



FINNISH EDUCATION
EVALUATION CENTRE

All education evaluation in one organisation - FINEEC

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FINEEC

- Independent state-level expert organisation
- Established in 2014
- Responsible for external evaluation of education
- All levels, from pre-school to higher education
- Operates in Helsinki (main office) and in Jyväskylä
- Staff approximately 50 persons

From early childhood to higher education

- Early childhood and pre-primary
- Primary
- Secondary
- Vocational
- Basic education in arts
- Liberal adult education
- Adult education
- Higher education



Why?

- Overall policy – Big is beautiful!
- Government programme stated that evaluation functions of Finnish education (FINHEEC, FEEC, and a Unit from National Education Board) will merge into one Finnish Education Evaluation Centre - FINEEC
- Stated aim was to strengthen evaluation of education and its independence
- Better premises for international cooperation and impact
- Austerity or economic efficiency were not mentioned as motivation => cost neutral merger

How?

- The staff of the 3 existing bodies did all the work
- 3 directors formed a "troika" to lead the process in spring 2012
- On voluntary basis the staff signed up for working groups, such as: IT, New office space and interior design, HR, Communications, Finances
- Moved to new premises in May 2014. The new director was appointed in the spring and began on 1.6.2014.

Lessons learned

- There is a lot to learn from other levels of education evaluation, synergies exist, the big picture is fascinating!
- Colleagues have various talents you did not know about!
- In 1996 FINHEEC was established as an expert body to replace the previous political body, in 2014 FINEEC received political appointments again
- Politics are unpredictable: new merger coming up in 2018, FINEEC will become a special unit of the National Education Board (again).

Service promises



Reliability

We base our evaluation activities on objectively collected data.



Equality

We treat education providers equally in our evaluation activities.



Transparency

We act openly and make our operating principles and practices transparent.



Reform

We reform and inspire our partners to reform.