



QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

**Third Cycle Study Programs in Long-term Specialization in
"Gastroenterology"**

offered by

**Higher Education Institution Catholic University "Our Lady of
Good Counsel"**

External Evaluation Group:

1. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Gazment Koduzi

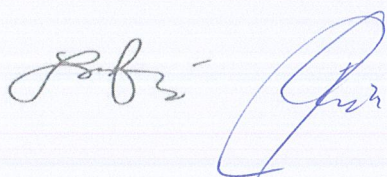
2. Prof. Dr. Lul Raka

October / 2023

STUDY PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY TABLE

For the study program: Long-term specialization studies in “Gastroenterology” offered by the Higher Education Institution Catholic University “Our Lady of Good Counsel”

Nr.		
1	Applicant HEI:	Catholic University “Our Lady of Good Counsel”
2	Basic unit that offers:	Department of Medical Sciences
3	Name of the study program:	Long-term specialization studies in “Gastroenterology”
4	Licensing order / DCM:	Order of the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth No. 678 date 29.12.2017
5	Reorganization order / DCM:	-
6	Diploma registration form:	-
7	Order / ABD of the first accreditation:	-
8	Study cycle:	Third cycle
9	Duration of the study program:	4 academic years
10	Total Credits (ECTS):	240
11	Form of study:	Full time
12	Language (Albanian / other):	Italian
13	The program is offered in cooperation with other institutions:	University of Rome “Tor Vergata”
14	Joint degree (insert name):	-
15	Dual degree (insert name):	-
16	The national qualifications framework level:	8
17	EAS / CAS academic staff for the study program:	A.Y 18-19, 23/2 A.Y 19-20, 24/1 A.Y 20-21, 23/1 A.Y 21-22 20/1
18	Number of students:	A.Y 18-19, 1 A.Y 19-20, 4 A.Y 20-21, 2 A.Y 21-22, 2
19	Comments / others:	



SUMMARY OF PROGRAM DATA IN THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS

High Universitary non-public School "Our Lady of Good Council" is opened based on Decision of council of Ministers No. 567 date 27.08.2004. Institution is riorganized in y.2011 by chnaging the name into Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Council", and recognized by Tirana District Court through decision No.8 date 24.11.1993.

Based on the Decision of council of Ministers No. 567 date 27.08.2004, University has four faculties:

- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Economics, Social and Political Science.
- Faculty of Applied Sciences
- Faculty of Pharmacy

Faculty of Medicine has started the educational activity on the academic year 2004-2005.together with Faculty of Economic and Political Science.

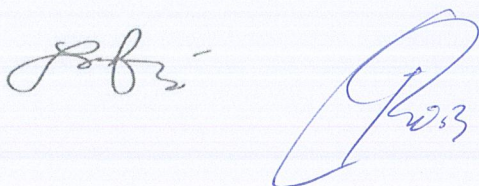
Senate of Catholic University OLGK has approved the structure of Faculty of Medicine, as follow:

- a- Department of Biomedical Science;
- b- Department of Medical Science;
- c- Departement of Surgical Science.

Catholic University OLGK has opened the third cycle of long term specialization studies in Gastroenterology in y.2017, based on the decision of the Board of Accreditation No. 121 date 15.12.2017. This program is provided by Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Science. This program is oppened in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata".

Catholic University OLGK is accredited by Board of Accreditation decision No. 112 date 15.12.2017, for 6 (six) years period, unitl 14.12.2023.

Long term specialization studies in Gastroenterology belong to third cycle of study, 4 (four) academic years long, with 240 ECTS, 8th level of diploma according to Albania Framework of qualification.

Handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the year '2023' written below it.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS;

External Evaluation Report is a document compiled in the framework of the first accreditation of the long term study program specialization in Gastroenterology, offered by Catholic University OLGC. This report includes the whole procedure of accreditation process, evaluation versus standards and criterias of the third cycle for long term study program specialization, part of the Quality Code, findings and evaluation for each field, general evaluation for fulfilling standards and respective criterias.

External evaluation is focused in 6 evaluation fields:

- I. General framework of long-term specialization program
- II. Organization, structure and administration
- III. Sources in service to the long-term specialization program
- IV. Research and clinic/diagnostic experience
- V. students
- VI. Long-term specialization program quality assurance.

Level of fulfilling each field is determined in 4 scales:

- Standards are not met;
- Standards are partly met;
- Standards are substantially met;
- Standards are fully met.

Evaluation process is based in the Manual of Evaluation approved by the Board of Accreditation, and conform time limit defined by ASCAL.

In order to prepare the report and evaluation of the program, are taken in consideration a lot documents and evidence given by Institution, ASCAL and information published by Institution in it's official webpage.

Evaluation process is coordinated by technical Coordinator of ASCAL Mr. Erjon Xhako, through AMS Management System.

External Evaluation Group is composed by Prof.As. Gazmend Koduzi and Prof. Dr. Lul Raka.

Based on the timeline. The evaluation process has gone through several phasis:

- Internal Evaluation followed by submission of the Self-evaluation Folder, including Internal Evaluation Report and supporting documentation;
- Review of the report and documentation, preparing of the material for the visit to institution. During this phase there has been meetings and discussion by the EEG. Proposed the visit agenda and list of the questions;
- Visit in Catholic University OLGC is done during 08-09.06.2023. There are done several meetings in institution with actors, sectors and students in function of the study program specialization in Gastroenterology;
- Drafting preeliminary report and than final version.



Information gathered during all phases of the evaluation process has helped EEG to reach an understanding about level of standards of the study program specialization in Gastroenterology. Findings, evaluation and results, reflect correctly, impartiality and professionalism quality and standards which is provided long term study program in Gastroenterology.

The draft report is sent to the institution through the AMS system and with official letter Prot. No 167/13, on 09.10.2023. The institution with letter Prot. No 26/3 on date 13.10.2023, has sent comments on the draft report.

The external evaluation group after carefully reading the comments of the institution, states as follows:

Regarding comment of institution on Standard I.5: EEG: Institution has not provided evidence regarding concerns raised in the report. **The report in this standard doesn't change.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standard I.6: EEG: Institution has provided additional evidence regarding this area. **The report in this standard changes.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standard II.1: EEG: Institution has provided additional evidence regarding this area. **The report in this standard changes.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standard II.2: EEG: Institution has not provided evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report. **The report in this standard doesn't change.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standard II.4: EEG: Institution has not provided evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report. **The report in this standard doesn't change.**

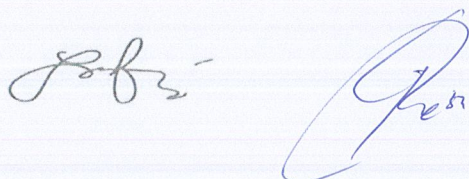
Regarding comment of institution on Standard II.11: EEG: Institution has provided additional evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report. **The report in this standard changes.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standards III.4 and III.5: EEG: Institution has not provided evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report. **The report in this standards doesn't change.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standard III.6: EEG: Institution has not provided evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report **The report in this standard doesn't change.**

Regarding comment of institution on Standard IV.2: EEG: Institution has not provided additional evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report. **The report in this standard doesn't change.**

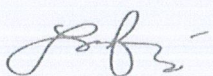
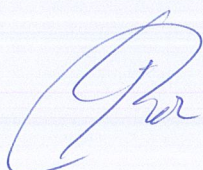
Regarding comment of institution on Standard IV.4: EEG: Institution has not provided evidence regarding concerns raised in EEG report. **The report in this standard doesn't change.**



Evaluation of the third cycle study program in Long-term Specializations in “Gastroenterology”

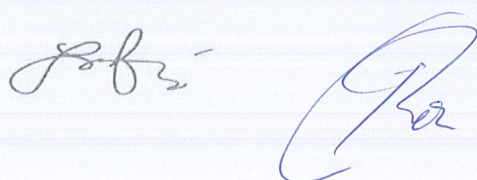
I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF LONG-TERM SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM

Standard I.1	
The third cycle long-term specialization study program in the field of medicine is delivered by higher education institutions that meet legal criteria in force in the Republic of Albania.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The long-term specialization program is offered by a university institution, accredited in the Republic of Albania	<p>The long term specialization studies in Gastroenterology (LSS) is offered by Catholic University “Our Lady of Good Council”, established initially by Decision no. 567 date 27.08.2004 of Council of Ministers, and lately by Decision no. 670 date 28.09.2011 of Council of Ministers. University is accredited by Bord of Accreditation of Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education, by Decision No. 112, date 15.12.2017, for a period of 6 (six) years, until 14.12.2023.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 1: Decision no. 567 date 27.08.2004 of Council of Ministers. Evidence 13: Decision No. 112, date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board)</i></p>
Criterion 2: The long-term specialization program that is offered in cooperation with other higher education institutions, in or outside the country, must be accredited in the place of origin.	<p>This program is oppened by Decision No. 121, date 15.12.2017 of Bord of Accreditation of Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education “Oppening of program of the third cycle of study, long term specialization program in “Gastroenterology” by Catholic University “Our Lady of Good Council” in collaboration with University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, accredited by Ministry of Education, University and Research in Italy and National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research System.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121, date 15.12.2017 of Bord of Accreditation of Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education “Oppening of program of the third cycle of study, long term specialization program in “Gastroenterology” by Catholic University “Our Lady of Good Council”. Evidence 9 Link of accredited institutions in Italy.)</i></p>
Criterion 3: The long-term specialization program is designed by the responsible basic units/services of the institution through internal transparent procedures and is approved in compliance with the institution’s statute, regulation and other organizational acts.	<p>Based on Statute of University and Regulation of Faculty of Medicine, LSS in Gastroenterology, is designed by Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Catholic University “Our Lady of Good Council”, approved by Senate of University, Decision No. 495, date 07.11.2017.</p>
Criterion 4: The long-term specialization program includes theoretical and practical training	<p>LSS in Gastroenterology includes theoretical and practical training, which is carried out in Catholic University “Our Lady of Good</p>

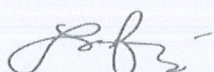
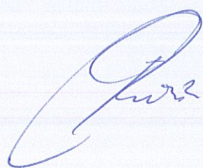
<p>in the specialty field, which is carried out simultaneously at an accredited university, and a hospital institution or a health institution accredited by the state authority responsible for the accreditation of health institutions.</p> <p>Higher education institutions must have developed and accredited/ re-accredited integrated second cycle programs in the field of medicine at the time of offering a third cycle program.</p>	<p>Council”, an accredited institution by Accreditation Bord of Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education, by Decision No. 112, date 15.12.2017, for a period of 6 (six) years, until 14.12.2023. Meantime, practical training is carried out in collaboration with public healthcare institutions, as Universitary Hospital Centre “Mother Theresa” in Tirana, which is accredited by state authority responsable. By Decision of council of Ministers No. 567 date 27.08.2004, “For permitting opening of Higher Education Nonpublic Universitary School “Our Lady of Good Council”, institution has openned 6 years program in General Medicine, and spcialization in medicine, 3-5 years long. In y.2013 has opened Master’s Degree in “Science of rehabilitation of health professions” and in y.2017 is granted the permission to open third cycle of specialization.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 7: Presentation of long term specialization program in Gastroenterology. . Evidence 13: Decision No. 112, date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board. Evidence 61: Agreement between CUOLG and “Mother Theresa” University hospital)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 5: The long-term specialization program is carried out full-time and includes participation in the medical activities of the departments/ services where the training is provided, in line with established procedures and under the responsible authority or entity’s supervision.</p>	<p>Long term specialization program in Gatroenterology is carried out full time by students enrolled in this program. Theoretical and practical activities take place in the premises of University and Faculty of Medicine, healthcare institutions (Universitary Hospital Centre “Mother Theresa”, Hospital of Catholic University LOGC), under the supervision of responsible authorities, such as: Head of the School of Specialization, academic tutors, clinical tutors. Every procedure and activity part of specialization program is in accordance with “Regulation of Specialization”, “Faculty of Medicine Regulation” approved by Senate of University.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 7: Presentation of long term specialization program in Gastroenterology.)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The LSS in Gastroenterology is offered by Catholic University OLGC, which is accredited by authorities, is designed and approved according to University own regulations. University has offered third cycle specialization program after providing first and second cycle of studies, accredited by authorities. The specialization program is carried out in institution premises and network, according to specialization regulation and faculty of medicine regulation.</i></p>			
<p>Standard’s Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

<p>Standard I.2 The long-term medical specialization program is delivered in accordance with the institution’s development strategy.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>



<p>Criterion 1: The long-term specialization study program is designed and delivered in line with and pursuant to the institution's development strategy.</p>	<p>LSS program in Gastroenterology is designed and delivered in accordance with and pursuant to Catholic University OLGC statute, Article 9: specialization program is in compliance with Albania higher education legal framework and development strategy, pursues its mission and carries out all educational activities within the national and regional university system. This specialization program is in accordance with it's mission, principles and values, and strategy for internationalization of the study program in collaboration with third parties, international scientific and research programs, abroad.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 15: Statute of Catholic University OLGC)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 2: The long-term specialization program has clearly defined its name, organization, structure, content, aim and objectives, harmonized with those of the providing institution(s) and in line with the Albanian Qualification Framework.</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board, long term specialalization has clearly defined it's name "Long term specialization study program in "Gastroenterology"; organization " Catholic University " Our Lady of Good Council"; structure of the program and organization"Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Sciences"; aim and objective of the long term specialization program are well defined in the "Specialization regulation" which are in line with the aim and objective of the University, and Albania Higher Education Legal Framework.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The long-term specialization program in Gastroenterology is delivered in accordance with the institutions development strategy, aim, objectives prescribed in its Statute signed by Rector in y.2018, and in accordance with Albanian Higher Education legal framework.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

<p>Standard I.3 The long-term specialization study program aims at meeting the country's current needs for specialists in the field of medicine.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Criterion 1: The long-term specialization study programs in the field of medicine aim to meet the labor market demands with the needs for specialists in the field of medicine.</p>	<p>There are 72 registered Gastroenterologist specialists in Albania Order of Phisicians, which corresponds to 2.5 specialists per 100,000 inhabitants; on the other hand, number of people who suffer diseases of gastrointestinal system is increased significantly lately in Albania. Taking in consideration these facts, third cycle study program of specialization in Gastroenterology, aims to meet Albanian market demand for gastroenterology specialist.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 25: Periodic study of the market)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The total number of</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation</p>

<p>residents and the number of those who attend this study program each year is determined in accordance with state health development policies and hosting capacities of the structures engaged in the training network (depending on the number of staff, hosting capacities, etc.)</p>	<p>Board, for opening of third cycle studing program, long term study program specialization in “Gastroenterology” of catholic University OLG, has approved 2 (two) students for each academic year. This closed number of students is decided according to training capacities of healthcare structures engaged in the specialization program. On the other hand, Albania Government and Ministry of Health, each year approve number of students to be enrolled in specialization programs according to needs of the health system and their policy.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board “ For oppening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The long-term specialization in Gastorenterology aims at meeting the country’s current and future needs for gastroenterologist, according to actual low number of gastroenterologists in Albania, incidence of gastrointestinal diseases and capacities in training healthcare facilities.</i></p>			
<p>Standard’s Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

<p>Standard I.4 The study programs are tailored to the study level.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Criterion 1: The long-term specialization program includes theoretical and practical training in the specialty field, which is carried out simultaneously at an accredited university and at a hospital institution or a health institution purposefully approved and accredited by the Ministry responsible for health.</p>	<p>LSS in “Gastroenterology” offered by Catholic University OLG, according to Didactic Plan, includes theoretical and practical training in the Gastroenterology. According to “Regulation of long-term specialization programs”, Article 7, Specialization program will have at least 80% of ECTS clinical professional activities, and 20% for theoretical activities. Both activities, theoretical and practical, are carried out in accredited institution by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports, like: Catholic University OLG, Universitary Hospital “Mother Theresa”, and American Hospital.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Regulation of long-term specialization programs of the third cycle in Catholic University OLG)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The long-term specialization program is carried out full-time and includes participation in the academic, clinical/ diagnostic activities of the departments and/ or services where the training is provided, in accordance with the regulation of long-term specialization programs in the field of medicine.</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board, for opening of third cycle studing program, long term study program specialization in “Gastroenterology”, the program is offered by Catholic University OLG, as a full-time program, lasting 4 years, and at the end of studies, the doctorate students must obtain 240 ECTS. According to “Regulation of long-term specialization programs”, Article 7, Specialization program will have at least 80% of ECTS clinical professional activities, and 20% for theoretical activities. All academic and clinical activities are carried out in premises of Department of Medical Sciences, Faculty of medicine, and healthcare structures which have collaboration agreement for</p>

	providing specialization study program. <i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study program in Gastroenterology; Evidence no16: Regulation of long-term specialization programs of the third cycle in Catholic University OLGC)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The LSS in Gastroenterology is tailored to the study level, by including theoretical and practical training. According to "Regulation of long-term specialization programs", Article 7, Specialization program will have at least 80% of ECTS clinical professional activities, and 20% for theoretical activities.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard I.5

The third cycle long-term specialization study program in the field of medicine aims at meeting the country's needs for specialists in the field of medicine.

Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: To design the long-term specialization program, the responsible basic unit/ service carries out studies and analyzes on the situation, developments, needs, and priorities in the general and specific field of the program and/or state policies on the development of the field of medicine, which become part of the draft proposal before program opening.	<p>Career Guidance Office as responsible structure for supporting Department and Faculty in evidence decision-making has conducted market research on the healthcare area. Study has taken in consideration number and structure of medical doctors in Albania, education and migration trend. According to market research done, there are 72 Gastroenterologists in Albania, with an average 2.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. Besides the low number of specialists, most of them (45) are concentrated in Tirana. This long term specialization program goes in line with "The National Health Strategy 2021-2030" prepared by MoH of Albania, as part of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 25: Periodic study of the market)</i></p>
Criterion 2: The long-term specialization program has clearly defined objectives for the training of residents in the field of medicine with in-depth research knowledge, as well as clinical/ diagnostic skills and competencies in the relevant fields of medicine, in accordance with the country's requirements and needs.	<p>The long term specialization program in Gastroenterology has defined clearly objectives: basic forming; general forming; specific aim of specialization program; professional activities. Primary objective of long term specialization in Gastroenterology is to train specialists of the area, with clinic and diagnostic skills according to disease model of the country, and in depth knowledge of research. In order to better fulfilled these objectives; Catholic University OLGC has collaboration agreement with University of Rome "Tor Vergata". This agreement helps School of Specialization to adopt EU guidelines and harmonize with training program used in Italy.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 7: Presentation of the Specialization Program in Gastroenterology; Evidence 8: Agreement framework for collaboration between UOLGC and University of Studies "Tor Vergata")</i></p>

<p>Criterion 3: The long-term specialization program is designed and harmonized with similar programs offered by domestic or foreign partner institutions, guidelines, EU directives, international institutions and bodies with which our country is a partner or cooperates.</p>	<p><i>Vergata" Rome)</i></p> <p>According to Decision No. 121, date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board "For opening third cycle study program, long term specialization program in "Gastroenterology" in Catholic University OLGC", is stated that this program is provided in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata". This collaboration is based on the agreement signed lastly on 08.02.2023, Prot. No. 0006800, following the former agreements.</p> <p>According to this collaboration agreement, University of Rome "Tor Vergata" will allocate all needed resources after signing an "Specific protocol" (Article 1, point 4) by 2 (two) Rectors. On the same collaboration agreement, Article 2, point 7, "Common technical committee" approve each year academic staff engaged in teaching activities at Catholic University OLGC.</p> <p>There is no evidence of "Specific protocol" signed by Rectors, and approval by "Common technical committee" of academic staff engaged.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 8: Agreement framework for collaboration between UOLGC and University of Studies "Tor Vergata" Rome)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: With the view of increasing international cooperation, mobility and engagement of foreign specialists/ professionals with the program academic activities, the program may be partially of fully delivered in one of the EU languages.</p>	<p>According to meeting with Internal Evaluation Team, the long term specialization program in Gastroenterology is delivered in Italian and Albanian language. This increases international cooperation and engagement of Italian specialists and professional in delivering lecture or training sessions.</p>
<p>Criterion 5: The long-term specialization study programs in the field of medicine aim at meeting labor market demands with the needs for specialists in the field of medicine.</p>	<p>Taking in consideration low number of gastroenterologist specialist and increases of gastrointestinal diseases, long term specialization program in Gastroenterology, aim to meet specific needs of patients and the maekt for gastroenterologist in Albania, and provide doctors with professional skills in order to treat their pathologies.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 25: Periodic study of the market)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6: The total number of residents and the number of those who attend this study program each year is determined in accordance with state health development policies and hosting capacities of the Higher Education Institutions and health structures engaged in the training network (depending on infrastructural and academic/professional hosting capacities, etc.).</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121, date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board "For opening third cycle study program, long term specialization program in "Gastroenterology" in Catholic University OLGC", is stated that forseen number of students to be enrolled each year is 2 (two). This number is determined in accordance with state policies in healthcare sector and capacities of Specialization School and healthcare facilities providing specialization program.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For oppening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology)</i></p>

Conclusion	<p>The third cycle long-term specialization program in Gastroenterology aims at meeting the country's needs for specialists, because there are 72 Gastroenterologists in Albania, with an average 2.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. Besides the low number of specialists, most of them (45) are concentrated in Tirana. Besides the low number of specialists, emigration is another phenomenon which erodes Albanian healthcare system and needs more specialists.</p> <p>There is no evidence of "Specific protocol" signed by Rectors, and approval by "Common technical committee" of academic staff engaged.</p>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
			X	

Standard I.6	
The organization of the long-term specialization program is in line with the academic field and specialty-based.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The long-term specialization program is organized at the level of the basic unit or service (integral department part) that is responsible for its progress and performance.</p>	<p>According to organigramme of the institution and Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board "For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology, the long term specialization in Gastroenterology is organized by Department of Medical Sciences as basic unit and part Faculty of Medicine. This study program is organized in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata" based on mutual agreements, whereas are included even third cycle study program. The Head of long term specialization program in Gastroenterology is Prof. Leonardo Baiocchi, who is professor at Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, at "Tor Vergata" University, who was appointed by decision No.20/21 Prot date 23.03.2021 of Dean fo Faculty of Medicine.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology; Evidence 33: Appointment of the Long term specialization program Director in Gastroenterology)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The responsible unit has the adequate profile, experience, capacities and resources in the academic and medical specialty field in order to deliver the specialization program.</p>	<p>Faculty of Medicine and Department of Medical Sciences at Catholic University OLGK and Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, at "Tor Vergata" University, have the experience and capacities, human resources and professional, as well. Academic and medical capacities engaged in long term specialization program in Gastroenterology, have adequate profile and academic grade (Prof, As. Prof.). There are 23 effective academic personnel, 1 part time As. Prof. and 2 Clinical Mentors working at Universitary Hospital "Mother Theresa", Tirane.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 31: Table of Academic Staff)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The study programs</p>	<p>According to presentation of the specialization program and</p>

are based on clear professional objectives and are integrated with clinical/ diagnostic activities.	regulation of long term specialization, the study program in Gastroenterology has clear professional objectives integrated with clinical/ diagnostic activities, mentioned in the point 4.d “Obligatory professional activities”: following patients with different diagnosis, participating in different specific examinations, etc. <i>(Evidence 16:Regulation of the long term specialization study of third cycle in UOLGC)</i>			
Criterion 4: The specific field of the long-term specialization program matches the academic specialty field of the responsible unit (department/ service) for the study program, according to the study program classification/ codification in line with national and European directives and guidelines.	According to organigramme and statute of university, the specific field of the long-term specialization program in Gastroenterology matches the academic specialty field of Faculty of Medicine, responsible for the specialization program, according to the study program classification in line with national and European directives and guidelines. <i>(Evidence no15:Statute of Catholic University OLG)</i>			
Criterion 5: When the program is offered in cooperation with other institutions, the specific specialization program field matches the academic specialty field of the responsible unit(s) in the respective institutions.	The long term specialization program in Gastroenterology is offered by Catholic University OLG in collaboration with University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. The responsible unit in “Tor Vergata” University for offering specialization program, is Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, which matches with specialty field of long term program. <i>(Evidence no 8: Agreement framework for collaboration between UOLGC and University of Studies “Tor Vergata” Rome)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The organization of the long-term specialization program in Gastroenterology is in line with the academic field and specialty-based of Faculty of Medicine at Catholic University OLG and University of Rome “Tor Vergata. The Head of long term Specialization Program in Gastroenterology is Prof. Leonardo Biocchi, who is professor at Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, at “Tor Vergata” University.</i>			
Standard’s Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Field I Standards’ Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

II. ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

Standard II.1	
The program is organized pursuant to special long-term specialization program regulations and guidelines.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation

<p>Criterion 1: The main unit responsible for the organization and delivery of specialization programs, thoroughly lays down the rules of organization and operation of specialization programs and updates them for quality improvement purposes.</p>	<p>According to Decision No.121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board, the Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Medical Sciences of the Catholic University OLGC are main unit's responsible for the organization and delivery of specialization program in Gastroenterology, in collaboration with Director of Specialization Program. They have prepared the rules of organization and operation of specialization programs, through documents, as follow: "Specialization regulation", "Specialization program in Gastroenterology". Regarding regulations, there are needed updates based on the last Decision of Council of Ministers No. 824 date 24.12.2021 "For approval of Quality Code in High Level Education".</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology. Evidence 33: Appointment of the Long term specialization program Director in Gastroenterology)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 2: The program organization elements, responsibilities, rights and obligations, are laid down in the long-term specializations regulation and in other acts approved by the institution.</p>	<p>According to evidence submitted by institution, Senate of Catholic University OLGC has approved the "Long term specialization regulation", in which are prescribed program organization elements, responsibilities, rights and obligations of the students.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 3: The institution drafts and approves guidelines and models for residents' reporting, assessment and achievements throughout the academic year and studies.</p>	<p>Catholic University OLGC has approved "Long term specialization program regulation", in Article 8, "Registration of forming activities", student is obliged to keep notes in the "Student booklet" for all clinical activities has done, approved by Clinical Mentor. By the end of the academic year, Head of Specialization School makes sure that booklet is filled and activities are according to individual training plan compiled by the beginning of the academic year. Institution provided us evidence of annual report of student's training activity.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The LSS in Gastroenterology, offered by Catholic University OLGC in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata", is organized pursuant to special long-term specialization program regulations and guidelines. Regarding regulation, there are needed updates based on the last Decision of Council of Ministers No. 824 date 24.12.2021 "For approval of Quality Code in High Level Education".</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
			X	

Standard II.2
The long-term specialization study program content is organized in line with legal and sub-legal acts in force as well as with the European Higher Education Area guidelines.

Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: For the completion of long-term specialization study programs, the student must accumulate not less than 120 credits and the regular duration of these study programs may not be less than 2 academic years, pursuant to the law on regulated professions, and the provisions in Appendix 1.</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation, "Third cycle of study long term specialization program in Gastroenterology", student has to accumulate 240 credits, and the duration of the study program is 4 academic years.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology. Evidence 33: Appointment of the Long term specialization program Director in Gastroenterology)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The regular duration of long-term specialization programs in the field of medicine is according to Appendix 1 and the maximum duration cannot exceed more than twice the regular duration of long-term specialization.</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation, "Third cycle of study long term specialization program in Gastroenterology", the duration of the study program is 4 academic years. According to regulation of the long term study program of specialization in UOLGC maximum duration cannot exceed more than twice the regular duration of long-term specialization</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology. Evidence 33: Appointment of the Long term specialization program Director in Gastroenterology; Evidence no 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The program content, organization, review and monitoring align with similar examples in European Higher Education Area institutions.</p>	<p>According to Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation, "Third cycle of study long term specialization program in Gastroenterology", the program is offered by Catholic University OLG in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata". Based on the collaboration agreement between two universities, specialization program content, organization, review and monitoring are similar with the long term specialization in Gastroenterology offered by European Higher Education Area, University of Rome "Tor Vergata" situated in Italy.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board " For opening of the third cycle study programkin Gastroenterology; Evidence 8: Agreement framework for collaboration between UOLGC and University of Studies "Tor Vergata" Rome)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: Long-term specialization study programs include at least 80% of the total ECTS for clinical/ diagnostic and professional activities, according to the respective specialization, and 20% for organized theoretical studies distributed over the years according to a pre-defined program at the beginning of the study program.</p>	<p>According to "Regulation of long term specialization study program of third cycle", paragraph II, Article 7, long-term specialization study programs include at least 80% of the total ECTS for clinical/ diagnostic and professional activities, and 20% for organized theoretical studies distributed over the years according to a pre-defined program at the beginning of the study program.</p> <p>According to "Learning plan", there are 72 ECTS for theoretical studies – lectures, and 160 ECTS for clinical/ diagnostic and professional activities, the ratio between theoretical and professional activities is 31% / 69%, but there are 576 hours lectures and 4000</p>

	<p>hours professional practice, the ration between hours of lectures and professional practice is 13% / 87%. Institution should reorganize the ECTS according to ration between hours of lectures and professional activities, in order to reach ECTS ration 80/20.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 27: Didactic plan of Specialization Progrogram in Gastroenterology; Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The courses ratio (referring to the total ECTS) determined in the study program consists of: 60% specific courses; 30% field-related courses; 5% basic training, interdisciplinary or integrative courses and other activities; 5% final examination etc.; Not more than 15% of the total annual courses must be elective courses, as per the legal framework in force;</p>	<p>According to “Regulation of long term specialization study program of third cycle”, paragraph II, Article 7, and table no. 9 of teaching plan, the courses ratio (referring to the total ECTS) determined in the study program consists of: 60% specific courses - 140 ECTS / 240 ECTS = 58%; 30% field-related courses - 56 ECTS / 240 ECTS = 24%; 5% basic training, interdisciplinary or integrative courses and other activities - 24 ECTS / 240 ECTS = 10%; 5% final examination 8 ECTS / 240 ECTS = 4%; Not more than 15% of the total annual courses must be elective courses 12 ECTS / 240 ECTS = 4%.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 3: Summary table, table no.9)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6: At the end of each year, a theoretical and practical course evaluation exam is held, which is evaluated with a grade. The annual course assessment is carried out by a committee composed of at least 2 (two) lecturers. Among them, at least one of them must be a full-time lecturer in the respective field, while the second lecturer is an experienced specialist in the respective or similar field according to the developed modules. Students who are 5 times unfavorably assessed receive a certificate for the developed modules, together with the accumulated credits and interrupt the long-term specializations studies.</p>	<p>According to “Specialization regulation”, Article 14, at the end of each year, a theoretical and practical course evaluation exam is held, which is evaluated with a grade. The annual course assessment is carried out by a committee composed of at least 5 (five) lecturers of the respective specialty field. Students who are 5 times unfavorably assessed receive a certificate for the developed modules, together with the accumulated credits and interrupt the long-term specializations studies.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 7: At the end of the specialization program, the student undergoes a final exam that includes practical and oral testing of the student and/or diploma thesis presentation.</p>	<p>According to “Specialization regulation”, Article 14, at the end of the specialization program, the student undergoes a final exam that includes practical testing, oral testing which lasts at least 30 minutes, and presentation of the diploma thesis. The final assessment committee for final test, comprised by 5</p>

<p>The student final assessment committee comprises 5 full-time field, or of similar field specialists at the HEI that offers the specialization, with an experience of at least 10 (ten) years in the respective field. The committee chair should be a full-time lecturer in the respective field, responsible for the long-term specialization program in this field.</p> <p>Some of the basic knowledge for which the applicant is tested during the final exam, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of critical sense regarding different clinical situations; Links between various fields of medicine; Problem-solving skills developed during clinical work; Competence to manage the complexity of clinical situations and to provide solutions in emergency cases. 	<p>experts of the interest field, or of similar field specialists, with an experience of at least 10 (ten) years in the respective field. Commission is comprised by 2 (two) representatives of MSDS, 1 (one) from Professional Order and 2 (two) selected by Faculty of Medicine. Chair of the commission is Head of the Specialization School of Gastroenterology. The final test includes some fundamental knowledge for which student will be evaluated, such as: critical thinking in the diagnosis and treatment of complex clinical cases; relation between Gastroenterology and other specialties; developed skills for problem-solving during clinical work; competence to manage the complexity of clinical situations and to provide solutions in emergency cases.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 8: In the program improvement framework, the responsible unit has the right to change the theoretical training content of the specialization program, and document the procedure pursuant to applicable legislation.</p>	<p>According to Law 80/2015 “High level education and scientific research”, the responsible unit can make changes of theoretical training content up to 20% only after having completed the first accreditation.</p> <p>This is the first accreditation process, thus no content is changed so far.</p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The long-term specialization study program in Gastroenterology is organized in 4 academic years and 240 ECTS. According to “Learning plan”, there are 72 ECTS for theoretical studies – lectures, and 160 ECTS for clinical/ diagnostic and professional activities, the ratio between theoretical and professional activities is 31% / 69%, but there are 576 hours lectures and 4000 hours professional practice, the ratio between hours of lectures and professional practice is 13% / 87%. Final exam is performed according to legal framework and long term specialization regulation. Institution should reorganize the ECTS according to ration between hours of lectures and professional activities, in order to reach ECTS ration 80/20.</i></p>			
<p>Standard’s Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
			X	

Standard II.3**Student admission to a long-term specialization study program in the field of medicine.**

Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The student admitted to the long-term specialization study program in the field of medicine has completed the integrated program of integrated second cycle university studies of 5 years (300 ECTS) in Pharmacy and Dentistry and 6 years (360 ECTS) in General Medicine, at a program-related accredited university and has obtained the “Master of Science” degree. Students graduating in the same programs abroad, must present the diploma and the license to practice the profession recognized by the responsible state institution.</p>	<p>According to long term specialization regulation, and admission of the students to the long-term specialization in Gastroenterology, the students must have completed the second cycle integrated study program in General Medicine, Pharmacy or Dentistry, at an accredited university and has obtained the “Master of Science” degree. Every year, the Catholic University OLGK publishes on it’s website the call for applications, where the criteria for admission are according to regulation issued by Ministry of Education and Sport, which defines the enrollement procedures and deadlines for application. Students graduated abroad should present recognition of the diploma by Ministry of Education and Sports, and license by Ministry of Health and Social Protection. For the students who are graduated in Western countries and have obtained equivalent degree to practice in these countries, there is not average grade requirement for admission in long term specialization program. The list of these countries is defined by an order between Ministry of Eduaction and Sports and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.</p> <p>We have seen a student file and do have bachelor diploma in General Medicine, according to requirements.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The candidate who applies to continue the third cycle study program, for long-term specialization in the field of medicine, is subject to an competitive admission to test knowledge in the relevant field of study.</p>	<p>According to long term specialization regulation, the candidates who apply to continue the third cycle study program, for long-term specialization in Gastorenterology, are subject to a competitive admission to test knowledge. There is established a Commission by order of Rector, composed by 4 professors, one of them is specialis of Gastroenterology.</p> <p>Thus, by order of Rector, No.26/1Prot. Date 22.02.2023, is “Nomination of commission for acceptance contest for long term specialization study programs”, composed by: Prof. Giovanni Arcudi, Prof. Arvin Dibra, Prof. Guido Virgili, Dr. Sadmira Gjergji.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle; Evidence 39: Appointment of the admission competition commission)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: Student assessment for admission to a study program is carried out with cumulative points by assessing at least the following elements: average grade (final grade according to the typology of the diploma he/she has) for up to 30%</p>	<p>According to long term specialization regulation in Gastroenterology and evidence observed during the visit in the university (<i>student file</i>), student assessment for admission is carried out with cumulative points by assessing at least the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general knowledge written testing for 30% of total points, • specific knowledge written testing according to the

<p>of the total points, general written testing for 30-40% of total points, specific written testing according to the specialization program for which the student competes for 40-50% of the total points.</p>	<p>specialization program for which the student competes for 40% of the total points,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • average grade (final grade according to the typology of the diploma he/she has) for 20% of the total points, • oral interview 10% of the total points. <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: The candidate applying to the third cycle long-term specialization program must have successfully completed the state exam in the respective profession or have acquired the right to practice the profession in the Republic of Albania or abroad (recognized in the Republic of Albania). The student may reapply to compete in another specialized program at an HEI pursuant to the legal provisions in force. The student's ECTS accumulated for theoretically organized studies may be recognized if deemed appropriate for the field of the new program to which he or she has applied.</p>	<p>According to long term specialization regulation and criterias for enrollement in Gastroenterology and evidence observed during field visit (<i>student file</i>), the candidate must have successfully completed the state exam in General Medicine or have acquired the right to practice the profession in the Republic of Albania or abroad (recognized in the Republic of Albania). There is present the Licence from Order of Doctors at the student file we did observe.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The minimum criteria to qualify in the selection of the long-term specialization study program are reflected in the regulation of long-term specialization study programs in the field of medicine and approved by the Academic Senate.</p>	<p>According to regulation of long-term specialization study programs in Gastroenterology, there are minimum criteria to qualify in the selection of the long-term specialization study program are reflected in the, Article 20, approved by Academic Senate by Prot. No. 495, date 07.11.2017.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6: The applicant may learn the regulation of long-term specializations approved by the HEI Academic Senate, minimum admission criteria, through the official website of the HEI and/or main unit, before being admitted.</p>	<p>According to long term specialization regulation and criterias for enrollement in Gastroenterology, Article 21, any candidate in the moment that applies for participating in the specialization competition, is given the regulation of long-term specializations approved by the HEI Academic Senate, minimum admission criteria, in hard copy or the official website of the HEI where can be consulted. Students can get information even through official web of university https://www.unizkm.al/al?lang=al.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The Catholic University OLGC process of student admission to a long-term specialization study program in Gastroenterology is</i></p>

	<i>organize according to legal framework,decided by Academic Senate. All information is public, and any candidate can be informed about regulation of long term specialization or admission criterias, through hard copy or website.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard II.4	
Drafting and adoption of the long-term specialization program regulation.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The regulation is drafted in line with specialization standards in the field of medicine and legal and sub-legal acts in force.	The long term specialization regulation is drafted in accordance with Law 80/2015 “On Higher education and scientific research in Higher Education Institutions”, and Ministerial degree No.31 date 29.12.2017 “ On the definition of the criteria, documentation and procedures for the activation, reorganization and closure of study programs by the Higher Education Institutions”, and quality standards No.75 date 18.02.2013 “On the approval state quality standards for evaluation and accreditation of long term medical graduate study programs”. Regulation is approved initially by Academic Senate Prot. No. 495 date 07.11.2017, and refreshed. Academic Senate of Catholic University OLG should update long term specialization program regulation according to the latest quality standards, established by Council of Minister Decision No.824 date 24.12.2021. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>
Criterion 2: The regulation enters into force at the beginning of each academic year and is updated every new academic year. If there are no changes, the latest updated regulation remains in force.	The regulation is updated neither every new academic year, nor according to the latest legal framework about quality standards. EEG recommend to Academic Senate of Catholic University OLG should update long term specialization program specialization according to the latest quality standards, established by Council of Minister Decision No.824 date 24.12.2021.
Criterion 3: Updates to the long-term specializations regulation apply to the specialization cycle that begins for the first time with the updated regulation up until its completion. If necessary, changes to subsequent regulations should explicitly exclude the already commenced specialization cycle.	According to conversation with internal Evaluation Team, University has refreshed long term specialization regulation with activation of specialization program in 2018-2019, but we can't find any evidence about it.
Criterion 4: The regulation is proposed by the Main Unit that delivers the specialization program and approved by the HEI Academic Senate.	According to the meeting with internal evaluation group, the regulation in force, is approved by Academic Senate of Catholic University OLG Prot. No. 495 date 07.11.2017.

	<i>(Evidence 42: Regulation of the specialization studies 2017)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>There is a long term specialization program regulation approved by Academic Senate of Catholic University OLCG Prot. No. 495 date 07.11.2017. Academic Senate of Catholic University OLCG should update long term specialization program specialization according to the latest quality standards, established by Council of Minister Decision No.824 date 24.12.2021</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
			X	

Standard II.5

The regulation lays down the criteria and the method of selecting the steering bodies of specialized programs and tutors.

Criteria	Expert evaluation			
Criterion 1: The regulation clearly reflects the criteria and the method of selecting the specialization program director, in line with the specifications in these standards.	The Long term specialization program regulation in Gastroenterology, Article 9, defines: specialization program director should have at least academic degree "Professor Associated", and 10 years of experience practicing Gastroenterology. Prof. Leonardo Baiocchi is Profesor of Gastroenterology since y.2006 in University of Rome "Tor Vergata", and is appointed by degree of Rector of University. <i>(Evidence no 42: Regulation of specialization studies; Evidence no 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Criterion 2: The regulation lays down the criteria and the method of selecting the responsible doctor/ tutor for each resident as well as related duties.	The Long term specialization program regulation in Gastroenterology, Article 12, defines: Student have a clinical mentor, who is specialized in Gastroenterolgy, and have clinical professional experience in the field. Clinical mentor is selected by Steering Board of specialization program. <i>(Evidence no 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The long term specialization program regulation in Gastroenterology have weel established criterias for program director, clinical mentor and Steering Board .</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

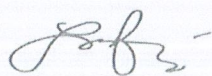
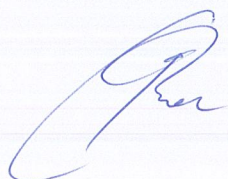
Standard II.6

The regulation clearly defines the method of student admission to the specialization program.

Criteria	Expert evaluation			
Criterion 1: The regulation sets out the application criteria (level of studies completed, duration and degree required, etc.) as well	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine" , Article 16, applicants should have completed second cycle integrated program in General Medicine, and hold the diploma " Master of Science" , which is accredited before the			

as the exclusion criteria if any.	<p>diploma is issued. Regarding students graduated abroad, they should hold diploma “Master of Science” and recognized by Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and Ministry of Health and Social protection. Applicants should have performed state exam according to Law No.10171 22.10.2009 “For regulated professions in Republic of Albania” and gained the right to work as doctor.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The regulation clearly defines the documentation that must be submitted by the candidate for application purposes, the manner of submitting the documentation and the deadline.</p>	<p>According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine” , Article 20, and Announcement for registration, applicants must apply by completing online enrollement, as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- pre-registration formular A, downloadable from the portal : https://admission.unizkm.al or website www.unizkm.al; 2- Degree diploma and list of grades obtained; 3- Certified copy of Professional License; 4- CV in Italian language; 5- Copy of identity document; 6- Evaluable and certified qualifications. <p>Application starts not later than 2 (two) weeks, and is closed 7 (seven) days before evaluation of documents. The list of candidates is published not later than 2 (two) days before the competition.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The regulation clearly defines the maximum points that the candidate can accumulate and the points awarded to the candidate for each met criterion as well as the maximum and minimum points that can be given to the candidate during each test.</p>	<p>According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine” , Article 24, maximum points candidate can accumulate are 100, divided in 4 (four) categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 30 point written test for general knowledge; 2- 40 points written test for specific knowledge of specialization field; 3- 20 points weighted average grade for students graduated in Albania, and just the diploma grade for students graduated abroad; 4- 10 points oral interview. <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: The regulation clearly defines the specialization candidate’s application and competitive admission, as well as the deadlines for documentation submission.</p>	<p>According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine”, Article 20, clearly defines procedure of application by specialization candidates and admission in specialization competition. Candidates application will be evaluated by a a Special Commission composed by 4 (four) professors appointed by Rector (Decree Nr. 26/1 prot, date 22.02.2023 of rector), and list of candidates who will participate in competition will be published 2 (two) working days before the competition.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The regulation clearly defines how testing and</p>	<p>According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine” and “Call for application for contest” is clearly</p>

<p>related procedure is carried out.</p>	<p>defined that students undergo to written and oral exam. The selection commission is composed by 4 (four) professors, appointed by Rector. Maximum points are 100, divided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 30 point written test for general knowledge; 2- 40 points written test for specific knowledge of specialization field; 3- 20 points weighted average grade for students graduated in Albania, and just the diploma grade for students graduated abroad; 4- 10 points oral interview. <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6: The regulation clearly defines the assessment method for each candidates' testing and submitted documentation, which is stored according to the procedures provided in the regulation.</p>	<p>According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine" , Article 22, defines the selection procedure of candidates. There is an Admmission Evaluation Commission composed by 4 (four) professors, who have at least academic grade "PHD" and have more than 10 years of experience. This commission is established by decree of Rector No. 26/1Prot. Date 22.02.2023.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 7: The names of the approved specialization programs for the academic year, the number of residents to be admitted for each specialization program and the payable fees for each specialization are published at least 2 weeks before the application start date.</p>	<p>According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", and Announcement for participation in competition, names of specialization programs and number of residents to be admitted for each program are published at least 2 weeks before application start date. On the Announcement for participation in competition, is clearly explained payable fee for each specialization, which is 3000 Euro for Albanian citizens and 4500 Euro for european citizens.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 8: The testing evaluation method must be specified in the regulation and published at least 2 weeks before the application start date.</p>	<p>According to the "Call for application for contest" for academic year 2021-2022, Article 6, "Selection procedure", testing evaluation method is specified, as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 30 point written test for general knowledge; 2- 40 points written test for specific knowledge of specialization field; 3- 20 points weighted average grade for students graduated in Albania, and just the diploma grade for students graduated abroad; 4- 10 points oral interview. <p>"Call for application for contest" is published at least 2 (two) weeks before the application start date, together with other requirements for application and registration.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 9: The regulation clearly specifies the manner and</p>	<p>According to the "Call for application for contest" for academic year 2021-2022, exam will take place on 16/02.2022 and results will be</p>

deadlines for the announcement of the test results and the final list of winners, as well as the place and date of result announcement.	announced within 5 (days) on 21/02/2022, and it will be published in the website of the University http://www.unizkm.al . <i>(Evidence 37: Call for application for contest, specialization academic year 2022-2023)</i>			
Criterion 10: The regulation clearly lays down the form of entering into a contract with the winning residents.	According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine”, paragraph IV “The rights and obligations of the student in long term specialization study program in Medicine field”, from Article 26 -40, define the elements of the contract between University and winning resident. There is a signed contract we have testified in the Seretary of specialization. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The long period study program regulation clearly defines application method, criterias and documents required, evaluation method, points given during exam, declaration of the winners and contract between University and the winner.</i>			
Standard’s Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

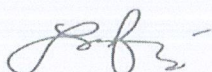
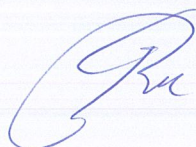
Standard II.7	
The regulation provides for the specialization program teaching process elements.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The specialization program regulation provides for the form of attendance, maximum of allowed absences and related reasons, maternity leave, and how to make amends for absences, etc.	According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine”, Article 34-35, student part of specialization study program participate actively in all activities carried out by academic and clinical structures, where the specialization is done, under supervision of professors, clinical mentors and specialists. The student has the right of 4 (four) weeks annual leave according to structure of the study program. In case of health issues, medical report must be submitted. If there are absences more than 30% of the study program module or lecture cycle, it should be repeated. In case of maternity leave, the specialization will be postponed the same period is spend during maternity leave. In case of family misfortune, student can’t miss more than 30 days and must fulfill obligation in another period. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>
Criterion 2: The specialization program regulation provides for procedures of transfers to or from other specialization programs, or to or from other institutions that offer specialization programs in the field of medicine.	According to “Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine”, Article 42, the student has the right to transfer to other specialization (maximum second year of specialization) after inspection of the personal file by Commission established by Specialization School intends to transfer. Student can be transferred if there are forseen proper numbers of specialization quotas. The equivalence and transfer procedures are carried out according to Regulation of long term specialization and existing legal framework.

	<p>There was not any case of transfer in the study program Gastroenterology to be seen.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 3: The specialization program regulation provides for the criteria and the manner of resident's suspension, extension or dismissal from the specialization studies.</p>	<p>According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 44, are considered violation of the regulation, all acts by the side of the student which harm personality and moral integrity of the colleagues, rules and ethic norms, violation of the Ethic and deontology code. Suspension, extension or dismissal from the specialization, is done by Head of department or Head of Specialization School, and approved by Dean of Faculty of Medicine.</p> <p>There was not any case of suspension or dismissal from study program Gastroenterology to be seen.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 4: The regulation provides for the cases when the specialization can be carried out at another institution that is not part of the Albanian training network, the duration of this period and the body that approves such procedure. These institutions must be accredited to carry out the specialization program in the respective country.</p>	<p>According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 38, the student can carry out a part of the specialization program, abroad by transferring ECTS , by approval of the Head of Specialization School, Head of Department and Dean of Faculty of Medicine. Institution of the higher education where the student will carry out a part of the specialization must be accredited to carry out the specialization program in the respective country. There are collaboration agreements with healthcare structures in Italy, like: Cn2 Alba, Sanigest S.p.a. to carry out professional practice.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", is clearly defined form of attendance, absences, transferring to or from other specialization study program, violation of the regulation and criteria and manners of suspension, and procedure how a student can carry out a part of specialization abroad.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

<p>Standard II.8</p> <p>The regulation provides for the student's professional practice notebook.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Kriteri 1: The regulation provides for the student's professional practice notebook, how to complete and replace it in the event of loss. The student carries the notebook until the</p>	<p>According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 43, every student is provided with a student booklet. The student booklet has two sessions: one is filled by clinical mentor who is responsible for profession activity of the student, and another session where written subject, credits and exam</p>

completion of the specialization cycle and graduation.	commission are. Filling out the student is mandatory, and carrying out by student in each clinical or academic activity. In event of loss of the student booklet, the specialization secretary provides the student with another booklet, upon request and by paying required fee. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The specialization student is provided with booklet, at the begging of the study program. There is written all clinical and academic activities. Institution has the procedure how to deal when the booklet is gone lost.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard II.9	
The regulations provide for the annual tests and final examination procedures as well as the diploma format.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The regulation lays down the method of residents' annual course testing and final examinations, the minimum and maximum points, the test type, etc.	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 32, specialization student is evaluated after every practical cycle, on knowledge and skills required, by grade or not. The student can enter in the final axam after fulfilling all annual study program obligations and after review of personal file by Council of Specialization Program. Annual evaluation of the student is done based on the periodical evaluation, in last exam and experimental thesis. Regulation clearly defines evaluation grades, which vary by 18/30 up to maximum 30/30. There is not yet any student graduated in long term specialization program study Gastroenterology until y.2023, thus we couldn't observe any procedure of graduation. <i>(Evidence no 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>
Criterion 2: The regulation specifies the cases of justified absences during testing and how to retest in such cases.	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 37, in case the student has not performed the final exam of the specialization study program within 1 (one) year from the end of specialization, loses the right to get Specialization Diploma, but can get a Certificate which approve the student has attended full specialization cycle, together with grades list. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>
Criterion 3: At the end of long-term specialization studies, the graduate is awarded a specialization diploma. The diploma must be signed by the	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 32, the specialization student, who has fulfilled all theoretical and practical obligation, according to study program, and has passed final exam, is issued a Specialization

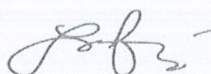
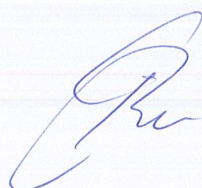



HEI rector and respective faculty dean.	Diploma , and gain the right to work as specialist of that field. Diploam is signed by Rector and Faculty Dean, and is reported education Services Centre to be registered in the national diploma register. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in medicine, clearly defines the procedure of the final evaluation exam, what happened if the student does not perform the final exam, and issueing of the Specialization Diploma by University. There is not yet any student graduated in long term specialization program study Gastroenterology until y.2023, thus we couldn't observe any procedure of graduation.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

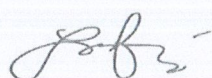
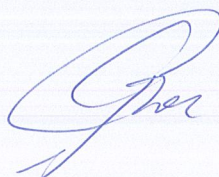
Standard II.10 Resident's rights and obligations.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The regulation should provide for the resident's rights and obligations.	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Paragraph IV: "The rights and obligations of the student enrolled in long term specialization study program in Medicine", provide for the resident's rights and obligations. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>
Criterion 2: The regulation defines the residents' insurance typology and method during the specialization. It should provide for the insurance policy type and coverage amount.	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 29, the student is insured for all specialization period and for all activities forseen in the study program. The student takes one copy of the insurance police in the moment of the signing. The student is insured for professional damages can cause to the third party, or caused to him/her, during specialization period. Insurance police covers: 1. Health Insurance protection up to 1,000,000 All; 2. Professionl Responsibility towards third party, protection up to 5,000,000 ALL. Insurance police is payed by Faculty of Medicine to Inssurance company on behalf of the student. We saw "Professional liability insurance policy" issued by Albsig sh.a. to Catholic University OLGC, which quotes: territory of policy, limits of liability, names of the students insured and healthcare institution doing professional clinical activity. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>
Criterion 3: The regulation provides for those cases when the resident may suspend the specialization and the maximum period allowed, as well as the	According to "Regulation of third cycle long term specialization studies in Medicine", Article 36, the specialization cn not be extended more than 1(one) by official duration of the specialization study program. The procedure for suspension of the study is as

procedures for withdrawing from the specialization.	follow: the student must present a written request to for suspension to Rector of the Catholic University OLG. We saw one real case of request for suspension of the study program for a period of 2 (two) months by one student. The same procedure is followed even for withdrawing from the specialization. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Criterion 4: The regulation defines plagiarism-related measurable indicators for the work on the diploma, as well as related references, ensuring that the level of similarity of the diploma work is less than 30%.	Catholic University OLG has antiplagiarism system by using platform a follow: https://edu.google.com/workspace-for-education/assignments/originality/ There has not been yet any graduation in the long term specialization study program in Gastroenterology, this system is not implemented yet. There has not been yet any graduation in the long term specialization study program in Gastroenterology this system is not used yet in study program Gastroenterology. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>Regulation of studies in long term specialization program provides students rights and obligations, when to suspend specialization or withdraw from it. Regulation defines the insurance of the student during the specialization period for professional damages can cause to the third party, or caused to him/her, during specialization period.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard II.11	
The main unit responsible for the specialization program administers all the necessary documentation for each resident beginning from the application, admission to completion of studies.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The main unit keeps both in electronic and paper format the entire applicant documentation in the application phase.	According to visit in the office of Educational Secretariat, it is a structure of the Faculty of Medicine, and is responsible for all documents needed in specialization study program, including every phase of it. We did visit the Secretary premises and observed documentation process. We observed files where secretary keeps all applicants documentation, in paper and electronic format <i>(Site visit).</i>
Criterion 2: The main unit keeps both in electronic and paper format all the documentation of applying and winning candidate selection and decision-making process, and	Educational Secretariat is responsible for registration procedures of the students qualified for specialization study program. They organize enrollement process, provides students with matriculation number, records students personal data, and grades achieved in each academic activity.

guarantees transparency in the decision-making and appeal processes.	We did visit the Secretary premises and observed files with documents of candidates for specialization contest			
Criterion 3: The main unit keeps both in electronic and paper format the data of all residents regarding their experimental academic and scientific research activities throughout the entire duration of their studies.	Educational Secretariat of the Faculty of Medicine keeps in paper and electronic format, report of the clinical mentors, academic lecture, and evaluation in the exams. Electronic format are kept in official communication and UNIMS portal. We did observe student file with all reports in paper on it.			
Criterion 4: The main unit keeps both in electronic and paper format the resident's reports, official communications, and progress assessment reports.	According to regulation of the specialization study program, clinical mentor and academic lectures prepare resident's report, which are kept both in electronic and paper report. We saw evidence regarding resident's clinical activities report, where is opinion of the clinical mentor whether student should pass in the next academic year or not. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Criterion 5: The main unit makes available to students the electronic anti-plagiarism system as well as other self-check mechanisms with the view of eliminating plagiarism and complying with intellectual property rights.	According to long term specialization regulation, Article 33, Faculty of medicine makes available to the students of specialization program all technological infrastructure, including anti-plagiarism system as follow: https://edu.google.com/workspace-for-education/assignments/originality/ There has not been yet any graduation in the long term specialization study program in Gastroenterology, we couldn't observe any practice how used anti-plagiarism system is. <i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle)</i>			
Criterion 6: The main unit periodically compiles reports on the specialization program progress.	According to regulation of the Internal Quality Evaluation unit, it is part of this structure to prepare yearly report regarding study program progress and submit it to Rector and responsible structure, in order to improve quality of performance. We were provided by institution with evidence that main unit has prepared report on specialization program progress <i>(Evidence 80: Regulation of the Internal Quality Evaluation unit; Additional Evidences)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>Faculty of Medicine as responsible unit for the specialization program in Gastroenterology, through Educational Secretary administers all the necessary documentation for each resident beginning from the application, admission to completion of studies. Main unit should prepare annual report on specialization program progress.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

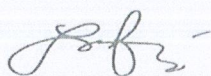
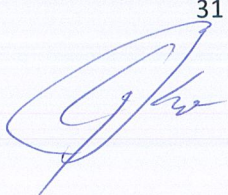



Field II Standards' Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

III. SOURCES IN SERVICE TO THE LONG-TERM SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM

Standard III.1 The responsible unit ensures the necessary academic, administrative and support staff with the view of carrying out the program and meeting its objectives.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The academic staff engaged in the long-term specialization program belongs to the professor category (professor, associate professor), the lecturer category (Dr/ Phd), who are engaged with clinical/ diagnostic work with at least 10 years of experience.</p>	<p>According to table 2 of IER evidence, there are 20 External Academic Personnel engaged in the program of specialization in Gastroenterology. 3 of them posses Professor degree, 9 Professor Asociated, 8 PHD, and 1 External Academic Personnel who posses Asociated Professor degree. 2 (two) clinical mentors has Professor and Asociated Professor degree.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 3: Summary table)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: Each specialization program determines: A leading figure, the specialization program officer/ director. The specialization program officer/ director must be a full-time lecturer in the relevant field, have at least the "Associate Professor" title and not less than 10 years of experience in practicing the profession. This figure is proposed by the responsible base unit and is approved at main unit level.</p>	<p>According to specialization long term study program regulation, Specialization program has a Director. Director of long-term Specialization Program in Gastroenterology, named Prof. As. Dr. Leonardo Baiocchi. He has Asociated Professor title of gastrointestinal tract, in Faculty of Medicine and Surgery "Tor Vergata". He was proposed by Head of Departmet and approved by Dean of Faculty of Medicine.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle. Evidence 33: Appointment of Specialization Program Director in Gastroenterology)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The academic staff of the long-term specialization study program comprises: i. full-time academic staff with academic degrees and scientific degrees, not less than 50% of the lecturers covering the study program. At least 1 (one) full-time lecturer, of the professor category, must belong to the program's field of study. ii. academic staff, who practice the profession in the university health structures as defined by</p>	<p>According to evidence provided, academic staff of long term specialization in Gastroenterology, comprises:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 100% of academic staff has academic degree Professor and Asociated Professor, and scientific degree PHD. At least one full-time lecturer, belong to Professor category, as Prof. Leonardo Baiocchi, Director of Specialization Program. 2- Academic staffs that practice in university healthcare structures compise less than 50% of the professor that cover the study program. According to evidence table 2, there is 1 Contracted Academic Staff and 2 clinical mentors who work in university health structure. They do have the prior permission by health structure in order to carry out teaching activity.

<p>the legislation in force, not greater than 50% of the professors that cover the study program. This academic staff must have didactic-formative experience and professional-clinical diagnostic experience. The teaching activity carried out by the training network health structures staff requires the prior approval of the health structure director.</p> <p>The teaching activity carried out by university health structure staff, requires in any case, the prior approval of the relevant HEI, where the university health structure is an integral part thereof.</p> <p>iii. part-time academic staff, for special disciplines, not more than 10% of the lecturers covering the study program, with whom a contract is concluded, according to the study program structural needs;</p>	<p>3- According to table 2 of academic staff engaged in long term specialization in Gastroenterology, there is just 1(one) part time academic staff for special discipline, that comprise 5% of the staff.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 3: Summary table)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: The long-term specialization study program has a program director/officer. The specialization program director/officer must be full-time academic staff. The specialization program director/officer is also member of the basic unit/service responsible for the long-term specialization program. The specialization program director/officer is chosen among the basic unit assembly members, with a simple majority (50%+1). The program director/officer at a HEI may not be charged with the responsibility of directing another study program carried out at other HEIs;</p>	<p>According to long term specialization regulation, and evidence provided, Specialization program in Gastroenterology has Associated Professor Leonardo Baiocchi as Director of long-term Specialization Program. He is member of department of Medical Sciences, responsible for the long-term specialization program. He is proposed by Head of Department and approved by Dean of Faculty.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle; Evidence 33: Appointment of Specialization Program Director in Gastroenterology)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The responsible unit ensures adequate capacities for supervising the resident. The resident's supervisor is: the academic supervisor and</p>	<p>According to evidence 3, table 2, Medical Science Department has the adequate capacities for supervising the resident. Department has 20 (twenty) members, and there are 3 (two) clinical supervisors. According to evidence provided, there are not more than 3 students</p>

clinical/diagnostic supervisor. The maximum number of students that an academic/clinical-diagnostic supervisor may supervise is pursuant to the legal framework in force.

The resident's supervision is assigned to, in the capacity of supervisor, a lecturer (academic supervisor) and/ or a health structure staff member of the training network (clinical supervisor/ tutor) of the study program, who supervise the resident throughout the specialization period and are responsible for managing, advising, assessing student's needs, as well as for carrying out and monitoring the student's work.

The supervisor's specialty field should match the resident's specialization program field. The clinical supervisor/ tutor has a professional experience of at least 10 years (ten years) with clinical experience in the relevant clinical field and has at least the "Doctor" scientific degree. The maximum number of residents that can be supervised by the academic/ clinical supervisor is 3 (three).

The clinical supervisor/ tutor is a full-time staff member of one of the training network structures and has a cooperation contract with the HEI that offers the program. When the tutor is not part of the full-time staff of the structure that offers the specialization program, the resident is also assigned an academic supervisor, who is a full-time academic staff member of the institution. The clinical director decides on the assignment of the clinical supervisor and his clinical supervision accounts for working

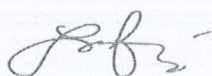
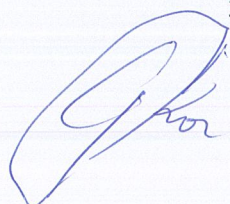
per year, 9 (nine) altogether in specialization program, thus number of students that an academic/clinical-diagnostic supervisor may supervise is pursuant to the legal framework in force, not more than 3 (three).

According to the regulation of the specialization program in "Gastroenterology", Article 12, and Decree of rector Prot. 4-1/20 date 21.01.2020, each student has one clinical supervisor, who is responsible for managing, advising, assessing student's needs, as well as for carrying out and monitoring the student's work. Clinical supervisor for specialization program in Gastroenterology are 2(two) professors who have more than 10 years of experience working in Gastroenterology, in University Hospital "Mother Theresa", Tirane. Catholic University OLGK has collaboration agreement with University Hospital "Mother Theresa". Teaching activities are carried out in the premises of the Catholic University OLGK.

(Evidence 16: Long term specialization regulation of third cycle; Evidence 3: Summary table)

hours. The teaching activity is carried out in parallel with the assistant/professional activity, in line with the study program requirements. When the teaching activity is carried out at the premises where such study program is delivered by the university health structures staff, it requires the prior approval of the relevant structure director;				
Conclusion	<i>Medical Science Department and Faculty of Medicine have the appropriate number of academic staff with Profesor and scientific degree. There is appointed a Director of Specialization Program, proposed by head of department and approved by Dean of faculty. Department has adequate academic staff to carry out teaching activities, and most important, clinical activities, by having 3 (three) clinical supervisors.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard III.2	
The institution ensures the necessary infrastructure and logistics in the framework of the long-term specialization program.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The institution has a permanent location, which implies central administrative facilities and teaching activity facilities. Such facilities must be available to the institution for not less than 6 years.	Catholic University OLGK since opening in y.2004 has a permanent location, in Durresi Street, since beginning of activity, more than 6 years. There are 6 (six) buildings covering 61,460 square meter, which includes administrative and teaching facilities. <i>(Evidence 1: DCM no. 567 date 27.08.2004 " For giving permission for opening of the High Universitary non-public School "Our Lady of good Council")</i>
Criterion 2: The institution must have adequate infrastructural and technological capacities. It possesses administrative and clinical structures, sufficient for the activities provided for in the specialization study program as per the specific standards attached herein (Appendix 2). (Shtojca 2).	Based on the field visit of the external evaluation group and according to standards required in Appendix 2, Catholic University OLGK does have infrastructural and technological capacities to offer long term specialization program in Gastroenterology. University does have infrastructure to provide teaching program (classes for lectures, seminars), powerpoint projectors, IT laboratory, library in paper and e-library. University has collaboration agreement for clinical activities, with University Hospital "Mother Theresa" which is tertiary level and national excellence healthcare institution. The MT Hospital does have inpatient wards, ambulatory ward, and day hospital. They have diagnostic radiology, medical laboratory, and first aid of the first and second level, diagnostic and therapeutic

	<p>ultrasound. Besides that, University has recently opened its own Hospital, with 38 bed, and outpatient session. OLG hospital does have clinic nutrition, digestive pathology laboratory, and pathologic anatomy. University OLG has collaboration agreement with Healthcare Institution Cn2 of Alba, which posses Hospital "Michele e Pietro Ferrero" in Verduno and Sanigest s.p.s. Italy, especially for clinical practices of specialization program in Gastroenterology.</p> <p>Catholic University OLG have to accredit the Hospital they opened recently in order to meet the requirement of the legal framework.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 20: Summary table of agreements for specialization on Gastroenterology)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 3: The institution has accredited health structures for conducting various clinical diagnostic, professional and didactic activities. These structures are accredited pursuant to the legal framework in force.</p>	<p>Catholic University OLG does have agreement contract with University Hospital "Mother Theresa", in which are conducted clinical diagnostic, professional and didactic activities of the program. It is accredited by Agency of Insurance of Health and Social care Quality, for a period of 5 (five) years 2022-2027.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61: Agreement between UOLGC and University hospital "Mother Theresa")</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 4: The institution may organize joint long-term specialization study programs with one or more institutions, recognized/ accredited pursuant to the legislation in force.</p>	<p>According to Decree of Board of Accreditation No.121 date 15.12.2017, Catholic University OLG has organized the long term specialization program in Gastroenterology in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata". University of Rome "Tor Vergata" is accredited by Ministry of Education, University and Research in Italy and National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research System.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision no.121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board; Evidence 9: Link)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>Catholic University OLG does posses the required infrastructure for providing teaching and clinical activities. It has agreement with healthcare institution in Albania and Italy in order to carry out clinical activities. All institutions being part of specialization program in Gastroenterology are accredited pursuant to the legislation.</i></p> <p><i>Catholic University OLG have to accredit the Hospital they opened recently in order to meet the requirement of the legal framework.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

<p>Standard III.3 The institution may offer foreign language study programs, with qualified academic staff.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Criterion 1: The institution,</p>	<p>The long term specialization program in Gastroenterology based on</p>

<p>which offers foreign language study programs, meets the same standards set for HEIs that offer specialization study programs in the field of medicine in the Albanian language.</p>	<p>Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation, paragraph 1, is stated "fulfill the legal requirements" and standards set for HEIs in the field of the Medicine. The specialization program is offered by Catholic University OLG, which offers study programs in Italian language, is accredited by Decision No. 112 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation for a period of 6(six) years.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision no.121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board; Evidence 13: Decision No. 112 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation for institutional accreditation)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 2: Academic staff engaged in foreign language teaching hold internationally recognized language certificates, pursuant to the legal framework in force.</p>	<p>The long term specialization program in Gastroenterology based on Decision No. 121 date 15.12.2017 of Board of Accreditation is offered by Catholic University OLG in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata", and according to internal evaluation group meeting it is offered in Italian language. Most of the academic staff are Italian and do not need international certified language.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 6: Decision no.121 date 15.12.2017 of Accreditation Board)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Catholic University OLG in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata" do offer the long term specialization program in Gastroenterology in Italian language, and do have qualified academic staff who can provide teaching in Italian language . Catholic University OLG have to accredit the Hospital they opened recently in order to meet the requirement of the legal framework.</p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met X</p>

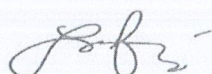
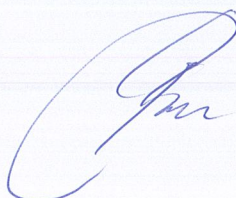
<p>Standard III.4 Engaged structures should hold envisaged general and specific standards.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Criterion 1: Central and secondary structures hold general standards in line with the infrastructural, technological, organizational and assistant capacity according to the following criteria and according to the specific criteria provided for in Appendix 2:</p> <p>a. Infrastructural capacity: adequate spaces for exercising provided functions;</p> <p>b. Technological capacity: equipment needed to perform the envisaged functions;</p> <p>c. Organizational capacity:</p>	<p>Catholic University OLG has agreement with University Hospital "Mother Theresa", Healthcare Institution Cn2 of Alba, which posses Hospital "Michele e Pietro Ferrero" in Verduno and Sanigest s.p.s. Italy, especially for clinical practices of specialization program in Gastroenterology. Catholic University OLG has recently opened its own Hospital, with 38 bed, and outpatient session. The above mentioned healthcare institutions have infrastructural, technological, organizational and assistant capacity as follow:</p> <p>a. Infrastructural capacity: Internal medicine and medical specialties, general and specialized surgery, pathological anatomy, diagnostic interventiaonal radiology,</p> <p>b. Technological capacity: diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasound, diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy,</p> <p>c. Organizational capacity: Albanian students of long term</p>

<p>necessary professional competences; d. Assistant capacity: specific clinical intervention amount and typology.</p>	<p>specialization program in Gastroenterology carry out their clinic activities in University Hospital “Mother Theresa” and Italian student in Hospital “Michele e Pietro Ferrero” in Verduno and Sanigest s.p.s. Italy, which do have necessary number of medical staff (gastrienerologist and surgeon), and healthcare technical staff.</p> <p>d. Assistant capacity: observation of the clinical report of the clinical professional activity performed by student Gerald Kola, we noticed that are meet requirement for specific clinical intervention amount and tipology, according to Appendix 2.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61 – 66: Agreement between UOLGC and higher education institutions and hospitals)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: All facilities (e.g. lecture halls, libraries, secretariats, etc.) meet general standards.</p>	<p>Based on the field visit and observation of the EEG, Catholic University OLGc has the campus with several facilities, in which are classrooms, laboratories and library. All facilities meet general standards. Library “Paolo Ruatti” has 18,000 titles, and offer computers for electronic library, as follow databases: Hinary, JStore, Piattaforma. Library has it’s own website: https://biblioweb.unizkm.edu.al, which is accesable by students, professors. Secretariats are placed in appropriate premises and provide services to students according to legal framework requirements.</p>
<p>Criterion 3: The basic structure is equipped with the necessary facilities/equipment: didactic secretariat scientific library rich in publications, and in electronic form complete IT infrastructure. research and didactic laboratories (if provided for in Appendix No. 2) health posts and assistant structures (with the necessary technological equipment according to the specialty) hospital facilities with beds (when envisaged in the specific specialty standards according to Appendix 2) The aforementioned facilities must ensure safety and hygiene standards and have no architectural barriers that impede access to the various activities provided for by the study</p>	<p>According to Appendix 2 requirements and presence during the visit, the basic structure is equipped with didactic secretary; library “Paolo Ruatti” has 18,000 titles, and offer computers for electronic library, as follow databases: hinary, JStore, Piattaforma; medical diagnostic laboratory and digestive fispathology laboratory. The University Hospital “Mother Theresa” where students of specialization in Gastroenterology do their clinical activities does have inpatient ward with beds.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61: Agreement between UOLGC and Hospital University “Mother Theresa”)</i></p>

<p>program.</p> <p>Criterion 4: Each specific specialization program meets the specific standards according to the typology of specialization (e.g. specific laboratories, services, in-patient hospitalization, etc.) according to Appendix 2. Specific standards are divided into:</p> <p>a. base: standards that must necessarily be met by both the base structure and the secondary/satellite structures.</p> <p>b. secondary: standards that, in order to meet the accreditation criteria of the structure, must be met by both the central and secondary structure or by other HEI structures as per a certain percentage envisaged for accreditation. If neither the basic or the secondary structure meet the standards, they must be met by the complementary structures whereby there is a cooperation agreement.</p> <p>c. general services: are operational services that the structure which comprises either the central or secondary structure to be accredited must have.</p>	<p>Long term specialization program in Gastroenterology meets the specific standards according to Appendix 2, as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> University Hospital “Mother Theresa” does meet base standards: inpatient ward, day hospital and ambulatory service, disgnostic and therapeutic ultrasound, diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy. University Hospital “Mother Theresa” and Catholic University OLG Hospital do meet secondary standards: digestive fispathology labaoatory, clinical nutrition, diagnostic and therapeutic radiology, pathologic anatomy, diagnostic medical laboratory, emergency service (first aid). University Hospital “Mother Theresa” and Catholic University OLG Hospital have operational services required by standards according to Appendix 2. <p>There is no evidence of the organizational chart of aforementioned hospitals and number of activities carried out by each of the services composing basic, secondary and general standards. Catholic University OLG being newly opened university hospital is not accredited yet.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61: Agreement between UOLGC and Hospital University “Mother Theresa”. Visit at OLG Hospital)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The institution that offers specialization programs ensures that it possesses adequate capacities for health, support and administrative staff in the central and secondary structures to cover the needs of the offered specialties, based on the capacities.</p>	<p>According to organigram and evidence possed at the summary table, the Catholic University OLG is an well organized HEI, which posses adequate capacities in administrative staff, support technical staff and academic personnel in Faculty of Medicine, in order to responds to needs of the students in long term specialization program in Gastroenterology.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 74: Organigram of UOLGC. Evidence no 3: Summary table. Visit in the site)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6: The institution that offers specialization programs is well-organized and has the documentation that attest to the organization and management structure as well as administrative and academic staff with the relevant titles and roles provided for each.</p>	<p>The Catholic University OLG is an well-organized HEI which has an organizative chart, including management structure – Academic Senate, Rector;, administrative structure – Administrator, 5 departments; and academic organization – 4 faculties (applied sciences; farmacology; medicine; economical, political and social sciences). There are 20 full time professors in Faculty of Medicine which is responsabile for long term specialization program study in Gastroenterology.</p>

	<i>(Evidence 74: Organigram of UOLGC)</i>			
Conclusion	<p><i>Catholic University OLG and healthcare institutions in which is offered long term specialization in Gastroenterology do meet base, secondary and general clinic standards, appropriate organizational and administrative structure, and infrastructural, technological and assistant capacities.</i></p> <p><i>There is no evidence of the organizational chart of aforementioned hospitals and number of activities carried out by each of the services composing basic, secondary and general standards. Catholic University OLG being newly opened university hospital is not accredited yet.</i></p>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
			X	

Standard III.5	
The training network meets the minimum criteria envisaged and is suitable to offer long-term specialization programs in the field of medicine.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The institution meets the minimum general requirements set out in this document regarding the training network.	<p>The long term specialization program in Gastroenterology is offered by network of institutions, which provide theoretical and practical activities. The specialization program in Gastroenterology is offered by Catholic University OLG in collaboration with University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy. Catholic University OLG has collaboration agreement with several healthcare facilities in order to provide professional clinical activities, as follow: University Hospital "Mother Theresa"; America hospital – Tirane; local healthcare enterprise Cn2 Alba-Bra, Italy; Sanigest enterprise S.p.a – Italy. All the institutions meet minimum general requirements by Appendix 2. On the other hand, Catholic University OLG recently has opened a new hospital part of his network but is not accredited yet.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 74: Organigram of UOLGC; Evidence 61 – 66: Agreement between UOLGC and higher education institutions and hospitals)</i></p>
Criterion 2: The institution must meet the minimum specific requirements for each specialty provided in Appendix 2 of this document with regards to the training network.	<p>The main institution in which students of specialization in Gastroenterology are using for training clinical activities, is University Hospital "Mother Theresa", local healthcare enterprise Cn2 Alba-Bra, Italy; Sanigest enterprise S.p.a – Italy. They all meet minimum specific requirements provided in Appendix 2, table 11, for basic, secondary and general service standards, as forementioned in Standard III.4, criteria 4.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61, 66, 67: Agreement between UOLGC and hospitals)</i></p>
Criterion 3: The general and specific requirements are organized according to the	<p>Training network for long term specialization program in Gastroenterology, meet general and specific requirements organized as follow:</p>

<p>following criteria:</p> <p>a. Adaptability of structures and equipment, with relevant general and diagnostic services and the existence of similar specialties in them</p> <p>b. Existence of sufficient number and practical procedures for a complete professional training</p> <p>c. Adequate financial resources</p> <p>d. Matching tutors, lecturers and experts</p> <p>e. Adequate organizational structure, with the necessary professional capacities</p> <p>f. Scheduling of orientation, analysis activities according to market demands and establishing a training program</p> <p>g. Student selection and assessment</p> <p>h. Efficiency and effectiveness in the various envisaged activities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They have proper equipment and structure relevant to teaching and clinical activities in Gastroenterology. They do have similar specialty in their structure, 2. They do perform efficient number of practical procedures for complete professional training according to Appendix 2, table 11, asistences criterias, 3. Catholic University OLG and institutions part of training network, do have adequate financial resurces in order to support and provide clinical activities, 4. They do provide academic staff with required scientific degree, appropriate for the specialization program, 5. They do have Gastroenterology ward, with necessary academic and technical staff, 6. Catholic University OLG has done market analysis regarding needs for Gastroenterolgist, and based on that has established long term specialization program, 7. Catholic University OLG has established procedures based on the legal framework, in order to select and assess students. <p><i>(Evidence 61, 66, 67: Agreement between UOLGC and hospitals)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: The institution possesses documentation that demonstrates the composition of the training network and all structures engaged with specialization training (central/basic).</p>	<p>Catholic University OLG does possess all collaboration agreement between them and other members of training network.</p> <p>There is not specified what kind of resources are going to be disponible by healthcare institution, as: basic, secondary and general services, to long term specialization program in Gastroenterology.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61, 66, 67: Agreement between UOLGC and hospitals)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The central and secondary structures engaged with the specialization training must be accredited pursuant to the legislation in force.</p>	<p>Catholic University OLG, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, University Hospital “Mother Theresa”, American Hospital, local healthcare enterprise Cn2 Alba-Bra, Italy; Sanigest enterprise S.p.a – Italy, are accredited institution pursuant to the legislation.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 61, 66, 67: Agreement between UOLGC and hospitals)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6: The institution should possess documentation that clarifies the existence of general and diagnostic services included in the training of residents. The general and diagnostic services present in the health structures that are part of the training network may not be different or inferior to those provided for in Appendix 2 on the accreditation of structures.</p>	<p>Catholic University OLG possess collaboration agreements with institutions part of training network, where is prescribed disponibility of all their clinical and infrastructural capacities to specialization program in Gastroenterology.</p> <p>Healthcare institutions which have collaboration agreements and are part of training network do not have specified the general and diagnostic services they do posses.</p> <p>Students confirmed during consultation session with them, those training network institutions have appropriate diagnostic services required by Appendix 2.</p>

	<i>(Evidence 61, 66, 67: Agreement between UOLGC and hospitals)</i>			
Criterion 7: The institution possesses documentation that clarifies the existence of similar specialties in the health structures that are part of the training network, general and diagnostic services included in the training of residents (as per Appendix 2).	The main training institution where students of specialization in Gastroenterology do their clinical practice is University Hospital "Mother Theresa", which has gastroenterology specialty, general and diagnostic services, according to Appendix 2 requirements. This information is confirmed by students, during conversation session with them. <i>(Evidence 61: Agreement between UOLGC and Hospital University "Mother Theresa")</i>			
Criterion 8: The institution possesses documentation that specifies the number of medical services it offers for the professional training of residents (as per Appendix 2).	Catholic University OLGC, Department of Medical Sciences and Faculty of Medicine do possess reports for each student of specialization in Gastroenterology, number of medical services it offers for the professional training of residents, according to Appendix 2, table 11, assistance criteria. <i>(Evidence extra: Additional documents required by institution).</i>			
Criterion 9: The institution must possess documentation that describes the annual assistant activity of the structures engaged with the training network. The annual assistant activity carried out by residents in their training framework cannot exceed 30% of the total assistant activity carried out by the structures engaged with the training network (as per Appendix 2).	According to reports for students of specialization in Gastroenterology about their assistant activities in University Hospital "Mother Theresa", their annual assistant activity do not exceed 30% of the total assistant activity carried out by hospital. <i>(Evidence extra: Additional documents required by institution).</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The training network for long term specialization program in Gastroenterology is composed by teaching institutions and healthcare institutions, which is comprised based on collaboration program. All institutions part of the training network meets the minimum criteria envisaged in the Appendix 2. It is suggested that part of the collaboration agreement between Catholic University OLGC and healthcare institutions have to be structure of services provided by institution, structure and infrastructure of the Gastroenterology specialty service, number of assistant procedures performed annually by service.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
			X	

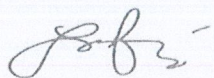
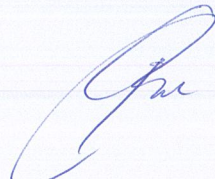
Standard III.6	
The unit responsible for the long-term specialization program demonstrates financial viability and provides adequate funding and student support.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation

<p>Criterion 1: Through financial reports and audits, the institution demonstrates a positive performance and viability in generating and using financial revenue.</p>	<p>During the visit in the Catholic University OLGC, which is part of the Foundation OLGC, IEG told to us that institution prepares yearly financial report, by including even 2 previous fiscal years, and institution demonstrates positive and sustainable financial performance. There is not any evidence delivered by institution to prove there is financial and audit report.</p>			
<p>Criterion 2: The responsible unit secures through the institution, projects or funding from other entities the necessary funds for delivering the specialization programs.</p>	<p>According to the meeting with internal evaluation group, Catholic University OLGC is based on the self-financed principle, by having financial inputs from: Foundation OLGC, enrollement fees, income from its activity, scientific research activities, etc. Even Department of Medical Sciences, responsible for long term specialization program in Gastroenterology, secures the necessary fund from these sources. According to evidence table 19, there are 25 staff participated in local and international projects. There is not any written evidence about financial income to faculty form these project.</p>			
<p>Criterion 3: The long-term specialization study program is supported by an adequate budget of the responsible unit.</p>	<p>The long term specialization program in Gastroenterology and students enrolled in it, are supported with adequate budget in order to perform all teaching and clinical activities. In collaboration agreements is mentioned that Catholic University OLGC is responsible for financial cost of all clinical activities carried out in their premises by students. <i>(Evidence 61, 66, 67: Agreement between UOLGC and hospitals)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 4: The financial budget distribution structure of the specialization study program is in line with the institution's policy and development.</p>	<p>The financial budget allocated to specialization program is planned based on income and spending according to lines: salaries, operative expenses, etc, which is in line with institution policy, and requirements by financial legal framework.</p>			
<p>Criterion 5: The use of funds allocated for the delivery of the specialization program is subject to continuous reporting and auditing.</p>	<p>According to IEG of CUOLGC, funds allocated for delivery of specialization program in Gastroenterology, are reported and audited annually, as required by legal framework. There were no evidence shown to us about these reports.</p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>Catholic University OLGC has shown positive financial performance and sustainability, during previous years. It supports specialization program in Gastroenterology with appropriate budget, by supporting training cost in training healthcare institutions.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
			<p>X</p>	

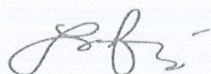
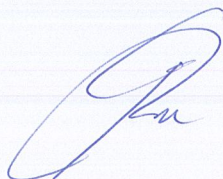
<p>Field III Standards' Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
			<p>X</p>	

IV. RESEARCH AND CLINICAL/DIAGNOSTIC EXPERIENCE

Standard IV.1	
The resident has a tutor who attends him/her throughout the entire specialization period.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The student has a clinical supervisor (tutor), who has graduated and specialized in the field of the applicant's study program and who has at least 10 (ten) years of experience in the clinical diagnostic field with the "Doctor" title.</p>	<p>The qualifications and professional experience of the academic staff play a vital role in upholding the educational standards of an institution. The detailed list of academic staff CVs, found in Evidences 35 and 43, proved to meet standards, with substantial expertise, relevant specialization, and a decade of experience in the clinical diagnostic field [SER, pg.62]. Further strengthened by the "Doctor" title, the supervisor's credentials align with the study program's objectives.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 35: Clinical Tutor Evaluation; Evidence no. 43: CV – Prof. Asoc. Leonardo Baiocchi)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The basic responsible unit/ service selects the clinical supervisors, capable of supervising the resident's clinical and research, based on the assessment of their clinical and research publishing activities, inside and outside the country.</p>	<p>The EEG confirms the unit's careful selection of clinical supervisors, considering their capability to oversee residents' clinical and research activities and their research contributions on international scale.</p> <p>Clinical supervisors guide training and research for specialists, selected by the program's governing council with endorsement from the reference department and Dean of Medicine [SER, pg.63].</p> <p><i>(Evidence 21: Table of Scientific Research Projects; Evidence no. 61-67 Agreement between UniZKM and hospitals)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The tutor is employed full-time at one of the structures of the training network and has a cooperation contract with the institution that delivers the specialization program.</p>	<p>During the visit to the institution and the documentation made available in the system, the EEG noted that the CU-OLGC has an organized database for members of the academic staff, including those who are permanent and those under contract. This shows clear and structured management of information related to the academic staff at the university.</p> <p>The EEG observes that the full-time involvement of the tutor within the training network, along with their collaborative agreement with the institution, ensures coherence and alignment.</p> <p>The EEG requested to randomly inspect a contract for one of the tutors enrolled in the specialization program, and all aspects of the contract were found to be satisfactory.</p> <p>The provision of an academic officer to fill in when a full-time tutor is not available strengthens the support system for students, thus enhancing their advancement in the specialization program.</p>

	<i>(Evidence 42: Regulation of the 2017 Specialization studies)</i>
Criterion 4: Clinical supervisors work to update their knowledge and skills, based on institutional agreements, with the view of enabling exchanges of best practices and providing advice on effective student support.	<p>The EEG provides a positive evaluation for this criterion, given its significant contribution to student development and program improvement.</p> <p>The visit affirmed the clinical supervisors' commitment to continually update their knowledge and skills, aligning with institutional agreements. This dedication not only facilitates the exchange of best practices but also enhances student support.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with staff)</i></p>
Criterion 5: The clinical supervisor possesses the necessary expertise, training and instructions for his/her role in supervising the resident for carrying out specialization studies and in particular the practice/ clinical part of the program.	<p>The EEG appreciates the clinical supervisor's obvious expertise, preparedness, and credentials, especially when it comes to guiding residents in their specializations and practical/clinical facets of the program.</p> <p>These assertions were strengthened by our direct engagements with multiple supervisors, reinforcing our positive assessment.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 31: Academic Staff Table)</i></p>
Criterion 6: The clinical tutor may not supervise more than 3 (three) students at the same time.	<p>The expert panel acknowledges the criterion limiting a clinical tutor to supervise no more than three students at a time, ensuring focused and personalized guidance for each student. This program has no more than two students registered per year.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 35 Clinical Tutor Evaluation; Meeting with tutors)</i></p>
Criterion 7: The tutor's specialty field matches that of the specialization program pursued by the resident.	<p>The review team confirms the match between the tutor's expertise and the student's chosen study field.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 33 Appointment of the Director of the Long-Term Specialization Program in "Gastroenterology")</i></p>
Criterion 8: In all cases, the student has only one identified point of contact, which should be his or her lead clinical tutor. If the lead tutor is not available, the student is informed on the potential replacement.	<p>The EEG claims the clear communication structure ensuring each student has a single contact point, their lead clinical tutor. The provision for an alternate in the tutor's absence guarantees continuous guidance, aiding the student's academic advancement.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with students)</i></p>
Criterion 9: The institution ensures that the tutor has sufficient time to supervise the resident.	<p>During the meeting with managerial staff, they guaranteed that tutor has enough time for providing thorough supervision to residents, reflecting its dedication to fostering successful learning outcomes.</p> <p><i>(Meetings with management, tutors and students)</i></p>
Conclusion	<p><i>The EEG's assessment confirms the selection of clinical supervisors aligns with the program's standards, with emphasis on relevant specialization and substantial expertise. The careful coordination within the institution, including limitations on the number of students per tutor and alignment of tutor expertise with study fields, demonstrates a commitment to personalized student</i></p>

	<i>support. Provisions for continuous guidance, such as an academic officer for backup and guaranteeing sufficient tutor time for residents, reflect the program's dedication to fostering successful learning outcomes.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard IV.2

The objectives of the long-term specialization study program in the field of medicine are the continuous engagement in clinical and research work and the encouragement of students' teamwork.

Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The student engages in clinical and research work for training and successful completion of the study program.</p>	<p>Throughout the training process, the specialist acquires theoretical understanding, hands-on abilities, and essential ethical and professional qualities.</p> <p>During the examination of the SER and the provided documents, as well as through discussions with the specialists, the EEG confirmed the participation of students in clinical activities. Yet, we did not found records that encapsulate the details of the specialists' scientific research activities.</p> <p>The student are engaged in both the theoretical and practical aspects of their specific specialization program, and they are made aware of this responsibility at the onset of their specialization [SER, pg.64]</p> <p><i>(Evidence 30: Syllabus; Meeting with students)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The student participates in various clinical activities closely related to the specific specialization field of study, which help him/her to train for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Acquiring methodologies and clinical and research knowledge for independent creative activities such as: scientific articles, presentations, etc .; b. Independent laboratory/ clinic work; c. Using information resources (e.g. libraries and internet, scientific/ clinical databases) and managing information; d. Using modern technologies for public presentations; e. Acquiring advanced methods of data analysis and processing; 	<p>During the visit with residents and during our tour in the facility, EEG observed resident's work in a newly constructed building with state-of-the-art hospital wards.</p> <p>Their engagement in a range of clinical activities has endowed them with essential techniques and insights for autonomous research and inventive undertakings.</p> <p>Their capability to carry out independent laboratory and clinic tasks was displayed, along with their adeptness in utilizing scientific databases and the internet for research functions.</p> <p>We also witnessed their skills in employing contemporary technology for public presentations.</p> <p>They exhibited a comprehension of methods for data analysis and processing, and displayed proficiency in using specialized clinical terminology in the field of Gastroenterology.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with students; Site visit)</i></p>

<p>f. Recognizing and acquiring specialized clinical field related terminology.</p>	
<p>Criterion 3: The specialization program students participate in the planned study program activities outside of their clinical work. The resident may participate as part of the audience or as a speaker in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lectures; b. Seminars; c. Interdisciplinary debates, held in the framework of the specialization study program; d. Other learning opportunities such as: attending presentations of various conferences and seminars of a clinical nature. <p>Tutors advise students to participate in scientific activities and conferences that assist them with their work and clinics.</p>	<p>After discussions with students and staff, it's clear that the resident has been actively involved beyond their clinical responsibilities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in conferences was primarily conducted online. However, they have also begun to attend on-site scientific events, reflecting a gradual return to more traditional modes of engagement and collaboration. The university supplied numerous examples of certificates demonstrating attendance at scientific events. Their regular participation in online lectures, seminars, and interdisciplinary debates within their specialization exhibits their engagement and ability to learn from diverse disciplines. Further, their attendance at these events keeps them updated with the latest field advancements. The residents has followed tutor advice by participating in scientific activities and conferences, underlining their commitment to professional growth.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 75: Certificates of Conferences of postgraduates; Meeting with management and students)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: Prior to graduation, the student must have published or have been accepted for publishing at least one scientific/ experimental research article in a scientific journal in or outside the country, whereby the percentage of article's similarity should be less than 30%. In addition, the student should have participated in not less than 2 national and/or international scientific activities in the relevant specialization field.</p>	<p>National quality standards delineates specific requirements that a student must fulfill prior to graduation, including the publication of research and participation in scientific activities within their specialization field. These criteria emphasize the importance of academic engagement, original research, and professional development in the relevant field of study. However, neither the SER nor the accompanying documentation provides evidence to confirm the fulfillment of this criterion. Managerial staff mentioned the research as one of chellnegs in specialization program.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with staff and students)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: The student acquires the proper communication skills at professional level.</p>	<p>During the meeting with students, they showed developed professional communication skills. Their clear expression of ideas, active listening, and effective responses highlighted their expertise in professional interactions.</p>
<p>Criterion 6: The student adheres to the rules of ethical and professional behavior with patients and colleagues and acquires the skills to properly communicate with others.</p>	<p>EEG In interactions with students, clear examples of professionalism were evident. The students demonstrated adherence to ethical norms and cultivated respectful relationships with both patients and colleagues. Their conduct embodied the principles of medical professionalism, underlining the importance of trust, integrity, and empathy within the medical field.</p>

Student's communication skills include: the competence to clearly describe clinical cases; use of persuasive arguments and clear formulation of ideas in front of patients and colleagues; the ability to debate and support others engaged with clinical practice, supervision or demonstrations.

	<p>Additionally, it's worth noting that if there are any violations of disciplinary or ethical norms, the specialist, as well as all other physicians, will be held accountable. The disciplinary actions will be enforced by multiple authorities, including the University, the Medical Association, and any other relevant bodies, as stated in SER [SER, pg.66].</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Regulation of studies of long-term specializations of the third cycle, in UniZKM)</i></p>			
Conclusion	<p><i>The EEG's examination of the SER and provided documentation, along with discussions with specialists, has confirmed that specialists are equipped with theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and professional ethics. Despite a lack of records on scientific research activities, their engagement in clinical activities, participation in scientific events, and adherence to ethical norms reflect the program's success. Although some areas are lacking in documentation, the overall evidence demonstrates alignment with the program's objectives and standards.</i></p>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Field IV Standards' Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

V. STUDENTS

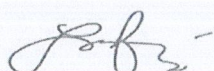
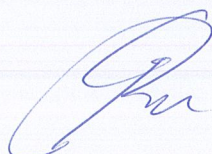
Standard V.1	
<p>The student who has completed an integrated study program in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, meets the academic standards of the admission criteria of the respective institution and enjoys the right to enroll in long-term specialization programs in the field of medicine.</p>	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The applicant who seeks to be admitted to the specialization study program undergoes the entrance examination to the specialization study program to which he/she has applied.</p>	<p>A specialization candidate, complying with the regulations and possessing all necessary documents, is subjected to an entrance examination. To stimulate and disseminate information to those interested in specialized programs, the institution leverages its official website, social media posts, and alumni connections, all managed through the Office of Career Guidance [SER, pg.67].</p> <p>The Academic Secretary and the Statistics Office provide support for the entrance examination process for the specialization study program. Their roles ensure the smooth administration of the entrance exams and aid in maintaining the integrity of the admission process.</p>

	<i>(Evidence 16: Regulation of studies of long-term specializations of the third cycle, in UniZKM)</i>			
Criterion 2: The institution has a computerized theoretical model for determining the applicants' knowledge, capacity, skills from different aspects (operational, cognitive and relational).	The institution employs a high-level computerized system and digitalization technique. The assessment and selection process for the specialist candidate is conducted through an admission competition, following a scoring system that adds up to 100 points. <i>(Evidence 73: Regulation of the Use of Computer Tools; Evidence 36: Verbal of the final exam in Gastroenterology)</i>			
Criterion 3: The institution announces in advance the program envisaged for the entrance exam and the instruments it uses to determine the applicants' knowledge, capacity, and skills from different aspects.	EEG, based on documents 38-40 and meetings with students and administrative staff, confirms the institution transparently announces the entrance exam's program and tools in advance, ensuring that applicants understand the methods used to assess their knowledge, capacity, and skills. This approach reflects a commitment to fair evaluation and allows candidates to adequately prepare for the examination. <i>(Evidence 38: Ranking of the Admission Competition for Long-Term Specialization Programs in the field of Medicine A.Y. 2022-2023; Evidence 40: List of candidates of admission competition – Specialization Program V.A. 2022 – 2023)</i>			
Criterion 4: The institution continuously reviews the admission policies and their impact on the students' further progress in the study program.	The EEG acknowledges the institution's ongoing commitment to reviewing and refining its admission policies. This process emphasizes ensuring alignment with students' further progress in the study program. The proactive approach towards continual improvement reflects the institution's dedication to maintaining high educational standards and contributes to a more tailored and effective learning experience for students. <i>(Evidence 39: Appointment of the Committee for the Admission Competition - Long-term Specialization Programs in the field of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine; Meetings with management and administrative staff)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The institution's entrance examination for specialization candidates is transparently managed, with clear communication about the programs and a scoring system. The commitment to continual improvement in admission policies underscores the institution's focus on fairness and educational standards.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard V.2	
The institution has statistics on the number and data of students attending long-term specialization study programs.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The institution has an	Two offices, the Academic Secretariat and the Office of Statistics,

<p>annual overview of the number of graduates in long-term specialization programs, program withdrawals, as well as dismissals prior to the completion of the program or the unsuccessful completion of the academic year.</p>	<p>maintain information concerning the yearly count of specialized students and any withdrawals from studies. SER assembles tables that encompass all details related to the number of specialized students in the program, along with any recent departures [E-137; SER.pg.69].</p> <p><i>(Evidence 76: Table with the total number of specialists for each year)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 2: The institution possesses individual data on students' academic performance since admission (previous grades e.g. student assessment in the previous study program, etc.).</p>	<p>Based on SER, the Academic Secretariat is responsible for maintaining all the necessary documents related to the academic trajectory of students in specialized programs. This extensive record includes details of exams administered at each academic year's end, summaries of the practical tasks performed by clinical tutors, and more. Furthermore, individual files managed by the Secretariat include all evaluated and authenticated achievements such as scientific papers published in specialty journals, validated involvement in research initiatives, engagement in advanced and specialization programs, completion of foreign language courses, as well as higher degrees like Master's and Doctorates [SER, pg.69].</p> <p><i>(Evidence 48: Student notebook – Template; Evidence 49: Student file)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The compliance with the standard seems to be met through the detailed and systematic handling of information by the Academic Secretariat and the Office of Statistics. Such thorough monitoring of student progress, qualifications, and other pertinent details demonstrates the institution's dedication to openness and consistency with the defined standards in specialized programs.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>

<p>Standard V.3 The institution continuously and thoroughly informs students about the study programs.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Criterion 1: The student is informed in detail about the study program, completion deadline and program organization.</p>	<p>Institution provide information on the beginning of the program, including the nomination of tutors and the specific healthcare institutions where clinical and practical activities will be conducted. Meanwhile, the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) focuses on the explanation of the admission exam in this introductory area.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 37: Competition announcement - Long-Term Specialization Program in the field of Medicine)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The unit responsible for the assessment results informs the students.</p>	<p>The assessment of skills is performed by all educators and tutors who have supervised the given time frame, utilizing consistent and valid evaluation tools. The results are consolidated into a final</p>

	<p>yearly decision, approved by the program's Council, which dictates the responsibilities of specialist doctors. A positive judgment allows progression to the next year or the final exam, while failure can lead to repeating the year. In cases of non-compliance with standards, consequences may occur. Specialists are also informed of their evaluation results through a designated portal [SER,pg.71].</p> <p><i>(Evidence 48: Student notebook – Template; Evidence 49; Student file; Evidence 77: Student Portal - https://portal.unizkm.al/#/)</i></p>			
Conclusion	<p>The standard's requirements are satisfied, as evidenced by the comprehensive method of informing candidates, utilizing uniform evaluation instruments, and enforcing transparent progression guidelines. This systematic procedure confirms the transparency of the process, maintains the accountability of specialized physicians, and is in line with the program's overall objectives.</p>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard V.4	
The student has all the necessary conditions to complete the study program.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The student admitted to the long-term specialization study program has the necessary conditions to complete both the academic and clinical aspects of the study program.</p>	<p>After site visit in the facility, EEG ensures that students have access to modern facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and shared spaces, all designed to fulfill the needs of those in specialized programs. There has been a consistent investment in up-to-date technology by the institution to facilitate top-quality education and foster research activities among students, specialists, and faculty members.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with the students; Facility tour)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The long-term specialization study program ensures the harmonization of the student's goals in the clinical/diagnostic and research-scientific field and, upon completion, the opportunity for professional career or employment.</p>	<p>The long-term specialization study program aligns the student's goals in both the clinical/diagnostic and research-scientific fields. Upon completion, it not only enhances their professional capabilities but also opens up substantial opportunities for a thriving professional career or gainful employment. This integration signifies a positive contribution to the student's development and to the broader medical community.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 42: Regulation of the 2017 Specialization studies)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The student who attends long-term specialization study programs has at his/her disposal a rich scientific library with publications both in paper and electronic format, as well as a complete IT infrastructure.</p>	<p>This criterion is successfully fulfilled by the institution as the students attending long-term specialization study programs have access to the "Paolo Ruatti" Library, which offers a wealth of scientific resources. With over 18,000 monographs, continuously updated publications in both paper and electronic formats, and a complete IT infrastructure, the library effectively supports the academic and research needs of specialized students and educators.</p>

	<i>(Evidence 69: List of books of the sector; Evidence no. 70: https://biblioweb.unizkm.edu.al; Facility tour in library and IT settings)</i>			
Criterion 4: The student has sufficient technical support for carrying out clinical and research related activity.	<p>In the specialized study program, students receive continuous technical support, fostering the advancement of their clinical activities and related research, marking a positive fulfillment of this educational criterion.</p> <p>In the geographical region hosting the Specialization Program, and extending across the entire Mediterranean basin, an emphasis on in-depth analysis in the field of Hepatology reflects the significant impact of liver diseases, necessitating a focused approach to understanding and treating this prevalent health concern.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with the students; Facility tour)</i></p>			
Criterion 5: Research involving laboratory research is supported by adequate laboratory material.	The information concerning this particular component is not found in the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) or within any of the provided documentation.			
Criterion 6: The student is insured throughout the specialization period and for all activities envisaged in the specialization program. The institution has available sufficient documentation with this regard. A copy of the insurance policy is submitted to the student once it is signed.	<p>Based on provided documentation [E 51] the student is insured for the entire period following specialization and for all activities foreseen in the program. A copy of the insurance policy is provided to the student at the time of signing. The student is covered for professional liability for any damages that might be caused to third parties, as well as for any injuries that they may sustain during the specialization period and the exercise of functions outlined in the specialization program. The insurance policy in favor of the student is defined and paid for by the Faculty to the insurance companies.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 51: Insurance policy)</i></p>			
Criterion 7: The institution maintains a database of employed students and relevant job positions.	<p>The university maintains a record of graduates from all the courses it provides, yet as of now, there are no individuals who have graduated from this specific specialization program. Presently, students are enrolled in this program and are pursuing their specialization within various structures that have been mutually agreed upon.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 76: Table with the total number of specialists for each year)</i></p>			
Conclusion	<p><i>The University's commitment to specialized programs is evident in its provision of modern facilities, technological support, and a well-structured study program that aligns with professional goals. Access to the "Paolo Ruatti" Library, a focus on Hepatology, and insurance coverage for students further reflect the institution's dedication to quality education.</i></p>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met

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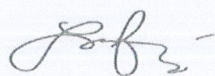
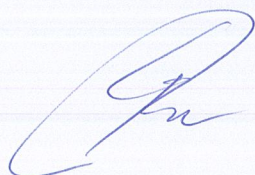
Standard V.5 The institution follows clear procedures for students' knowledge assessment.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
<p>Criterion 1: The institution follows clear and transparent procedures for the continuous assessment of student knowledge, which has been laid down and made public in the specialization regulation at the beginning of the study program.</p>	<p>Meeting with administrative staff confirmed that the institution's adherence to clear and transparent procedures for the continuous assessment of student knowledge demonstrates a commitment to integrity and fairness in the educational process. By making these procedures publicly available in the specialization regulation at the start of the study program, the institution ensures that students are fully aware of the evaluation criteria.</p> <p>At the end of each academic year, a theoretical and practical assessment exam is organized, which is evaluated with a final grade. The director of the specialization program, along with the academic coordinator, determines the date, method of the exam, and the materials that the secretary must prepare.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 16: Regulation of studies of long-term specializations of the third cycle, in UniZKM; Evidence. 36: Verbal of the final exam in Gastroenterology; Evidence 48: Student notebook – Template)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The institution has a computerized system for checking and assessing the knowledge acquired by students during the study program.</p>	<p>The Catholic University 'Lady of Good Counsel' showcases modernization in academic operations through its Information Technology system. Utilizing software called UniMS (University Management System), the university digitalizes information from both educational and administrative processes. This technology also extends to student assessment, where a computerized system checks and assesses acquired knowledge.</p> <p>Additionally, the CU-LGC utilizes an in-house Enterprise Resource Planning management system. This system, developed in accordance with the university's Statute, procedures, and regulations, manages and coordinates all university processes. It ensures the smooth coordination of workflow and is comprised of four portals [SER, pg.75].</p> <p><i>(Evidence 71: Table of Informatics; Meeting with the students; Facility tour)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: The ongoing assessment conclusions are clear and transparent, including suspension, extension or dismissal from specialization studies.</p>	<p>The examination process described a well-structured and transparent system for evaluating specialist students. The Commission's involvement ensures an authoritative assessment, and clear communication both verbally and in writing adds to the transparency of the process. The provision to receive a certificate of completed modules even after multiple failures reflects a fair and considerate approach, recognizing students' efforts. The immediate availability of results on the candidates' personal portal further emphasizes the program's efficiency and student-centered focus.</p>

<p>Criterion 4: Students' assessment is carried out according to the courses attended by the resident during that academic year.</p>	<p><i>(Evidence 49: Student file; Evidence 72: http://unims.unizkm.edu.al/)</i></p> <p>The assessment of students is methodically executed and well-documented. Clinical mentors play a crucial role in this process by drafting detailed reports on the hands-on work of specializing students. These reports are then incorporated into their academic records, ensuring a comprehensive and transparent evaluation. The stringent requirement for students to meet all annually defined prerequisites within the program, as well as the necessity for approval of their individual file by the Council of Specialization, underscores the institution's dedication to maintaining high academic standards. Only those who fulfill these criteria are permitted to sit for the concluding examination, emphasizing the integrity and rigor of the assessment process.</p> <p><i>(Evidence no. 27: Didactic Plan of the Specialization Program in "Gastroenterology"; Evidence no. 48: Student notebook – Template; Evidence no. 49: Student file; Meeting with students)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The CU-LGC employs a clear and transparent process for student assessment, using technology system and methodical evaluation involving clinical mentors. Structured examination process, along with immediate result availability and provisions recognizing students' efforts, underscores the institution's commitment to academic standards and integrity.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				X

<p>Field V Standards' Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				X

VI. LONG-TERM SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE

<p>Standard VI.1 The institution and the responsible unit drafts and implements transparent policies and procedures specific to the long-term specialization program quality assurance, within the framework of internal quality assurance system and structures.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p> <p>Criterion 1: The institution has in place policies, structures and procedures for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA), in accordance with applicable legal and sub-legal provisions and with institutional regulatory acts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Expert evaluation</p> <p>The institution demonstrates a strong commitment to maintaining high standards by implementing comprehensive policies, structures, and procedures for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA), aligning seamlessly with both legal requirements and institutional regulations, thereby fulfilling a critical criterion for quality in education.</p> <p>Based on offered documentation [SER, pg.77,78], since the academic year 2004-2005, the Catholic University 'Lady of Good</p>

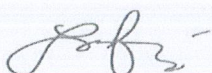
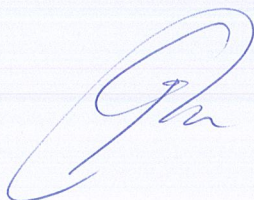
	<p>Counsel' has been utilizing the same quality assurance techniques found in its Italian partner universities, where similar joint study programs are offered. The principal mode of evaluation, overseen by the relevant office, is an assessment conducted by the students themselves.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 10: Appointment of Committees for Internal Quality Assessment; Evidence 15: Statute of the Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel")</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 2: The institution has established and introduced the Internal Quality Assurance System and implements an institutional strategy for continuous quality improvement, which includes students and external partners and experts.</p>	<p>In compliance with Article 103 of Law No. 80/2015 pertaining to Higher Education and Scientific Research within the Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Albania, and in alignment with Article 22 of the University's Statute, the establishment of the Internal Quality Assessment Unit has been sanctioned. This unit operates according to a specific Regulation, authorizing periodic access to all University-related acts, documents, and information while ensuring the privacy of the accumulated documents.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 79: Appointment of Quality Assessment Unit; Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 3: The institution uses adequate instruments for quality assurance, the External Quality Assurance in Higher Education is carried out through external accreditation assessment processes, analytical and comparative assessments, as well as other processes that promote and improve quality.</p>	<p>The institution is proactively engaged in quality assurance measures, utilizing the External Quality Assurance in Higher Education by ASCAL, which includes external accreditation assessment processes, analytical and comparative assessments, and other methods that foster and enhance quality, affirming its commitment to educational excellence based on approved Regulation .</p> <p><i>(Evidence 11: Agenda of the evaluation phases for the study program Long-Term Specialization School in "Gastroenterology"; Evidence 13: Decision of B.A. no. 112, dated 15/12/2017 and the Certificate of Institutional Accreditation)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 4: The Institution has drafted a clear policy and follows periodic procedures to ensure and improve the quality of the study program it delivers, within the IQA framework. They aim to create a quality culture at the institutional level, the constituent units and all institutional internal actors.</p>	<p>The institution's policy and periodic adherence to IQA procedures, as seen in quality assurance documents, illustrate a commitment to program quality. Despite not being detailed in the SER, the available evidence emphasizes the school's focus on maintaining and enhancing educational standards.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 79: Appointment of Quality Assessment Unit; Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The university exemplifies commitment to quality assurance through its comprehensive Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) policies and procedures. This is evident in the student-led assessments and the establishment of the Internal Quality Assessment Unit in alignment with national regulations.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>

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Standard VI.2	
The institution and responsible unit continuously monitors and reviews the study program with the view of ensuring the achievement of training objectives and targeted learning outcomes.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The institution establishes a special unit for monitoring, reviewing, and supervising the specialization program.	EEG can positively affirm that the institution has demonstrated a commitment to quality by establishing a special unit solely dedicated to the monitoring, reviewing, and supervision of the specialization program - Internal Quality Assessment Unit (SER, pg.81]. This strategic approach underscores their focus on delivering an exceptional educational experience. <i>(Evidence 79: Appointment of Quality Assessment Unit)</i>
Criterion 2: The institution uses formal and documented processes and mechanisms for periodically reviewing, approving and supervising the specialization program.	Based on the information provided in evidence number 80, the institution has implemented formal and documented methods for the consistent evaluation, endorsement, and supervision of the specialization program. Such a systematic approach underscores the institution's commitment to upholding high educational standards and reinforces its focus on quality, uniformity, and ongoing progress [SER,pg.79]. <i>(Evidence 81: Students' Perception)</i>
Criterion 3: The institution has set measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators for the specialization program, in the framework of the program quality assessment.	The Internal Quality Assessment Unit is tasked with overseeing, controlling, and monitoring the study programs within the institution. This unit is supported by three key offices: the Office of Quality and Curriculum Assessment, the Office of Statistics, and the Office of Study and Work Orientation. These supporting offices regularly evaluate various aspects of the institution, such as the teaching progress, research, and other scientific criteria. Particularly noteworthy is the Office of Statistics' role, which includes gathering, managing, and analyzing student feedback on the lessons they have received (E-81). <i>(Evidence 79: Appointment of Quality Assessment Unit)</i>
Criterion 4: The institution uses assessment methodology, measuring instruments and evaluation instruments for the study program progress and success.	The institution's application of assessment methodology, measuring instruments, and evaluation tools for monitoring the progress and success of the study program demonstrates a well-structured and comprehensive approach, ensuring that the educational standards are consistently met and that the program continually aligns with its intended goals and outcomes [SER, pg.79]. <i>(Evidence 49: Student file)</i>
Criterion 5: The results of these assessments are documented and put forward to the responsible	An annual report on the university's teaching activities and services, along with an evaluation of the functionality and efficiency levels, is

and decision-making authorities for the study program.	compiled by these offices. This report, also containing insights on objectives, achievements, and necessary actions, is then presented to both the Rector and the Academic Senate [SER 80]. <i>(Evidence 16: Regulation of studies of long-term specializations of the third cycle, in UniZKM)</i>			
Criterion 6: The assessment reports should include the expected results, the assessment results and the measures taken to address shortcomings and the ongoing quality improvement.	Evidences provided presents the outcomes of evaluating student performance and perceptions, utilizing a detailed method and analysis of the accumulated data. The corresponding assessment reports, capturing the anticipated outcomes, the realized results, and the measures implemented to address any shortcomings, proves the institution's commitment to continual quality improvement. <i>(Evidence 81: Students' Perception)</i>			
Conclusion	<i>The institution has shown compliance with the standard, using thorough methodologies and specialized units to ensure continuous quality improvement.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
				X

Standard VI.3 The Institution and the responsible unit uses assessment procedures, methodologies, and measuring instruments for the study program opening, delivery, and progress, graduation, entering the labor market, as well as students' further studies.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The internal review of the specialization program is periodically carried out by the relevant internal quality assurance unit. The Higher Education Institution incorporates this information in the institutional self-assessment procedure within the accreditation or periodic self-assessment framework.	This criterion is fulfilled by the institution through the implementation of a systematic internal review process of the specialization program, conducted by the designated internal quality assurance unit. The institution integrates this vital information into its institutional self-assessment procedure, aligning it within the framework of accreditation or periodic self-assessment [SER 80]. <i>(Evidence 79: Appointment of Quality Assessment Unit)</i>
Criterion 2: To carry out the review, the institution uses various adequate and dedicated methods and instruments, in line with the specialization program nature and scope.	Adhering to its own regulations and in line with the specific nature and scope of the specialization program, the institution employs a range of appropriate and specialized methods and tools. By gathering information and working in cooperation with various organizational and research entities within the University, it effectively conducts its activities and ensures an systematic assessment of the program, upholding the required quality and integrity [SER 81]. <i>(Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit)</i>

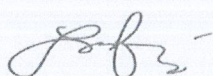
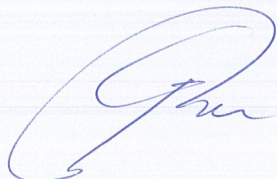
<p>Criterion 3: In the framework of program review, delivery, progress and quality, the institution uses direct methods for quality assessment.</p>	<p>The institution employs direct methods for quality assessment in the program review, including structured interviews and information requests, often sent via email. This initial step gathers essential data, and if needed, is followed by more informal interviews to clarify or explore significant topics. By using both formal and informal approaches, the institution ensures a comprehensive understanding of key issues, filling in informational gaps.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 10: Appointment of Committees for Internal Quality Assessment)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 4: In the framework of program review, delivery, progress and quality, the institution uses indirect assessment methods such as surveys and interviews of students, graduates, academic staff, supervisors and partners.</p>	<p>The institution employs indirect assessment methods, including surveys and interviews involving various stakeholders such as students, graduates, academic staff, supervisors, and partners. Receiving feedback, particularly from students, is further facilitated through meetings between specialists and the Program Coordinator. These interactions are vital for the institution as they enable real-time oversight of the educational process and provide valuable insights into the quality of both teaching and administrative operations.</p> <p><i>(Evidence 82: https://www.unizkm.al/posts/slug/percezione-degli-studenti-sullattivitaadidattica-anno-accademico-2021-2022?highlight=percezione%20degli%20stufdneti; Evidence 83 Registers – Template)</i></p>			
<p>Criterion 5: In the framework of continuous program improvements, assessment mechanisms include stakeholders, institutions that cooperate in the study program delivery and other parties engaged or that serve to assess the knowledge and competencies acquired by this program.</p>	<p>In the pursuit of continuous program improvements, the institution actively involves various stakeholders, collaborating institutions, and other engaged parties in the assessment mechanisms. The educational coordinator perceives the effectiveness of the lessons and the satisfaction of the students. The results are generally high, suggesting an overall satisfaction with the teachers and the level of learning achieved by the residents.</p> <p><i>(Meeting with residents and staff)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The institution conducts an internal review of the specialization program using various assessment methods, including interviews and surveys with stakeholders. This approach leads to high satisfaction levels and continuous improvements in program quality.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met X</p>

<p>Standard VI.4 The Institution engages academic units, staff and students in the study program IQA process, and informs interested parties on the results and the subsequent measures.</p>	
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Expert evaluation</p>
<p>Criterion 1: The institution should provide for and guarantee</p>	<p>Based on evidences 42 and 80 and information found on SER page 82, the institution has ensured the engagement of both internal and</p>

<p>the engagement of internal and external stakeholders, interested in continuously ensuring and improving the program's quality.</p>	<p>external stakeholders. <i>(Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 2: The institution defines the specific responsibilities and tasks of the units, individuals, students and other parties engaged in the study program internal quality assurance, and guarantees the responsible performance of these tasks.</p>	<p>The specific roles and duties of various units, individuals, students, and other involved parties in the internal quality assurance of the study program are delineated by the institution, as detailed in evidence numbers 79 and 80. <i>(Evidence 42: Regulation of the 2017 Specialization studies)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3: During study program assessment and quality assurance it is important to guarantee the engagement of the main and basic unit responsible for the study program, academic staff, academic and administrative assistants and study program students.</p>	<p>In the process of assessing and ensuring the quality of the study program, the institution confirms the active participation of the primary and fundamental unit responsible for the study program, including academic staff, academic and administrative assistants, and students. <i>(Evidence 81: Students' Perception)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4: Internal actors inclusion and engagement in the continuous assessment procedures should observe the academic integrity and avoid any kind of discrimination or inequality against staff and students.</p>	<p>The EEG affirms that the institution's inclusion of internal participants in ongoing assessment processes upholds the principles of academic integrity. By ensuring that there's no discrimination or inequality against staff or students, the institution demonstrates a culture of fairness and respect within the evaluation framework. <i>(Evidence 15: Statute of the Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel"; Evidence 16: Regulation of studies of long-term specializations of the third cycle, in UniZKM)</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: Partners and/or external experts, who are related to the study program, or can provide valuable expertise and input about the program quality and improvement should actively participate in the internal review and quality assurance processes.</p>	<p>In SER and documentation there are no data available to confirm the involvement of external experts related to the study program in the internal review and quality assurance processes</p>
<p>Criterion 6: Program academic progress and quality assurance monitoring is part of the activity of the unit responsible for the program and the IQAU.</p>	<p>Every participant in the "Gastroenterology" Specialization Program, including students, administrative technical staff, and educators, plays a role in the program's management and growth. They actively engage through regular consultations and meetings, addressing and solving challenges that arise during the learning process, all aiming to maintain and enhance the overall quality of the study program [SER pg.83]. <i>(Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit)</i></p>

Conclusion	<i>The institution complies with standards by engaging stakeholders in continuous quality improvement, adhering to academic integrity and non-discrimination. Despite missing data on external experts, the institution's approach reflects a commitment to quality management and enhancement.</i>			
Standard's Fulfillment Degree	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
			X	

Standard VI.5	
Policies, processes and activities for the study program Internal Quality Assurance should be made public, transparent, and effective, with the view to establishing an Internal Quality Assurance Culture.	
Criteria	Expert evaluation
Criterion 1: The policy, strategy, organization and activities within the framework of study program Internal Quality Assurance system are transparent and are made public to all students and parties concerned.	The institution actively promotes transparency in its Internal Quality Assurance system, ensuring all students and concerned parties have accessible and up-to-date information, fostering trust and continuous improvement. This proactive approach enables the identification and handling of critical issues, as well as the recognition of opportunities for continual enhancement. <i>(Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit)</i>
Criterion 2: The institution and responsible unit publishes the results of the study programs assessment, by observing ethics and academic freedom, as well as the legislation on personal data.	The institution demonstrates positive compliance with this activity by responsibly publishing the results of the study programs' assessment in the web page of institution. In doing so, it adheres to ethical standards, respects academic freedom, and complies with personal data legislation, reflecting a commitment to integrity and transparency. <i>(Evidence 82: https://www.unizkm.al/posts/slug/percezione-degli-studenti-sullattivitaadidattica-anno-accademico-2021-2022?highlight=percezione%20degli%20stufdneti)</i>
Criterion 3: The assessment results should be accompanied with an action plan designed to address and improve the identified weaknesses and issues.	The assessment results are accompanied by an action plan, which specifically addresses and aims to eliminate identified weaknesses and deficiencies [SER, pg.84]. <i>(Evidence 16: Regulation of studies of long-term specializations of the third cycle, in UniZKM)</i>
Criterion 4: The institution reviews and ensures the effectiveness and impact of activities in the monitoring and quality assessment framework, for the ongoing improvement of the study program.	The institution's dedication to continuous enhancement and improvement of the study program is evidenced by its active review and assurance of the efficacy and influence of activities within the monitoring and quality assessment framework. <i>(Evidence 80: Regulation for the organization and operation of the Quality Assessment Unit; Meeting with managerial and administrative staff)</i>

<p>Criterion 5: The institution and the responsible unit organizes periodic activities with staff and students for their information and awareness-raising on the long-term quality assurance and study program improvement.</p>	<p>The institution, in collaboration with the designated unit, schedules regular activities involving both staff and students to foster understanding and consciousness about enduring quality assurance.</p> <p><i>(Meetings with students and staff)</i></p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p><i>The institution promotes quality assurance through transparent practices and responsible publishing of assessment results. Action plans to address weaknesses, along with regular activities with staff and students, highlight the institution's commitment to continuous improvement and enduring quality in the study program.</i></p>			
<p>Standard's Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

<p>Field VI Standards' Fulfillment Degree</p>	<p>Not met</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Substantially met</p>	<p>Fully met</p>
				<p>X</p>

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Evaluation's conclusions for the third cycle Long-Term Specialization study program in
"Gastroenterology"

Strengths and affirmations:

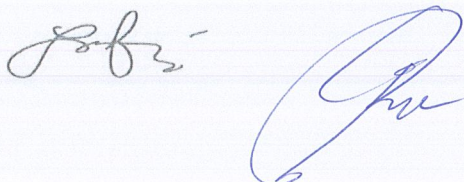
1. Very well organized academic and clinic infrastructure. *(Standard III.1)*
2. Allocation towards a cutting-edge hospital infrastructure. *(Standard III.2)*
3. Head of specialization school with superior academic, professional, and research expertise. *(Standard I.6; Standard II.5; Standard III.1)*
4. Having a long experience in general medicine Bachelor program. *(Standard II.3)*
5. Well organized network of collaborators, in academic and clinical field. *(Standard III.2)*

Weaknesses:

1. Limited involvement of residents in research endeavors. *(Standard IV.2)*
2. Institution has not updated regulations based on the last Decision of Council of Ministers No. 824 date 24.12.2021 "For approval of Quality Code in High Level Education". *(Standard II.1)*
3. Collaboration agreement with hospitals should have attached the organizational chart of them and number of activities carried out by each of the services composing basic, secondary and general standards. *(Standard III.4)*
4. Catholic University OLGC being newly opened university hospital is not accredited yet. *(Standard III.4)*
5. There is not specified what kind of resources are going to be disponible by healthcare institution, as: basic, secondary and general services, to long term specialization program in "Gastroenterology". *(Standard III.5)*

Recommendations:

1. Boosting the scientific segment by further integrating resident contributions. *(Standard IV.2)*
2. Institution and Academic Senate of Catholic University OLGC should update long term specialization study program regulation according to the latest standards. *(Standard II.1)*
3. Healthcare institutions which have collaboration agreements and are part of training network do not have specified the general and diagnostic services they do posses. *(Standard III.4)*
4. Catholic University OLGC have to accredit the Hospital they opened recently in order to meet the requirement of the legal framework. *(Standard III.4)*
5. Preparation of "Specific protocol" signed by Rectors, and approval by "Common technical committee" of academic staff engaged, according to collaboration agreements. *(Standard I.5)*
6. Institution should reorganize the ECTS according to ration between hours of lectures and professional activities, in order to reach ECTS ration 80/20. *(Standard II.2)*



Program quality standards fulfillment degree

FIELDS OF EVALUATION	FIELD STANDARDS' FULFILLMENT DEGREE			
	Not met	Partially met	Substantially met	Fully met
I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF LONG-TERM SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM				X
II. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION				X
III. SOURCES IN SERVICE TO THE LONG-TERM SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM			X	
IV. RESEARCH AND CLINICAL/DIAGNOSTIC EXPERIENCE				X
V. STUDENTS				X
VI. LONG-TERM SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE				X
TOTAL EVALUATION				X

Prof. Dr. ...

[Signature]