



UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALY

EQUAL ACCESS PLAN



March 2024

EQUAL ACCESS PLAN
for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Special Educational Needs
of the University of Thessaly

Article 1
General Provisions

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 226 of Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette A' 141/21-07-2022), the "Equal Access Plan for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Special Educational Needs" establishes the obligation to create and implement such a Plan. Specifically:

"Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) shall implement all necessary measures to ensure equal access to higher education for teaching, administrative and other staff, students, and third parties/visitors with disabilities and special educational needs. To this end, HEIs shall prepare and implement an Equal Access Plan for persons with disabilities and persons with special educational needs in higher education, which shall include measures in particular for: (a) physical accessibility of spaces and buildings; (b) access to the educational process and other educational activities; (c) electronic accessibility; (d) support for integration into the labour market; (e) equal participation in academic life as a whole."

The Equal Access Plan of the University of Thessaly for persons with disabilities and special educational needs proposes a set of measures aimed at enhancing access in the following domains: (a) physical accessibility of spaces and buildings, (b) access to the educational process and other educational activities, (c) electronic accessibility, (d) support for integration into the labour market, (e) equal participation in academic life as a whole.

This Equal Access Plan of the University of Thessaly was prepared by the University's Equal Access Committee for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Special Educational Needs, established under Article 220 of Law 4957/2022, as amended, and constituted by Rector's Decision No. 23301/22/ΓΠ/19-10-2022 (ADA: Ψ0EO469B7Ξ-M9X).

The composition of the Committee is as follows:

1. **Irini Valasi**, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Medicine
2. **Dimitrios Kokaridas**, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science
3. **Thomas Besios**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiotherapy
4. **Magdalini Nikolarazi**, Associate Professor, Department of Special Education
5. **Markos Sgantzos**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
6. **Georgios Papaioannou**, Head of Technical Services
7. **Emilia Pylarinou**, PhD Candidate, Department of Special Education
8. **Head of the Teaching and Learning Support Centre (Ioannis Anagnostopoulos**, Professor, Department of Computer Science with Applications in Biomedicine, Vice-Rector for Academic and Administrative Affairs, University of Thessaly)
9. **Head of the Equal Access Unit for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Special Educational Needs** (position not yet appointed at the University of Thessaly).

Article 2

Physical Accessibility of University Spaces and Buildings

- Audit of accessibility of existing spaces and buildings of the University of Thessaly for persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Identification of access requirements for existing spaces and buildings of the University of Thessaly for persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Adaptations in existing spaces and buildings of the University of Thessaly to ensure access for persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Implementation of accessibility standards in new buildings and new facilities of the University of Thessaly.
- Support for mobility of persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs within the premises of the University of Thessaly.
- Cooperation with local authorities regarding accessibility and connectivity of surrounding urban environments with the University of Thessaly.

Article 3

Access to the Educational Process and Other Educational Activities

- Identification of accessibility needs of students of the University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Design and implementation of adaptations in teaching materials, courses, examinations and the educational process to remove barriers for the students of University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Implementation of volunteer programs to support the access of the students of University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs to education.
- Training and awareness-raising activities on accessibility for the university community of the University of Thessaly.
- Outreach activities in collaboration with secondary education institutions concerning persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs..

Article 4

Electronic Accessibility

- Identification of electronic accessibility needs of the community of the University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Audit of accessibility of electronic services and applications of the University of Thessaly for persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Implementation of accessibility standards in website design and content.
- Application of accessibility rules in electronic services, tools, and applications of the University of Thessaly.
- Provision of assistive technologies to members of the University of Thessaly community with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Support for users with disabilities and/or special educational needs in accessing digital services, applications, and websites of the University of Thessaly.

Article 5

Integration into the Labour Market

- Guidance and information for members of the community of the University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs on postgraduate programmes.
- Guidance and information for members of the community of the University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs on labour market opportunities.
- Counselling and training programmes for members of the community of the University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs to support labour market integration.
- Collaboration with organisations and institutions for employability support for students of the University of Thessaly with disabilities and/or special educational needs.

Article 6

Equal Participation in Academic Life

- Assessment of needs and barriers, concerning the participation of persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs in all aspects of University of Thessaly's life.
- Actions to enhance spatial, learning and digital accessibility Thessaly for persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs .
- Ensuring access to information and content of all the services of the University of Thessaly.
- Provision of accessible services for persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs.
- Participation in public consultations on accessibility matters.
- Awareness-raising actions for the community of the University of Thessaly, regarding disabilities and accessibility.
- Update of the Internal Operating Regulations with necessary measures to support access and participation of persons with disabilities and/or special educational needs in education, evaluation and services of the University of Thessaly, pursuant to Article 223 of Law 4957/2022.