



FINNISH EDUCATION EVALUATION CENTRE

# AUDIT OF UEF

## OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF AUDIT

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CHAIR OF THE AUDIT TEAM

## BASIS OF AUDITING IN FINLAND

- Each HEI develops a quality management system based on its own needs and goals
- 'The functioning and purposefulness of the system are essential'*
- Quality management forms a comprehensive system covering all activities of the HEI
- The results, strategy or quality of activities are not evaluated in the audit
- Audits are based on the principle of enhancement-led evaluation
- FINEEC's audit model fulfils commonly agreed European principles (called European Standards and Guidelines, ESG)



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## BACKGROUND OF AUDITS

- A unified procedure in line with the Bologna process was needed for QA of Finnish higher education ("accreditation, certification or comparable procedure")
- Enhancement-led evaluation was chosen as the approach.
- Since 2005, FINHEEC has conducted audits of the HEIs' quality systems
- During the 1st audit round (2005-2011) all Finnish HEIs were audited
- The 2nd round of audits (2011-2018) is being carried out




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## OBJECTIVES OF AUDIT

- The self-evaluation is primarily a tool for the development of the HEI's activities and their impacts
- The audit identifies strengths and good practices in quality management and disseminate them in the entire institution and between institutions
- The audit evaluates whether the quality system meets the national criteria and thus corresponds to the European quality assurance principles and recommendations
- The HEI is responsible of making use of and applying the analysis produced by the audit



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## THE NEED FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- Produces information on the quality of higher education
  - For prospective applicants, HEI management, teachers, students, employers, society, other stakeholders
  - Co-operation partners are assured of the quality of education
- Supports the management of the institution
  - A tool for continuing development of the institution's operations
  - Makes the responsibilities of different actors visible
  - Improves the students' opportunities to participate in educational development
  - Improves a society's opportunity to participate in regional development
- Increases the appeal of higher education
  - Arguments for competition
  - Quality can be verified



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## AUDIT TARGETS

- Quality Policy
- Quality System's link with strategic management
- Development of the Quality System
- Quality management of the HEI's core duties: including essential services supporting these
 

4a) Degree education	4b) Societal interaction and regional development
4c) RDI and artistic activities	4d) Optional audit target
- Samples of degree education (3 Programmes)
- The quality system as a whole



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## CRITERIA USED IN THE AUDIT

- **FINEEC Audit Manual: audit targets and criteria**  
<http://karvi.fi/publication/audit-manual-quality-systems-higher-education-institutions-2015-2018-2/>
- Four development phases of quality management:
  - Absent
  - Emerging
  - Developing
  - Advanced
- The development phase is determined individually for each audit target, including the sample degree programmes
- The institution passes the audit if none of the targets are in the **Absent** phase and if the quality system as a whole is at least in the **Developing** phase



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## UEF'S AUDIT TEAM

**Chair**

- Professor Timo Aarrevaara, University of Lapland, Finland

**Members**

- Head of International DAAD Academy Gabrielle Althoff (DAAD, Germany)
- Student Juha Isotalo, (University of Turku, Finland)
- Emeritus professor Chris Stephens (University of Southampton, UK)
- Professor Eva Werner (rector, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria)

**FINEEC**

- Mafi Saarlammi, Counsellor of Evaluation and Project Manager
- Kati Isoaho, Senior Advisor






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## AUDIT TARGET 6: THE QUALITY SYSTEM AS A WHOLE

TARGETS	CRITERIA			
	Absent	Emerging	Developing	Advanced
6. The quality system as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HEI has only individual and unrelated quality management procedures.</li> <li>• There is no evidence of the procedures' impact on the development of the operations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality management procedures do not yet form a functioning and unified system.</li> <li>• The quality system encompasses some of the HEI's core duties but there is little evidence of the system's impact on the development of the core duties.</li> <li>• The institution's quality culture is only just emerging.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality management procedures constitute a functioning system.</li> <li>• The quality system covers the essential parts of the core duties of the HEI and provides support for the development of the operations. There is evidence that the system has an impact on the development of the core duties.</li> <li>• The development of the operations is based on an existing quality culture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality management procedures form a dynamic and coherent system.</li> <li>• The quality system covers all the core duties of the HEI and provides excellent support for the institution's overall strategy and the development of the operations. There is clear evidence that the system has an impact on the development of the core duties.</li> <li>• The institution has a well-established quality culture, characterised by wide participation, commitment and transparency.</li> </ul>



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## OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE AUDIT TEAM

**Impartiality and objectivity**  
 Evaluators take an impartial and objective approach, as well as recognise their position of power and the responsibility relating to it

**Transparent and evidence-based evaluation**  
 Evaluation is based on transparent and systematically applied criteria and on material collected in connection with the evaluation

**Confidentiality**  
 All of the information acquired during the process, except for that published in the final report, is confidential

**Interaction**  
 The evaluation is carried out through good cooperation and interaction with UEF



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## PASSING THE AUDIT

- **FINEEC Higher Education Committee** decides on the audit result on the basis of the audit team's recommendation and report
- The task of FINEEC is to ensure the equality and quality of the audit decisions
- HEIs that pass the audit receive a **quality label** and are added to the register of audited institution on FINEEC's website




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