

**Provisional Registration  
of the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC)**

(following the previous registration of FINHEEC)

**Register Committee**

**Ref.** RC12/07.2

**Ver.** 1.0

**Date** 2014-05-22

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1. The Register Committee considered the request by the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC, currently registered until 31/07/2015) of 22 April 2014 for provisional registration as the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC), following its merger into this new entity as of 1 May 2014.
2. The two other bodies involved in the merger, the Finnish Education Evaluation Council and the National Board of Education's Unit for Evaluation of Learning Outcomes, did not conduct any quality assurance activities in higher education and could, thus, not potentially have been registered on EQAR.
3. FINEEC is therefore eligible for provisional registration according to the EQAR Merger Policy.

Analysis:

4. The Register Committee considered the information provided by FINHEEC in the request and the additional information provided on 6 May 2014.
5. The Register Committee noted that FINEEC's organisational structure includes a Higher Education Board, with a similar composition to the current (FINHEEC) Evaluation Council, which will be responsible for FINEEC's higher education quality assurance activities.
6. The Register Committee noted that FINEEC will essentially continue to employ FINHEEC's established methodology for audits of quality systems of higher education institutions, as well as its methodology for thematic evaluations. The Committee further noted that reviews of engineering programmes according to the EUR-ACE framework will be an additional activity of FINEEC.
7. On this basis the Register Committee considered that the analysis and conclusions set out in the external review report of July 2010 on the compliance of FINHEEC with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) remain, by and large, valid for FINEEC's quality assurance activities in higher education.

Conclusion:

8. The Register Committee concluded that FINEEC meets the requirements for provisional registration and granted provisional registration until 30/04/2016<sup>1</sup>.
9. The Register Committee underlined that provisional registration only extends to FINEEC's activities in higher education, taken over from FINHEEC, and not to any of its activities in other education sectors.
10. The Register Committee further underlined that FINEEC is expected to make a Substantive Change Report once it starts to conduct reviews of engineering programmes, given that this is a new activity. Furthermore, FINEEC is responsible for ensuring that these reviews will be fully and thoroughly considered in the upcoming external review of FINEEC against the ESG.
11. The following issues were flagged when FINHEEC was admitted to the Register for particular attention at the time of a possible application for renewal, and remain applicable to FINEEC.

FINEEC is expected to address these issues specifically in its next self-evaluation report, setting out whether the issue has been resolved or indicating what progress has been made. FINEEC is further responsible for informing the coordinator of the upcoming external review and the review panel of the need to address this issues in the external review report.

**ESG 2.1: Reference to ESG part 1**

Consideration should be given to possibilities FINEEC has explored in order to achieve greater uniformity in the way its audits take into account the presence and effectiveness of institutional quality assurance processes according to the principles of ESG part 1.

**ESG 3.7: Complaints or appeals procedure**

Even though FINEEC's decisions do not have a formal consequence (in terms of an institution's license or financing), its audits result in a formal decision. Consideration should be given to whether FINEEC has considered the creation of policies or procedures allowing institutions to make a complaint, appeal or formal representation.

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<sup>1</sup> Two years from the date of the merger, according to the EQAR Meger Policy.