. There are activities of specific sports organized on a regular basis by island. Depending on the interest expressed by students, activities are organized in additional sports, often with technical support from students with proven experience and a championship path in each sport.

For more information contact +30 22510 36016 or visit http://sports.aegean.gr

3.18.6.9 Counseling Center

The University of the Aegean, constantly aiming to support the members of the University community and especially its students to complete their studies smoothly, tries to provide multiple services among them the psychosocial care services.

Within this framework, the "Network of Counseling and Psychological Support Centres" with its administrative headquarters in Mytilini, was established by decision of the Senate No. 17 on the date of 04.06.2008. The Network, through the establishment of 6 branches in its respective units, provides the students with counseling services and primary psychosocial support, as well as the employees at the University and the local community and moreover handles educational needs and research programs in collaboration with other agencies, in matters of psychosocial needs, clinical and counseling psychology.

3.18.6.10 Teaching and Learning Support Center (KEDIMA)

The purpose of the Support for Teaching & Learning Center of the University of the Aegean is, among other things, to ensure the ongoing support, empowerment and improvement of the teaching and learning process as well as the provision of specialized services, placing the educational and pedagogical work of the academic community, on the basis of the constantly evolving European Higher Education Area

and the principles of the Lifelong Learning Center for the benefit of the student community. Additional details are provided in the website: https://tlso.aegean.gr/office-description.php?lang=gr.

3.19 Obligations and Rights of Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate students have the rights and obligations as defined in the Regulation of postgraduate and doctoral programs of the Institution.

3.20 Granting of Scholarships and Awards

According to the Postgraduate Studies Regulation of the Postgraduate Program, the Postgraduate Program can provide a number of scholarships per academic semester to postgraduate students who pay tuition fees according to a decision of the Assembly of the Department, following the recommendation of the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program. The amount of each scholarship cannot exceed the amount of one semester's tuition fees. Scholarships are provided on the basis of academic criteria during the studies in the Postgraduate Program by decision of the Assembly of the Department, following the recommendation of the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program and are included in the budget of the Postgraduate Program. Any obligations of the scholars are determined by the same decision of the Assembly of the Department following the recommendation of the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program. If there are more than one scholarship beneficiary with the same score, either there will be a draw between them before the C.C. or the amount of the scholarship will be divided equally between them, following a decision of the Assembly of the Department following the recommendation of the C.C. of the Postgraduate Program.

The Postgraduate Program may also award prizes to students with outstanding performance, in accordance with criteria and a procedure determined by a decision of the Assembly.

3.21 Mobility of postgraduate students

Any transfer of postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Program for studies is carried out in accordance with the Erasmus+ Mobility Regulation.

3.22 Academic Study Advisor

For the qualitative upgrading of the operation of the postgraduate program, the institution of the Academic Study Advisor has been established and operates, focusing on the postgraduate student and considering that he or she will contribute decisively to his academic and subsequent professional career. For more information on the institution of the Academic Study Advisor see the Institutional Regulation for the Academic Studies Afvisor.

3.23 Mechanism for the Management of Complaints and Objections of Postgraduate Students

The adoption of the regulation for the management of requests and/or complaints of postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Programs, aims to upgrade the quality of the operation of postgraduate programs, focusing on the respect of all those involved in the educational process, but even more so of its recipients to whom it must be accountable. Therefore, in the context of the principles of transparency and accountability and in order to strengthen the student-centered educational process, the University issued internal rules of the "Complaints – Recommendations" service for postgraduate students, which describe in detail the process of managing requests/complaints as well as the parties involved.

3.24 Evaluation of postgraduate students

3.24.1 Description of the Learning Outcomes Assessment System

The evaluation of the performance of postgraduate students is an integral part of the educational process, connects teaching with learning and the assessment of the achievement of learning outcomes and takes place throughout the academic semester. Postgraduate students have the opportunity to participate in each academic year in two examination periods (at the end of the first and second academic semesters), as defined each time in the Academic Calendar of the Institution. In each examination period, the student has the opportunity to re-examine any courses he/she has not successfully completed, at a time to be determined in the context of the same examination period.

The Regulation of Operation provides for the path of decision-making by the competent bodies in cases of unsuccessful examination of postgraduate students.

3.24.2 Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are the formulations of everything that learners know, understand and can do after the completion of the learning process. Essentially, the learning outcomes of a course are:

- the knowledge, theoretical and/or practical acquired
- skills, understanding and utilization of knowledge
- competences, documented competence in the use of the knowledge and skills acquired,

that postgraduate students should know, have, be able to demonstrate, respectively, after the successful completion of the course.

In the context of the student-centered approach to teaching that is followed, learning outcomes are at the heart of the learning process, their achievement is measurable, evaluated and determines the performance of postgraduate students in each educational component. At the beginning of the courses, postgraduate students are

informed about the expected learning outcomes of each course, about the evaluation system, as well as the evaluation criteria of each course by the lecturers and are encouraged to be informed further details about the procedure and the type of examinations from the outline of each course which is posted on the website of the Department

3.24.3 Evaluation System

The process of evaluating students per educational activity will be carried out with distance methods such as:

- Quizzes with short answer questions
- Tests (Quizzes) with extended answer questions
- Evaluation of a written paper/report/project (bibliographic topics, independent case studies, problem solving in hypothetical scenarios, etc.)
- Evaluation of laboratory / practical exercises
- Evaluation of participation in the learning process in the context of theoretical or seminar courses and in forums of the Postgraduate Program.
- A combination of two or more of the above methods.

The determination of the way and procedure for the evaluation of students in a course is the sole responsibility of the instructor, to whom the Assembly has assigned the teaching of the course.

The evaluation and grading in each course are done in complete independence from the other courses and is a derivative of the objective assessment of the student's performance in the specific course (assignments, exams, etc.). The evaluation criteria are clearly defined; they are communicated at the beginning of the academic semester by the instructor in charge/coordinator of the course and are also indicated in the description form (outline) of each course that is posted on the website of the M.Sc. Postgraduate Program.

The final grade of each course results from the student's total performance in specific areas (e.g. assignments, examinations) according to the instructions provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The minimum acceptable course grade is five (5.00), with a maximum of ten (10.00), with the possibility of grading in the form X.5. Each course included in the curriculum, as well as the Postgraduate Diploma Thesis, is graded independently.

Especially for the written papers prepared in the context of each course, these are evaluated on the basis of criteria of the perfect selection of bibliographic sources, the scientific correctness of the analysis of existing knowledge, the deepening of the field, the range of coverage of the subject, the accuracy in the description, the coherent structure and clear depiction of the arguments of the final text, the overall scientific maturity of the work, the conformity of the appearance and contents of the work with the relevant instructions. The evaluation criteria are further specified and analyzed,

where necessary, in the presentation of the instructors during the first lecture of the course.

The feedback on the degree of satisfaction of postgraduate students with the criteria and the method of evaluation is obtained from the evaluation questionnaires of postgraduate students of the Postgraduate Program.

The Postgraduate Diploma Theses are evaluated on the basis of the criteria of the perfect selection of bibliographic sources, the scientific correctness of the analysis of existing knowledge, the depth in the field, the range of coverage of the topic, the accuracy in the description, the coherent structure and clear depiction of the arguments, the elements of research contribution and production of new knowledge in the scientific field, the overall scientific maturity of the work, the compliance of the presentation and the contents of the paper with the relevant instructions, as well as the completeness and maturity of the oral presentation, the consistency in the available time and the scientifically correct response of the postgraduate student to questions of the Examination Committee. The grading criteria of the M.Sc. thesis include:

Grade [9-10]

- Demonstrates an excellent understanding of all major subjects
- The relevant literature has been fully researched and critically evaluated
- Advanced ability to use theory in approaching practical problems (where appropriate)
- Highly informative interpretation of findings with critical awareness of both possibilities and limitations
- Accurate use of tables and shapes
- Well-selected and up-to-date references used in the appropriate places
- Complete and well-formed bibliography
- Highly organized and well-developed thesis within the word limit.

Grade [8-9)

- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the important issues
- The relevant literature has been satisfactorily researched and evaluated
- Ability to sophisticated use of theory in approaching practical problems
- The important issues arising from the issue are identified and addressed in whole or in part
- Without significant factual or interpretative errors
- Perfect and effective use of tables and shapes
- Well-selected and up-to-date reports used in the right places
- Perfect organization and logical structure throughout the thesis within the word limit.

Grade [7-8)

- Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of important issues with some gaps or inadequacies
- The literature has been researched to an acceptable level, but not beyond that
- Satisfactory ability to use theory in approaching practical problems (where appropriate)
- Some important issues arising from the issue are identified and addressed
- Few factual or interpretative errors that indicate misinterpretation of the literature
- Tables and shapes basically appropriate
- Appropriate citations with some omissions and acceptable use of the bibliography
- Logical structure with occasional contradictions within the word limits.

Grade [5-7)

- Demonstrates a less than satisfactory understanding of the important issues
- He partially researched the literature, but left significant gaps
- Limited ability to relate research to practical problems (where appropriate)
- Important issues arising from the topic are not addressed enough
- Some serious factual or interpretative errors that indicate misunderstandings of the main material
- Improper or incomplete use of tables and shapes
- Inappropriate or incomplete references
- Presentation, pagination, title, margins and paragraphs not as specified in the relevant instructions.

Grade [1-4] (unsuccessful)

- Demonstrates an inability to understand the important issues
- The literature has been insufficiently researched, highlighting knowledge gaps
- Very limited ability to relate research to practical problems (where appropriate)
- Little to none of the important issues arising from the issue are identified and presented
- Serious factual and interpretative errors
- Improper or incomplete use of tables and shapes
- Inappropriate or incomplete references
- Careless presentation, inadequate care for pagination, title, margins and paragraphs.

Grade 0

- No work submitted

3.24.4 Adaptation of the Assessment System for Postgraduate Students with Serious Illnesses and Learning Difficulties

In addition to the above, postgraduate students who submit to the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program diagnostic certificates that prove health problems, such as vision, hearing, mobility problems, dyslexia or other disorders and make it difficult for them to participate in written or oral examinations, special care is taken to facilitate and adapt the examination process in accordance with the respective legislative framework and the support of the instructors:

- provision of additional examination time, as appropriate
- Oral exam for postgraduate students who are unable to write or have difficulty writing or need support during the exam or have difficulty participating in group oral exams
- Differentiation of the visual presentation of the questions by proportionally enlarging the letters, depending on the case of visual impairment
- reading the questions where required
- use inverters when required
- additional facilities for postgraduate students with mobility disabilities, within the framework of the equipment and infrastructure available to the University of the Aegean.

3.25 Procedures and Criteria for the Selection of Teaching Staff

Each course is taught by one or more instructors. In each course, the Assembly appoints an instructor as the coordinator of the course.

The teaching assignment to the Postgraduate Program is made in accordance with the provisions of article 83 of Law 4957/2022 and is decided by the Assembly of the Department, following a recommendation of the C.C.

The specific conditions and the procedure for invitation from the country or abroad, as well as the specific terms of employment and any matter related to the instructors who belong to the categories of cases e), f) and g) of par. 1 of article 83 of Law 4957/2022 will be determined by a decision of the Assembly and within the framework of the current legislation.

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, auxiliary teaching work may be assigned to doctoral candidates of the Department or the School, under the supervision of an instructor of the Postgraduate Program.

3.26 Graduation ceremony

The recognition and awarding of Postgraduate Diplomas take place in person in a special ceremony before the Rector, the Dean, and the Chair of the Department, or their representatives. The names of the graduates are approved by the Assembly of the

Department, which ascertains the successful completion of the studies in order to be awarded the Postgraduate Program Degree.

In exceptional cases of inability to be physically present for serious reasons (e.g. for health reasons, personal reasons, etc.), at the request of the interested graduate submitted to the Secretariat of the Department up to one day before the ceremony, the graduate may participate in an oath-taking/confession ceremony remotely held on the day of the live ceremony or on a subsequent day by decision of the Dean, in consultation with the Head of the Department (decision of the No. 27/07.02.2023 Meeting of the Senate - Government Gazette 1001/B/23.02.2023).

The text of the confession / oath for graduates who obtain a Postgraduate Program Degree is determined by decision of the Senate of the University of the Aegean.