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Dear Selection Committee,

May 11, 2025

From an early age, I dreamed of becoming a researcher—driven by a fascination with knowledge and inspired by the Ancient Greek ideal of the *panepistimon*, the pursuit of understanding across all domains of science. This vision guided my academic path through studies in Physics and later in Biomedical Engineering, where I began engaging in small-scale research projects focused on rehabilitation and biosignals. These formative experiences soon shaped a deeper ambition: to contribute to multidisciplinary, impactful research at the international level—projects that respond to real-world needs and support the public good through innovation and digital transformation.

This ambition has taken shape in my role as a Researcher and Innovation Project Manager at Future Needs, where I contribute to EU-funded projects focused on healthcare innovation and digital services. In the ENTRUST project, I lead the Data Management Plan, support compliance frameworks, and contribute to the analysis of legal and ethical aspects in connected medical devices. In AI4LUNGS, I work across several work packages, focusing on the usability, cost-effectiveness, and societal value of AI-enabled respiratory care. I am also involved in health technology assessment and ensuring adherence to ethical and regulatory standards. In collaboration with the Business Research Unit at ISCTE, I contribute to Horizon and Erasmus+ projects such as IMAFUSA and REFMAP, addressing urban air mobility (UAM) safety, societal impact, and business model innovation. My research roots lie at the Laboratory of Medical Physics and Digital Innovation at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where I began with projects on exoskeleton design and rehabilitation, and authored my MSc thesis on *Design and implementation of a normative sEMG values database as a tool for quantitative EMG in rehabilitation research*.

Given the rapid pace of technological advancement and the evolving complexity of healthcare systems, I am eager to expand my academic and research perspective. I believe today's innovation challenges demand a multi-approach mindset—combining systems thinking, digital competences, and ethical foresight. The digital transformation of healthcare must be addressed holistically, through interdisciplinary collaboration and context-aware innovation.

The ManagiDiTH programme offers a unique opportunity to further my academic and professional development. Its interdisciplinary curriculum, European collaboration, and emphasis on flexibility and real-world application align perfectly with my experience and future goals. I am particularly drawn to the Interoperability specialisation, as I believe that cross-system integration and data harmonisation are essential for realising the full potential of digital health technologies. I am also motivated by the programme's multicultural and collaborative environment, where I am eager to contribute insights from my EU project work and learn from diverse peers and faculty.

In essence, I seek to strengthen my role as a systems-oriented researcher and contribute to the ethical, inclusive, and sustainable digital transformation of healthcare across Europe. The ManagiDiTH programme represents both a natural continuation of my professional path and the fulfilment of a long-held academic vision.

Yours faithfully,

Athanasios Arvanitidis