

Government Decree on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre

By virtue of the Act on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (1295/2013) enacted in accordance with a government decision, the following is issued:

Section 1. Operating principles of the Centre

The Centre applies principles of independent and enhancement-led evaluation in its operations.

It publishes the evaluation criteria used and the results of evaluations as well as communicates with its stakeholders. Educational institutions, providers of education and training and institutions of higher education subject to an evaluation are informed of their evaluation results.

It participates in international evaluation activities and cooperation.

It participates in international evaluation of its own activities on a regular basis.

Section 2. Evaluation plan formulation

Evaluation plans are formulated for a four-year period at a time. Evaluation plans may be reviewed during the course of the evaluation period.

Key stakeholders shall be heard when formulating the evaluation plans.

Section 3. Staff

The staff of the Centre comprises a Director and other public officials. The Centre may also employ contractual employees.

Section 4. Qualification requirements for public posts

The qualifications required for the post of Director consist of a Master's degree, pertinent expertise required for the duties of the post as well as demonstrable leadership skills and experience.

The qualifications required for the position of Head of the operating unit under the mandate of the Director are a Master's degree, familiarity with the field concerned and demonstrable leadership skills.

Section 5. Director's power of decision

Having heard the Evaluation Council, the Director makes decisions on the following:

- 1) decisions on project plans for evaluations and composition of planning and evaluation groups, unless otherwise provided;
- 2) the appointment of an advisory body for evaluation as referred to in section 8.

Section 6. Composition, duties and quorum of the Evaluation Council

There are 13 members in the Evaluation Council. They must represent expertise in the activities of different educational sectors, teacher training, research, working life and students. Both official languages of the country must be taken into account in the composition of the Evaluation Council. The Evaluation Council elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson from amongst its members.

The duties of the Evaluation Council are to:

- 1) participate in the strategic planning of the Evaluation Centre;
- 2) make decisions on statements and initiatives that are far-reaching in nature or are essentially significant;
- 3) draw up a proposal for an evaluation plan and changes to the plan pursuant to section 5 of the Act on the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (1295/2013).

The Evaluation Council is quorate when, in addition to the chairperson, at least half of the members are present.

Section 7. Higher Education Evaluation Committee

There are nine members in the Higher Education Evaluation Committee, of which at least three must be members of the Evaluation Council. The members of the Committee must be familiar with the evaluation of higher education institutions.

The provisions in section 6 (1) and (3) pertaining to the composition and quorum of the Evaluation Council shall otherwise apply to the composition and quorum of the Committee.

The continuation of the term of office of the Committee may run no longer than six months once a new Evaluation Council has been appointed. During this period, the number of members of the Committee belonging to the Evaluation Council may derogate from the number laid down in subsection 1.

The Committee makes decisions on:

- 1) evaluation project plans and the composition of planning and evaluation groups related to higher education institutions;
- 2) approval of the final results of audits of quality management systems in higher education institutions.

Section 8. Advisory bodies

The Centre may appoint an advisory body for evaluation responsible for promoting collaboration between the Centre and its stakeholders and the utilisation of evaluation data.

The Evaluation Council may appoint an international advisory body.

Section 9. Fees and remuneration

Remuneration awarded to members of the Evaluation Council, Committees and advisory bodies are determined by the Centre.

Section 10. Entry into force

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2014. Sections 7 and 8 apply as of 1 May 2014, however.