

## ***Strategy of the Postgraduate Programme***

### ***“Communication Networks and Systems Security”***

The Strategy of the Postgraduate Programme (PGP) “Communication Networks and Systems Security” is fully aligned to the Strategy of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) as it has been approved by the Institution's Senate (3129/26-5-2023), along with the Strategy of the School of Informatics, investing in the efficient operation of both the Institution and the School, providing high quality studies, as well as targeting the active participation of students in the learning processes and in other social, environment and scientific activities.

The PGP designs and implements its strategy, applying defined procedures, through an objective mapping of the exogenous and endogenous environment in order to face the existing and new challenges and take the corresponding actions. The developed strategy covers the full scope of its mission and includes strengthening the quality and excellence in education and research and connecting the programme with society and its needs. The implementation of the PGP’s strategy is based on international academic standards and the participation of all its members, with emphasis on the needs of the students, and is developed in three (3) main axes:

- 1 Advancing Communications Networks and Systems Security.
- 2 Adaptability to modern research and market requirements.
- 3 Adaptability to the needs of students.

Axis (1) is inextricably linked to the scientific/research character of the PGP, which produces scientists with complete knowledge in the field of Communication Networks or Systems Security, while the high scientific training of the teachers is a guarantee of ensuring the quality of the studies provided. Axis (2) is satisfied with the continuous communication of the PGP with the research bodies and with the market bodies and with the meetings with the Advisory Board in which the alumni are also represented. Under axis (3), the needs of students are considered with the aim of promoting the effectiveness of the educational and research process in order to maximize their knowledge and expertise upon graduation.

**Link with the alumni of the Department and the local and regional government agencies:** Interaction with market agencies is a key action in the planning of the PGP. The faculty of the PGP participate in research projects with partners from research institutions and companies, organize career days, and have contacts both within the Association of IT Businesses of Northern Greece (SEPBE) and with representatives of the local IT companies. Therefore, the communication channels are kept open through which the needs of the labor market are channeled into the educational process, along with the relevant knowledge, which is integrated into the PGP smoothly, through updates of the course material. Also, since 2021, an Advisory Council has been organized <https://cnss.csd.auth.gr/en/advisory-council/> composed of eminent academics from Greek and Foreign HEIs, renowned market entrepreneurs, representatives of the regional government agencies and alumni of the Department. The objective of the meetings is to examine market trends and needs, as well as good practices.

Finally, the demand for graduates in the labor market in the specific field has increased in recent years, which is also confirmed by the number of applications, as well as the number of jobs published by the DASTA office (<https://cnss.csd.auth.gr/en/advisory-council/https://dasta.auth.gr/>) of AUTH. Moreover, according to statistics of the alumni of the PGP, 72% of the graduates' work in areas covered by the programme.

**Sources for the integration of new knowledge in the PGP:** The sources used for the integration of new knowledge in the PGP are as follows:

- Similar Postgraduate Programmes of other University Departments that offer similar or related degrees in Greece and abroad.
- International bibliography related to the design of Postgraduate Programmes by University Departments in the field of Networks and Security.
- Market research (sector studies).
- Scientific conferences.
- Records of meetings with the Advisory Board (in which alumni of the Department are also participate).