

1. General Observations

The documents that had been provided gave a clear and coherent picture of the general aims, objectives and structure of the Department and the ways and means of achieving them. The Department of Statistics is dynamic and well organized and is capable of preparing students with the skills and expertise needed in statistical jobs.

The subjects covered and the credit requirements for getting the degrees are comparable to those in the better institutions in Europe and the US. The three categories of courses, compulsory, compulsory under elective and elective, provide the students with a broadly based education and make them aware of the role of statistics in the study of and research in the social and natural sciences.

One can fairly state that - within an international perspective - the *quality* of the undergraduate and graduate programmes is high and up-to-date. The designers have attempted to follow recent trends in teaching and research on topics relevant to the education in economics and business. That there is some overweight in statistical topics, is natural and beneficial given the leadership available at the Department. It is pleasing to see that sound and solid applied areas such as operational research, quality control and financial mathematics, are not forgotten but dealt with in careful detail.

The Department's survey concerning the fate of its graduates in the *job-market* is as commendable as it is essential; it indicates the flexibility and the readiness of the Department to adapt to market-demands. It is also positive that data on the completion rates and the performance of the students of the Department are publicly available.

Special mention should be made of the smooth understanding among the members of staff and the excellent relationship among staff and students. Also commendable is the fact that faculty rotates in the teaching of courses, a practice not often found at Greek Universities.

The Review Team especially appreciates the fact that the Department has established well-structured *evaluation procedures*. At the student level student questionnaires are completed every semester; at the faculty level the end of every semester marks the submission of a first report containing all the relevant academic activities and a second with the detailed plans for the upcoming semester.

The adoption of the notion of *European Credit Transfer System* (ECTS) brings the Department into line with other European Universities and makes the extensive cooperation of the Department with these Universities meaningful and easy. As a result, the Department can integrate itself easily into the forthcoming European higher education system, once such a system is established.

Further support for its *European level standing* is provided by the fact that the Department of Statistics at AUEB forged links with some of the best statistics Departments in European Universities. This excellent interaction with overseas

universities is noticed with great satisfaction by the Review Team. Particularly important is the imbedding of parts of the AUEB Master's Programme into Socrates exchange programmes with Universities within the European Union. The large number of Statistics students from AUEB that has already taken part in the programme is truly remarkable.

The Review Team wants to commend the *leadership* and the *management style* of the Head of the Department. During the visit it became very clear that the members of staff and the students do not have the feeling of being coerced or bullied into an unwanted way of working. Rather, the team got the impression that the Head has gained the trust and co-operation of all parties involved by leadership based on competence, quality assurance, persuasion and debate.