

## **B.2 Policy for the quality assurance of the Department of Sociology**

The Department of Sociology was founded in 1984 and constitutes the first Department of Sociology in the country. Aiming at the systematic study of the society, the social behavior, the social institutions, the process for the building and the change of the structure of human society, the problems and the social phenomena, it contributes to the development of knowledge and fundamental research in theoretical, methodological and practical level. Both the historical development of the Department and the challenges for its future, reflect the substantial contribution of the Department of Sociology in the social life and its impact on the public policies of the country.

The Department's strategy is based on the feedback from the new scientific trends and the public policies concerning the study of the social phenomena. Towards this direction, the Department's extroversion, and its connection with the bodies of the broader public sector and the civil society, which enhance the absorption of graduates and effectively link the Department with the society, are implemented with the signing of protocols of cooperation.

**We declare** that the *policy for the quality* of the Department of Sociology falls within and relates directly to the strategy for the quality assurance of the institution.

The basic lines of the quality policy are the following:

- the provision of high-level knowledge to our students,
- the research development through the operation of the Laboratories and the Research Centers of the Department and the active participation of our students,
- the internationalization and the extroversion of the Department through the development of international synergies and protocols of cooperation,
- the enhancement of the cooperation regarding research and absorption in the labour market,
- the harmonization of the Department's operation with national legislation for the undertaking of all the initiatives and obligations for the quality assurance (Internal Evaluation Team (OMEA), Quality Assurance Unit of the University (ΜΟΔΙΠ), The Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency of Higher Education (ΑΔΙΠ/ΕΘΑΑΕ).

The Department of Sociology follows the relevant legislation for quality assurance in Higher Education and the guidelines of the Quality Assurance Unit of the University, which constitutes the central coordinating body for the processes of the quality assurance and evaluation of the institution.

The basic principles and values for the policy for the Department's quality accreditation are the following:

- the progress of science and the transmission of knowledge,
- the academic liberty and the broader institutional framework of the Higher Education according to the Constitution and the Laws,
- the meritocracy and the equal treatment,
- the respect for the agents of the education process and the collective bodies,
- the development of excellence and innovation,
- the general social contribution.

The Internal Evaluation Team (OMEA) of the Department is designated annually by decision of the General Assembly of the Department and throughout the academic year, collects all the necessary elements for the evaluation, monitors the completion of the evaluation questionnaires by the students, informs the members of the Assembly for the evaluation processes, prepares the annual evaluation report to the Quality Assurance Unit of the University (ΜΟΔΙΠ) and in general, supervises and monitors all the necessary actions for the internal and external evaluation of the Department. Furthermore, the Internal Evaluation Team (OMEA) of the Department takes the necessary steps in order for the recommendations of the Department's external evaluation from the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency of Higher Education (ΑΔΙΠ/ΕΘΑΑΕ), to be fulfilled.

The policy for the quality of the Department aims at:

- the sufficient and effective education of our students,
- the development of the necessary link with the labour market and the substantial fulfillment of their professional rights, also through the objective of the broad range of the sociologists' professional rights, according to the P.D. 199Α'/2009.
- the enhancement of the validity and the recognition of the diplomas of the Department, also through the update of the sociologists' professional rights and the renewal and update of the Undergraduate Program of Studies of the Department that took place in the academic year 2016-17.
- the improvement of the Department's operation, through the continuous training of the employees who participate in Erasmus exchange programs and the care for the continuous upgrading of the administrative procedures and the provided services with a student-centered focus.

The dissemination and the publication of the academic actions which ensure the quality of the Department's studies, its link with the society and the labour market, are implemented through their publication in the site of the Department and the University, their announcement in many national and international conferences and other scientific events and research actions and synergies that are organized by the Faculty Members and the Laboratories and the Department's Research Centers in cooperation with other Universities of the country and scientific bodies. The undergraduate students of the Department are actively engaged in the organization of such events.