

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the largest university in Greece. The main campus is located in the centre of the city of Thessaloniki and covers an area of about 33.4 hectares. It comprises 10 faculties which consist of 40 schools and 1 single-School Faculty. About 77.198 students study at the Aristotle University, in undergraduate programmes and 6.588 in postgraduate programmes. There are also 3.952 at Doctoral level. There are 1.682 faculty members. There are also 311 members of the Special Laboratory Teaching Personnel (S.L.T.P.). Faculty members are also assisted by 144 members of the Special Technical Laboratory Personnel (S.T.L.P.). Aristotle University has a strong commitment in research and getting EU funding. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki conducts research projects, participates in European research programmes and projects, cooperates with international institutions and organizations, and attracts outstanding researchers from within Greece and abroad. The Aristotle University supports research projects in a wide variety of disciplines related to the environment (natural and built), computing, new technologies and nanotechnology, telecommunications, industrial technologies, transport, biotechnology, biomedicine and health, agriculture, forestry and fishery, education and language, history and archaeology, social studies and economics. The research policy of the Aristotle University focuses on: promoting quality, and encouraging excellence. More specifically, AUTH operates in accordance with the 679/96 Joint Ministerial Decision on the establishment of a “Special Account for Research Grants” (S.A.R.G.) for funding research projects conducted in Greek Higher Education Institutions and Higher Technological Education Institutions, and in compliance with national and European legislation. “Special Account for Research Grants” is responsible for the financial management of research projects and activities carried out at the university. The aim of the Special Account is to distribute and manage funds which cover any kind of expenditure and are necessary for research, educational training, and technological development. The Special Account also concerns funds for continuing education projects, projects for the provision of scientific, technological and artistic services, for studies, the implementation of tests, measurement, laboratory tests and analyses, for the provision of expert opinions, the drawing up of specifications, as well as other related services or activities that contribute to linking research and education with industrial production, and are provided or carried out by the research personnel of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in collaboration with the academic staff of other institutions. The Research Committee is responsible for managing research projects and related activities, covering current emerging needs, distributing external funds, and safeguarding the distinction between research and teaching.

The scientific team of the project belongs to the School of Civil Engineering and partly to the faculty of Law. The School of Civil Engineering was founded in October 1955. The School of

Civil Engineering was the first School of the Faculty of Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 1982, it was granted its autonomous status, offering degrees in civil engineering. The School aims to provide students with a firm grounding in civil engineering, as well as cultivate a sense of social awareness in all its members, teaching staff and students, based on democratic values, the freedom of ideas and the freedom of expression. Moreover, its main objective is to promote civil engineering and its importance through developmental research programmes and contribute to the multidimensional growth of Greece as a whole. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has implemented projects under most of the former Erasmus programmes, former framework (FP7) and Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue programmes as well as many European Territorial Cooperations.

Involvement and participation within ODLEP research project

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the project coordinator. ODLEP project includes four work packages. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has been fully committed to the project and is involved in all the tasks of the ODLEP project. Regarding the first work package which is the “Project Management”, Aristotle University has a major role.

As far as the second work package is concerned, identifying and recording characteristics of the educators and expectations and preferences of students in regard to online education, AUTH in collaboration with UoI will develop two types of questionnaires, one for educators and one for students. Feedback will be provided by all partners. AUTH in collaboration with UoM and LBUS will perform the analysis of the results. All the other partners will provide feedback and different perspectives.

Within the third work package AUTH is participating in activities 3.2 and 3.3 focusing on the mathematical model and platform development correspondingly.

Work package four requires from AUTH to assign at least one course to be conducted through the ODLEP platform/approach and gather feedback from students and instructors. Along with the other partners AUTH will be identifying and recording best practices.