Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering

D1.3 Quality Policy of Joint MSc «Open Data and Collaborative Governance»

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1. Introduction

The proposed joint Master's Programme "Open Data and Collaborative Governance", offered by the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering of the School of Engineering of the University of the Aegean (coordinating institution) and the School of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino, has developed and implements a Quality Policy fully aligned with that of the Department and the University (as approved at the 7th Meeting of the Department Assembly on 25.02.2026). The Quality Policy is approved by the Department Assembly and is consistent with the quality framework of the University of the Aegean, as defined by the decisions of the University Senate, the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP), the institutional strategic planning, and the principles of the Internal Quality Assurance System.

2. Quality Principals

The Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering (ICS Engineering) of the University of the Aegean (U.A.) and the School of Science and Technology of the University of Camerino (UNICAM) have drafted and implemented their Quality Policies, which are fully harmonized with the Quality Policies of their institutions, as set out in the relevant decisions of the Senates of the Institutions, the Quality Assurance Units (MOIP), the strategic plans of the Institutions, and the principles of the Internal Quality Assurance Systems. The objectives are summarized in the following seven (7) Strategic Objectives:

1. the structure and organization of undergraduate and postgraduate study programs are in line with international standards and modern technological trends and aim at adequate and clearly defined learning outcomes and qualifications in accordance with the European and National Higher Education Qualifications Framework,
2. through their study programs and infrastructure, they offer their students adequate knowledge and skills to meet the demands of society and the economy for graduate engineers,
3. the teaching provided is of high quality and effectiveness, the teaching staff are highly qualified and are aware of current scientific developments in related fields of knowledge,
4. high-quality and recognized research is produced, which enriches the objectives and content of the teaching program,
5. high-quality, modern support services are offered to students and graduates,
6. enhance their extroversion, their cooperation with local and national bodies, and the transparency of their operations,
7. through their institutional bodies and in accordance with Internal Quality Assurance Systems, monitor and improve the quality of their actions.

In full alignment with the above, the Quality Policy of the Joint Master's Program "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" is committed to a policy that aims to achieve the Strategic Objectives of the MSc and expresses the commitment of the MSc structures to provide postgraduate education and produce high-quality scientific knowledge, the preparation of young scientists, and the assurance of transparency, equality, and academic ethics in all activities of the Joint MSc. The policy will be approved by the Steering Committee and the Curriculum Committee of the joint MSc. The principles and quality objectives of the joint MSc are presented are summarized in the following broader strategic quality objectives:

- F-1. Attracting a sufficient number of suitable candidates and producing high-level graduates of the KPM with continuous upgrading of the educational work

- F-2. Interconnection with research and the market

- F-3. Supporting the internationalized and international dimension of the educational and research work of the MSc program

3. Quality assurance system organisation

The joint MSc programme "Open Data and Collaborative Governance" implements the quality assurance procedures of the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) of the University of the Aegean, with the necessary programme-specific adaptations where required. Responsibility for the implementation of the IQAS and for achieving the objectives of the MSc Quality Policy lies with the Programme Director, the Steering Committee, the Internal Assessment Unit (IAU/OMEA), and the Curriculum Committee (CC). Specifically:

- Curriculum Committee (CC): The Curriculum Committee is responsible for the organisation, administration, and overall management of the joint MSc programme. Within this framework, it establishes the Internal Assessment Unit (IAU/OMEA) of the MSc programme; approves the admission and registration of postgraduate students; assigns teaching duties to programme instructors; appoints examination committees for Master's theses and designates thesis supervisors; approves the annual report of the joint MSc programme following recommendation by the Steering Committee (SC).
- Steering Committee (SC): The Steering Committee is responsible for monitoring, coordinating programme implementation, and supporting the continuous quality enhancement of the curriculum. It establishes the evaluation committee for postgraduate student applications; approves the awarding of scholarships; recommends to the Curriculum Committee the allocation of teaching assignments based on programme needs; prepares proposals for curriculum revisions; compiles annual reports on the educational and research activities of the Joint MSc programme.
- Director of the Joint Postgraduate Programme: The Director serves as Chair of both the Curriculum Committee and the Steering Committee of the joint MSc programme. The Director is responsible for overseeing issues related to the organisation and operation of the programme; monitoring the implementation of decisions taken by programme governing bodies; supervising the execution of the programme budget.
- Internal Assessment Unit (IAU / OMEA): The Internal Assessment Unit (IAU — OMEA in Greek) participates in the quality assurance process of the joint MSc programme within the broader framework of departmental quality assurance responsibilities. Its tasks include collecting annual statistical and performance data and submitting them to the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP in Greek) of the University of the Aegean; analysing and processing responses from the official MSc evaluation questionnaires, as defined by the University's Quality Assurance Unit.

4. Processes and actions for quality assurance of the joint MSc

The quality assurance procedures of the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) of the University of the Aegean are implemented at both the Departmental level and the Postgraduate Study Programme level, with the necessary programme-specific adaptations where required. The implementation of the IQAS within the joint MSc programme is monitored and supervised by the University's Quality Assurance Unit

(MODIP), while responsibility for achieving the objectives of the Department's Quality Policy lies with the Internal Assessment Unit and the Curriculum Committee. Furthermore, all staff members collaborating with the joint MSc programme are required to contribute to the implementation of the Quality Policy and to the achievement of its objectives.

An annual internal evaluation of the joint MSc programme is conducted. The programme is reviewed and updated every spring semester and on an annual basis. For this purpose, data relating to the operation of the joint MSc programme are systematically collected, classified, and analysed.

The quality and effectiveness of teaching are evaluated annually. Course units and teaching staff are assessed by postgraduate students in accordance with the provisions of the Internal Quality Assurance System of the University of the Aegean, under the supervision of the Department's Internal Assessment Unit (OMEA) and the University's Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP).

At regular intervals, comparisons are conducted with equivalent postgraduate programmes offered by leading higher education institutions in Greece and abroad. These benchmarking activities focus on both curriculum structure and course content.

Finally, the joint MSc programme undergoes certification and external evaluation by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education, which carries out a comprehensive assessment of the programme's performance based on qualitative and quantitative indicators.

5. Policy Communication

The Quality Policy is published in a central location on the MSc programme website. Newly admitted students are informed about the Department's Quality Policy through a dedicated presentation delivered by the Director of the joint MSc programme during the student welcome event. Similarly, newly appointed teaching staff are referred to the Quality Policy document as part of their overall briefing by the Secretariat and the Department Chair regarding their duties and responsibilities.