

Quality Assurance Policy

of the

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development
of the School of Applied Economics & Social Sciences of the
Agricultural University of Athens (AUA)

The primary mission of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development (AOA) of the Agricultural University of Athens is to train scientists specialized in research and in tackling issues regarding the economic, social, political and environmental dimensions of sustainable rural development both within the framework of European Integration and the adjustment requirements of the Greek agri-food system to the global market of agricultural products and services.

The Quality Assurance Policy of the Department of AE&RD is shaped based both on its mission and the professional rights that have been granted to its graduates. Moreover, the Department's Quality Assurance Policy aligns completely with the Quality Assurance Policy of the Agricultural University of Athens in the framework of the continuous assurance of high quality educational, scientific, research and administrative work, all identified by the international academic standards and especially those of the European Higher Education Area and in compliance with the Principles and guidelines of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE).

The Agricultural Economics and Rural Development Department seeks, through its compliance with the Quality Assurance Policy, to achieve the following objectives:

- Improvement of the quality of academic teaching by applying contemporary teaching and assessment methods.
- Improvement of the Curriculum and linking it both to research and the labor market by its comparative evaluation with similar domestic and foreign Undergraduate programs and by implementing a standard periodic reform procedure.

- Provide training that enables graduates to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities that allow them to effectively meet domestic and international labor market requirements.
- Production of high-quality research, enhancement of strategic partnerships and interdisciplinarity as well as utilization and dissemination of research results.
- Better utilization and development of human resources and the attraction of highly qualified academic staff.
- Improving facilities and infrastructure for better learning quality, with the aim of reducing drop outs.
- Improving student care and learning support services, for the purpose of timely and successful completion of course requirements.
- Immediate and valid disclosure of information to the interested parties by any appropriate digital or non-digital mean.
- Periodic evaluation of the work performed by the Department according to the Evaluation standards, the support of the Quality Assurance Unit-MODIP of the AUA and the criteria specified by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE).
- Focus on excellence, innovation and entrepreneurship by strengthening synergies with higher educational institutions, organizations and agencies in the public and private sector.

In order for the Department to achieve the objectives mentioned above, it implements specific evaluation procedures of its work, systematically collects valid and reliable information, takes into account the good practices of other Academic Departments and bases its actions on standards and quality indicators. The policy of the Department is also based on the principle of collectiveness, alongside with the cultivation of individual responsibility and academic freedom.

Quality Assurance Procedures of the AE&RD Department are subject to the coordination of the Department's OMEA Committee (Internal Evaluation Team) in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP) of the Agricultural University of Athens. All studies and evaluations are being discussed amongst the members of

the General Assembly of the Department, who make specific decisions regarding actions that should be taken for the continuous monitoring and improvement of the produced work.