

## Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC)

**Register Committee**

<b>Decision of:</b>	2026-02-13
<b>Result:</b>	Take note
<b>Report received on:</b>	2025-12-02
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2010-07-01
<b>Last external review report:</b>	2022-06-28
<b>Registration until:</b>	2027-03-31
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	Petri Mäntysaari
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report, 2025-12-02</a>

**Ref.** RC/C153  
**Ver.** 1.0  
**Date** 2026-02-13  
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1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2025-12-02.
2. The Register Committee took note of FINEEC revising their external QA activity: *Institutional quality audit*, in preparation for the fourth cycle of audits.
3. Based on the detailed information provided in the Substantive Change Report and annexes, the Register Committee had no prima facie concerns that the ESG are complied with in the case.
4. The Committee expects that this activity will be analysed in full as part of FINEEC next renewal of registration.

## EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	Finnish Education Evaluation Centre
Agency acronym	FINEEC
Expiry date #1	31/03/2027
Contact #1	Mirella Harri
Phone #1	+358295335541
Email #1	<a href="mailto:mirella.harri@karvi.fi">mirella.harri@karvi.fi</a>
Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	No
C. Changes in EQA activities	2. Substantive changes carried out to one or several existing external QA activities (e.g. changes to their methodology, criteria or procedures)
Description new/changed	The third cycle of audits ended 2024. The fourth cycle of audits is piloted in 2026. The new framework for the fourth cycle pilot phase was approved in June 2025 and will be amended after the pilot audits. The amended and final version of the framework is planned to be approved in September 2026.
<b>2. Changed EQA activity</b>	
1	Institutional quality audit
ESG 2.1	In the planning of the new framework (autumn 2024-spring 2025), it was ensured that the ESG Part 1 is incorporated in the new framework. Please see the attached mapping document.
ESG 2.2	The planning process took place in autumn 2024 and spring 2025. In August 2024, the FINEEC

Higher Education Evaluation Committee appointed a six-member planning team representing higher education sectors, students, and work life. The process was supported by two FINEEC experts. An international expert group, nominated in December 2024, was consulted twice during the process.

#### Timeline

Phase 1: Autumn 2024 – Consultations and engagement: Purpose, objectives, structure, scope, and key topics

- FINEEC and planning team activities: Drafting purpose, objectives, scope, and key topics.
- Stakeholder consultations: national student organisations (SYL & SAMOK); quality managers & vice-rectors of education (universities & UASs); Ministry of Education and Culture; and labour market representatives
- Questionnaire to quality managers (before consultations)
- Benchmarking of manuals of other national EQA agencies

Phase 2: Spring 2025 – Draft framework, feedback and engagement

- Planning team & FINEEC activities: Drafting criteria, assessment scale, and audit manual
- Stakeholder consultations: Same groups as autumn (except UAS rectors)
- International expert group consultation
- Open and participatory national seminar with approx. 100 participants

In addition, FINEEC colleagues and Higher Education Evaluation Committee were engaged in the process.

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### Approval and pilots

The framework was approved in June 2025 by the Higher Education Evaluation Committee and the pilot audit manual was published in August 2025 in Finnish, Swedish and English. Pilots are conducted in one university and one UAS in spring 2026. The revised manual will be published in September 2026, and the fourth audit cycle begins in 2027.

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#### ESG 2.3

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<https://www.karvi.fi/en/publications/audits-higher-education-institutions-2025-2030-pilot-phase-audit-manual>

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#### ESG 2.4

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Same as before.

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#### ESG 2.5

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Same as before in the institutional quality audit.

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#### ESG 2.6

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No reports yet published.

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#### D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG

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No

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#### File #1

[FINEECmapping\\_ESG\\_-\\_4th\\_cycle\\_audit\\_framework.pdf \(106 KB\)](#)

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#### File #2

[4th\\_cycle\\_planning\\_process.pdf \(57 KB\)](#)

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#### Submit form?

I am ready to submit the change report form

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