ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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Εθνική Αρχή
Ανώτατης Εκπαίδευσης
Hellenic Authority
for Higher Education

Αριστείδου 1 & Ευριπίδου 2 • 10559 Αθήνα | 1 Aristidou str. & 2 Evripidou str. • 10559 Athens, Greece
T. +30 211 1903 400 • E. secretariat@ethaae.gr • www.ethaae.gr

Accreditation Report
for the Postgraduate Study Programme of:

Commercial Law

Department: Law

Institution: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Date: 20/03/2026

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης
ΕΣΠΑ 2021-2027
Πρόγραμμα
Ανθρώπινο Δυναμικό και Κοινωνική Συνοχή
enqa.

Report of the Panel appointed by the HAHE to undertake the review of the Postgraduate Study Programme of **Commercial Law** of the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** for the purposes of granting accreditation

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PART A: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW

I. The External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

The Panel responsible for the Accreditation Review of the postgraduate study programme of Commercial Law of the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** comprised the following five (5) members, drawn from the HAHE Register, in accordance with Law 4653/2020:

1. TSAROUHAS DIMITRIS (Chair)
   (Title, Name, Surname)
   Georgetown University
   (Institution of origin)

2. PAPAEFTHYMIOU SOPHIE
   (Title, Name, Surname)
   Sciences Po Lyon
   (Institution of origin)

3. STIVACHTIS YANNIS
   (Title, Name, Surname)
   Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech)
   (Institution of origin)

4. TSAGOURIAS NICHOLAS
   (Title, Name, Surname)
   School of Law, University of Sheffield
   (Institution of origin)

5. Καλίτση Μαρία
   (Title, Name, Surname)
   Democritus University of Thrace
   (Institution of origin)

II. Review Procedure and Documentation

Brief reference to the Panel preparation for the postgraduate study programme review, as well as to the documentation provided and considered by the Panel. Dates of the review, review, meetings held, and any additional information regarding the procedure, as appropriate.

The External Evaluation and Accreditation Panel (the Panel) was formed by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE) in December 2025, approximately two and a half months before the review process. The visit took place during the first week of March 2026, from Monday to Friday, and covered a total of four (4) Postgraduate Study Programmes (PSPs) run by the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh).

By virtue of a HAHE decision, all meetings were held through the Zoom digital platform. The onsite visit was held by viewing a video prepared by the Law School. The virtual tour provided an overview for Panel members to the School's classrooms, lecture halls, computer laboratories, administrative offices, meeting spaces, and the library. It also included a short demonstration of the virtual assistant that the School has been able to acquire in recent years, in an attempt to constructively utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.
The documentation that was received prior to the virtual meetings contained on the one hand HAHE material, and on the other hand material produced by the PSP. It also contained the Accreditation Proposal (the Proposal), which dealt with the ten (10) accreditation principles for the PSP.

The material provided was comprehensive, informative and very well prepared. It adequately described the current program and practices that are in place. However, the Panel needed and requested additional information, which was shared by the PSP, in cooperation with HAHE, soon after the request was tabled. Furthermore, the Panel asked for and received copies of the 4 PowerPoint presentations created by the respective PSP. It is worth noting that all four of the PowerPoint Presentations included a SWOT analysis, which greatly facilitated the Panel's deliberations during the accreditation process.

During the online visit, the panel conducted online interviews with various stakeholders including the Dean of School, the Heads of each of the four PSPs under accreditation, members of MODIP, members of Faculty, groups of students, alumni, and employers, social partners and external stakeholders selected by the School according to the timetable of Panel Review by electronic means prepared by HAHE. Due to the online nature of the visit, the panel did not have an opportunity to interact informally with the broader student community.
All online interviews ran smoothly over five working days.

The Panel found all discussions to be collegial, constructive and productive. It wishes to thank the School, the Directors of each of the four PSPs and all those involved for making the process easier, and for the constructive and trusting cooperation. The Panel would like to particularly thank the Dean of School for the warm, collaborative, purposeful and cordial reception afforded and the members of OMEA for their cooperation, which greatly assisted the Panel in its deliberations. Finally, the Panel would like to thank everyone involved in the process for earnestly sharing the Panel's commitment to constructive dialogue, transparency and inclusivity.

III. Postgraduate Study Programme Profile

Brief overview of the postgraduate study programme with reference to the following: history, academic remit, duration of studies, qualification awarded, employment opportunities, orientation challenges or any other key background information. Short description of the home Department and Institution, with reference to student population, campus or any other related facts.

The Law School

The Law School of the then University of Thessaloniki was founded in 1930. In 1999, the School was renamed the School of Law, Economics and Political Sciences, and took its contemporary form in 2013. Today, the Law School has six Departments, eighteen postgraduate studies programs (PSPs), two Laboratories, three Jean Monnet Chairs, its own Library, which is the largest in the University, as well as the Center for European Legal Culture.

All Law School classrooms are now equipped with modern computer equipment, microphone installations, video projectors, and digital boards. This facilitates and enriches teaching with modern interactive methods that may include the projection of slides, video lectures, interactive exercises, diagrams, tables with jurisprudential Material and statistical data.

All Law School courses are supported by the e-learning electronic classroom platform. The teaching staff members utilize many of the tools of this particular platform, such as: a) announcement forum, for sending announcements to all registered students, b) documents, where they post notes, images, articles, bibliography, etc., c) links that refer, to websites related to the course, as well as to electronic textbooks, bibliography tables, etc., d) an academic calendar, where the title and/or brief description of each Tradition is given and the place and time of events or various deadlines are published, e.g. assignment submission, e) multimedia, where there is the possibility of posting image and audio files related to the course and PowerPoint presentations made in class, practical issues and suggested solutions, past exam questions, instructions, etc.

The Law School participates in the Erasmus+ mobility program, having developed collaborations with one hundred and twenty-five (125) European universities over time. For outgoing students, their number ranges per semester from seventy-five (75) to approximately one hundred (100), with main destinations being universities in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain. The School operates an Erasmus Office, while students are informed about existing exchange programs through a website created for that purpose. The Erasmus+ program for Studies provides for and ensures the full recognition of the period of study at the Host Institution.

In addition, the Law School participates in numerous agreements between AUTh and universities from more than twenty (20) countries. The Law School has also developed collaborations with other Law Schools, within the framework of which student seminars are held in Greece and abroad, with the participation of professors from collaborating Schools. These are the Law Schools of the Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, the University of Zurich and the University of Trier.
Student mobility is enhanced by supporting their participation in international moot court and mediation competitions. In addition to the academic support offered by members of the teaching staff, the School also supports students financially, covering their travel and accommodation expenses.

The Law School also operates a Standing Committee on Social Policy, which was established in 2017 and aims to assist in the problems faced by certain categories of Law students, such as people with disabilities and special educational needs, international students, minorities, expatriates, and LGBT community members. The Committee's objectives also include the strengthening of volunteerism, in cooperation with the university's Volunteer Committee. The Committee cooperates closely with both the Observatory of Students of Vulnerable Social Groups of AUTh, as well as with the Committee for Social Policy and Health of AUTh and the Center for Counseling and Psychological Support (KESYPSY) of AUTh.

The Law School provides students with the opportunity to submit complaints or objections. Students can express in writing any fact that has come to their attention and puts at risk the values and ideals of respect and dignity advocated by the department.
For issues other than exams and grades, each student may verbally express his/her complaint or objection to the respective Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor examines the content of the document and either informs the student by proposing solutions or forwards the request for further actions and decisions to the department assembly.

Complaints are recorded by students by completing the form entitled "Complaint Submission Form". Once completed, the form is sent electronically to the department secretariat at the email address info@law.auth.gr. The secretariat then receives and assigns a protocol number to the document, forwarding it directly to the President of the Department of Law.

The President of the Department of Law either resolves the matter and informs the student or, if this is not possible, informs the department assembly. The department assembly undertakes the investigation of the request, may resolve the matter communicated to it by the President of the Department and inform the student in writing. The Department Assembly, having investigated the students' request, addresses the legal service of the university, when it establishes that the complaint or objection requires immediate legal action. The university's legal service informs the student of the responsibilities it has

assumed.

The Academic Advisor offers students of the Law School information for the better organization of their studies. The PSP appoints an Academic Advisor for each student enrolled in it. This is a mandatory process. Academic Advisors are members of the teaching staff of the Postgraduate Program and monitor the students they take on from the beginning until the completion of their studies. The name of the academic advisor is communicated to the students upon their registration. The Academic Advisors receive the students for cooperation and guidance at specific times. Extraordinary meetings may be held, if requested by a student or if requested by the Academic Advisor, in the event that a major issue has arisen. The content of the discussions is confidential and the personal data of the students are protected. In exceptional cases, a student may request a change of Academic Advisor, explaining the reasons to the PSP Coordinating Committee (Συντονιστική Επιτροπή).

It is important to note that, beyond the Law School, AUTh also maintains

- A Student Advocate for issues other than grades and exams;
- An Ethics Committee for issues of publications, work preparation, and intellectual rights linked to the University's Code of Ethics and Good Practice;
- A Research Ethics Committee for issues related to Research Projects, Regulation of Principles, and Operation of the Research Ethics and Ethics Committee;
- A Gender Equality Committee for issues of discriminatory treatment;
- a Personal Data Protection Officer for issues of personal data, and
- a Studies and Career Liaison Office.

Students of the PSP in Commercial Law can make use of the above opportunities.

The PSP

The PSP in Commercial Law has been operating for over 50 years, initially as a branch of the private law postgraduate program of the Law School of Aristotle University. Today, it functions according to a set of rules adopted in the 2018-2019 academic year, and existing

records point to a total of 175 graduates of the PSP. The aims of the PSP are: 1. the promotion of knowledge and the development of research in the broad field of modern commercial law or business law; 2. The satisfaction of the educational, research, social, cultural and developmental needs of Greece and other countries in the field of Commercial Law; and 3. the training of high-level scientists who can be employed in Greece and abroad. Applicants ought to have studied Law in Greece or abroad in higher education institutions accepted as such according to Greek law. Applicants are assessed on the basis of various criteria, except for their Law degree, including an oral interview, prior work excperience (if applicable), and foreign language skills, particularly in English, German or French.

The duration of studies is a total of 3 academic semesters. In the first and second semesters students can choose four and four (4+4) courses from a total of five plus five (5+5) on offer; in the third semester, students draft and submit their PSP disertation (Thesis). The maximum duration of studies is a total of 5 semesters. Each course is worth 7,5 ECTS credits and the thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.

The qualification awarded is a MSc Degree in Commercial Law, which also includes the overall grade awarded on a 1-10 grade scale, and a transcript of courses successfully concluded. In order to operate each academic year, the PSP has set a minimum and maximum number of students, namely ten (10) minimum and twenty five (25) maximum.

Students are offered the possibility of part-time study, the duration of which cannot exceed six (6) semesters. Postgraduate students may also be granted, upon application at the beginning of the semester, a suspension of studies, which may not exceed two (2) consecutive semesters. The period of suspension does not count towards the maximum duration of study. Postgraduate students may be granted an extension of study of up to one year, following a reasoned decision of the Department, provided that serious reasons exist that may support the granting of a suspension.

Tuitions fees are set at a total of 900 Euros, i.e. 300 Euros per semester. Faculty teaching the PSP receive no monetary compensation for doing so. Students that meet certain socio-economic criteria can study for free. A prerequisite for granting the right is possession of a BA degree or diploma that corresponds to a grade equal to or higher than seven and a half with an excellent grade out of ten (7.5/10). The total number of beneficiaries may not exceed the number that corresponds to thirty percent (30%) of the total of registered students per year. Provided that its operating needs are covered, the PSP grants one (1) scholarship to the first student in the order of ranking upon admission to the PSP. The scholarship takes the form of tuition fee exemption.

The PSP is aimed at holders of Law degrees, who seek to acquire additional qualifications that will help them in employment or better their performance in a number of sectors and

professional activities, either in the public or private sector. It aims to enhance the employment prospects of law graduates by providing them with all the necessary knowledge, so that the holder of the postgraduate diploma can effectively handle commercial law cases. In this way, the graduates of the PSP are given the opportunity to offer their knowledge and services in the field of Commercial Law both before Courts and at an advisory level as lawyers and/or as paid legal advisors to companies and public bodies/regulatory authorities.

Courses are taught in a classroom at th Law School which can accomodate up to thrity (30) students. PSP students have access to the "Ioannis Deligiannis" Law Department Library, and in particular to its printed collection as well as bibliographic bases with legal content.

The PSP is taught by twelve (12) Faculty mebers, highly qualified in their discipline.

Upon successful completion, the Diploma is awarded to students. The Diploma indicates the Department of Law, the emblem of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the date of completion of the studies, the date of issue of the L.M.S., the graduation protocol number, the title of the P.M.S., the details of the postgraduate student and the evaluation classification (Good, Very Good, Excellent). Before the award of the degree, the graduate may be granted a certificate of successful attendance and completion of the Program. In addition to the Diploma, a Supplement is issued, which provides information regarding the nature, level, the general educational framework, the content and the status of the completed studies.

PART B: COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE 1: QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY AND QUALITY GOAL SETTING FOR THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD APPLY A QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT. THIS POLICY SHOULD EXPAND AND BE AIMED (WITH THE COLLABORATION OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS) AT THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

The quality assurance policy of the academic unit should be in line with the quality assurance policy of the Institution and must be formulated in the form of a public statement, which is implemented by all stakeholders. It focuses on the achievement of special goals related to the quality assurance of the study programmes offered by the academic unit.

Indicatively, the quality policy statement of the academic unit includes its commitment to implement a quality policy that will promote the academic profile and orientation of the postgraduate study programme (PSP), its purpose and field of study; it will realise the programme's goals and it will determine the means and ways for attaining them; it will implement appropriate quality procedures, aiming at the programme's improvement.

In particular, in order to implement this policy, the academic unit commits itself to put into practice quality procedures that will demonstrate:

a) the suitability of the structure and organisation of postgraduate study programmes
b) the pursuit of learning outcomes and qualifications in accordance with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education - level 7
c) the promotion of the quality and effectiveness of teaching at the PSP
d) the appropriateness of the qualifications of the teaching staff for the PSP
e) the drafting, implementation, and review of specific annual quality goals for the improvement of the PSP
f) the level of demand for the graduates' qualifications in the labour market
g) the quality of support services, such as the administrative services, the libraries and the student welfare office for the PSP
h) the efficient utilisation of the financial resources of the PSP that may be drawn from tuition fees
i) the conduct of an annual review and audit of the quality assurance system of the PSP through the cooperation of the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) with the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU)

Documentation

- *Quality Assurance Policy of the PSP*
- *Quality goal setting of the PSP*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Quality Assurance Policy (QAP) of the Law School is in line with the University's QAP. It seeks to ensure the promotion of the quality of its teaching, research and administrative work, through the continuous improvement of all its functions and with the participation and contribution of all its members.

The PSP is committed to the implementation of the quality policy, which strengthens the academic profile and orientation of the postgraduate program. The PSP implements the institutionalized quality assurance procedures of the Quality Manual of the Quality Assurance Policy (QAP) of the University, with the necessary specialization at the level of the PSP. The implementation of QAP procedures is carried out in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of the University.

The Law School and the PSP "Commercial Law" for the implementation of the policy are committed to implementing the quality procedures that demonstrate: the suitability of the structure and organization of the PSP; that the intended learning outcomes and qualifications are in line with the European and National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; the promotion of the quality and effectiveness of the teaching/research work of the PSP; the suitability of the qualifications of the teaching staff for the PSP; the drafting, implementation and review of specific annual quality objectives for the improvement of the Postgraduate Studies Program; the level of demand for the acquired qualifications of graduates in the labor market; the quality of support services; the efficient utilization of the resources of the Postgraduate Studies Program; the conduct of the annual internal evaluation and review of the quality assurance system for the PSP in collaboration with the OMEA and the MODIP of the University.

The quality objectives of the PSP, as specified in the relevant Guide, are the following:

1. Modernization, certification and internationalization of the curriculum
2. Quantitative and qualitative adequacy of teaching staff
3. Improvement of the educational process
4. Graduate satisfaction and career assistance
5. Extroversion in education and research
6. Enhancing student mobility
7. Improvement of the learning environment and daily operation

The Panel received and assesses Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are also included in the QAP of the PSP. The KPis are adequate in number, and realistically formulated.

II. Analysis

A QAP Statement is placed on the websiste of the PSP.

The quality objectives are well formulated but remain vague.

The QAP also includes a commitment for the efficient use of the financial resources that are derived from tuition fees. There is a detailed analysis of expected revenues over a 5-year period and a plan as to how these can be used for purposes of administrative and teaching expenses, equipment and other items.

The 2021 External Evaluation and Accreditation Report of the Law School is mentioned in the material received by the Panel, and a link to its content is provided. However, the link does not work.

The phrasing of the KPIs is currently problematic, since there is often a loose or no link with the PSP's immediate plans. To illustrate, there is one KPI on increasing student mobility from 4% to 10%. Support for student mobility (μετακίνηση φοιτητών) is set at 0 Euros for the next 5 years, which creates an asymttery between a set goal and the means to realize it.

III. Conclusions

The PSP is in compliance with the procedural part of the Principle's main elements. It is important to ensure that, moving forward, KPIs are drafted with arealistic view towards fulfillment within a credible, time-bound context.

Panel Judgement

Principle 1: Quality assurance policy and quality goal setting for the postgraduate study programmes of the institution and the academic unit	
Fully compliant	
Substantially compliant	**X**
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- It is recommended that the QAP Statement be placed on a more prominent part of the site and be immediately accessible to all site visitors. Currently, one needs to search for the requested information under various website items.

- The Panel suggests that the PSP (and the Law School more generally) invest in the administrative and other resources necessary to ensure that KPIs become more than a box-ticking exercise, and reflect PSP priorities within a realistic and time-bound context.

PRINCIPLE 2: DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP THEIR POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES FOLLOWING A DEFINED WRITTEN PROCESS WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE PARTICIPANTS, INFORMATION SOURCES AND THE APPROVAL COMMITTEES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THE OBJECTIVES, THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE SET OUT IN THE PRORAMME DESIGN. DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES, THE DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LEARNING OUTCOMES SHOULD BE ASSESSED. THE ABOVE DETAILS, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAMME'S STRUCTURE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE STUDENT GUIDE.

The academic units develop their postgraduate study programmes following a well-defined procedure. The academic profile and orientation of the programme, the research character, the scientific objectives, the specific subject areas, and specialisations are described at this stage.

The structure, content and organisation of courses and teaching methods should be oriented towards deepening knowledge and acquiring the corresponding skills to apply the said knowledge (e.g. course on research methodology, participation in research projects, thesis with a research component).

The expected learning outcomes must be determined based on the European and National Qualifications Framework (EQF, NQF), and the Dublin Descriptors for level 7. During the implementation of the programme, the degree of achievement of the expected learning outcomes and the feedback of the learning process must be assessed with the appropriate tools. For each learning outcome that is designed and made public, it is necessary that its evaluation criteria are also designed and made public.

In addition, the design of PSP must consider:

- *the Institutional strategy*
- *the active involvement of students*
- *the experience of external stakeholders from the labour market*
- *the anticipated student workload according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for level 7*
- *the option of providing work experience to students*
- *the linking of teaching and research*
- *the relevant regulatory framework and the official procedure for the approval of the PSP by the Institution*

The procedure of approval or revision of the programmes provides for the verification of compliance with the basic requirements of the Standards by the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU).

Documentation

- *Senate decision for the establishment of the PSP*
- *PSP curriculum structure: courses, course categories, ECTS awarded, expected learning outcomes according to the EQF, internship, mobility opportunities*
- *Labour market data regarding the employment of graduates, international experience in a relevant scientific field*
- *PSP Student Guide*
- *Course and thesis outlines*

- *Teaching staff (name list including of areas of specialisation, its relation to the courses taught, employment relationship, and teaching assignment in hours as well as other teaching commitments in hours)*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The subject of the PSP in Commercial Law is the study and in-depth analysis of the most important branches of commercial law, namely commercial company law, commercial transaction law, intellectual property law, consumer protection and e-commerce law, banking system law and banking contracts, maritime law and transport law.

The purpose of the PSP is to promote knowledge; enhance research; meet the educational, social, cultural and development needs of Greece in the field of Commercial Law as well as to train high-level scientists.

The PSP in Commercial Law has been designed based on appropriate standards. In designing it, four factors were taken into account: first, the expertise of the faculty; second, the labor market needs and the associate skills required to ensure the success of the program's graduates; third, the developments in the relevant fields; and finally, the suggestions of the PSP students, graduates, and external stakeholders.

Compared to postgraduate law programs abroad, the level of the PSP is high, as attested by the program's international collaborations, the successful attendance of the program's students at universities abroad within the framework of the Erasmus mobility program and the high performance of the program's graduates in postgraduate and doctoral programs abroad.

The PSP is well-designed to achieve specific learning outcomes based on the European and National Qualifications Framework 7.

The sources used for the integration of new knowledge in the PSP are mainly the scientific research carried out by the program's faculty members who utilize their participation in international scientific developments, the systematic monitoring of the bibliography, as well as regular communication with their colleagues in the same field from Greece and abroad with the aim of enriching the PSP. At the same time, the PSP faculty is informed about what is happening in the broader scientific and technological field, as well as the new social realities and the demands of the labor market in Greece and internationally. The relevant bibliography, the findings of scientific events, as well as the opinion of scientific, professional and social bodies, as well as the PSP's graduates are used as sources.

Overall, the curriculum of the PSP is appropriate and corresponds to universally accepted standards for the specific area of study. However, there is no course that focuses on Research Methods & Design. This is especially important given the emphasis of the PSP on student research.

The structure of the PSP is rational and clearly articulated. The PSP is structured into three (3) academic semesters. Five (5) courses are taught in the first semester. Five (5) courses are taught in the second semester. Students in each semester (first and second) are required to attend (4) courses. In the third semester, students prepare their thesis.

The language of instruction for the courses and the writing of the thesis is Greek. Each ECTS corresponds to 25 hours of workload. The total number of credit units (ECTS) required to obtain the Postgraduate Diploma is ninety (90).

The PSP envisages a procedure/ regulation in place for periodic revisions of the program curriculum. The PSP adheres to an internal evaluation process involving the PSP's Coordination committee, the Law School's OMEA, and the university's MODIP. In particular, instructions have been given by the MODIP of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in accordance with the requirements of the ETHAAE Certification standards. The PSP monitors and evaluates quality indicators such as the attractiveness of the program, the evaluation of courses and faculty by students, the research work of students, mobility, student support services, the monitoring of the progress of PSP's graduates, as well as the program's collaboration with external stakeholders.

The curriculum revision procedure involves consultation with the PSP's external stakeholders, students, and graduates as it is attested by the interviews held with the PSP's external stakeholders and students (both current and graduated).

Finally, the Student Guide is complete, concise and appropriate; a fact that has been attested by the PSP's students during interviews with the Panel. .

II. Analysis

The PSP in Commercial Law has been designed based on appropriate standards.

Compared to postgraduate law programs abroad, the level of the PSP is high.

The curriculum of the PSP is appropriate and corresponds to universally accepted standards for the specific area of study.

The structure of the PSP is rational and clearly articulated.

The PSP envisages a procedure/ regulation in place for periodic revisions of the program curriculum.

The curriculum revision procedure involves consultation from stakeholders, external experts, students and graduates.

The Student Guide is complete, concise and appropriate.

III. Conclusions

As far as Principle 2 is concerned, the PSP in Commercial Law is in full compliance.

Panel Judgement

Principle 2: Design and approval of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Consider modifying course titles to make courses more attractive to students.

Consider offering at least one additional elective course to increase the available choices for students.

Consider offering a course on Competition Law and/or Digital Information/Technology Law.

Consider offering a course on Research Methods & Design.

PRINCIPLE 3: STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING, TEACHING, AND ASSESSMENT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ENSURE THAT POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEARNING PROCESS. THE ASSESSMENT METHODS SHOULD REFLECT THIS APPROACH.

Student-centred learning and teaching plays an important role in enhancing students' motivation, their self-evaluation, and their active participation in the learning process. The above entail continuous consideration of the programme's delivery and the assessment of the related outcomes.

The student-centred learning and teaching process

- *respects and attends to the diversity of students and their needs by adopting flexible learning paths*
- *considers and uses different modes of delivery, where appropriate*
- *flexibly uses a variety of pedagogical methods*
- *regularly evaluates and adjusts the modes of delivery and pedagogical methods aiming at improvement*
- *regularly evaluates the quality and effectiveness of teaching, as documented especially through student surveys*
- *strengthens the student's sense of autonomy, while ensuring adequate guidance and support from the teaching staff*
- *promotes mutual respect in the student-teacher relationship*
- *applies appropriate procedures for dealing with the students' complaints*
- *provides counselling and guidance for the preparation of the thesis*

In addition

- *The academic staff are familiar with the existing examination system and methods and are supported in developing their own skills in this field.*
- *The assessment criteria and methods are published in advance. The assessment allows students to demonstrate the extent to which the intended learning outcomes have been achieved. Students are given feedback, which, if necessary is linked to advice on the learning process.*
- *Student assessment is conducted by more than one examiner, where possible.*
- *Assessment is consistent, fairly applied to all students and conducted in accordance with the stated procedures.*
- *A formal procedure for student appeals is in place.*
- *The function of the academic advisor runs smoothly.*

Documentation

- *Sample of a fully completed questionnaire for the evaluation of the PSP by the students*
- *Regulations for dealing with students' complaints and appeals*
- *Regulation for the function of academic advisor*
- *Reference to the teaching modes and assessment methods*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The PSP under review applies the principles of student-centered learning and teaching in order to achieve the learning outcomes set out in the Study Program.

Postgraduate students select compulsory and elective courses according to their academic interests. Teaching methods include lectures delivered by faculty members as well as written assignments. Students confirmed that presenting their assignments orally helps them develop their public-speaking skills. Through the preparation of their assignments, they also develop research abilities and legal reasoning skills. Student assessment is carried out by the teaching staff, either orally or in writing, while class participation and the completion of assignments are also taken into account. The relationship between faculty members and students is close, allowing any issues that arise to be resolved directly. There is also a formal procedure for submitting complaints to institutional bodies.

II. Analysis

The course content meets student needs and reflects current trends and developments in the field. However, the absence of a Competition Law course was noted.

The assessment methods applied are fair. The academic level of the teaching staff is high, and students are encouraged to engage in further research. Student satisfaction surveys are conducted regularly, although the response rate is relatively low. The teaching staff actively promotes student-centered learning. The combined use of research, written assignments, research papers, and oral presentations reinforces these principles.

III. Conclusions

Overall, the PSP fully meets the standards of student-centered learning, teaching, and assessment set out in Principle 3. The teaching methods, together with the accessibility and supportiveness of the academic staff, effectively motivate students to engage in deeper research.

Panel Judgement

Principle 3: Student-centred learning, teaching, and assessment	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Student participation in questionnaires should be increased to a statistically meaningful level.

A course on Competition Law should be added, and more seminars should be organized with foreign academics, practitioners, and representatives of relevant institutions.

PRINCIPLE 4: STUDENT ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, RECOGNITION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, AND CERTIFICATION.

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DEVELOP AND APPLY PUBLISHED REGULATIONS COVERING ALL ASPECTS AND PHASES OF STUDIES (ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, THESIS DRAFTING, RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATION).

All the issues from the beginning to the end of studies should be governed by the internal regulations of the academic units. Indicatively:

- *the student admission procedures and the required supporting documents*
- *student rights and obligations, and monitoring of student progression*
- *internship issues, if applicable, and granting of scholarships*
- *the procedures and terms for the drafting of assignments and the thesis*

- *the procedure of award and recognition of degrees, the duration of studies, the conditions for progression and for the assurance of the progress of students in their studies*
- *the terms and conditions for enhancing student mobility*

All the above must be made public in the context of the Student Guide.

Documentation

- *Internal regulation for the operation of the Postgraduate Study Programme*
- *Research Ethics Regulation*
- *Regulation of studies, internship, mobility, and student assignments*
- *Degree certificate template*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The PSP is open to law graduates from universities in Greece as well as from recognized equivalent institutions abroad.

The total number of students admitted to the LL.M. does not exceed thirty (30). Candidates are selected through a written examination that covers core subjects of commercial law and includes a foreign-language test. The LL.B. degree grade is also taken into consideration. The general requirements, admission criteria, and selection procedures are fair and transparent.

Student assessment takes place at the end of each semester through written or oral examinations, written assignments throughout the semester, or a combination of these methods. The assessment method is determined by the instructor of each course. The LL.M. thesis is written exclusively in Greek, and a specific set of quality standards covers its preparation. The program does not offer traineeship opportunities. The Diploma Supplement is issued in both Greek and English. Student mobility is encouraged, although due to the structure and duration of the PSP, it is not realistically feasible.

II. Analysis

Student evaluation is conducted through a combination of written assignments, presentations, and written or oral examinations.

There is a wide variety of elective courses, yet student choices are limited.

As mentioned under Principle 3 above, Including a course on Competition Law would be beneficial. The program is intensive, and devoting a separate semester to drafting the graduate thesis is a positive feature of the PSP.

III. Conclusions

Overall, the Unit has established and implemented clear, publicly available regulations that govern all stages and aspects of the study process, as outlined in the Study Program.

The PSP is characterized by a high degree of flexibility and actively encourages the admission of both students and practicing lawyers.

Panel Judgement

Principle 4: Student admission, progression, recognition of postgraduate studies and certification	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

The thesis could be drafted in the English language, on an optional basis.

It is recommended to introduce the possibility of traineeships in relevant institutions, such as the Hellenic Competition Commission, the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), and similar bodies.

Streamline the number of elective courses in line with student numbers and interests.

PRINCIPLE 5: TEACHING STAFF OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ASSURE THEMSELVES OF THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THEIR TEACHING STAFF, AND APPLY FAIR AND TRANSPARENT PROCESSES FOR THEIR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

The Institution should attend to the adequacy of the teaching staff of the academic unit teaching at the PSP, the appropriate staff-student ratio, the appropriate staff categories, the appropriate subject areas, the fair and objective recruitment process, the high research performance, the training-development, the staff development policy (including participation in mobility schemes, conferences, and educational leaves-as mandated by law).

More specifically, the academic unit should set up and follow clear, transparent and fair processes for the recruitment of properly qualified staff for the PSP and offer them conditions of employment that recognise the importance of teaching and research; offer opportunities and promote the professional development of the teaching staff; encourage scholarly activity to strengthen the link between education and research; encourage innovation in teaching methods and the use of new technologies; promote the increase of the volume and quality of the research output within the academic unit; follow quality assurance processes for all staff (with respect to attendance requirements, performance, self-assessment, training, etc.); develop policies to attract highly qualified academic staff.

Documentation

- *Procedures and criteria for teaching staff recruitment*
- *Employment regulations or contracts, and obligations of the teaching staff*
- *Policy for staff support and development*
- *Individual performance of the teaching staff in scientific-research and teaching work, based on internationally recognised systems of scientific evaluation (e.g. Google Scholar, Scopus, etc.)*
- *List of teaching staff including subject areas, employment relationship, Institution of origin, Department of origin*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Department recognises the importance of recruiting highly qualified academic staff and formally adheres to the processes and criteria established by Greek law and University by-laws. These criteria include subject-matter expertise, the quality of research, and demonstrated teaching ability.

The Department seeks to strengthen the link between teaching and research. Members of staff participate in knowledge exchange and impact activities by being involved in externally funded projects. Members of staff engage with policymakers, which demonstrates recognition of their standing and expertise. The Law School supports teaching and research mobility and offers study leave. The School has established internal mechanisms for evaluating teaching

performance, primarily through student feedback.

II. Analysis

Teaching staff possess the necessary academic qualifications, teaching experience, and research expertise to deliver the programme effectively and ensure its quality.

However, the institutional framework for supporting teaching and research excellence appears underdeveloped. In particular, there is no structured provision for training, especially for newly appointed members of staff, in teaching and learning methodologies. Co-teaching can be a valuable method, provided it is accompanied by a formalised process of feedback and monitoring. There is no mechanism for continuously monitoring teaching excellence for all members of staff.

While student evaluations may provide some indication of teaching quality, they are not in themselves conclusive, and sustained institutional efforts are required to ensure continuous enhancement. There should be formal processes aimed at supporting staff in improving their teaching performance when its assessment by students is low.

There appears to be no clear mechanism for systematically supporting, monitoring and assessing the quality of research outputs and activities of members of staff. This will foster a dynamic research culture and promote excellence. It also relates to fairness and transparency.

III. Conclusions

The Panel concludes that the programme's stated objectives, in principle, meet the requirements of this Principle. However, it finds that the institutional support framework is insufficiently robust to fully sustain them.

Panel Judgement

Principle 5: Teaching staff of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	
Substantially compliant	**X**
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Introduce appropriate mechanisms, or establish a dedicated office, to support all staff in developing and enhancing their teaching and learning knowledge and skills.

Make it mandatory for all staff, and in particular newly appointed members of staff, to complete training courses in legal pedagogy.

Establish an award scheme to recognise and promote teaching excellence.

Introduce a formal teaching observation process.

Introduce a formal mechanism for the systematic support, monitoring and assessment of staff research outputs and activities.

PRINCIPLE 6: LEARNING RESOURCES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO COVER THE TEACHING AND LEARNING NEEDS OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME. THEY SHOULD –ON THE ONE HAND- PROVIDE SATISFACTORY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR LEARING AND STUDENT SUPPORT, AND – ON THE OTHER HAND- FACILITATE DIRECT ACCESS TO THEM BY ESTABLISHING INTERNAL RULES TO THIS END (E.G. LECTURE ROOMS, LABORATORIES, LIBRARIES, NETWORKS, CAREER AND SOCIAL POLICY SERVICES ETC.).

Institutions and their academic units must have sufficient resources and means, on a planned and long-term basis, to support learning and academic activity in general, so as to offer PSP students the best possible level of studies. The above means include facilities such as the necessary general and more specialised libraries and possibilities for access to electronic databases, study rooms, educational and scientific equipment, IT and communication services, support and counselling services.

When allocating the available resources, the needs of all students must be taken into consideration (e.g. whether they are full-time or part-time students, employed students, students with disabilities), in addition to the shift towards student-centred learning and the adoption of flexible modes of learning and teaching. Support activities and facilities may be organised in various ways, depending on the institutional context. However, the internal quality assurance proves -on the one hand- the quantity and quality of the available facilities and services, and -on the other hand- that students are aware of all available services.

In delivering support services, the role of support and administration staff is crucial and therefore this segment of staff needs to be qualified and have opportunities to develop its competences.

Documentation

- *Detailed description of the infrastructure and services made available by the Institution to the academic unit for the PSP, to support learning and academic activity (human resources, infrastructure, services, etc.) and the corresponding firm commitment of the Institution to financially cover these infrastructure-services from state or other resources*
- *Administrative support staff of the PSP (job descriptions, qualifications and responsibilities)*
- *Informative / promotional material given to students with reference to the available services*
- *Tuition utilisation plan (if applicable)*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The PSP employs twelve (12) faculty members and is supported by the Secretariat of the Commercial Law Department, which is housed in its own premises. The Programme uses the facilities of the Law School, which are accessible to people with impairments, and are adequate to the educational needs, thanks to their full equipment with electronic devices. Courses are held in a special classroom.

The PSP uses the Law Library «Ioannis Deligiannis», which has a collection of more than one hundred thousand (100,000) volumes of books and a great number of periodicals (434 titles or 2,600 issues per year), is organised in accordance with

international bibliographic standards, following the classification system of the Library of Congress, the AACR2 cataloguing rules and the Library's subject headings, and provides access to most bibliographic databases with legal content.

The Library is staffed by four (4) EDIP librarians and five (5) administrative employees, who offer user training services, interlibrary loan services, EYDOXOS book return services, etc. The Law Library also generates its own revenue, which it uses to cover part of its needs. All Law School students are granted free online access to codes and legislation within the School and the Central Library of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki through a special platform on the QUALEX legal database. Besides, students have access to leading international and Greek electronic databases, either within the University or via VPN connection.

The Institution provides electronic services through the KID / ICT Directorate' electronic student secretarial services (student registry) (https://sis.auth.gr/), the E-Learning Moodle platform, and a Facebook account.

Tuition fees are the main income of the Programme; they amount to nine hundred (900) euros for the three semesters (300 Euros per semester), reduced to one hundred and fifty (150) euros per semester in the case of part-time study. The amount is subject to adjustment. Teaching staff in the PSP is not being remunerated; fees are allocated for the purchase of equipment and the provision of services.

The Unit offers access to the School Library, as well as a reading room for one hundred (100) people. All areas have wireless Wi-Fi connection, and students are provided with electronic services through the School's website (https://www.law.auth.gr/). In collaboration with the Aristotle University Volunteerism Committee, a Social Policy Committee promotes volunteerism; it also monitors the School's accessibility for people with impairments, and proposes cooperation with social organisations in the city, such as the Society for the Protection of Minors, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, etc.

The Law School supports initiatives undertaken by student groups, such as a) the Rhetoric Club and the European Law Students Association, by providing meeting spaces and facilitating collaboration between students and academic staff, b) the organisation of the annual Conference of Postgraduate Students and Doctoral Candidates, which is open to all students free of charge, and c) the participation of School student teams in moot court and mediation competitions in Greece and abroad. It contributes to the financial support of part of the students' expenses and provides space and staff for team training (https://www.law.auth.gr/el/node/8302).

Students are informed about all provided services upon admission, at a special welcome event, and they are kept informed via the central website of the

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (https://www.auth.gr/services), the website of the Law School (https://www.law.auth.gr/el), and emails to their institutional accounts. Besides, it supports and promotes the further development of its academic and administrative staff's skills by facilitating its participation in training seminars, scientific projects and conferences.

Additionally, Law students have access to all student support structures of the Institution, specifically the Counselling and Psychological Support Centre, the Primary Health Care Centre, the Aristotle University Student Club, which provides meals for students, the Study and Career Liaison Office, the Scholarships and Bequests Internship Office, the European Programmes Department, the International Relations Department, the Support Office for Students from Vulnerable Social Groups, the Student Ombudsman for issues unrelated to grades and exams, the Gender Equality Committee for issues of discrimination, the Children's Centre, the Volunteer Coordination Office, as well as to Scientific Student Associations, Student Residences and all Libraries and digital Libraries and databases (https://www.auth.gr/services).

The University Central Library remains open 24 hours a day during exam periods, while the reading room for postgraduate students and doctoral candidates is open from 8:00 to 20:00. Students and staff of the Institution can use the facilities and programmes of the university gym, the university campus in Kassandra, Chalkidiki, the Internship Office, etc. Besides, they participate in cultural events and other activities organised by the Institution.

The Institution has set up committees to address specific problems that students may encounter. For example, the Interdisciplinary Committee for the Study of Proposals against Drugs, the Committee for Social Welfare, Psychological Support and Student Observatory, the Health Committee, and the Accessibility Committee, as well as the Counselling and Psychological Support Centre (KESYPSY) and the Office for Accessibility for People with Impairments.

II. Analysis

All facilities (classrooms, laboratories, IT infrastructure, access to digital libraries and databases, etc) made available to the PSP by the Unit and the Institution ensure an appropriate teaching and learning environment. There is an adequate range of support services available to the PSP students (i.e. boarding, career counselling, student welfare office, sport/cultural facilities etc).

All services are accessible to students, who are informed about them via the School’s Website. There is sufficient and competent administrative staff to ensure the operation of student support services.

III. Conclusions

The PSP is fully compliant with Principle 6.

Panel Judgement

Principle 6: Learning resources and student support	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

It may be worth considering extending the working hours of the Library.

PRINCIPLE 7: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INSTITUTIONS BEAR FULL RESPONISBILITY FOR COLLECTING, ANALYSING AND USING INFORMATION, AIMED AT THE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, IN AN INTEGRATED, EFFECTIVE AND EASLILY ACCESSIBLE WAY.

Institutions are expected to establish and operate an information system for the management and monitoring of data concerning students, teaching staff, course structure and organisation, teaching and provision of services to students.

Reliable data is essential for accurate information and decision-making, as well as for identifying areas of smooth operation and areas for improvement. Effective procedures for collecting and analysing information on postgraduate study programmes and other activities feed data into the internal system of quality assurance.

The information collected depends, to some extent, on the type and mission of the Institution. The following are of interest:

- *key performance indicators*
- *student population profile*
- *student progression, success, and drop-out rates*
- *student satisfaction with their programmes*
- *availability of learning resources and student support*

A number of methods may be used to collect information. It is important that students and staff are involved in providing and analysing information and planning follow-up activities.

Documentation

- *Report from the National Information System for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (NISQA) at the level of the Institution, the department, and the PSP*
- *Operation of an information management system for the collection of administrative data for the implementation of the PSP (Students' Record)*
- *Other tools and procedures designed to collect data on the academic and administrative functions of the academic unit and the PSP*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Secretariat of the PSP electronically records, manages and monitors student and Faculty data, the structure and organization of courses, teaching and the provision of services to students and the academic community. The Secretariat also keeps files with the personal data and work of all members of the School's teaching and research staff.

Data related to the structure and organization of courses and teaching are kept on the electronic platform of MODIP. This electronic platform automatically collects data derived from the information recorded by the Secretariat, resulting in the Department being offered extremely useful processed information, such as the percentages of active and inactive students, percentages of students by gender,

origin, etc. The performance and study progress indicators are evaluated by the School and are taken into account both when submitting to the Ministry of Education the proposed number of admissions and during the process of (re)designing the postgraduate program.

As for graduates, the Secretariat registers their new contact details upon their graduation and addresses them in order to inform them about events or ask for their opinion on the curriculum.

The main tool for collecting and processing information is the information system of MODIP, through which the data required for the implementation of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System is managed.
All types of information collected are used to produce reports and indicators concerning staff and students, as well as the educational, research and operational processes of the Institution, allowing their monitoring and evaluation over time. There is also the automatic collection of data from the services of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Central Administration, Departments, Central Library, Research Committee), as well as from international bibliographic databases.

Student satisfaction surveys are regularly conducted by the PSP.

II. Analysis

There is available information that includes aggregate data across the University regarding the evolution of statistical trends on several variables, including the number of theses published at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral level; the number of student satisfaction surveys and the degree of satisfaction expressed by students etc. There is also a rich database of these and similar datapoints pertaining to the Law School from 2018 to 2023.

There is also a statistical depiction of the PSP’s evolution from 2020 to 2023. This includes 4 separate Tables of quantitative data pertaining to all aspects of the Program, including the total number of students, tuition fees costs, the number of obligatory and elective courses etc.

However, the 4 tables are mentioned in subsequent pages in a text format only, and there are no graphs and therefore no trends as to the evolution of the PSP over time and since its inception. It is therefore currently not possible to interpret trends in a clear and accessible manner and therefore build on work done until now to improve the PSP’s quality.

III. Conclusions

The PSP is in full compliance with this Principle.

Panel Judgement

Principle 7: Information management	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

It is recommended that the rich database of statistics collected at University level be disaggregated at the level of the School, and then the PSP.

PRINCIPLE 8: PUBLIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD PUBLISH INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR TEACHING AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES IN A DIRECT AND READILY ACCESSIBLE WAY. THE RELEVANT INFORMATION SHOULD BE UP-TO-DATE, OBJECTIVE AND CLEAR.

Information on the Institutions' activities is useful for prospective and current students, graduates, other stakeholders, and the public.

Therefore, Institutions and their academic units must provide information about their activities, including the PSP they offer, the intended learning outcomes, the degrees awarded, the teaching, learning and assessment procedures applied, the pass rates, and the learning opportunities available to their students. Information is also provided on the employment perspectives of PSP graduates.

Documentation

- *Dedicated segment on the website of the department for the promotion of the PSP*
- *Bilingual version of the PSP website with complete, clear and objective information*
- *Provision for website maintenance and updating*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

Key information regarding the PSP is available online while a dedicated segment on the School of Law website is available for the promotion of the PSP. Specifically, the PSP in Commercial Law has a well-organized website (https://commercial.law.auth.gr/), which has been created and is technically supported by the e-Governance Center (EGC) of the University.

The website is mainly in the Greek language. The English version of the website is not fully developed.

Through the website, continuous information is provided to all interested parties, pertaining to the PSP's administrative structure, the faculty members serving in it (subject, office number, telephone number, e-mail address, etc.), the program's curriculum, as well as the PSP's structure. Specifically, the School of Law's Quality Assurance Policy and the PSP's Study Guide are posted on the PSP's website, which is updated at regular intervals and includes useful information regarding the structure and objectives of the program, the registration process at the Law School, student benefits and available scholarships. Furthermore, on the PSP website, one can find the indicative program and the detailed description of the courses as well as their teaching schedule for each academic year. The full contact details of the Postgraduate Program Secretariat are also listed.

All information published on the PSP website is up-to-date, clear and easily accessible. Specifically, announcements are posted on the PSP's website on a daily basis to immediately inform students about course issues, events (conferences, workshops, speeches, open courses, summer courses, etc.) as well as lifelong

learning seminars organized by the Law School (or with its support) or by individual faculty members. In addition to the relevant announcement on the website, e-mails are also sent to the institutional accounts of faculty members, administrative staff members and students, while, depending on the occasion, posters, invitations and brochures are also printed, the distribution of which is not limited to the School premises, but is extended to the courts, the offices of the Bar Association, the offices of the Notary Association, the premises of the National School of Judicial Officers, the city's research institutes and elsewhere. The main events are promoted, to the extent possible, through local print and electronic media.

All the postgraduate courses are supported by the electronic E-Learning platform, which allows for the disclosure of the structure and flow of the courses, access to course-related working texts (e.g. court decisions) and any faculty notes, and communication with registered users. The information about the opportunities for graduate students to participate in the Erasmus+ exchange programs and the process of recognizing courses after their return is ensured by the relevant office of the School of Law, which operates on a daily basis.

Finally, the School of Law participates in professional orientation and career events, during which students are informed about the job opportunities available to them after completing their studies. These events are attended by recognized officials and professionals (judges, lawyers, notaries, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the State Legal Council etc.

II. Analysis

Key information regarding the PSP is available online while a dedicated segment in the School of Law website is available for the promotion of the PSP.

The website is mainly in the Greek language at this moment in time.

All information published on the PSP website is up-to-date, clear and easily accessible.

The School of Law’s Quality Assurance Policy and the PSP’s Study Guide are posted on the PSP’s website, which is updated at regular intervals and includes useful information regarding the structure and objectives of the PSP.

The PSP website includes a detailed description of the courses as well as their teaching schedule for each academic year.

III. Conclusions

As far as Principle 8 is concerned, the PSP in Commercial Law is in full compliance.

Panel Judgement

Principle 8: Public information concerning the postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

-It is recommended to further develop the English-language website of the PSP.

PRINCIPLE 9: ON-GOING MONITORING AND PERIODIC INTERNAL EVALUATION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIC UNITS SHOULD HAVE IN PLACE AN INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM FOR THE AUDIT AND ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW OF THEIR POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES, SO AS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES SET FOR THEM, THROUGH MONITORING AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS, WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE ABOVE CONTEXT SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

The regular monitoring, review, and revision of postgraduate study programmes aim at maintaining the level of educational provision and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students.

The above comprise the evaluation of:

a) the content of the programme in the light of the latest research in the given discipline, thus ensuring that the PSP is up to date
b) the changing needs of society
c) the students' workload, progression and completion of the postgraduate studies
d) the effectiveness of the procedures for the assessment of students
e) the students' expectations, needs and satisfaction in relation to the programme
f) the learning environment, support services, and their fitness for purpose for the PSP in question

Postgraduate study programmes are reviewed and revised regularly involving students and other stakeholders. The information collected is analysed and the programme is adapted to ensure that it is up-to-date.

Documentation

- *Procedure for the re-evaluation, redefinition and updating of the PSP curriculum*
- *Procedure for mitigating weaknesses and upgrading the structure of the PSP and the learning process*
- *Feedback processes concerning the strategy and quality goal setting of the PSP and relevant decision-making processes (students, external stakeholders)*
- *Results of the annual internal evaluation of the PSP by the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU), and the relevant minutes*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

There is a quality assurance process overseen by the institution's MODIP, the Department's OMEA, and the PSP's Coordination Committee.

It collects, analyses, and assesses data across different areas, including student satisfaction, student assessment of teaching, mobility, student support services, and collaboration with external stakeholders. The aim is to put forward recommendations for the improvement of the PSP which the PSP Coordination Committee should implement.

II. Analysis

The internal evaluation process aligns with institutional and HAHE quality assurance requirements. It makes recommendations for improvements after analysing and assessing data with the aim of maintaining the academic and professional quality of the PSP and safeguarding its long-term viability.

III. Conclusions

From the submitted material and the discussion with stakeholders, it is the Panel's view that the PSP fully complies with this principle.

Panel Judgement

Principle 9: On-going monitoring and periodic internal evaluation of postgraduate study programmes	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

Establish an Advisory Board with external stakeholders to support the PSP's market attractiveness and to facilitate its continuous adaptation to evolving professional and societal needs.

Monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the internal evaluation process.

PRINCIPLE 10: REGULAR EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES SHOULD REGULARLY UNDERGO EVALUATION BY PANELS OF EXTERNAL EXPERTS SET BY HAHE, AIMING AT ACCREDITATION. THE TERM OF VALIDITY OF THE ACCREDITATION IS DETERMINED BY HAHE.

HAHE is responsible for administrating the PSP accreditation process which is realised as an external evaluation procedure, and implemented by panels of independent experts. HAHE grants accreditation of programmes, based on the Reports delivered by the panels of external experts, with a specific term of validity, following to which, revision is required. The quality accreditation of the PSP acts as a means for the determination of the degree of compliance of the programme to the Standards, and as a catalyst for improvement, while opening new perspectives towards the international standing of the awarded degrees. Both academic units and Institutions must consistently consider the conclusions and the recommendations submitted by the panels of experts for the continuous improvement of the programme.

Documentation

- *Progress report of the PSP in question, on the results from the utilisation of possible recommendations included in the External Evaluation Report of the Institution, and in the IQAS Accreditation Report, with relation to the postgraduate study programmes*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The External Evaluation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki was conducted in 2015. The Committee praised all postgraduate programmes for their excellence and breadth of the covered scientific fields. In addition, it supported the plans of the University to create English-language postgraduate programmes to attract international students. It identified the following weaknesses: absence of a coordinated mechanism for promoting interdisciplinarity and interdepartmental cooperation at programme and student level; understaffing of teaching personnel. It suggested a) the organisation of seminars for postgraduate students, in order to meet, present their research, receive feedback and create a community of young researchers; b) a variety in the duration of studies, i.e. from 2 to 4 semesters; c) compulsory independent research and completion of a thesis in all postgraduate programmes.

In the Progress Report submitted by the MODIP of the Institution to HAHE in 2018, it was pointed out that the various, specific taught subjects do not allow for general application of the recommendations of the External Evaluation Committee and that this was up to the decisions of the School's Assemblies.The Postgraduate Programmes and the School's Assemblies have the authority to determine the teaching methods, duration and other characteristics of the PSPs.

In the ESDP Certification (2019), no comments were made regarding the PSPs.

The External Evaluation Report, conducted in 2013, includes specific

recommendations for Postgraduate Study Programmes. The design of certain postgraduate programmes is presented, providing guidance for the consolidation of study programmes. Following these recommendations, the PSP in Commercial Law has shortened the previous type of study programmes from 4 semesters of teaching and 1 semester of thesis work to 2 semesters of teaching and one semester of thesis work. This new structure makes the programmes more coherent, and more accessible to students who are employed in legal practice.

In addition, a special recommendation is made for the alignment and compliance of the Postgraduate Programmes with the requirements of the Bologna process (ECTS). The proposed reform was considered to contribute sufficiently to facilitating the mobility of postgraduate students between the Unit and foreign universities. Since its inception, the PSP in Commercial Law has been designed accordingly.

The external evaluation acknowledges that a significant number of students who have graduated from the Unit have pursued postgraduate studies and/or doctoral research at leading international institutions abroad with excellent results, which demonstrates the high quality of the Unit's Undergraduate Programmes. All the more, it has been found that a significant number of graduates return to continue their postgraduate studies in Thessaloniki, which shows their faith and appreciation for the education they received.

One observation made by the students themselves is the need for the Law School library to be open for longer hours (beyond the current hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) or for the Unit to operate more hours (beyond the current hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) or with modified hours (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and on weekends, as is the case at most universities. (see also recommendations under Principle 6 above).

II. Analysis

The PSP is aware of the importance of the external evaluation and has implemented the Committee's recommendations regarding both the duration of the programme and the compulsory character of a PSP dissertation.

No information on the contribution of the stakeholders to the external evaluation of the PSP is available.

III. Conclusions

The PSP fully complies with Principle 10.

Panel Judgement

Principle 10: Regular external evaluation of postgraduate study programmes

Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

It is recommended to consider the possiibility of extending the Library's working hours.

PART C: CONCLUSIONS

I. Features of Good Practice

- The PSP is well-established and has acquired a strong and positive reputation over the years as to the high quality of studies it offers in its field of specialization.

- The internal evaluation process aligns with institutional and HAHE requirements.

- The curriculum of the PSP is appropriate and corresponds to universally accepted standards for the specific area of study.

- The level of the PSP is high, as attested by the program's international collaborations, the successful attendance of the program's students at universities abroad within the framework of the Erasmus mobility program and the high performance of the program's graduates in postgraduate and doctoral programs abroad.

- The structure of the PSP is rational and clearly articulated.

- The Student Guide is complete, concise and appropriate.

- The curriculum revision procedure involves consultation from stakeholders, external experts, students and graduates.

- The Department supports teaching and research mobility.

- The Department has established internal mechanisms for evaluating teaching performance, primarily through student feedback.

- All information published on the PSP website is up-to-date, clear and easily accessible.

- The Law School participates in professional orientation and career events, during which students are informed about the job opportunities available to them after completing their studies.

II. Areas of Weakness

- There is no course that focuses on Research Methods & Design.

- There is no structured provision for Faculty training, especially for newly appointed members of staff, in teaching and learning methodologies.

- There is currently no mechanism for continuously monitoring teaching excellence for new and established Faculty.

- The English version of the website is not fully developed.

III. Recommendations for Follow-up Actions

- Consider change of course titles to make courses more attractive.

- Consider offering at least one additional elective course to increase the choice for students.

- Consider offering a course on Competition Law and/or Digital Information/Technology Law.

- Consider offering a course on Research Methods & Design across the Law School.

- It is recommended that the rich database of statistics collected at University level be disaggregated at the level of the School, and then the PSP.

IV. Summary & Overall Assessment

The Principles where full compliance has been achieved are:

2-4, 6-10.

The Principles where substantial compliance has been achieved are:

1, 5.

The Principles where partial compliance has been achieved are:

N/A

The Principles where failure of compliance was identified are:

N/A

Overall Judgement	
Fully compliant	**X**
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

The members of the External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

Name and Surname	Signature
TSAROUHAS DIMITRIS	Signed by TSAROUHAS DIMITRIS - 20/03/2026 20:38:01 +02:00
PAPAEFTHYMIOU SOPHIE	Signed by PAPAEFTHYMIOU SOPHIE - 20/03/2026 20:38:01 +02:00
STIVACHTIS YANNIS	Signed by STIVACHTIS YANNIS - 20/03/2026 20:38:01 +02:00
TSAGOURIAS NICHOLAS	Signed by TSAGOURIAS NICHOLAS - 20/03/2026 20:38:01 +02:00
Καλίτση Μαρία	Signed by Καλίτση Μαρία - 20/03/2026 20:38:01 +02:00