



# ACTION PLAN

## FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF 2030

### Principles and Positions

## ABSTRACT: UNIVERSITY: THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

It is common knowledge that Greek public universities find it difficult to keep abreast of modern developments and to respond to their tasks effectively. Given this, and despite significant exceptions, it would not be inappropriate to characterise their performance as unsatisfactory. Of course, this assessment does not apply to the level of qualifications of all scientific staff nor, more importantly, to the overall quality of the teaching and research work. This document puts forward a number of concrete and feasible proposals, which aim to help universities improve their performance, so that they are able to meet the challenges of our times and the needs of society. These proposals are based on the three pillars of *efficiency*, *autonomy* and *accountability*.

Greek universities should become more *effective* because the country's future development and the well-being of the generations to come depend on their performance. Increasing their degree of *autonomy* will allow their comparative advantages to be immediately maximised in a flexible manner. Universities are distinct entities with specific characteristics and should not be subject to uniform, centralised and Procrustean planning. Finally, *accountability* will lead to rewarding successes, correcting failures and maximising the benefits that universities provide to their users, as well as to controlling the use made of the public funds allocated to them. Evaluation is the instrument that links autonomy with accountability, giving it real content. Without accountability, autonomy may lead to arbitrariness, while without autonomy, accountability is nothing more than a bureaucratic surveillance tool of little actual value.

