



QuADRANT Workshop

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 14:30 – 17:00 CET

Webinar 3: Further European and National Experiences & QuADRANT  
Next Steps and the Way Forward

# The clinical audit experience of European Union of Medical Specialists/European Board of Nuclear Medicine (UEMS/EBNM)

Prof. John Prior, PhD MD

European Union of Medical Specialists/European Board of Nuclear Medicine (UEMS/EBNM)

Chairman of the Committee for Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Departments and Nuclear Medicine Training Centres

December 16, 2020



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NUCLEAR MEDICINE (EBNM)**  
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# UEMS = European Union of Medical Specialists

[www.uems.eu](http://www.uems.eu)



The screenshot shows the UEMS website. The header includes the UEMS logo (a blue circle with yellow stars and a caduceus) and the text 'UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES' and 'EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS'. A navigation bar lists 'About us', 'Areas of Expertise', 'UEMS Activities', 'Examinations / Certifications', 'News', 'Media & Library', and 'Domus Medica Europaea'. The main content area is titled 'Presentation' and contains the following text:

**About us**

**Presentation**

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) is the oldest medical organisation in Europe as it celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2018.

Aims and Objectives

History

List of abbreviations

Statutes & Rules of Procedures

UEMS Executive

Structure

Membership

Medical Specialties

UEMS Brussels Office

FAQ

With a current membership from **40 countries**, it is the representative organisation of the National Associations of Medical Specialists in the European Union and its associated countries.

Its structure consists of a Council responsible for and working through **43 Specialist Sections** and their European Boards, addressing training in their respective Specialty and incorporating representatives from academia (Societies, Colleges and Universities).

An Executive comprising the President, the Secretary-General, the Liaison Officer, and the Treasurer, is responsible for the routine functioning of the organisation.

UEMS represents over **1.6 million medical specialists** in all the different specialties. It also has strong links and relations with European Institutions (Commission and Parliament), the other independent European Medical Organisations and the European Medical / Scientific Societies.

By its agreed documents, UEMS sets standards for high quality healthcare practice that are transmitted to the Authorities and Institutions of the EU and the National Medical Associations stimulating and encouraging them to implement its recommendations.

- Founded in 1958
- Represents 40 countries and 43 medical EU specialities for 1.6 million of physicians
- Role in promotion and harmonization of highest level of training within EU



# Nuclear Medicine (NM) and UEMS

- 1989 NM recognized after 8 y of negotiations
- 1990 Nuclear Medicine Section founded
- 1993 European Board of Nuclear Medicine
- 2003 Merging both Sections → UEMS/EBNM



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# UEMS/EBNM

## Highest possible standards for NM training+practice throughout EU

2018

### EDITORIAL

#### The Future of the Past Is the Present: The Role of the UEMS/EBNM in the Current Challenge of Educating Nuclear Medicine Specialists

Savvas Frangos, Roland Hustinx, Ariane Boubaker, Teresio Varetto, John O. Prior, Mirzaei Siroos, and Lorenzo M.

UEMS Section of Nuclear Medicine and European Board of Nuclear Medicine, Vienna, Austria

The European Union of Medical Specialists (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes), or UEMS, was established in 1958 as the representative organization for medical specialists in the European Union (EU) and in the European Economic Area (EEA). With a current membership of 37 countries, it is the representative organization of the national associations of medical specialists in the EU and its associated countries. Its structure consists of a council responsible for and working through 43 specialist sections and their European boards, addressing specialty-specific training and incorporating representatives from those responsible for training (medical societies, colleges, and universities). One of the roles of the UEMS is the promotion and harmonization of the highest level of training of medical specialists within and beyond the EU and the European Economic Area. It must meet the standards and criteria laid down by the appropriate national training authority and by the individual training programs and be in accordance with the recommendations of the UEMS charter on training of medical specialists and chapter 6 thereof ([https://www.uems.eu/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/001/1415906.pdf](https://www.uems.eu/_data/assets/pdf_file/001/1415906.pdf)). Postgraduate curricula should also refer to the World Federation for Medical Education global standards (2) for quality improvement in postgraduate medical education, adopted in 2002.

The formal recognition of nuclear medicine as a separate medical specialty within the UEMS was finally achieved by Desmond Croft in 1989 (3), after 8 long years of delicate negotiations. The Section of Nuclear Medicine appeared in 1990 within the UEMS, and the European Board of Nuclear Medicine (EBNM) was created in 1993. In 2003 the UEMS Section of Nuclear Medicine and the EBNM merged (UEMS/EBNM) "in order to unify and facilitate activities, mainly to improve and harmonize the training of nuclear medicine throughout European countries to the highest possible standards."

The UEMS/EBNM consists of 4 committees: education and syllabus, accreditation of nuclear medicine departments and training centers, continuing medical education (CME)/continuing professional development (CPD) accreditation, and fellowship examination.

Received Nov. 26, 2017; revision accepted Nov. 28, 2017.  
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DOI: 10.2967/jnumed.117.206052

#### EDUCATION AND SYLLABUS

The role of the UEMS/EBNM education and syllabus committee is to create training requirements for the specialty of nuclear medicine that comply with the standards for graduate medical specialist training (1). These requirements were approved by the European Parliament and EU Council directive 2000 which concerns the recognition of professional qualifications (4). A short version was published in the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* (5), and the document was approved at a meeting of the UEMS Council on April 28, 2017, and published on the UEMS website ([www.uems-ebnm.org](http://www.uems-ebnm.org)). An important aspect of the UEMS is to define the minimum training period specialty as 4 y (6).

The syllabus is organized into 3 sections describing training content and learning outcome for every field to the practice of nuclear medicine. The first section theoretic knowledge, such as the scientific bases of medicine, and clinical knowledge, such as diagnostic therapeutic applications, practical skills, and the competency required to practice nuclear medicine in the EU. This also describes the organization of training in terms of curriculum, assessment, and evaluation. The second deals with requirements for individuals who perform that is, the process for becoming recognized as a trainee management of trainer quality. The third section describes requirements for institutions that perform training, which fulfill both the quantitative criteria proposed in the first and the criteria for national accreditation.

Nuclear medicine is a rapidly changing specialty. To high standards in education, the education and syllabus committee is working closely with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine on a new version of the training requirements.

#### ACCREDITATION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENTS AND TRAINING CENTERS

To facilitate education, centers should have the capability to perform the essential diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. UEMS/EBNM committee for accreditation of nuclear medicine departments and training centers plays a key role in this implementing an accreditation system across Europe. The granting of a dedicated certificate valid for 5 years, a audit is required by Council Directive 97/43 EURATOM, the basis for accreditation. The audit was first created in 1989.

NEWSLINE

#### Improving Nuclear Medicine Practice with UEMS/EBNM Committees

Siroos Mirzaei, MD, Roland Hustinx, MD, PhD, John O. Prior, PhD, MD, Zehra Ocan, MD, Ariane Boubaker, MD, and Mohsen Farsad, MD for the European Union of Medical Specialists and European Board for Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear medicine is one of the most dynamic fields in medicine. It is defined in the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education program requirements as follows: "Nuclear medicine is the medical specialty that uses the Tracer Principle, most often with radiopharmaceuticals, to evaluate molecular, metabolic, physiologic, and pathologic conditions of the body for the purposes of diagnosis, therapy, and research" (1).

Nuclear medicine training in most European countries comprises a period of 4–6 years, and the spectrum of investigations, particularly in the fields of PET and therapy with radionuclides, has progressed dramatically in recent years. In particular, PET/CT is now an indispensable part of the multidisciplinary decision-making process, first with <sup>18</sup>F-FDG and, increasingly, with new tracers such as prostate-specific membrane antigen ligands in prostate cancer and (most probably in the near future) <sup>18</sup>F-fibroblast-activated protein inhibitors (2).

A high-quality standard is necessary to implement and translate such scientific dynamism into the clinical routine in a proper way. General certification audits, without clinical background, do not specifically cover medical and technical advances, because this specific clinical knowledge is not part of the general audit instruments. To overcome these shortcomings, several committees have been instituted in the Nuclear Medicine Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS; [www.uems.net](http://www.uems.net)), which has existed for more than 50 years in close cooperation with the European Board for Nuclear Medicine (EBNM) and is the political representative organization for medical specialists in the European Union and associated countries.

UEMS was given the task of defining the basic principles in the field of training of European medical specialists to ensure a comparably high level of competence across Europe and thus allow free movement of specialists among member countries. The training requirements for nuclear medicine as a separate medical specialty, achieved by Desmond Croft in 1989 (3,4), were updated in 2017 by the Education and Syllabus Committee of UEMS/EBNM (5). The document is not limited to trainees; it also describes the requirements for trainers and training centers. In collaboration with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), the committee has also prepared a European Nuclear Medicine Guide that is freely available to everyone in the field (<https://www.eanm.org/publications/european-nuclear-medicine-guide/>).

The UEMS/EBNM Fellowship Examination Committee is responsible for setting up a "Nuclear Board Examination" to award the title of "Fellow of the EBNM," with the

acronym FEBNM of the EBNM, a certification (written nuclear medicine specialties). The European proves that the candidate medicine satisfy the origin of training optional and does for specialization to be helpful in physicians. This place in 1996 in Congress. Since countries all over FEBNM. This experienced physicians and residents with the t with a written multiple exam. The written the oral exam. This covering the entire icine. It has now first such session step forward, providing applicant connect to the examination the Annual EAN offered to candidates the ability of the clinical cases in e invited to a certifi Congress.

Many applicants from South Asia Examination Committee Board Medicine Board the setup of the Fellowship significant level, a collaboration with Imaging and Ther high-quality ques The Continui of UEMS/EBNM and technical boation of CME a

2020

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2020

#### JNM The Journal of NUCLEAR MEDICINE

#### Dose optimization in pediatric studies: Why this is important and can benefit every nuclear medicine department

John O. Prior, Siroos Mirzaei, Silvano Gnesin and Marie Nicod Lalonde

J Nucl Med.  
Published online: October 9, 2020.  
DOI: 10.2967/jnumed.120.254193

This article and updated information are available at:  
<http://jnm.snmjournals.org/content/early/2020/10/09/jnumed.120.254193.citation>

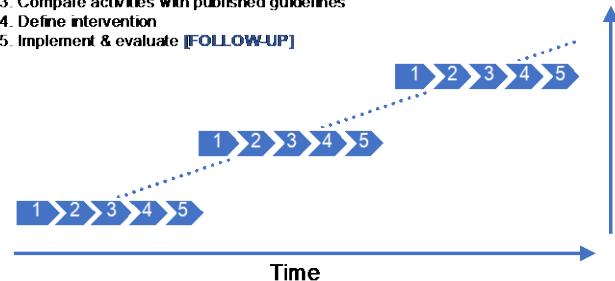
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#### 5-STEP Optimization:

1. Identify imaging situation
2. Collect injected activities & image quality [BASELINE]
3. Compare activities with published guidelines
4. Define intervention
5. Implement & evaluate [FOLLOW-UP]

Improvement in quality



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# UEMS/EBNM has 4 Committees:

- Education and Syllabus
- Accreditation of NM departments and training centres
- Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CME)
- Fellowship examination (FEBNM)



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# Education and Syllabus Committee

- Nuclear medicine is a rapidly changing specialty
- To maintain high standards in education, the education and syllabus committee is working closely with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine



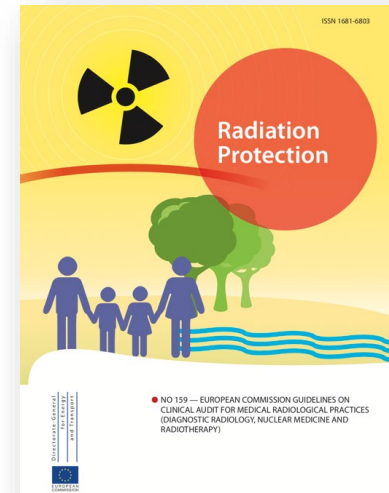
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# Committee on accreditation of NM departments and training centers

- Role implementing accreditation system across Europe  
→ granting certificate valid 5 years
- Clinical audit is the basis for accreditation, as required by Council Directive 97/43 EURATOM
- More than 70 NM Departments have been accredited by UEMS/EBNM since 2004



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# Committee on Accreditation of NM Departments and Training Centers



<http://uems.eanm.org/>

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## UEMS/EBNM Committees

### Accreditation of NM Departments and NM Training Centres



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SUISSE

- 7 Committee Members
- 9 Corresponding Members

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# UEMS/EBNM Accreditation Modular System

1.

Accreditation  
as NM Department



2.

Accreditation as  
NM Department  
and Training Center



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# Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Departments

- Benefit of accreditation = improvement of patient care by standardization of quality:
  - Continuous improvement of radiation dose to patients, their families and the NM staff
  - Improving quality given available resources, reducing service's expenses, wastages, and duplications, while revealing incorrect practices and avoiding accidents or near-misses



# Accreditation and Clinical Audit

Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging (2012) 39:1643–1645  
DOI 10.1007/s00259-012-2184-y

## EDITORIAL

### Why do we need accreditation of nuclear medicine departments?

Amparo García-Burillo · Andrew Hilson · Siros Mirzai

Accreditation ensures correct daily practice, continuous offering of consistent services, permanent uniformity and confidence in the results, availability of technical and human capabilities and international recognition inside the accredited department. It is a way to make society and institutions know that the work is being done efficiently and orderly, in a responsible and competitive way, providing confidence and security to the services provided. Ultimately, the accreditation increases the quality of nuclear medicine services across Europe, which has the added benefit of increasing public awareness and credibility in the specialty and, ultimately, in patient care, which is the most important issue.

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Vienna, Austria

At CANMD we believe that the accreditation of nuclear medicine services is not the mere collection of a diploma to hang on the wall. To have this official accreditation is relevant and provides multiple benefits that outweigh any sacrifice.

At CANMD we believe that the accreditation of nuclear medicine services is not the mere collection of a diploma to hang on the wall. To have this official accreditation is relevant and provides multiple benefits that outweigh any sacrifice.

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Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging (2011) 38:3–4  
DOI 10.1007/s00259-010-1605-z

## EDITORIAL

### Clinical audit in nuclear medicine

Siros Mirzai · Lorenzo Maffioli · Andrew Hilson

Audit is defined as a tool to improve the quality of patient care, experience and outcome through formal review of systems, pathways and outcomes of care against defined standards, and the implementation of changes based on the results [3]. In other words, it compares what we are doing to what should be done by judging our present clinical practice in relation to the national or international standards for the given situation [4]. Comparing to research, audit has its roots

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representation depends strongly on the experience and quality of the nuclear medicine departments.

Implementing clinical audit in order to improve the quality of the outcomes of nuclear medicine examinations may lead to the decision to keep pulmonary perfusion scintigraphy in the diagnostic tree as a noninvasive modality with exposure of the patient to much less radiation compared to multislice CT. This could be investigated by an "audit patient dose". A major concept introduced by EC directive 97/43/EURATOM [2] is Clinical Audit, which the member states are required to implement in accordance with national procedures. Clinical Audit is defined as a tool to improve the quality of patient care, experience and outcome through formal review of systems, pathways and outcomes of care against defined standards, and the implementation of changes based on the

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# Accreditation of **NM Departments**

- Prerequisite:
  - Certification ISO 9001:2015 (**lengthy and costly**)
  - Alternate certification pathways exist (**faster**):
    - International Atomic Energy Agency **QUANUM**
    - **National societies' clinical audits**  
(mandatory in EU since 01.01.2018)



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# Accreditation application: What is needed

- A valid quality system (ISO9001:2015 or Internal/external Quality Audit according to national regulations)
- At least 1 FTE qualified NM physician (preferably FEBNM)
- A list of services + protocols written in local language; must comply with EANM/SNM and national guidelines
- The 5 most frequent protocols; the committee will ask for 5 more protocols randomly chosen
- Decision: Accreditation / Minor deficiencies / Major deficiencies
- *On-site visits exceptional (for budget reasons)*




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# Application for accreditation



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## UEMS/EBNM Committees

### On-line Application Forms

**The accreditation system is a modular system:**  
You should apply first for accreditation of your department and if you wish also in the same step for accreditation as Training Center.

If your department fulfils the criteria for an accreditation, in the next step we check your application for an accreditation as Training Center.

To be certified by the European Board of Nuclear Medicine as a Training Center the department has to fulfil certain objective criteria concerning staff, equipment, number and spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, teaching and quality control, others are optional.

**In summary, this means:**  
Departments that apply for accreditation as nuclear medicine department will be accredited as:

- 1- Department for Nuclear Medicine  
or
- 2- Department for Nuclear Medicine and Training Center, if they fulfil the additional criteria as Training Center

Therefore the UEMS/EBNM Accreditation Committee provides an optional application form for Training Center after completing the application form for Department.

**Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Department**  
(that is followed by the optional application form of Training Centers)

→ On-line application form

Online application

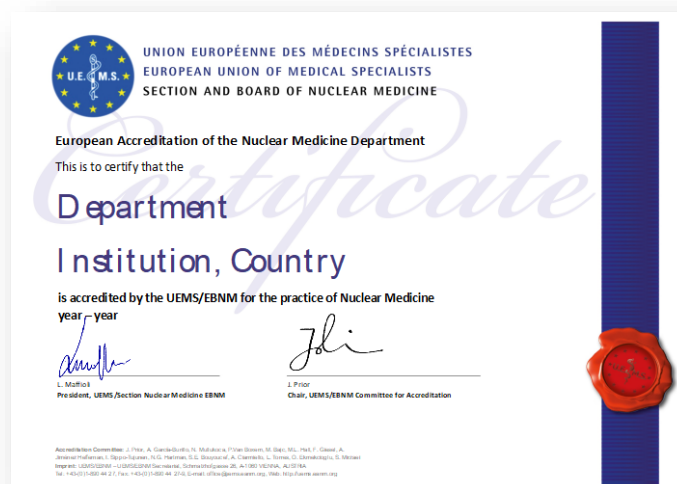


# 23 Accredited Departments (2020)

## UEMS/EBNM Committees

### Accredited Departments (sorted by country)

Country	City	Institute	Accreditation period
AUSTRIA	Gleisdorf	Institut für Schilddrüsendiagnostik und Nuklearmedizin	2016-2020
AUSTRIA	Graz	Diagnostikum Nuklearmedizin	2019-2023
AUSTRIA	Leoben	LKH Leoben	2019-2023
AUSTRIA	Vienna	Diagnosezentrum Mödling	2019 - 2023
AUSTRIA	Vienna	Wilhelminenspital	2019 - 2023
AUSTRIA	Klagenfurt	Klinikum Klagenfurt am Wörthersee	2020 - 2024
GREECE	Athens	Affidea Euromedic of Vari	2017-2021
GREECE	Chania Crete	Affidea Euromedic Chania	2017-2021
GREECE	Sparta	Affidea Euromedic of Sparta	2017-2021
HUNGARY	Budapest	Affidea Diagnosztika Kft. - Péterfy S. Hospital	2017-2021
HUNGARY	Budapest	Affidea Diagnosztika Kft. - MÁV Hospital	2018-2022
HUNGARY	Debrecen	ScanMed Ltd. - University Hospital Debrecen	2019-2023
ITALY	Naples	SDN	2016-2020
ITALY	Turin	IRMET S.p.A.	2017-2021
POLAND	Warsaw	Affidea Sp. Z o.o.	2017-2021
POLAND	Wroclaw	Affidea Sp. Z o.o.	2017-2021
POLAND	Olsztyn	Affidea Olsztyn	2019-2023
POLAND	Poznan	Affidea Poznan	2020-2024
ROMANIA	Bucuresti	Affidea Romania SRL Center	2017-2021
ROMANIA	Cluj-Napoca	Institute of Oncology	2017-2021
SPAIN	Barcelona	SIMM-Gabinete Nuclear Delfos	2019-2023
SPAIN	Madrid	Affidea QD PET-CT La Milagrosa	2019-2023
SWITZERLAND	Brig	Affidea Brig MRI	2020-2024



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# Accreditation of NM Training Centers

- Fulfilling minimum criteria of UEMS/EBNM education and syllabus committee for all teachers of nuclear medicine (physicians, technologists, radiopharmacists, physicists)
- If not full range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures → accreditation is still possible with a formal agreement with another accredited centre



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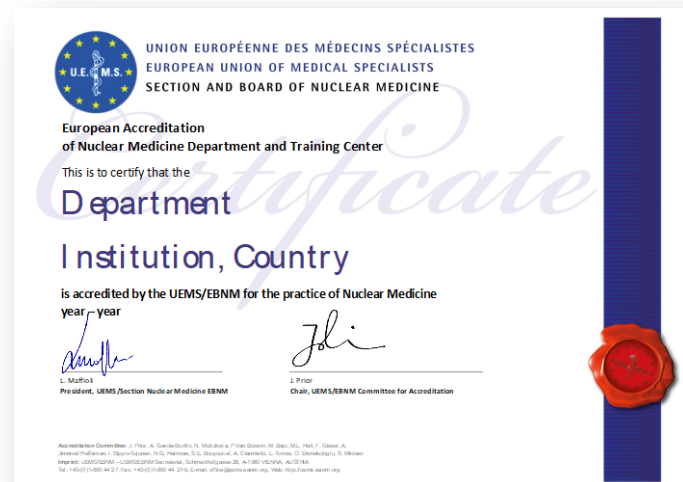


# 14 Accredited Departments and Training Centres (2020)

## UEMS/EBNM Committees

### Accredited Departments & Training Centers (sorted by country)

Country	City	Institute	Accreditation period
AUSTRIA	Klagenfurt	Landeskrankenhaus-Klagenfurt	2015-2019
GREECE	Heraklion Crete	Affidea Iatrko Kritis MC	2016-2020
ITALY	La Spezia	San Andrea Hospital	2016-2020
ITALY	Rionero	IRCCS CROB Referral Cancer Center of Basilicata	2020-2024
ITALY	Milan	Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda-Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico	2015-2019
NETHERLANDS	Groningen	University Medical Center Groningen	2015-2019
POLAND	Warsaw	Military Institute for Health Services	2015-2019
PORTUGAL	Lisbon	Hospital da Luz	2016-2020
PORTUGAL	Porto	Hospital Lusiadas Porto	2016-2020
PORTUGAL	Lisbon	Champalimaud Foundation	2019-2023
ROMANIA	Cluj-Napoca	Institute of Oncology	2017-2022
SERBIA	Belgrade	Clinical Center of Serbia, Faculty of Medicine University of Belgrade	2016-2020
SWITZERLAND	Lausanne	Lausanne University Hospital	2017-2021
TURKEY	Istanbul	Istanbul Medical Facult Hospital	2016-2020



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# Renewal of accreditation (5 year cycle)



The screenshot displays the website of the Section and European Board of Nuclear Medicine (EBNM). The header features the UEMS logo and the EBNM logo, along with the tagline "Working together for the future of Nuclear Medicine". The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a right main section. The sidebar contains a list of navigation links, with "Committees" highlighted. The main section is titled "UEMS/EBNM Committee" and "Renewal of Accreditation". It provides information on how to renew accreditation, including a link to the "on-line application form". A large blue banner with the text "Online application" is overlaid on the right side of the page.

**UEMS/EBNM Committee**

**Renewal of Accreditation**

Dependig on your prior accreditations you can ask for a renewal of „accreditation of your department“, and if applicabel also as „Training Center“.

**Nuclear Medicine Departments:**  
→ on-line application form

**Nuclear Medicine Training Centres:**  
→ on-line application form

**Online application**





# Accreditation Fees

- Accreditation as NM Department
  - First accreditation € 500
  - Reaccreditation € 250 (half-price)
- In addition: Accreditation as NM Training Centre
  - First accreditation + €200
  - Reaccreditation + €100 (half-price)



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# Summary

- Accreditation as **NM Department** since 2000's: Benefit through improvement of patient care by standardization of quality
- Accreditation as **NM Training Centre**: satisfies UEMS/ EBNM syllabus for teaching NM in all diagnostics and therapeutic procedures
- Alternate pathways to ISO 9001 certification exist (QUANUM or national societies' clinical audits) and renders UEMS/EBNM accreditation easier



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# Thank you for your attention!



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