

**Substantive Change Report**  
by the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC)

Register Committee

Ref. RC21/C26

Ver. 1.0

Date 2018-06-18

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<b>Decision of:</b>	13/06/2018
<b>Report received on:</b>	09/05/2018
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	18/11/2010
<b>Last external review report:</b>	13/02/2017
<b>Registration until:</b>	28/02/2022
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	Riittaa Pyykkö, Beate Treml
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report of 09/05/2018</a>

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 09/05/2018.
2. The Register Committee noted that FINEEC became administratively attached to the new Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).
3. The Register Committee took note of the information by FINEEC that there are no changes to the organisational structure otherwise resulting from that. Furthermore, the Committee noted that FINEEC's activities did not changed either.
4. The 2017 external review report of FINEEC (and the Register Committee decision based on the report) discussed a possible future merger, which was discussed at that time, of FINEEC with the (then) National Board of Education. The Register Committee understood that the National Board and the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) have meanwhile merged into EDUFI, while FINEEC remained a separate organisation despite being administratively attached to EDUFI.
5. The Register Committee noted that FINEEC now uses the "common support services of the administration of the National Agency", while retaining independence in designing and carrying out its evaluations.
6. In the next external review of FINEEC against the ESG the new organisational arrangements should be considered in detail, including whether the sharing of EDUFI's support services had any bearing on FINEEC's – especially operational – independence in the long term.

**Subject:** Substantive Change Report: Finnish Education Evaluation Centre FINEEC

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**Date:** 09/05/18 15:22

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<b>Status</b>	Complete
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<b>Agency #1</b>	Finnish Education Evaluation Centre FINEEC
<b>Expiry date #1</b>	28/02/2022
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<b>Other organisations?</b>	Yes
<b>Other name #1</b>	Finnish National Agency of Education EDUFI
<b>Legal form #1</b>	Subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland
<b>Website #1</b>	<a href="http://www.oph.fi/english">http://www.oph.fi/english</a>
<b>Activities #1</b>	Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) is a national development agency. It is responsible for developing education and training, early childhood education and care and lifelong learning, as well as for promoting internationalisation. EDUFI is subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Culture and its tasks and organisation are set in the legislation.
<b>A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?</b>	Yes
<b>Description</b>	The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) is an independent government agency responsible for the national evaluation of education. Instead of being an independent subordinate directly under the Ministry of Education and Culture FINEEC is a subordinate to the EDUFI.

FINEEC has been in operation since May 2014. It is a combination of three previous organisations: the Unit for learning outcomes at the Finnish National Board of Education, Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council at the Ministry of Education and Culture and Finnish Education Evaluation Council. First, FINEEC was an independent government agency. From 1st January 2018, FINEEC was attached to the organisation of the Finnish National Agency for Education as a separate unit. In practice, this means that FINEEC will retain financial and substance independence as an independent evaluation authority, but will use the common support services of the administration of the National Agency.

FINEEC is an independent evaluation authority. The Ministry of Education and Culture is the first one we are obligated to inform about results of evaluations. However, independence is the key operating principle of FINEEC. It refers to the freedom of evaluation methods, organisation and results from the influence of, for example, the ministry, National Agency or other parties. FINEEC is allowed to report on government policy and publish reports without government approval.

The evaluations are set out on the National Plan for Education Evaluations (current plan: 2016-2019). FINEEC was accountable to the Ministry of Education and Culture and was obligated to report annually. From 2018 the annual report will be delivered to the Finnish National Agency for Education.

#### Example: Audits of the quality system

Audits of the quality systems of higher education institutions have been implemented in Finland since 2005. The objective of the audits has been to support Finnish institutions in developing quality systems that correspond to the European principles of quality assurance and to demonstrate that functional and consistent quality assurance procedures are in place in Finland both in institutions and on the national level. Audits encompass quality management of all core duties of higher education institutions. In accordance with the European quality assurance principles, FINEEC audits consist of the following main stages: the higher education institution first carries out a self-evaluation and prepares the audit material; a team of experts then reviews the material, after which it visits the institution; and finally, the results are published in a report. Higher education institutions that pass the audit receive a quality label that is valid for six years.

Self-evaluation is one of the most important methods of enhancement-led evaluation at FINEEC. Self-evaluation supports institutions and other providers of education to identify the strengths, and especially to determine areas in need of development.

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<b>B. Has the organisational structure changed?</b>	No
<b>C.i. Are there new types of activities?</b>	No
<b>C.ii. Are there changes in existing activities?</b>	No
<b>C.iii. Have some or all existing activities been discontinued?</b>	No
<b>Last Update</b>	2018-05-09 15:22:50

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