

Education evaluation plan for 2012–2015



The Education Evaluation plan is being drawn up in cooperation with the Finnish Education Evaluation Council, the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council and the National Board of Education. The evaluation plan pertains to third-party evaluations to which the Ministry of Education and Culture has allocated funding or which are implemented in organizations under the Ministry's performance guidance. It covers all educational fields from pre-primary education to universities. According to Prime Minister Katainen's government programme, year 2014 a new national Education Evaluation Centre will be set up in Finland.

Background to evaluation activities

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture is preparing an evaluation plan for third-party evaluations and evaluations carried out to monitor learning outcomes. The plan is being drawn up in cooperation with the Finnish Education Evaluation Council, the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council and the National Board of Education or with the other evaluation organisations (eg. around universities) that are currently active in Finland. The government programme states that as from 2014, evaluation activity concerning education will be concentrated into a single Education Evaluation Centre.

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Provisions on a national plan for evaluation of education are laid down in a government decree (1061/2009). Pursuant to this decree, the plan should include the outlines and priorities of education evaluation and specify the funding and monitoring of the evaluations. In addition, the decree contains provisions on the aims

of evaluation activities, the principles of their implementation and at the moment, on a single evaluation organisation or the Education Evaluation Centre.

The Finnish national evaluation plan specifies the period covered by the plan (currently, years 2012–2015). During this planning period, Finland will participate in a number of international evaluations. Some of these are evaluations in which we have already taken part on previous occasions and that will also produce vital information on the trends of our educational system. New evaluations will extend the international comparability of education, and Finland will also take part in efforts to develop evaluation tools.

International evaluations complement the national ones, produce information on Finland's ranking compared to other education systems and make it possible to examine our education system and the outcomes it produces in a wider setting.

International comparisons will point to the strengths of the Finnish education system while also identifying areas that require development. Comparative evaluation data gained on the performance and effectiveness of various solution models can be used as the basis for national development efforts.

Evaluation organisation

At the moment, evaluations of education are carried out by three organisations: the Finnish Education Evaluation Council, the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council and the National Board of Education. The mandates can be periodical. The third mandate of the Education Evaluation Council

runs from 1 September 2011 till 31 December 2013.

According to Prime Minister Katainen's government programme, a new national Education Evaluation Centre will be set up in Finland. Key tasks

Sample-based evaluations to monitor national learning outcomes of basic education in Finland.

and competences concerning the evaluation of education will be centralised to form a more clear-cut and functional unit with a higher impact. Centralisation of the activities will bring benefits of synergy and strengthen the independent

position of evaluation activities.

The new evaluation centre will enhance the national and international role of evaluations concerning Finnish education. The national education evaluation centre will assimilate the evaluation activi-

ties currently carried out by the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre, the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Centre and the National Board of Education. The centre will begin to operate at the beginning of 2014.

Evaluation plan to monitor learning outcomes (example)

Sample-based evaluations to monitor national learning outcomes of basic education:

Evaluations to monitor national learning outcomes of basic education				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Longitudinal monitoring of learning outcomes in mathematics	Collection	Report		
Mathematics class 9			Collection	Report
Mother tongue and literature class 9		Collection	Report	
Foreign languages class 9	Collection	Report		
Health education class 9	Collection	Report		
Home economics class 9		Collection	Report	
Finland as second national language class 9			Collection	Report
Sámi, Roma, sign language (5 tests) as mother tongue			Collection	Report
Social subjects: history and social studies class 9	Report			
Natural sciences class 9	Report			
Cross-curricular themes class 9	Report			

Diagram of the IMPLEMENTATION of national evaluation activities in Finland

