



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

16 February, 2023

**Inclusion of joint undergraduate study programmes of the European Universities
Networks in the National Qualifications Framework**

The Department of Higher Education of the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth announces that, following a relevant Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 26/1/2023, the National Qualifications Framework is amended in order to include joint study programmes offered by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Cyprus which have succeeded in becoming full members of the European University Networks.

This Decision is firstly based on the government's policy to strengthen the European Commission's initiative of the European University Networks and, secondly on the commitment of the member states of the European Higher Education Area to offer joint study programmes by the cooperating HEIs. Therefore, the HEIs of Cyprus that participate as full members in the European Universities Networks, are now allowed to offer joint study programmes at the undergraduate level (Level 6), of a three-year duration and a minimal load of 180 ECTS.

In light of the above, the National Qualifications Framework, as regards Level 6 (p. 81 of the Referencing Report), is amended as follows:

«CyQF Level 6 is developed to comply with the requirements of the Bologna Framework for the discrete distinction of the three cycles. Level 6 is EQF, EHEA/QF and similarly CyQF constitutes the level for the First Cycle (First Degree or Bachelor's degree). In Cyprus, the First Cycle degree (Ptychio) is awarded:

- i. in all institutions, public and private, after the completion of a 4-year (8 semesters) program of study. Each year carries a minimal load of 60 ECTS and as a result the First Cycle degree carries a load of at least 240 ECTS»,*
- ii. in all institutions, public and private, that are members of the European Universities Alliances, after the completion of a 3-year (6 semesters) joint program of study that is offered only under the framework of the Alliance. Each year carries a minimal load of 60 ECTS and as a result the First Cycle joint degree carries a load of at least 180 ECTS».*