



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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Accreditation Report for the New Undergraduate Study Programme in operation of:

Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts

Department: Audio & Visual Arts

Institution: Ionian University

Date: 1 July 2024



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



Πρόγραμμα
Ανθρώπινο Δυναμικό και
Κοινωνική Συνοχή



Report of the Panel appointed by the HAHE to undertake the review of
the New Postgraduate Study Programme of **Master of Research**
(MAREs) in Hybrid Arts of the **Ionian University** 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 new postgraduate study programme of **Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts** of the **Ionian University** comprised the following four (4) members, drawn from the HAHE Register, in accordance with Laws 4009/2011 & 4653/2020:

- 1. Prof. Vasilis Kallis (Chair)**
University of Nicosia, CYPRUS

- 2. Prof. Natassa Economidou Stavrou**
University of Nicosia, CYPRUS

- 3. Panagiotis Fafoutis**
Film Director, Cinematographer, Patra's Drama School

- 4. Ellie Chlorou-Konsta**
University of Peloponnese

II. Review Procedure and Documentation

The accreditation review was conducted remotely over a single day, July 1, 2024. During this period, the panel members engaged in videoconference meetings with various stakeholders involved with the new PSP “MAREs in Hybrid Arts”.

Initially, the panel met with administrative stakeholders from the PSP, the Department of Audio and Visual Arts, and the governing academic bodies of the Ionian University - specifically, the Vice Rector who is also the president of MODIP, the Department Head, and the PSP Director. After a brief presentation on the department's history, goals, and composition, the discussion shifted to the strategic aims, operational matters, and current status of the PSP. Following this, the panel held a meeting with the Department’s academic staff selected to teach in the new PSP. This was a session where the Panel asked questions and engaged in discussions regarding the nature, philosophy, scope, and structure of the new PSP, the department's operations, and the challenges and opportunities faced by the academic unit.

Following this, the panel was given a virtual tour of the facilities available to the PSP “MAREs in Hybrid Arts” students. The series of meetings concluded with two sessions: first with social partners who have become the Department’s/University’s stakeholders, and subsequently with the University’s Vice-Rector, Director of the PSP, Head of the Department, Steering Committee /OMEA members, and MODIP members and staff. The final meeting allowed the Panel to engage in a final round of discussions and informally present key findings with regard to the PSP.

The panel thoroughly reviewed all relevant documents and online resources available on the Ionian University's website, particularly those related to the Department of Audio and Visual Arts.

The decisions concerning compliance with the 6 Principles and the drafting of the accreditation report were reached with equal involvement from each panel member and were unanimously endorsed through a consensus-building process. The EEAP members wish to highlight that the academic bodies of the Ionian University and the Department of Audio and Visual Arts fully cooperated with the panel during the accreditation process, furnishing the requested additional information and clarifications promptly and professionally.

III. Postgraduate Study Programme Profile

The PSP “Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts” of the Ionian University is a new programme to be offered by the Department of Audio and Visual Arts at the Ionian University. It is a new degree intended to accept its first students and begin in the 2025-2026 academic year.

The particular PSP is hosted in a department/university whose actions indicate a vision to evolve and project a meaningful impact. Pursuing the Ionian University’s strategic vision, the Department of Audio and Visual Arts is aiming at internationalization, outreach, and certification of its programmes to remain aligned with global developments. This is an approach that maintains the academic unit’s programmes current, competitive, and effectively connected to both the domestic and international job markets.

Axiomatically, a research graduate degree emphasizes research-driven independent study over conventional taught instruction. Naturally, such a degree aims at preparing emerging researchers who can either enter the professional domain or pursue a Ph.D. It is suggested by the provided documentation and meeting with stakeholders that the Programme aims at utilizing the combination of research-driven theoretical inquiry and experimentation with frontier areas of science and emerging technologies as a pillar of art practice. As was stated by the PSP’s creators, they envision their graduates to be primarily creators by way of research.

The PSP under review will be offered in English and conflates a mixed delivery method. For the most part, it will be conducted remotely, but it also includes intense in-person short-term residencies (low residency during the winter semester).

Both the delivery method and language of instruction are aspects that enhance the Department’s interest in gathering the ‘most curious minds under the Ionian University spirit independently of their geographical location’. This prospect is in support of the Ionian University’s strategic plan for internationalization.

The PSP is envisioned to be completed in 2 semesters, and the degree title is awarded upon the successful completion of 60 ECTS, including a postgraduate thesis.

PART B: COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy and Quality Goal Setting for the New Postgraduate Study Programmes

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD INCLUDE IN THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT THE DEVELOPMENT, ORGANISATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES (PSP) IN SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC FIELDS AFTER INVESTIGATING THEIR FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY. INSTITUTIONS SHOULD APPLY A QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY FOR THE NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES AS PART OF THEIR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT. THIS POLICY SHOULD EXPAND AND BE AIMED (WITH THE COLLABORATION OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS) AT THE PSP OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE ACADEMIC UNIT. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

By decision/s of the Institutional Senate, the Institutions should adapt their strategy to allow for the provision of postgraduate study programmes, in addition to attending to the profile, vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Institution. In this strategy, the Institutions should anticipate the potential benefits, difficulties or risks from the implementation of new postgraduate study programmes and plan all the necessary actions to achieve their goals. The Institution's strategic choices should be documented through specific feasibility and sustainability studies, especially for new postgraduate study programmes.

In the case of PSP delivered by distance methods, the Institution prepares and applies an e-learning strategy. The Institution's e-learning strategy is integrated into its overall strategy and identifies educational goals while keeping up to the rapid technological changes and to the developments in pedagogical models. The Institution should include in its strategy the justification and feasibility as to why e-learning has been selected as the appropriate learning strategy for the particular programmes of study where it is applied.

In the context of e-learning, innovation strategies, the possibility of programme revision, the linking between learning and research (requiring knowledge of the latest innovations in order to select the most appropriate means to achieve the learning outcomes) should be taken into account.

The quality assurance policy of the academic unit for postgraduate study programmes should be in line with the Institution's strategy 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 postgraduate 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 continuous 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*

the appropriateness of the qualifications and the availability of the teaching staff for the PSP

the drafting, implementation, and review of specific annual quality goals for the improvement of the PSP

the level of demand for the graduates' qualifications in the labour market

the quality of support services, such as administrative services, the libraries, and the student welfare office for the PSP

the efficient utilisation of the financial resources of the PSP that may be drawn from tuition fees

the conduct of an annual internal review and audit of the quality assurance system for the PSP through the cooperation of the Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) with the Institution's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU)

Documentation

- *The Institutional strategy for postgraduate studies, which includes a special strategy for e- learning, as long as it is applied to the Institution's PSP*
- *Feasibility and sustainability studies for the new PSP*
- *Quality Policy of the academic unit for the development and improvement of PSP*
- *Quality Targeting of the academic unit for the PSP*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The Panel has collected information from multiple sources regarding the institution and department's quality assurance policy and practices and goal setting for the new postgraduate study programme MAREs in Hybrid Arts. We specifically examined the Department's Accreditation Application (A1, "Πρόταση Ακαδημαϊκής Πιστοποίησης Νέου Προγράμματος Μεταπτυχιακών Σπουδών"), the Senate Decision on the approval of the New Program (A4), the Departments Quality Assurance Policy (A6, "Πολιτική Ποιότητας του Τμήματος Τεχνών Ήχου και Εικόνας της Σχολής Μουσικής και Οπτικοακουστικών Τεχνών του Ιονίου Πανεπιστημίου"). We have also considered the document on the new postgraduate program's targets setting for quality (A7, "Στοχοθεσία ποιότητας"), as well as the document discussing the strategic development of the University in terms of new post-graduate programs and distance learning (A3).

The "Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts" programme is a strategic initiative by the Ionian University (IU) and its Department of Audio and Visual Arts to enhance the quality and international competitiveness of its postgraduate programmes. This programme aligns with the university's broader goals of increasing internationalization, fostering external engagement, and ensuring that educational programmes remain relevant and connected to both the domestic and global job markets.

The MAREs in Hybrid Arts programme implementation follows Ionian University's strategic plan for 2018-2022, which emphasizes innovative educational actions and lifelong learning. One key performance indicator for this plan is the number of distance learning postgraduate programmes offered. The programme is designed to align with the department's quality policy, emphasizing internationalization, external engagement, and accreditation within the existing regulatory framework to ensure programs remain competitive and connected to the global job market.

The strategic plan incorporates findings from an external evaluation of the Department of Audio and Visual Arts conducted in February 2014. This evaluation highlighted the potential for expanding master's level offerings as additional resources become available and praised the productivity of the department's online course scheduling system, which functions as a critical advising tool. The evaluation emphasized the department's strong international reputation and its interdisciplinary and multimedia character.

Since the external departmental evaluation, the Department of Audio and Visual Arts has developed a new postgraduate programme, the MA in Audiovisual Arts in the Digital Age, and participates in two interdepartmental postgraduate programs, the MA in Sonic Arts and Audio Technologies and the MA in New Technologies in Environmental Education and Sustainable Development. These programmes, along with the MAREs in Hybrid Arts, are designed to attract international students and enhance collaboration with foreign universities, addressing previously unmet needs in the field of hybrid arts.

Until recently, administrative and organizational challenges, coupled with an unsupportive regulatory framework, hindered the establishment of an international postgraduate programme. However, changes in the regulatory environment have facilitated the creation of new postgraduate programmes in English, including the MAREs in Hybrid Arts. This programme is now a central component of the Department of Audio and Visual Arts of the Ionian University's internationalization strategy, aiming to attract international students and foster collaborations with universities abroad.

The development of the MAREs in Hybrid Arts programme involved collaborations with the Academy of Fine Arts of the University of Zagreb (Croatia), the Faculty of Media and Communications of Singidunum University (Serbia), and several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including KONTEJNER (Croatia), Ectopia (Portugal), and BEAK (USA). These partners are expected to contribute to both teaching and research, enhancing the programme's academic rigor and international appeal.

II. Analysis

The MAREs in Hybrid Arts seems to be a promising progressive postgraduate programme that will fill a gap in the field of Arts. There are very few similar programmes in the US, Canada, Australia, UK, and Austria but none in Southern and Eastern Europe in Hybrid Arts. It will be conducted in English and delivered mainly through distance learning. It combines asynchronous and synchronous online education with an intensive Winter School which will be conducted in person and its duration will be one week. This hybrid model encourages global engagement, allowing students to interact with diverse cultures and ideas without geographical limitations. It offers cost-effective solutions by reducing travel and accommodation expenses, making education more accessible and environmentally friendly.

The department's quality assurance policies align with the Ionian University's overall quality strategy. The programme is committed to providing high-quality education, fostering research innovation, and enhancing graduate employability. Key quality assurance measures include rigorous academic standards and interdisciplinary learning, regular programme reviews and stakeholder feedback, continuous improvement processes to ensure the programme meets high educational standards and labour market needs, student-centred learning approaches that include periodic evaluations and mentoring, and provision of modern digital infrastructures to support education delivery.

The MAREs programme aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of hybrid arts, combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications. It fosters skills in self-discipline, time management, and independence, which are valuable in professional settings. The programme's interdisciplinary approach ensures that students are well-prepared for careers in hybrid arts, offering strong professional prospects. The programme emphasizes a student-centred approach to learning, teaching, and evaluation. It includes regular assessments of teaching methods and pedagogical practices, student evaluations of courses and instructors, and opportunities for students to engage in research and scientific writing, including high-level dissertations and artistic projects, continuous monitoring of student progress through academic advisors and the development of skills that align with social, cognitive, and creative needs. The teaching staff who will be involved in the programme are experienced specialists in their respective fields and bring a wealth of knowledge, practical expertise, and innovative teaching methods that are perfectly aligned with the academic standards and the specific requirements of the programme.

It is stated that the programme will undergo regular curriculum reviews to ensure it remains relevant and effective. The Committee of Postgraduate Studies Programme, in collaboration with the Department's Internal Evaluation and Quality Assurance Unit (OMEA), conducts annual evaluations to identify areas for improvement. Adjustments are made based on these evaluations to enhance the programme's quality and effectiveness.

The strategic vision for the MAREs in Hybrid Arts programme includes enhancing international collaborations and visibility, increasing the number of international students, and expanding the use of English as the primary language of instruction for many courses to attract more Erasmus+ students. In addition, it aims to leverage available communication methods to attract financial resources for programme implementation and ensure continuous adaptation to the latest artistic and scientific developments.

The quality assurance policies and commitments of the MAREs programme are and will be (when the programme commences) communicated through various channels, including informative meetings, email communications, online postings, public access to the quality policy on the department's website, dissemination of information during academic events, conferences, and international exhibitions.

III. Conclusions

The MAREs in Hybrid Arts is a strategic expansion of the Department of Audio and Visual Arts's postgraduate offerings, focusing on internationalization, interdisciplinary education, and the integration of modern technologies. It aims to provide students with valuable skills and knowledge, preparing them for successful careers in hybrid arts, while maintaining high standards of academic and research excellence. The programme seeks, through continuous improvement and strategic partnerships, to meet the evolving needs of the global job market and contribute to the academic and professional success of its graduates.

Panel Judgement

Principle 1: Strategy, Quality Assurance Policy and Quality Goal Setting for the New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

The MAREs in Hybrid Arts is fully compliant with Principle 1. The Department of Audio and Visual Arts and the Ionian University fully embrace quality assurance mechanisms and strategies and revise these on a regular basis. We encourage the department to continue on this trajectory of self-reflection and development.

Principle 2: Design and Approval of New 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 NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THE OBJECTIVES, THE SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC SUBJECT AND THE STREAMS OR SPECIALISATIONS, THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE SET OUT IN THE PROGRAMME DESIGN. DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW 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, the specialisations, the expected learning outcomes, the structure, the courses, the teaching and assessment modes, the teaching staff and the necessary resources 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. In particular, for each expected 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 for the 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 NQF, 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: teaching assignments per subject area and per course*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The PSP “Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts of the Ionian University” is a new programme offered by the Department of Audio and Visual Arts at the Ionian University. The proposal for its creation was approved by the University Senate in its Assembly on 3.10.2023.

The particular PSP was created and designed as a response to the University’s strategic decision toward internationalization in conjunction with the emerging need for the exploitation of the new field of Hybrid Arts.

The provided documentation in conjunction with the meetings with the Department’s stakeholders and the information displayed on the academic unit’s website signify a well-thought curriculum-development procedure.

The MAREs in Hybrid Arts, prioritizes independent study over traditional instruction, aiming to prepare emerging researchers for professional careers or further academic pursuits such as a PhD. It focuses on integrating theoretical inquiry and experimentation with cutting-edge science and emerging technologies into art practice. As stated on the Department’s website, the Programme’s stakeholders are ‘interested in gathering the most curious minds under the Ionian University spirit independently of their geographical location’. This is possible since the PSP is in English and is mostly conducted remotely.

The Programme has a unique presence both nationally in Greece and internationally. It is the only one of its kind available in Greece and the broader Mediterranean region. Comparable programmes are offered in Australia, Canada, the USA, the United Kingdom, and Austria (the sole provider in continental Europe). According to the Department’s Accreditation Proposal, the MAREs in Hybrid Arts at the Ionian University draws inspiration from these pioneering programmes and incorporates their best features and practices.

The curriculum structure is straightforward, and its content aligns well with the overarching philosophy and aims of the PSP. All the same, the curriculum structure raises some concerns (more below). The PSP corresponds to and complies fully with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 7. The degree is awarded upon completion of 60 ECTS within the period of 2 semesters (full-time). Semester 1 contains 4 compulsory courses comprising 30 ECTS; semester 2 is solely devoted to the writing of the master thesis. Currently, there is no provision for part-time study.

As stated in the Accreditation Proposal (A1), the Programme focuses on preparing artists of hybrid arts as researchers, creators, and educators, enabling them to support their work entrepreneurially and develop strategies for participating in funding platforms. The first two profiles - researchers and creators - are adequately supported in the PSP’s course outlines and bibliography; but the last one - educators - is not. If the PSP stakeholders believe that the latter should be a pillar, the course outlines and bibliographical material need to be amended accordingly.

As mentioned above, the PSP is conducted primarily online by way of the Department’s/University’s teaching platforms. However, it also plans for in-person, intense short-term residencies (low residency/winter school)

during which ongoing seminars on methods and the revision of the research proposals take place.

A MAREs programme is characterized by broadness - it is underscored by the research element, and it is open-ended. It should not be seen as analogous to the conventional subject-constraint postgraduate degrees. This reality is recognized by the Panel. Nevertheless, every curriculum needs to be projected against the backdrop of its objectives in tandem with its structure and content. Doing so raises a concern regarding the length of the PSP. The structure and content of the PSP do not give time to the students to understand the demands and the nature of the PSP. The particular concern was also raised independently by the Department's/Programme's stakeholders (social partners) during their meeting with the Panel. More specifically, certain stakeholders:

- Find it difficult to see how a postgraduate thesis can be supported by a single semester of courses
- Suggest that the programme should be at least 3 semesters long (all three PSPs mentioned as models for the particular MAREs are 4 semesters long)

Since the particular PSP hasn't run yet, it is not possible to assess the market advantage it offers to, and the employability of its graduates. Nonetheless, the Panel salutes the Department's approach to the design of the PSP's curriculum, which placed emphasis on the enhancement of the professional 'footprint' and entrepreneurial skills of future graduates. To this end, the PSP includes the course Project Sustainability, aimed at preparing students to integrate 'grant writing, project management, ethical considerations, and sustainability principles into a comprehensive artistic work or proposal'.

All members of the academic staff teaching in the PSP are Ph.D. holders who bring a wide range of expertise and are actively engaged in research and other scholarly activities as well as in creative projects. Their research orientation and interests act in support of the aims and objectives of the Department/PSP and offer a fruitful referential horizon for the students' Major Project.

II. Analysis

The documentation provided by the Department in conjunction with the information displayed on its website and gathered during the meetings with the stakeholders signifies a relatively well-thought-out and well-defined programme development procedure. The academic profile and orientation of the Programme, the research character, the scientific objectives, the specific subject areas, the specializations, the expected learning outcomes, the structure, the courses, the teaching and assessment modes, the teaching staff, and the necessary resources are described adequately at this stage.

The Department provides extensive information on its website and through written documents regarding its operations and educational experience. The PSP's Study Guide includes detailed insights into the curriculum structure, course content, learning outcomes, admission process, and teaching faculty, offering a resource that is highly beneficial, thorough, concise, and well-suited to its purpose.

However, the Panel has some concerns about the length of the PSP; as it was mentioned above, the 2-semester structure runs the risk of not preparing the students adequately to face the demands of thesis preparation and writing. The 4 courses offered in Semester 1, interesting though they may be, are understood as introductory to the subject they nurture. However, there is no follow-up with more specialized courses in Semester 2. This could potentially hinder the goals of the PSP and the expected learning outcomes.

The Department provides extensive information about its operations and educational processes both on its website and in written materials. The Student Guide includes a detailed curriculum structure and suggested pathways, proving to be highly beneficial, comprehensive, and concise, perfectly suited for its intended purpose. The PSP curriculum is meticulously aligned with the faculty's established objectives and learning outcomes, featuring well-documented and clearly communicated course outlines that are appropriate in

content.

The teaching staff, possessing a broad range of expertise and highly esteemed professional skills, effectively apply their knowledge in their respective classes.

III. Conclusions

The Panel confirms that the Department of Audio and Visual Arts at the Ionian University has adequately addressed Principle 2. However, the Panel members express concerns regarding the length of the PSP (details provided above in 'Finding' and 'Analysis'), leading to a judgment of 'Substantially Compliant'. This ruling is not intended as a criticism or to hinder the new PSP's prospects but to highlight a concern. The Panel finds the PSP MAREs in Hybrid Arts to be a pioneering, interesting, and forward-looking initiative and believes that the Programme's stakeholders are well-equipped to implement it effectively. The true value and functionality of the PSP will only become evident after a minimum period of operation. Therefore, it should commence, allowing its stakeholders to evaluate its performance and make necessary adjustments to ensure it is meaningful and true to its purpose. This process must consider the operational aspects (concerns) highlighted by the Panel.

Panel Judgement

Principle 2: Design and Approval of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	
Substantially compliant	X
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- Consider the concern about the PSP's length in relation to its aims and the learning outcomes and make appropriate adjustments along the way
- Update the PSP's course outlines and bibliographical material to support the PSP's intention to prepare educators in addition to researchers and creators

Principle 3: Regulations for 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).

The Institution should develop and publish the internal regulations prescribed by law which, among other things, should regulate all issues of postgraduate studies from the beginning to the end of the studies.

Indicatively:

- *The students' 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*

In case that the PSP is offered through distance learning methods, the Institution should have in place a regulation for e-learning, including in particular the following issues:

- *Services of the Institution to support e-learning*
- *Methodology for the development and implementation of courses*
- *Ways of providing teaching and variety of teaching and assessment modes*
- *General standard of course structure*
- *Student support system*
- *Support of faculty/teachers with mandatory e-learning training for new staff members*
- *Technological infrastructures made available by the Institution*
- *Student identity confirmation system (student identity check, assignment and exam writing process, security and certification issues).*

❖ *The Institution should establish rules for the provision of appropriate access and for the assurance of the participation of students affected by disability, illness, and other special circumstances.*

❖ *Ethical issues, such as those concerning data protection, intellectual property rights and rules for protection against fraud are governed by the e-learning regulation.*

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

Documentation

- *Internal regulation for the operation of the postgraduate study programme*

- *Special regulation for the implementation of e-learning if the PSP is delivered through distance methods*
- *Research Ethics Regulation*

- *Regulation of studies, internship, mobility, and student assignments*
- *Degree certificate template and Diploma Supplement template*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The panel considered specific documents directly related to the MAREs in Hybrid Arts such as the Internal regulation for the operation of the programme, the Special regulation for the implementation of e-learning, the Research Ethics Regulation, the Regulation of studies, internship, mobility, and student assignments as well as the Degree certificate template and Diploma Supplement template.

The "Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts" offers comprehensive support and structured mechanisms to ensure the academic and professional growth of the postgraduate students in the programme. The programme is designed to foster a robust educational environment, providing a range of services and opportunities that cater to the diverse needs of the students.

Support for postgraduate students is multi-faceted, involving both administrative and academic resources. The Secretariat plays a crucial role in managing essential tasks such as applications, timetables, and maintaining grading archives. The progression of students within the programme is monitored by the Coordinating Committee (C.C.). This committee is responsible for overseeing the programme's operations, including regular evaluations and examinations to ensure continuous monitoring of academic performance. Students must submit progress reports, attend courses and workshops, and engage actively in programme activities, which helps maintain a clear track of their academic journey. Additionally, students are encouraged to present their theses at departmental festivals and international conferences without incurring participation fees, which promotes their academic visibility and professional development. The Winter School, a mandatory component of the programme, offers intensive training and a platform for students to present their project progress, thereby enhancing their academic experience.

Student mobility is a significant focus of the programme, encouraged through the Erasmus Placement programme. This initiative allows students to undertake internships abroad, thereby gaining valuable international exposure. The programme also facilitates short-term courses requiring in-person attendance and supports research projects related to the students' theses, with supervisor approval. These mobility opportunities are instrumental in broadening the educational and professional horizons of the students. Practical training is facilitated through the Erasmus Placement programme, which provides internship opportunities. While the document does not specify a network with social, cultural, or productive bodies, the interdisciplinary and applied nature of the programme implies strong connections with various sectors. These practical training opportunities are deemed valuable as they allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world settings, thereby developing specific skills relevant to their field.

Research ethics are a cornerstone of the programme, with regulations aligned with the principles and operations of the Research Ethics and Ethics Committee of the Ionian University. This includes mandatory applications for research permissions and adherence to guidelines preventing plagiarism, ensuring the integrity and ethical conduct of research at the postgraduate level. Moreover, the Diploma Supplement is issued automatically in both Greek and English, providing detailed information about the programme, the nature of the degree, and the graduate's academic achievements.

II. Analysis

In the selection criteria for the programme, 35% of the evaluation constitutes the Research Project Proposal that the students submit. However, there are at the moment no specific guidelines in terms of structure, content, length, etc, which would be very helpful for the candidates.

In regard to the application of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) across the curriculum, each semester is worth 30 ECTS, with the first semester dedicated to coursework and the second semester to the thesis project, making a total of 60 ECTS for the entire programme. The panel expresses concerns about the duration of the programme, specifically considering that one semester for the thesis project might not be enough for students to complete both artistic work as well as a written thesis.

Quality requirements for the implementation of the Master's thesis are clearly defined. The programme stipulates guidelines for the preparation, supervision, and evaluation of the thesis. Students are required to submit an original research project proposal that demonstrates a clear research-artistic orientation. Detailed regulations regarding the structure, extent, and evaluation of the thesis ensure adherence to high academic standards. However, there is no explicit mention of a Thesis Handbook, which would be considered very helpful for students.

III. Conclusions

In summary, the "Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts" at the Ionian University is a well-structured and supportive programme designed to promote the academic and professional development of its students. The panel believes that the programme is well-positioned to achieve its educational objectives and produce highly skilled graduates in the field of Hybrid Arts

To further enhance the programme, the panel suggests the development of a comprehensive Thesis Handbook to provide detailed guidance on thesis preparation and assist students throughout the process. In addition, the panel recommends the preparation of a set of guidelines to support candidates in preparing a competitive research project proposal.

Moreover, it is suggested to consider giving the option for students to complete the degree in an extended period, if needed, without further financial cost.

Finally, the panel would also underline the need for the faculty to be trained on how to most effectively utilize the possibilities of distance learning teaching and for the students to become familiar with the platform that will be used.

Panel Judgement

Principle 3: Regulations for Student Admission, Progression, Recognition of Postgraduate Studies, and certification	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- It would be very helpful for candidates if specific guidelines are prepared, to help them write competitive research project proposals to include in their application.
- Consider developing a comprehensive Thesis Handbook to guide students through thesis preparation.
- Consider allowing students to complete their degrees over an extended period without additional financial cost.
- The panel suggests that actions are taken in order to train faculty in effective distance learning teaching methods and ensure students are familiar with the online platform.

Principle 4: Teaching Staff of New 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 and scientific competence of the teaching staff at the PSP, the appropriate staff-student ratio, the proper staff categories, the appropriate subject areas, the fair and objective recruitment process, the high research performance, the training, 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, policy for attracting highly qualified staff, and PSP Obligation Regulation*
- *List of the intended for recruitment teaching staff including subject areas, employment relationship, Institution of origin, Department of origin and relevant individual achievements*

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

Noting that the Mares "Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts" postgraduate programme has not yet been implemented, in the Department of Audio and Visual Arts there are already seven lecturers (5 faculty, 1 member of the EEP, and 1 member of the EDIP) whose knowledge objects are directly linked to the courses that include the different parameters or dimensions of hybrid arts studies with a focus on research based on the practical creation and sustainability of the development process of an artistic work.

In addition, Mares seeks to offer its students more specialized knowledge in the fields of Bioart and Museum Ethics and therefore has hired external lecturers for some lectures in various courses. These teachers will form the basis of the teaching structure of the Programme.

As evidenced by the type of postgraduate MAREs the emphasis is on research. The research-artistic work of the teaching staff is recognized in the academic community. MAREs aims to utilize the interdisciplinary and specialized artistic research experience of the teaching staff to acquaint students with contemporary scientific and artistic trends and developments and cutting-edge issues in the research field of hybrid arts, as well as with the participation of students in research groups and research programmes of the teaching staff. As part of the annual internal evaluation, the OMEA of the Department monitors, on an annual basis, the observance of the obligations of its members, the performance of its members, discusses any issues

identified, and sets goals such as participation in conferences, the number, and quality of faculty members' publications, as well as systematic or repeated complaints made by students through the complaints mechanism.

The complete exploitation of the financial possibilities provided by the exchange and hosting programmes of academics and artists offers additional opportunities for training in topics surrounding the hybrid arts. An important feature of the Programme is the evaluation by the students and the feedback of the teaching staff. The evaluation questionnaires are the standard forms prepared by MODIP IP, adapted to the English language. The responsibility for conducting the assessment for the period of study at the IP rests with the Internal Assessment Team (IAT), of the Audio and Visual Arts Department of the IP.

II. Analysis

The EEAP affirms that the Department/PSP upholds notably high standards for its teaching staff. All current faculty members are highly qualified professionals with significant contributions to their academic fields. Additionally, the Programme promotes faculty development opportunities, encourages scholarly research activities, and supports the development and use of new technologies. Concurrently, the Department consistently applies quality assurance processes for all its teaching staff concerning recruitment, qualifications, evaluations, and overall scientific and artistic competence.

It should be noted that the proposed ratio of 1 teaching staff member per 2 students is considered sufficient for the proper functioning of the Programme and constitutes additional proof of the Department's student-centred approach.

III. Conclusions

The EEAP concludes that the PSP fully complies with this principle. We encourage the Programme to maintain its commitment to excellence regarding the quality standards of its teaching staff.

Panel Judgement

Principle 4: Teaching Staff of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

- Develop interdisciplinarity in the taught courses of the first semester. This was discussed during the Panel's meeting with the Programme's instructors who underscored the necessity of such an approach
- It is useful and it has been foreseen, in the courses of the first semester, to take into account the projects of the final diploma thesis, so that the teaching of the courses becomes more understandable and useful.

Principle 5: Learning Resources and Student Support

INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO COVER THE TEACHING AND LEARNING NEEDS OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES. THEY SHOULD -ON THE ONE HAND- PROVIDE SATISFACTORY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR LEARNING 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 and foreign students, students with disabilities), in addition to the shift towards student-centered 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 Department of Audio and Visual Arts at Ionian University boasts a variety of specialized facilities. Located in three renovated historical buildings in Corfu's old town, the department includes faculty and staff offices, classrooms, and labs for interactive arts and computers. It features a darkroom-equipped photography lab, sound and video studios, and storage and workshop spaces for sculpture. Shared university facilities encompass large lecture halls and a central event hall used for theatrical rehearsals and performances. Additionally, there are provisions for teleconferencing and a secretariat office for administrative support.

The Ionian University Library and Information Centre offers extensive resources and services for both on-campus and online students (<https://library.ionio.gr/en/>). It provides access to a vast collection of books, journals, and digital resources, including databases like JSTOR and Westlaw. Facilities include study areas, research support, interlibrary loans, bibliometric services, and support for people with disabilities. Online students benefit from remote access to

digital collections, online research support, virtual reference services, and participation in online workshops and seminars to enhance their research skills.

The MAREs website at Ionian University (<https://avarts.ionio.gr/mares/>) offers information about the Master of Research in Hybrid Arts programme. It includes sections on the programme overview, e-study guide, courses, teaching staff, admission procedures, academic calendar, news updates, and regulations. The website also provides contact information and details on available student services.

The Academic Advisor Regulation at Ionian University details the framework for academic advising within the institution. Advisors, appointed annually, are tasked with supporting students in their academic and professional development. They are expected to meet with students regularly, offer guidance, and maintain confidentiality. Advisors work alongside faculty and staff to address student concerns and can provide non-binding advice. Their appointment is mandatory, and the list of all Academic Advisors is posted on the University website. Students also have the option to request a change of advisor under specific circumstances by contacting the Department Secretariat.

The Student Support Unit at Ionian University (<https://studentsupport.ionio.gr/>) offers a range of counselling, support, and psychotherapy services for students. This includes individual and group counselling sessions, workshops on time management and stress relief techniques, and support during exam periods. The unit also coordinates volunteer programmes like the "buddy-system" for students with disabilities and organizes events to raise awareness about various issues. Students can participate in these services both in-person and online, ensuring comprehensive support regardless of their location.

The University Gym at Ionian University provides a range of sports activities to boost students' fitness and well-being. Facilities include track and field, basketball, volleyball, handball, soccer, aerobics, tango, and chess.

At this moment, the administrative team of the University consists of one secretary, one administrative staff member, and one research assistant. In the medium term (and after the completion of the certification), the PSP will seek to acquire full or partial dedicated secretarial support, which is deemed sufficient for the smooth operation of the programme.

The tuition plan outlines an annual revenue of up to €60,000, split between €30,000 from tuition and €30,000 from other sources, mainly internationalization programmes. Tuition is €1,000 per semester (€2,000 annually per student), with 18 students expected from the second year, including three on scholarships. Budget allocation includes 30% for teaching staff, 20% for administrative support, 10% for travel expenses for the Winter School in Corfu, and 10% for educational resources. The first year has no students expected, due to programme preparation. Additionally, the Programme has been accepted for funding by the project "supporting internationalization actions of Higher Education" – for the IP – and consequently, some initial expenses for the first period (infrastructure, secretarial support, creation and maintenance of the website) will be covered by this project.

II. Analysis

The Department of Audio and Visual Arts at Ionian University offers excellent facilities and extensive resources, including specialized labs, studios, and library services for both on-campus and online students. With strong academic advising, robust student support services, and well-managed financial planning, the "Master of Research (MAREs) in Hybrid Arts" programme ensures students will receive the support and resources they need for high-quality postgraduate studies.

III. Conclusions

Having considered the above, the Panel is happy to affirm that the PSP 'MARes in Hybrid Arts fully complies with Principle 5.

Panel Judgement

Principle 5: Learning Resources and Student Support	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendation

The "Master of Research (MARes) in Hybrid Arts" of the Department of Audio and Visual Arts at Ionian University is well-equipped and offers extensive resources that support a rich academic and artistic environment. By focusing on expanding digital resources, strengthening alumni networks, increasing international collaborations, implementing feedback mechanisms, and promoting research and innovation, the Programme can continue to provide exceptional educational experiences and meet the evolving needs of its students.

Principle 6: Initial Internal and External Evaluation and Monitoring of New Postgraduate Study Programmes

INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIC UNITS SHOULD HAVE IN PLACE AN INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM, FOR THE AUDIT, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE NEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES, THUS ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PRESENT STANDARDS. ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE ABOVE CONTEXT SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

The internal evaluation of the new PSP includes the assessment of the accreditation proposal, as well as the documentation in accordance with the Principles of the present Standards and the quality procedures of the Institution's Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS). The internal evaluation of new postgraduate study programmes also aims at maintaining the level of educational provision and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students. The Institution, through its Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) and the corresponding academic units, organise and support the external evaluation procedures of the new PSP, according to the specific guidelines and directions provided by HAHE.

The above comprise the assessment of:

the objectives, content, and structure of the curriculum, the knowledge offered and the level of science and technology in the given discipline, thus ensuring that the PSP is up to date, according to the relevant documentation listed in the decisions of the pertinent bodies

the entailed students' workload for the progression and completion of postgraduate studies

the satisfaction of the students' expectations and needs in relation to the programme

the learning environment, support services, and their fitness for purpose for the PSP in question

Postgraduate study programmes are designed and established in accordance with the provisions of the Institution's internal regulations, involving students and other stakeholders.

Documentation

The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) procedure for verifying whether the requirements of the Standards for Quality Accreditation of New PSP are met, as well as the procedure for organising and supporting their external evaluation procedures

Assessment and feedback mechanisms of the PSP strategy and quality targeting, and relevant decision-making processes (students, external stakeholders)

Study Programme Compliance

I. Findings

The MAREs postgraduate programme has not yet been launched. As a consequence, no internal and external evaluation has been done.

the MODIP of the Ionian University applies - within the framework of its jurisdiction the provisions of the Legislation, following the directions of the ETHAAE, according to which a PMS must first undergo an initial Certification, in order to be able to start its operation.

The Certification file of the new Master's Programme is checked for completeness by ETHAAE and then the External Evaluation and Certification Inspection is planned.

MODIP supports the programmes under evaluation from the beginning of the process.

The Department of Audio and Visual Arts has, in turn, an organized Internal Evaluation Team (OM.E.A.). The Internal Assessment Team (IAA) which is responsible for the internal evaluation of the study programmes and the preparation of the external evaluations is also responsible for the evaluation of the Programme, in collaboration with the latter's Curriculum Committee.

In addition, to ensure the quality development of its master's programmes, the Department follows a policy that actively involves students, regularly asking for their evaluation/feedback and incorporating their comments in the redesign of the PMS. This objective of the quality policy is also applied to the specific programme.

Especially for the specific programme, after the end of each evaluation period and after the announcement of the grades of the semester's courses, the Study Programme Committee studies the results of the evaluation, announces the conclusions drawn, and decides on the publication of the summary results of the evaluation, when is deemed necessary in accordance with the current Legislation for the protection of Personal Data, and undertakes actions to deal with any problems. The results of the evaluation are also examined by the OMEA of the Department and by the MODIP of the Foundation. Thanks to the evaluation of the courses and the teachers, it becomes possible to identify in time any weaknesses in the execution of the educational project.

II. Analysis

For the external evaluation of ETHAEE we relied on the presentations, discussions, and findings of both the designers of the Master's Programme and the administrative staff.

All the evidence shows that the implicated teaching and administrative stakeholders of the Ionian University and MAREs have fully understood and harmonized with the legislation on evaluations and are ready, once the degree is operational, to follow the prescribed steps for successful supervision of the Programme and the proper evaluation of it.

III. Conclusions

The Panel acknowledges that the PSP MAREs in Hybrid Arts, Ionian University is fully compliant with the requirements of Principle 6.

Panel Judgement

Principle 6: Initial Internal and External Evaluation and Monitoring of New Postgraduate Study Programmes	
Fully compliant	X
Substantially compliant	
Partially compliant	
Non-compliant	

Panel Recommendations

It is necessary to observe the legal procedure for supervision and evaluation of the new PSP when it will start being offered.

PART C: CONCLUSIONS

I. Features of Good Practice

- The teaching faculty is enthusiastic and governed by a collaborative spirit
- The teaching staff possess commendable academic credentials and are actively engaged in various capacities within the broad academic community of the hybrid arts field
- The Department constantly pursues new avenues of improvement via pioneering ideas leading to new programs and research horizons
- There is a successful system for the selection of postgraduate students that will pursue the proposed programme
- The low cost of tuition compared to most postgraduate programmes offered in Greece and abroad
- The Department of Audio and Visual Arts invests in student-centred learning
- The Ionian University and Department of Audio and Visual Arts embrace a strategic vision to evolve, expand, and internationalize to keep contextualize their teaching and research endeavours within the most current global academic/scholarly developments

II. Areas of Weakness

- The length of the Programme Curriculum presents risks regarding learning outcomes and the employability of the graduating students
- The lack of a comprehensive Thesis Handbook to guide students through thesis preparation
- There is no provision that allows students to complete their degrees over an extended period
- Lack of a comprehensive Thesis Guidebook

III. Recommendations for Follow-up Actions

- Once the Programme starts running, consider its length in relation to the learning outcomes and the challenges it presents to the students
- It is necessary to observe the legal procedure for the supervision and evaluation of the PSP when it starts operating
- Consider creating guidelines to help candidates prepare competitive research project proposals
- Develop a comprehensive Thesis Handbook to guide students through thesis preparation
- Consider allowing students to complete their degrees over an extended period without additional financial cost
- Ensure that the faculty is trained in effective distance learning teaching methods and that students become familiar with the online platform
- Ensure that the stated pedagogical perspective of the Programme is evident through the learning outcomes and their content as these are described in the course outlines of the various courses
- Update and enrich the bibliography of the course outlines with more recent sources

IV. Summary & Overall Assessment

The Principles where full compliance has been achieved are: **1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.**

The Principles where substantial compliance has been achieved are: **2.**

The Principles where partial compliance has been achieved are:

None.

The Principles where failure of compliance was identified are:

None.

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

The members of the External Evaluation & Accreditation Panel

Name and Surname

Signature

- 1. Prof. Vasilis Kallis (Chair)**
University of Nicosia, CYPRUS

- 2. Prof. Natassa Economidou Stavrou**
University of Nicosia, CYPRUS

- 3. Panagiotis Fafoutis**
Film Director, Cinematographer, Patra's Drama School

- 4. Ellie Chlorou-Konsta**
University of Peloponnese