



FINNISH EDUCATION
EVALUATION CENTRE

FINEEC – Changes and Challenges

NOQA-meeting 23 September 2022

Staff of Higher Education and Liberal Adult Education Unit



+ Intern

External Evaluation by OECD 2022-2023

The OECD will assess the scope of the FINEEC's work and its quality. It will look at whether FINEEC is carrying out the tasks that are most needed and/or desirable, the quality of the analysis is sound, and the results are useful.

- The analysis will look at the subjects covered in the FINEEC's evaluation activities and the distribution of its activities over the different parts of the education system. The goal is to map the activities to assess gaps and/imbbalances.
- This analysis will look at whether the tools and methods that are being used in FINEEC's evaluations are suitable to fulfil its mandate and in line with international practices.
- The analysis will look at whether the distribution of FINEEC's activities is appropriate from a policy perspective.

Challenges

- **FINEEC should be able to produce more system level evaluations.**
- **Responsiveness to new evaluation topics is not always the best possible due to resources and urgency.**
- **The current appropriations for FINEEC's work in the central government budget are inadequate. The funding model does not optimally support national information production tasked to promote equal and high-quality delivery of education in Finland.**
- **Constant reorganizing the public sector.**
- **Challenge to produce evaluation information and development recommendations that serve both the field of education (education providers, educational institutes, teachers etc.) and political decision-makers.**
- **FINEEC should strengthen the awareness/utilisation of FINEEC results.**
- **Challenge to balance with extensive and diverse needs of evaluation topics.**
- **In the future, branch-specific information production will not be adequate for solving broad societal challenges that affect several administrative branches. It will be necessary to rely on closer cooperation between administrative branches in information production.**

Results from ENQA review 2021-2022

Commendations:

- The engagement with a wide range of stakeholders through its consultation processes and dissemination activities, openness and willingness to react to demands of the sector.
- The collaborative work across different units of FINEEC to make the most of the agency's human resources, broader understanding of education as a comprehensive system.
- The professional development for the staff, solid and well-functioning approach to internal quality assurance.
- The introduction of benchlearning as part of the audit process.
- The practice of organising the follow-up in the form of an enhancement-focused seminar.
- The practice of publishing all national audit reports, comprising both the institutional self-evaluation report and the external expert group report as well as the audit decision on a separate FINEEC Audit Platform. On the platform the reports are accessible and visually informative.

Suggestions for further development

- To build on successful experience of programme accreditation in the context of EUR-ACE to anticipate further demands for programme accreditation from HEIs.
- To consider including foreign / international stakeholders in their structure to assure some outside ideas feed in the system and enable input from a different perspective.
- To consider weighing ESG 1.9 more explicitly in its methodology and thus also raising the level of expectations of Finnish higher education institutions regarding monitoring and review of study programmes.
- To consider advance preparation of student and external stakeholder reviewers by providing e.g. short videos on certain specific aspects (the system, the role etc) before the review case specific training. These could be available for all categories of experts.
- To open its appeal process in a way that all decisions can be appealed.



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Thank you!