Assessment Report

Institution:
Eastern Mediterranean University

Continuing Education Course:
Medical Documentation and Office Management Programme

Intended Level According to European Qualification Framework (EQF):
5
Brief description of the continuing education course:
The educational objectives of the programme are to provide a high quality education in the areas of office management, medical documentation, medical information, biostatistics and the use of office software. The programme has been developed to provide a balanced education between theoretical and practical concepts.

Date of opening of the procedure:
August 14\(^{th}\), 2012

Date of filing the self-documentation:
May 23\(^{rd}\), 2013

Date of on-site visit:
August 27\(^{th}\) and 28\(^{th}\), 2013

Type of certification:
Initial certification

Mode of study:
Full-time

Initial start of the Programme:
October 2008

Start of course cycle:
September

Capacity load:
100-120 students

Student intake:
30 students per year (3 years’ average)

No. of ECTS points assigned to the Course:
120

Hours (workload) per ECTS point:
30

Intended level according to European Qualification Framework (EQF):
5

Date of the Meeting of FIBAA-Certification Commission:
April 11th, 2014

Resolution:
The certification of the programme is under one condition and is valid for five years.

Duration of Certification:
April 11th, 2014 until April 11th, 2020
Condition:

The modularisation of the curriculum is to be adapted as follows (see chapter 3.1):

- EMU needs to prove that the calculations of ECTS-Credits is in line with the requirements of the ECTS User's Guide.
- The module descriptions need to be revised regarding the description of the Learning Outcomes.

The Conditions are fulfilled.
The FIBAA Certification Committee for Continuing Education Courses on February 19th, 2015.

Project Manager:
Annette Korn

Panel Members:

Prof. Dr. Jochen Zimmermann
University Bremen, Department of Accounting, Bremen, Germany
(Controlling, Accounting, Business Management)

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Walch
MCI (Management Center Innsbruck), Innsbruck, Austria
Head of Department Non-profit-, Social & Health Care Management

Prof. Dr. Leonhard von Dobschütz (emer.)
ESB Business School Reutlingen, Reutlingen, Germany
(Business Management, Business Informatics)
i.a. Visiting Professor at Marmara-University, Istanbul, Turkey

Dr. Gisela Nagel
Lawyer, Law Offices Groth & Pakutz, Düsseldorf, Germany
former Chancellor of the University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Germany
Summary

The panels’ assessment takes into account the self-assessment and the results of the on-site visit as well as the statement of the HEI to the assessment report dated March 30th, 2014.

The Medical Documentation and Office Management Programme (MDOM) of Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) fulfils with two exceptions the FIBAA quality requirements for certified continuing education courses and can be certified by the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) under one condition. It meets the demands of level 5 of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF), has a modular structure and has been assigned ECTS points.

The panel members identify need for action regarding the following aspects. Therefore, they recommend the accreditation on condition of meeting the following requirements:

The modularisation of the curriculum is to be adapted as follows (see chapter 3.1):

- EMU needs to prove that the calculations of ECTS-Credits is in line with the requirements of the ECTS User’s Guide.
- The module descriptions need to be revised regarding the description of the Learning Outcomes.

Proof of meeting this condition is to be documented by January 11th, 2015.

The further not fulfilled quality requirement (Certificate Supplement, chapter 5.4.2) is not an asterisk criterion, so that a further condition is not necessary and the measures the HEI takes to solve the identified problem are to be considered in the context of the re-certification.

The panel members identify furthermore development potential for the programme regarding the following:

- Drop out reasons and average study durations should be collected continuously and analysed methodically (see chapter 0.2),
- Programme-related alumni-tracking studies should be conducted (see chapter 1.1),
- To ensure transparency the Admission By-Law needs to be adjusted in terms of foreign language requirements (see chapter 2),
- The interplay of the two pillars (Office Management and Medical Documentation) should be rethought and documented in a transparent manner (see chapter 3.2),
- In the few cases where the academic and/or professional background does not fit the field of teaching EMU should check evaluation results and, if necessary, take action (see chapter 4.1), and
- Teachers’ evaluation tools should be implemented (see chapter 5.3).

The measures the HEI eventually takes in order to implement the recommendations of the panel members are to be considered in the context of the re-certification.

Furthermore, a set of criteria exists, which exceed the quality requirements:

- Integration of theory and practice (see chapter 3.2),
- Career-integrated methods (see chapter 3.4),
- Employability (see chapter 3.5),
- Student support and coaching (see chapter 4.1),
- Programme Coordinator (see chapter 4.2),
- Access to required literature (see chapter 4.5), and
- Quality assurance and development of the HEI as well as evaluation by students (see chapter 5).

For the overall assessment please refer to the quality profile at the end of this report.
Details on the institution

The Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), originally established in 1979 as Institute of Higher Technology, has evolved into a State-Trust University in 1986. The EMU counts the following eleven faculties:

- Faculty of Business & Economics,
- Faculty of Engineering,
- Faculty of Arts & Sciences,
- Faculty of Law,
- Faculty of Architecture,
- Faculty of Communication,
- Faculty of Education,
- Faculty of Health Sciences,
- Faculty of Pharmacy,
- Faculty of Medicine and
- Faculty of Tourism.

Apart from the named faculties, the University consists of five schools, an English Preparatory School and three institutes with 88 associate and undergraduate programmes as well as 64 Master and Ph.D. programmes. All programmes are fully recognised by the Council of Higher Education in Turkey North Cyprus and the Ministry of Education. With students coming from 68 countries and faculty members from 35 different nations, a multicultural environment is created by the University.

According to its own mission statement, EMU offers contemporary, sustainable and quality education at international standards. Furthermore, the university conducts research, strives to contribute to the needs of the society, and meets the needs of stakeholders as well as graduate students in a multicultural environment having international knowledge and competencies.

The programme submitted for certification was established in 2008 under the School of Computing and Technology. This School is the oldest unit of EMU. Besides the study programme at hand a Bachelor’s programme in Information Technology (B.Sc.) and Associate Degrees in Computer Programming, Electrical and Electronic Technology, Construction Technology, Computer-Aided Technical Drawing, Accounting and Taxation Drawing, Office Management, Biomedical Equipment Technology and Mapping and Cadastral Survey are offered by the school.

The Medical Documentation and Office Management Programme (MDOM) is recognized by the Higher Education Council of Turkey (YÖK) and Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council of Northern Cyprus (YÖDAK).
Further development of the programme, statistical data and evaluation results

The statistical data given refers to the timeframe from 2008 to 2012 and is based on the nationality and gender of students enrolled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
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According to the figures, the number of first year students increased gradually over the given timeframe. Regarding national and gender distribution, the total number of female first year students grew remarkably (from 9 in 2008 to 34 in 2012). Even though the number of male students coming from Turkey is almost twice as high comparing to their female fellows in 2012 (12 females compared to 22 males) the number of female students coming both from North Cyprus and Turkey has grown over the given years and is in sum higher than the number of the male first year students (34 female students compared to 24 male students).
Having a closer look at dropout rates, the overall dropout has remained at a comparable level, with the exception in 2011, counting one dropout student only. The data shows that 7.7 percent of male students dropped out, compared to 12.0 percent of female students. However, regarding national distribution, the gap between female and male dropout figures can mainly be observed in the group of students coming from North Cyprus.

As for graduation, 35 students have graduated in total between the 2010 and 2012. The total success rate is around 81 per cent. On the other hand, approximately 10 percent of the students abandon their studies (on average) another 9 percent take a semester on leave of absence.

The CGPA revealed to be relatively consistent over the years and ranges between 2.53 and 2.79, but there is a significant difference between the CGPA of male and female students (2012: 3.09 (females) versus 2.59 (males), 2011: 2.57 (females) versus 2.33 (males) and 2012: 2.82 (females) versus 2.51 (males). As shown in the table below, the average duration of study ranges between 4.00 and 4.47 semesters and therefore slightly exceeds the intended standard period of study (4 semester).

### Average duration of study:

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<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<td>2012</td>
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**Appraisal**

Even though the average utilisation is below capacity, the application rate increased gradually since the start of the MDOM programme. The overall development of the programme can be considered mainly positive. Worthy of note in this context is that almost all graduates who decided not to apply for further studies but to start working got a job offer.

As EMU explains, the main reasons for the low utilisation rate are:

- The increase in the number of universities both in Turkey and North Cyprus.
- The government facilitated the entry of vocational high school graduates to colleges and universities to register to four year programmes.
- Vocational education policy of the governments (the ratio of vocational education students is only 20 per cent).
- Although, there are less opportunities to find jobs for four year faculty graduates, it seems to be more prestigious to study in a four year programme.
- Overall economic situation of the country.

On average, approximately 10 percent of the students abandon their studies. EMU explains that the dropout rate is mainly due to financial problems of the students, transfer to other programmes/Universities, unsatisfactory performance and military service obligations (if not graduated within four years).

There is, according to the panel, potential for optimisation regarding the development of the study programme at hand. Even though EMU gathers statistical data, there are no visible measures especially regarding the low utilisation rate and the exceeding of the standard study period. The panel strongly recommends to methodically analyse the statistical data in the future and to use these analyses develop the MDOM programme.
Description and appraisal in Detail

1 STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Logic and transparency of course objectives

The educational objectives of the MDOM programme are to provide a high quality education in the areas of office management, medical documentation, medical information, biostatistics and the use of office software. Students shall be enabled to work in the administrative sections in health organisations. The programme not only has been designed to provide a balanced education between theoretical and practical concepts, but also emphasises the importance of team working, therefore implements team-based projects.

According to the programme management, each graduate of the programme will:

- have acquired the adequate theoretical knowledge of office management procedures, how to communicate with patients and health staff, use of office software, medical terminology, and statistics,
- be competent in preparing, recognising and completing medical documents/documentations,
- demonstrate the ability to participate effectively in the planning and execution of team-based projects,
- have a sensitivity to ethical consideration in the medical field (such as rule of ethics and confidentiality).

Overall the MDOM programme aims to enable the students’ immediate entrance to job market. Upon graduation students can use their acquired knowledge in administration positions in the healthcare industry.

Appraisal:

The objective of the MDOM programme is consistent in relation to the targeted vocational field. According to the HEI almost all graduates have been successfully employed in the healthcare sector, some in other industries. However, even though a rough overview of the occupational fields was handed in by EMU, the reviewers recommend the HEI constantly undertaking alumni-tracking studies in order to verify the envisaged occupational areas by also recording and continuously updating the exact number, status and occupational field of alumni.

The intended level of the programme according to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) is 5. That means that the students have comprehensive, specialised, factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of study. Graduates should have required a comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills in order to develop creative solutions to abstract problems. They should be able to exercise management and supervision in contexts of work or study activities where there is unpredictable change. Furthermore, they should have the competence to review and develop performance of self and others. These requirements are fulfilled. In addition the course takes into account the personal development of the students.
## STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

### 1.1* Logic and transparency of course objectives (Asterisk Criterion)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Exceeds quality requirements</th>
<th>Meets quality requirements</th>
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### 1.2 Positioning of the Course

According to the HEI, the MDOM programme is the only programme in North Cyprus that specialises in medical documentation and office management. The graduates can be employed in the following areas:

- State and private hospitals,
- Emergency services and rescue services,
- MRI scan and diagnosis centers,
- Laboratories,
- Ministry of Health and
- Pharmaceutical companies.

Furthermore, graduates of the programme have the possibility to continue their education in the health administration programme and business administration department.

According to EMU, the programme at hand fits within the HEI's overall strategy. The vision and mission statements of EMU are:

- To train the students in becoming innovative and professionally responsible individuals who are able to adopt themselves to changing society and technology.
- To develop cultural diversity, and respect for different cultures.
- To contribute to the welfare of the society and peace in the region and the world.
- To assume a pioneering role in the economic, social and cultural development of the country by giving highest priority to quality in the areas of education and research.
- To become a transparent and autonomous institution with the participation of all its stakeholders.
- To adopt lifelong learning, flexible courses and learning environment including distance education as an integral part of the education system.
- To activate university-community collaboration by attracting the attention of the entire community through various activities such as conferences, seminars, working groups and so forth.
- To carry out scientific research and developmental projects by considering the primary needs of the society.
- To develop collaboration with industrial organisations.

**Appraisal:**

EMU distinguishes the programme on the education market by defining its goals and by outlining its characteristics. The profile and the competence goals are such that the programme can compete on the education market as well as on the job market. An analysis, including alumni tracking, has been carried out. The analysis revealed that not all graduates are employed in the healthcare sector, but some of them in other industrial sectors, too. The panel
recommends to monitor the developments in the healthcare market (distinguished between North Cyprus and Turkey) and, if necessary, to adjust the MDOM programme.

The way in which the programme is incorporated into the HEI’s overall strategy is described and clear reasons are given, i.e. strong focus on industry practice in cooperation with enterprises, to adopt lifelong learning and to offer flexible courses with flexible learning environment. Offering the MDOM programme, which directly relates to the above mentioned goal and which is developed in close collaboration with industrial organisations, therefore harmonically fits into the overall concept and strategic planning of EMU.

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<tr>
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<th>Exceeds quality requirements</th>
<th>Meets quality requirements</th>
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</table>

1. STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES
1.2 Positioning of the Course
1.2.1 Position of Course on Education and Job Market (Employability) X
1.2.2 Position of the Course within the institution’s overall strategy X

1.3 International orientation of the course

The students of the MDOM programme are local Turkish Cypriot students and Turkish citizens from Turkey. The programme trains students for the local and Turkish job market. The teaching language is Turkish.

The HEI points out that if there is a demand (especially from Middle East and African countries), the English version of the MDOM programme which is parallel to the Turkish version is ready to be utilised.

Appraisal

Due to the fact that the programme aims at qualifying students for the local job market (North Cyprus and Turkey) the international orientation of the course is not necessarily relevant. If the University tries to attract international students, it would be crucial to not merely translate the Turkish version into English but rather to revise the curriculum and to implement international and intercultural aspects (like case studies, specialist literature, teaching staff with international background etc.).

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<tr>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Exceeds quality requirements</th>
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2 ADMISSION (ADMISSION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE)

The University’s Registrar’s Office manages student admission and registration for school programmes (two-year programmes). In order to be admitted to EMU, applicants are re-
required to graduate from a high school or any other equivalent institution. Regulations regarding the student admissions are categorised for different nationalities as follows:

**Nationals of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC):**
TRNC nationals who are high school graduates are admitted if they show a satisfactory performance at the university entrance examination administered by EMU. Northern Cyprus’ commercial school graduates from the related field are placed directly without any entrance exam. These categories of students are given full scholarship by the Ministry of Education of Northern Cyprus.

**Turkish Nationals:**
Students from mainland Turkey are admitted to EMU through a central Turkish University Entrance Examination (ÖSS) administered by the Office of Student Selection and Placement. This examination is organised by Turkish Authorities for the placement of the Turkish students into Turkish Universities in Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot Universities in TRNC.

Students from the Turkish Republic who finished high school abroad can apply with an equivalency certificate for the high school diploma obtained from the Turkish Republic Ministry of Education.

Such students are not required to take the Student Selection Exam (ÖSS) and should apply to the EMU Registrar’s Office or Liaison Offices in Turkey for pre-registration.

**Foreign Nationals (non-Turkish, non-TRNC):**
International students other than Turkish/TRNC nationals who have a high school diploma/certificate or equivalent obtain acceptance according to their academic performance.

The documents required for registration are:
- original University Entrance Examination Score Report,
- a photocopy of the National ID Card,
- original High School Diploma or High School Exit Document,
- passport-sized pictures,
- male candidates should provide a document stating that they do not have any military service requirement,
- a bank statement indicating the first instalment or that the whole tuition fee has been deposited into the bank account of EMU, and
- a health report stating that the student has no health problems.

According to EMU’s Entrance Exams and Student Admission By-Law all students are required to take an English language proficiency test and achieve the minimum English language requirements. This requirement is waived for students with internationally accepted English language certificates.

**Appraisal:**

The target group of the MDOM programme is characterised on the basis of previous knowledge, experience, and educational level. The admission requirements are defined and all in all transparent. The only inconsistency is that according to the by-law applicants have to prove English language skills, but since the medium of instruction is Turkish, in practice there is no need to prove foreign language proficiency. To ensure transparency in this context the reviewers recommend to adjust the regulations accordingly.
2. ADMISSION

2.1 Focus on the Target Group (asterisk criterion)  

2.2 Admission Conditions (asterisk criterion)

3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Structure

The two-year programme includes 30 courses with a total of 120 ECTS-Points or 75 EMU credits respectively. Each credit (ECTS) is based on a notional 30 hours of student study time. The first two semesters consist of 30 ECTS Points each, while the third semester counts 39 and the last semester 21 ECTS-Points. For successful students university regulations make it possible to graduate sooner by taking higher course load. If the students’ GPA is above 3.00/4.00 they are allowed to register to an extra course of their normal load, and/or to enrol in summer school courses. It is also possible for students to study part time at their own pace.

As for the application of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), the main elements of ECTS have been used according to the EMU, that is to say the implementation of credits, the principle of modularisation and characteristics of the educational workload. The number of ECTS credits for each course is, as the EMU states, determined according to the outcomes of student survey and another survey completed by the lecturers.

Modules have been described in module descriptions enclosing the name of the programme, the name of the module, number of ECTS credits, competences to be developed together with learning outcomes of the module, educational activities, the assessment of the achieved learning outcomes and a literature list.

Students are assessed and evaluated on a semester basis. There are mid-term and final examinations. In addition to this, students are given at least three quizzes in every course. These Quizzes are meant for keeping the students motivated and active and to prepare them for the final examination.

A set of study and examination regulations (Eastern Mediterranean University By-Law for Education, Examinations and Success, Student Handbook) exists dealing i.e. with all matters regarding application, assessments, re-sit examinations, internal and external transfer and course descriptions.

Appraisal:

The structure of the curriculum is convincing and serves to promote the educational objectives and the students’ acquisition of knowledge and competences. The programme at hand focuses on providing students with practical and comprehensive knowledge of all basic functions of medical documentation and office management. Therefore, the panel holds the view that electives are not relevant in this case.

Generally, the ECTS elements such as principle of modularisation, credit points and workload specifications have been implemented. EMU regularly evaluates the workload (including self-study time) through monitoring and student feedback. The amount of credit points per semester is evenly spread throughout the study programme with the exception of the third
(39 ECTS) and fourth (21 ECTS) semester, which is according to the panel manageable. However, the panel members observed a discrepancy between ECTS specified in the module descriptions and those given in the curriculum overview. In this context, particularly conspicuous is the summer training (65 workdays plus report and presentation, see chapter 3.2). According to the module description the summer training is worth 21 credits and has a total workload of 180 hours. This cannot be correct since $180 \, h / 30 \, h/credit = 6 \, credits$ or $21 \, credits \times 30 \, h/credit = 630 \, h$. In addition, assuming an 8-hour workday a total workload of 180 hours would be too low. In its comments to the assessment report dated March 20th, 2014 EMU states that they have harmonised the information in the named documents. Checking the updated module descriptions and the curriculum overview the reviewers can confirm that the information is consistent now. Trying to deduce the credits from the workload (in the programme at hand one credit equals 30 hours workload) the reviewers still observed discrepancies. Furthermore, the learning outcomes are described in a too general manner and are not sufficiently in terms of outcome orientation.

Cross-module examinations do not take place. Instead, EMU uses a combination of midterm and final examinations as well as quizzes and assignments (see chapter 3.2). The panel had the opportunity to assess some sample examinations and considers this form of examination as adequate. This also was indicated by the students during the on-site discussions.

Overall, the panel recommends the certification of the programme under the **condition** to adapt the modularisation of the curriculum as follows:

- EMU needs to prove that the calculations of ECTS-Credits is in line with the requirements of the ECTS User’s Guide.
- The module descriptions need to be revised regarding the description of the Learning Outcomes.

The provided study and examination regulations comply with the structural requirements for the MDOM programme.

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<td>3.1.2* Application of the „European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)“ and modularisation (asterisk criterion)</td>
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<td>3.1.3* Study and examination regulations (asterisk criterion)</td>
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3.2 Content

There are two categories of courses: University Core Courses (UC) and Area Core Courses (AC) (see curriculum overview). In the MDOM programme English and Mathematics are UCs. As part of YÖK recognition requirements “History of Turkish Reforms” is an UC for Turkish students as well. The majority of the Area Courses in the MDOM programme include specialised office management laboratory to let students get hands on experience under the guidance of an instructor. Occupational training is considered as part of the Area Core courses as well.
Introductory courses, such as Medical Documentation I, Medical Terminology, and Medical Diseases Information I are taught in the first semester in order to develop and understand terminology, concepts and procedures. According to EMU, the courses offered in the second and third semester, like Medical Documentation II and III, Office Management Techniques II,
Physiology, Introduction to Psychology etc., deepen and extend the knowledge acquired in the first semester. During their last semester students are expected to complete an internship (65 working days) to apply their knowledge and experience, and to become familiar with the business world. At the end of this practical training students are required to submit and present their reports to the evaluation committee.

As the university states, the ratio of theoretical and practical content is approximately 3:1. Besides the above mentioned internship, courses such as Office Management and Medical Documentation have a focus on hands-on practical experiences to assure the integration of theory and practice. Furthermore, the academic staff is in touch with private and state hospitals as well as other actors of the healthcare sector in Northern Cyprus regarding internships, and to develop and update the MDOM programme curriculum. Courses like Research Methods and Biostatistics equip the students with methodological competences.

According to the module descriptions EMU handed in, the following examination types are used: written exam, portfolio, multiple choice, quizzes, and practical exams. No final thesis is required by the end of the study programme at hand.

Appraisal:

The content of the MDOM programme is arranged in a logical sequence from introductory modules to specialisations and it properly takes into account the programme’s objective. Therefore, the curriculum is conceptually coherent. Even so, EMU should distinguish the MDOM programme from other Office Management programmes more clearly. Especially the interplay of the two pillars (Office Management and Medical Documentation) should be rethought and documented in a transparent manner. Concerning the level it is noticeable that there is a wide spread between courses like Keyboarding and Biostatistics. In the eyes of the reviewers topics like the social insurance system and social legislation, which are partly broached in Health Services Management II and Public Health and Medical Deontology, would be an ideal complement to the existing content and should be deepened respectively included in the curriculum.

The panel is impressed by the clearly visible link between theory and practice. There is a compulsory internship and besides students apply theories and concepts by working with real-life cases and case studies. The focus clearly lies on the practical application. Metrological competences play a subordinated role, but are in line with the requirements of the European Qualification Framework for lifelong learning (level 5).

The submitted selection of examinations on-site demonstrates a sufficient level of performance to attain the respective qualifications. The performance of examinations is not arranged integrative. The panel, however, considers the form of examinations as being adequate (also see chapter 3.1). The examinations are characterised by a variety of forms.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.2 Content

3.2.1* Logic and conceptual coherence of the course content (asterisk criterion) X

3.2.2* Integration of Theory and Practice (asterisk criterion) X

3.2.3* Methodological competence and academic work (asterisk criterion) X

3.2.4* Examinations (asterisk criterion) X
3.3 Acquisition of generic knowledge and skills (communication, collaboration, conflict resolution)

The MDOM curriculum contains three English courses which are designed to improve students' communication skills in English. In addition, as EMU states, students have the possibility to improve their presentation and public-speaking skills by presenting their papers or projects in different courses.

In many of the courses in the programme, students work on group projects, which give them the opportunity to learn how to work effectively in teams, experience team dynamics, and practice their conflict resolution skills.

Appraisal:

The curriculum as well as the module descriptions show that EMU equips the students of the MDOM programme with generic skills such as communication skills, public speaking skills, as well as team work and conflict resolution skills. The additional acquisition of knowledge and skills is in line with the programme’s objectives.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.3 Additional acquisition of knowledge and skills (communication, collaboration, conflict resolution)  X

3.4 Didactics and Methodology

As the EMU states, the curriculum is designed to align teaching and learning activities along with the learning outcomes with the participation and involvement of stakeholders, school members, administrative staff and students. In general the courses of the MDOM programme are taught using lecture sessions combined with laboratory and/or tutorial sessions where physical attendance of the students is compulsory.

To ensure an effective linkage between theory and practice, the lecturers use case studies and discussions based on real-life examples from the healthcare sector whenever appropriate. During the internship (see chapter 3.1) students have the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge, to improve their skills, and to gain work experience.

For each course, a textbook is recommended by the lecturer. In addition to textbooks, course materials may include lecture notes, case studies, reading materials, exercises and solutions to encourage students to engage in further independent studies. At the beginning of each semester, the course instructor prepares a course outline indicating the topics to be covered during the semester together with project or laboratory topics. The number of examinations and their weights are also included. Copies of the course outline must be submitted to the Department and given to the students or posted on the web-page of the course at the beginning of the semester.

Appraisal:

The logic of the teaching methodology as laid out in the self-evaluation report is adequate to lead students to the final qualifications. It is described and explained in a logical and trans-
parent manner. The panel members are impressed by the extent and reasonableness of the career-integrated methods EMU uses in this programme. What has to be highlighted in this context is the internship and the role-plays used e.g. to train how to interact with patients.

The accompanying course materials that could be inspected on-site mostly consist of textbooks, but are easily available online via the user-friendly homepage of the school.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION
3.4 Didactics and methodology
3.4.1* Logic and transparency of teaching and learning methodology (asterisk criterion) X
3.4.2 Career-integrated methods X
3.4.3* Accompanying course material (asterisk criterion) X

3.5 Employability

The aim of the MDOM programme is to prepare students for office management positions in the healthcare sector. According to EMU, the curriculum has been designed to meet the expectations of the industry today and to respond to the demands which will arise as the industry develops. EMU in this context underlines the long-standing and wide-ranging relationships to local and national employers, which are expressed among others in practical trainings within the companies and meetings with company representatives.

In order to find out how satisfied the employers are with MDOM programme’s graduates the university conducted a survey. The categories were: behaviour, knowledge, ability to apply theories in practice, and personal qualities (initiative, trustworthiness, responsibility, etc.). According to EMU, the all of the attributes were rated good to very good (tendency to very good).

Appraisal:

Due to the analyses the School of Computing and Technology conducted and discussion with the students on-site, the panel is convinced that graduates of the programme will be employable, given the focussing on practical skills (see chapter 3.2 and 3.4) and the wide cooperations with the industry (see chapter 4.4). In respect of planed reforms and future developments of the healthcare system in Northern Cyprus and Turkey the curriculum content is such that it is possible to achieve the employability aspired to in the programme objective and to get a degree, which has an explicit profile with regard to the content. At the moment, students who try to find a job in Northern Cyprus sometimes have to fall back on office management jobs in other sectors than healthcare (see chapter 1.1).

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3.5* Skills for employment/Employability (asterisk criterion) X
4 RESOURCES AND SERVICES

4.1 Teaching Staff

The MDOM programme employs two full-time Senior Instructors, one full-time Specialist and three part-time Instructors. Two of them hold a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration or Economics and an MBA degree. Apart from the academic qualification and academic work experience, all of the staff have at least three and a half years of relevant work experience in their field.

Regarding internal cooperation, the EMU By-Law sets the framework for internal cooperation between academic staff and chairs in order to coordinate content and learning outcomes of courses. If more than one staff for a course is involved, a course coordinator is appointed for internal cooperation of the content and learning outcomes of course. Regular social and academic joint events are being held for the teaching staff such as strategic plan meeting and yearly action plans to formulate the mission and vision of the programme as well as learning outcomes.

Regular supporting and consulting of students by teachers is, as the HEI claims, an integral part of services provided, based on EMU’s Education, Examinations and Success Regulations. According to this regulation, each student is assigned an academic advisor as soon as he registers to the programme, and this advising service continues until graduation. A Student Advisor is a member of the academic staff who guides the student in choosing a semester’s courses, or in other academic, administrative and social matters. The appointment of student advisors is organised by the Department Chair or School Director. Apart from being assigned an academic advisor, each student is also assigned a project and summer training advisor. Further advice is offered on an individual basis by the Registrar’s office staff, programme directors, course coordinators and other relevant staff. Faculty members maintain regular office hours and an open door policy with students. All faculty members are available to receive students in their offices and help them with course materials and assignments. Students are also encouraged to meet their advisors regularly to review their academic performance and progress, to discuss problems and/or to receive scholarly and career advice. Faculty members are encouraged to give prompt feedback to e-mails sent by students.

Appraisal:

The CVs inspected showed that the structure and number of teaching staff are in line with the programme requirements. Likewise the qualifications and experience of the course management correspond with the needs of the MDOM programme. In very few instances the reviewers were not able to relate the compatibility of staffs’ academic and/or professional experiences and their teaching subject. They highly recommend to check evaluation results of those courses and, if necessary, take action. Overall the reviewers came to the conclusion that both practical background and academic qualifications are in line with requirements.

By regularly hosting i.e. departmental councils and meetings, as well as instructor meetings, EMU properly ensures internal collaboration and coordination to agree lectures and seminars.

The students are deeply contented with the quality of counselling, of support in organisational or administrative matters, and of individual coaching. Not only is support and coaching an integral part of the services provided by the teaching staff and offered on a regular basis, moreover, the advisors are available outside the specified office hours as well. The on-site visit showed, that the students are given above-average support with academic and related issues.
4. RESOURCES AND SERVICES

4.1 Teaching Staff

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<tr>
<th>4.1.1* Course management (asterisk criterion)</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.2* Structure and number of teaching staff in relation to curricular requirements (asterisk criterion)</td>
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<td>4.1.3* Teaching staff’s academic qualifications (asterisk criterion)</td>
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<td>4.1.4* Teaching staff’s educational/didactic qualifications (asterisk criterion)</td>
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<td>4.1.5 Practical business experience of the teaching staff</td>
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<td>4.1.6* Internal cooperation (asterisk criterion)</td>
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<td>4.1.7* Student support and coaching (asterisk criterion)</td>
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4.2 Course Management

The Head of Department of the MDOM programme has the title of Programme Coordinator and is responsible for the coordination of the educational activities of both the teaching staff and students.

The responsibilities of the Programme Coordinator include:

- promoting the programme,
- curriculum development, (with participation of stakeholders),
- motivating academic staff and students,
- organising exams,
- preparing the time tables of the programme,
- organising meetings,
- developing the laboratory, and
- coordinating and organising meetings with industry.

Decisions on departmental (programme) proposals are taken by the School of Computing and Technology (SCT) Board. The SCT Board members consist of Programme Coordinators and one departmental representative from each programme. In addition to this, the SCT’s Student Representative is invited to the SCT Board meetings to discuss the students’ problems and possible solutions.

The administrative support for students and teaching staff consists of the following units:

- academic assistance and advising (see chapter 4.1),
- career advising (see chapter 4.1),
- library support (information specialists are available to assist students and teaching staff in library research. These specialists also provide group instruction on the effective use of library resources), and
- information technology support.
Appraisal:

The reviewers are very impressed by programme coordinator’s enthusiasm and dedication. Through discussions on-site with the programme management and administrative staff, the panel comes to the conclusion that the programme coordinator properly organise the activities of everyone involved in the MDOM programme and ensures that the programme runs smoothly. EMU adequately demonstrates that the process organisation, administrative support as well as responsibilities are determined transparently and that sufficient staff is available in terms of both quantity and quality in order to implement the processes in an appropriate manner. During the discussions on-site lecturers and students affirmed that they are involved in the decision-making processes (such as curriculum improvement). An advisory board has been installed in order to further develop the programme.

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### 4. RESOURCES AND SERVICES

#### 4.2 Course Management

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<tr>
<th>4.2.1 Programme Coordinator (asterisk criterion)</th>
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| 4.2.2 Process organisation and administrative support for students and teaching staff | X |

#### 4.3 Networking

Every student may join the students’ clubs and/or they can form a club according to their interests. According to EMU, in this way, students can improve their social, cultural and occupational skills, gain the skill of expressing themselves more efficiently, take part in club organisations, either theirs or other clubs’, and attend the club activities.

Furthermore, MIKA (Directorate of Alumni Communication and Career Centre) aims to create a network among EMU graduates. It tries to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits university provides to the society to maximize that benefit through the involvement, advocacy and philanthropic support of alumni, other individuals and organizations. In addition to this the university’s student career research centre conducts alumni tracking studies.

Appraisal:

Measures to create and maintain networks during the studies and afterwards have been provided.

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### 4. RESOURCES AND SERVICES

#### 4.3 Networking

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4.4 Cooperation with academic institutions or enterprises

EMU points out that the academic staff of the MDOM programme is in close contact with healthcare sector experts from different areas (e.g. Ministry of Health, Cyprus Turkish Medical Association, hospitals in Northern Cyprus and Turkey). This cooperation provides mutual benefits for both, the industry and the School of Computing and Technology. As EMU states, the departmental board of the MDOM programme continuously updates the curriculum according to the needs and requirements of the industry by consulting national and international health institutions. The framework of the MDOM curriculum was inspired by a similar programme of the Hacettepe University in Turkey.

Appraisal:

Looking on the course objectives it is understandable that cooperations with HEIs or other academic institutions play a secondary role. More important for this practice oriented programme is the cooperation with enterprises, resulting in different activities such as project work, work experience placements and teaching activities. Furthermore, company representatives are involved in the development and update process of the curriculum as well as in the quality assurance process of the MDOM programme (see chapter 5).

4.5 Facilities

There are three classrooms and two laboratories assigned to MDOM programme. One of the laboratories simulates an open office and is equipped with computers, switchboard and telephones, printers and copying machine. The capacity of each classroom is 35 students. In every classroom there is a desktop computer, data projector, and internet connection. The capacity of each laboratory is 25 students, and there are 25 standalone desktop computers, internet connection and a data projector. In addition to this, the necessary office management software has been installed on every computer.

Considering access to required literature, on the school's website there is a subpage for every programme offered by the School of Computing and Technology. The website of each course is kept up to date and includes all relevant information about the programme, such as course content, aim, methodology, learning outcomes, schedule, and evaluation of the course. In addition to this, students have access to all books and journals available at the EMU library. The library houses a collection of more than 150,000 print books and 250,000 of print journal subscriptions. Furthermore, the Library has membership in more than 50 online databases that allow access to thousands of full-text journals, e-books, reports, standards, as well as bibliographical information resources. There is a remote access service which enables access to the online database from outside the HEI 24/7.

EMU Library’s institutional memberships are as follows:

- TÜBİTAK – ULAKBİM (National Academic Network and Information Center)
- ANKOS (Consortium of Anatolian Universities’ Libraries)
- ÜNAK (University and Research Librarians Association)
- OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)
- LIBER (Ligue Des Bibliotheques Europeennes De Recherche)

Opening hours of the library are: Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 22:30 o’clock, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00 o’clock. During the examination periods: Monday to Sunday 24/7.

Appraisal:

In the view of the panel, the number and size of teaching rooms, the equipment of all learning facilities are in line with the needs described for the MDOM programme, also taking into account of the use of resources for other programs. The campus is fully equipped with modern information technology. Free access to a Wi-Fi network is available for students.

Access to literature and journals as well as digital media, e.g. electronic media, databases and journals, is coordinated with the course content and is up to date. Opening hours and staffing entirely fulfil the students' needs. There is ample access to literature and journals as well as digital media including databases. Sufficient library workstations are available to students with appropriate technical equipment and rooms for group work.

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<td>4.5 Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.5.1* Quantity and Quality of Media and IT Resources of Teaching Rooms (asterisk criterion)</td>
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<td>4.5.2* Access to required literature (asterisk criterion)</td>
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5 Quality Assurance

Quality assurance and development of the university and collaboration between the university administration and faculty/departments as well as the programme management in the programme development is carried out under the principles of the “Regulations for Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement at EMU” which is in accordance with the strategic plan of the university 2012-2015 and “EMU Quality Assurance Handbook”. All the documents aforementioned are available on the homepage of the HEI.

As stated in the mission of the university, the policy of EMU’s quality assurance system is to enhance the quality of academic programmes, research and administrative activities. The HEI points out that the quality assurance policy of EMU is formulated to be in line with the European Standards and Guidelines and Bologna Goals based on continuous quality improvement. Also, EMU aims for international accreditations for all programs from internationally accepted accreditation institutions.

The administrative structure of academic assessment and quality improvement system at EMU is as follows:
The administrative structure of academic assessment and quality improvement system at EMU is as follows:

The systems work in four phases:

**Phase 1 – Policy Development**: The development of quality policies in accordance with strategic plans and objectives

**Phase 2 - Implementation**: The implementation of policies

**Phase 3 - Evaluation**: Evaluations (internal and external) are carried out to determine whether progress made and directions taken are in accordance with the objectives.

**Phase 4 - Control**: Evaluations and relevant outcomes are reviewed with the view to improve educational and administrative activities and/or objectives.

The faculty/department/school formulate quality targets for the development of programmes and regularly assess their implementation for continuous quality improvement of the programmes by yearly action plans. The programme quality assurance committee is responsible for internal quality assurance. The curriculum committee is responsible for regular revision and updating of the curriculum taken into account the views of the students, alumni and employers.

The primary mechanism for monitoring and controlling the quality of instruction is the systematic evaluation of courses by students. The students are asked to evaluate each of their courses each term. For this purpose a questionnaire consisting of 17 questions about the course and the lecturer is used. This questionnaire was developed by and is regularly re-
viewed and improved by a committee of the university senate members and students. The evaluation is carried out online and it is administered by committee of the Rectors’ Office. The lecturer is invited to wait outside the class during the process, so that it can be anonymous and confidential. All student responses, including written comments, are entered into a spreadsheet to ensure students’ anonymity. The printed results are then sent to the lecturer after he submits the grades for the course. Additional early evaluation is carried out by the lecturer voluntarily in order to find out existing problems if any. The results from both, the early and the end-of-term evaluations, provide valuable feedback to lecturers that help them identify areas where improvements are needed.

Each academic department head receives and reviews the evaluations for all courses in his department, and together with the faculty dean, they identify possible instructional problems and take appropriate actions to resolve them.

School members who teach in the MDOM programme meet once per year to review the content and coordination of courses in the programme. Proposed curriculum changes are also discussed in department and school board meetings. The department may propose changes to the curriculum, which are then sent to the school board for consideration. Changes proposed by the department are sent to the university senate for final approval. Department faculty may also propose the introduction of a new programme. In addition to the curriculum review meeting, local programme members who teach in the MDOM programme also meet once per year to review the implementation of academic standards that the department has established. These standards specify minimum requirements for course assignments, for providing feedback to students, and for grading. The departmental standards are compared with actual results wherever possible and corrective actions are agreed upon.

Although there are no surveys of alumni, employers or third parties on a regular base, occasional surveys are conducted. Occasionally selected alumni are invited to join the academic department meetings to discuss how the programme could be improved. In addition to this meeting the alumni were asked to complete an online questionnaire on the following topics: opinion about university services, learning outcomes of the programme, opinion about MDOM programme, opinion about summer training, and their future plans.

The internship coordinator of the MDOM programme maintains close contacts with healthcare institutions and receives thereby informal feedback about the skills needed in the sector. Any such necessary skills that students may be lacking are discussed by the programme members and integrated into the curriculum if necessary. In order to find out how satisfied the employers are with the MDOM programme students they were ask to fill in a questionnaire (see chapter 3.5).

Information on the programme (i.e. content, structure) is publicly available on the HEI’s homepage. Alongside, an academic calendar prepared and approved by the Senate is available to students displaying among other information on exam periods, registration days and bank holiday. EMU’s By-Law for Education, Examinations and Success contains rules and principles concerning exams. EMU states that there is no such thing as a certificate supplement for the two year vocational programmes.

Appraisal:

The panel members positively emphasise the comprehensive quality assurance and development system of the university and the detailed documentation of procedures and responsibilities. Quality assurance and development of the HEI takes into consideration all areas relevant to the high-quality development of study programmes. As the organisational diagram shows, teaching staff as well as students, external experts and representatives of business practice are involved in the formulation of the quality targets. They participate in the regular verification. This system is also used to monitor and develop quality of the MDOM programme. Even though the reviewers had the feeling that within the School of Computing and
Technology processes sometimes run in a more informal way than described above, they are convinced that all in all quality assurance and development of course content, processes and outcomes is secured.

Evaluation by the students is carried out on a regular basis and in accordance with a described procedure; the outcomes are communicated to students and provide input for the quality enhancement process. The reviewers would like to point out the comprehensively analyse the HEI conducts, e.g. they correlate grades of the students and evaluation results to eliminate bias. In addition, the evaluation outcomes are summarised and published in an evaluation report along with an action plan.

While teachers have been evaluated, teachers do not, at least formally, evaluate themselves. The panel recommends the implementation of teacher evaluation tools. Evaluations by third parties, namely alumni and employers, are carried out. Outcomes are communicated and are used as an input into quality enhancement.

As for the description of the programme content, the panel states that the programme is described in detail. The documentation is available to interested parties, both in hard copy and electronic form, and it ensures a high level of transparency. Whereas there is no Certificate Supplement describing the knowledge and skills acquired by graduates of the MDOM programme. A Certificate Supplement provides additional information to that already included in the official certificate and/or transcript, making it more easily understood, especially by employers or institutions abroad. Therefore the panel recommends to implement a Certificate Supplement (analogue to the Diploma Supplement for degree programmes) to document the programme and the associated qualifications in transparent and coherent manner.
### Quality Profile

**Institution:** Eastern Mediterranean University, School of Computing and Technology

**Continuing Education Course:** Medical Documentation and Office Management Programme

#### Quality Ratings

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#### 1. STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

1.1* Logic and transparency of course objectives (asterisk criterion) | X |

1.2 Positioning of the course

1.2.1 Positioning of the course on education and job market (“Employability”) | X |

1.2.2 Position of course within the institution’s overall strategy | X |

1.3 International orientation of the course | X |

#### 2. ADMISSION (ADMISSION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE)

2.1* Focus on the target group (asterisk criterion) | X |

2.2* Admission conditions (asterisk criterion) | X |

#### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Structure

3.1.1 Structure of the course (Lectures, Seminars, Options, Alternatives) | X |

3.1.2* Application of the „European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)“ and modularisation (asterisk criterion) | condition |

3.1.3* Study and examination regulations (asterisk criterion) | X |

3.2 Content

3.2.1* Logic and conceptual coherence of the course content (asterisk criterion) | X |

3.2.2 Integration of theory and practice | X |

3.2.3 Methodological competence and academic work | X |

3.2.4* Examinations (asterisk criterion) | X |

3.3 Acquisition of generic knowledge and skills (communication, collaboration, conflict resolution) | X |

3.4 Didactics and methodology

3.4.1* Logic and transparency of teaching and learning methodology (asterisk criterion) | X |

3.4.2 Career-integrated methods | X |

3.4.3* Accompanying course material (asterisk criterion) | X |
### Quality Ratings

| 3.5* | Skills for employment/Employability (asterisk criterion) | X |

## 4. RESOURCES AND SERVICES

### 4.1 Teaching Staff

### 4.1.1* Academic course management (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.1.2* Structure and number of teaching staff in relation to curricular requirements (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.1.3* Teaching staff’s academic qualifications (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.1.4* Teaching staff’s educational/didactic qualifications (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.1.5 Practical business experience of the teaching staff | X |

### 4.1.6* Internal cooperation (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.1.7* Student support and coaching (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.2 Course management

### 4.2.1 Programme Coordinator | X |

### 4.2.2* Process organisation and administrative support for students and teaching staff (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.3 Networking | X |

### 4.4(*) Cooperation with academic institutions or enterprises (asterisk criterion for cooperation courses) | X |

### 4.5 Facilities

### 4.5.1* Quantity and quality of media and IT Resources of teaching rooms (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 4.5.2* Access to required literature (asterisk criterion) | X |

## 5. QUALITY ASSURANCE

### 5.1* Quality assurance and development of the institution and collaboration between the institution and the course management in developing the course (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 5.2* Quality assurance and development of course content, processes and outcomes (asterisk criterion) | X |

### 5.3* Instruments of quality assurance (asterisk criterion)

#### 5.3.1 Evaluation by students | X |

#### 5.3.2 Quality assurance by teaching staff | X |

#### 5.3.3 External evaluation by alumni, employers and others | X |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.4</th>
<th>Course documentation</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Exceeds quality requirements</th>
<th>Meets quality requirements</th>
<th>Does not meet quality requirements</th>
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<td>Course description (asterisk-criterion)</td>
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<td>5.4.2</td>
<td>Certificate Supplement</td>
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