

## **Government Decree on the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council 794/2009**

### **Section 1. Mission of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council**

1. The mission of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council shall be to
  - 1) assist the higher education institutions and the Ministry of Education in matters pertaining to evaluation;
  - 2) conduct evaluations relating to the activities and quality assurance systems of higher education institutions;
  - 3) support quality assurance and enhancement in higher education institutions; and
  - 4) participate in international evaluation activities and cooperation concerning evaluation.
2. Further, the Higher Education Evaluation Council shall perform duties assigned to it in the Presidential Decree concerning university of applied sciences degrees awarded in the Province of Åland (548/2005).
3. The Higher Education Evaluation Council may accept other commissions relating to evaluation from Finnish and foreign operators.
4. The Higher Education Evaluation Council must participate in international evaluation of its own activities on a regular basis. The Higher Education Evaluation Council must annually submit an account of its own activities and the salient findings of the evaluations.

### **Section 2. Composition of the Higher Education Evaluation Council**

1. The Higher Education Evaluation Council shall have a maximum of 12 members, who must be versed in higher education evaluation. They must represent expertise in the activities and operational environment of higher education institutions and the world of work and the majority of them must be affiliated with higher education institutions. The Ministry of Education shall appoint the members for a maximum of four years at a time after hearing the higher education institutions and stakeholders.
2. The Higher Education Evaluation Council shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from amongst its members for its term of office.

3. Where a member of the Higher Education Evaluation Council becomes unable to perform his or her duties in the middle of the term of office, the Ministry of Education shall appoint a new member in his or her place for the remainder of the term.

### **Section 3. Subcommittees**

1. The Higher Education Evaluation Council may set up subcommittees to prepare matters which come before the Council. The chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the subcommittee shall be appointed by the Higher Education Evaluation Council.
2. A member assigned to a subcommittee may also be external to the Higher Education Evaluation Council.

### **Section 4. International advisory body**

1. The Higher Education Evaluation Council may appoint a consultative committee composed of international and national experts and chaired by the chairperson of the Evaluation Council to assist it in its operation and development and to enhance international cooperation.

### **Section 5. Meetings**

1. The Higher Education Evaluation Council shall convene at the invitation of the chairperson or, when he or she is prevented, by the vice-chairperson.
2. The Higher Education Evaluation Council shall form a quorum when at least half of the members, including the chairperson, are present. Matters shall be decided by a simple majority. If the votes are equal, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

### **Section 6. Secretariat**

1. For the preparation of matters which come before the Evaluation Council, there shall be a secretariat whose officials are appointed by the Ministry of Education after hearing the Higher Education Evaluation Council.
2. The work of the secretariat shall be led by a secretary-general, the qualification requirement for whom shall be a doctoral degree, familiarity with the field concerned and proven leadership skills.
3. The qualification requirement for the officials in the expert posts of the secretariat shall be a Master's degree and familiarity with the field concerned.

### **Section 7. Fees and remunerations**

1. The grounds for paying fees and remunerations to the chairperson, members and experts of the Evaluation Council and its subcommittees and the advisory body shall be determined by the Ministry of Education.

### **Section 8. Standing orders of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council**

1. The tasks and competence of the Higher Education Evaluation Council and its subcommittees, advisory body and secretariat and the processing of matters shall be laid down in the standing orders issued by the Evaluation Council.

### **Section 9. Coming into force**

1. This Decree shall come into force on the first of January 2010.
2. Measures needed to implement the Decree may be taken before the coming into force of the Decree.