

Act on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre

(1295/2013)

Section 1. Mandate

The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre operates in the capacity of an independent expert organisation for external evaluations of education. It produces information to serve decision-making in education policy and for the purpose of fostering education.

The Centre operates within the branch of government of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 2. Mission

The mission of the Centre is to:

- (1) evaluate education, education providers and the activities of higher education institutions in accordance with an evaluation plan referred to in section 5;
- (2) in accordance with the evaluation plan referred to in section 5, undertake:
 - a) evaluations of learning outcomes relating to the distribution of lesson hours and the national core curriculum targets referred to in section 14 of the Basic Education Act (628/1998) and in section 10 of the General Upper Secondary Schools Act (629/1998);
 - b) evaluations of learning outcomes relating to targets of the national core curriculum referred to in section 13 of the Vocational Education and Training Act (630/1998) and in the national qualification requirements referred to in section 13 of the Vocational Adult Education Act (631/1998) and in the national core curriculum referred to in section 5 of the Act on Basic Education in the Arts (633/1998);
- (3) support education providers and higher education institutions in matters related to evaluation and quality management;
- (4) develop the evaluation of education; and
- (5) attend to any other duties that are issued or given to the Centre.

Section 3. Director

There is a Director in the Centre, who is responsible for leading the organisation and for the effectiveness of the organisation. The Government appoints the Director.

Unless otherwise provided by law or specified in the rules of procedure, the Director resolves matters that the Centre settles. Further provisions on the Director's power of decision are issued by government decree.

Section 4. Evaluation Council

An Evaluation Council operates in connection with the Centre, charged with supervising and developing the Centre's activities. The members of the Evaluation Council shall possess the requisite expertise for these duties.

The composition, duties and quorum of the Evaluation Council are issued by government decree.

The Government appoints the Evaluation Council for a maximum of four years at a time.

The Director and an appointed staff representative hold the right to participate and speak in the meetings of the Evaluation Council. The representative is chosen from among the staff members of the Centre to participate in activities of the Evaluation Council.

There may be committees in the Evaluation Council, and the committees may include members from outside the Evaluation Council. The Ministry of Education and Culture appoints the committees by proposal of the Evaluation Council.

The composition, duties and quorum of the committees are issued by government decree.

Section 5. Evaluation plan

The Evaluation Council formulates a proposed evaluation plan, which is then submitted for approval to the Ministry of Education and Culture. The evaluation plan consists of the planned evaluations and a time schedule for the evaluations.

The criteria required for formulating evaluation plans are issued by government decree.

Section 6. Fees and remuneration

The criteria and magnitude of chargeable services payable to the Centre are provided for in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992) and in the pursuant Decree issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 7. Rules of procedure

Rules of procedure are applied in the Centre, which, having heard the Evaluation Council, are endorsed by the Director. The rules of procedure give provisions on the division of labour within the Centre and on the organisation's administrative structure.

Section 8. Further provisions

Provisions on the operating principles, staff, qualification requirements, advisory bodies for evaluation and remuneration are issued by government decree.

Section 9. Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 1 January 2014.

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Transitional provisions governing operational start-up

The duties of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council referred to in section 87(2) of the Universities Act (558/2009) and in section 9(2) of the Polytechnics Act (351/2003), and the duties of the Education Evaluation Council referred to in section 21 of the Basic Education Act, in section 21 of the General Secondary Education Act, in section 24 of the Vocational Education and Training

Act, in section 15 of the Vocational Adult Education Act, in section 7 of the Liberal Adult Education Act (632/1998) and in section 7 of the Act on Basic Education in the Arts, and by virtue of the National Board of Education Act (182/1991), the duties of the Finnish Board of related the follow-up evaluation of learning outcomes will be transferred to the Centre on 1 May 2014. On the said date and unless otherwise agreed, existing contracts and commitments related to these duties and any rights and obligations as well as prior evaluation data related to the duties being transferred from the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council, the Education Evaluation Council and the National Board of Education will be handed over to the Centre.

Evaluation plans drawn up under the provisions in force at the time of the entry into force of this Act will continue to apply for evaluation activities up until an evaluation plan formulated in accordance with section 5 has been approved.

Section 11. Transitional provisions governing human resources

Provisions on the transfer of human resources from the Secretariat of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council and from the National Board of Education to the Centre as of 1 May 2014 are laid down in section 5a of the State Civil Servants Act (750/1994).

The Secretariat of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council will transfer to the Centre through assignment of business as specified in Chapter 1, section 10 of the Employment Contracts Act (55/2001). The staff members being transferred will be contracted into a public-service employment relationship as of 1 May 2014. Those with a fixed-term contract will be contracted into a fixed-term public-service employment relationship for a period that is to be determined in the employment contract.

The post of Director of the Centre will be set up on 1 January 2014. Prior to the entry into force of this Act, the Ministry of Education and Culture may appoint public officials to the public positions of the Centre when they are first filled.