



FINNISH EDUCATION  
EVALUATION CENTRE

# Benchlearning method as part of the FINEEC quality audits

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# Benchlearning - what and how?

## WHAT

- Enhancement-led evaluation is a fundamental operating principle of FINEEC.
- Benchlearning method is part of the FINEEC third-cycle audit framework for 2019-2024
- Through benchlearning, FINEEC wishes to encourage all Finnish HEIs to use benchlearning as a method as part of their quality work.
- The purpose of benchlearning is to receive feedback on the own organisation's activities and to learn from the good practices of another organisation.

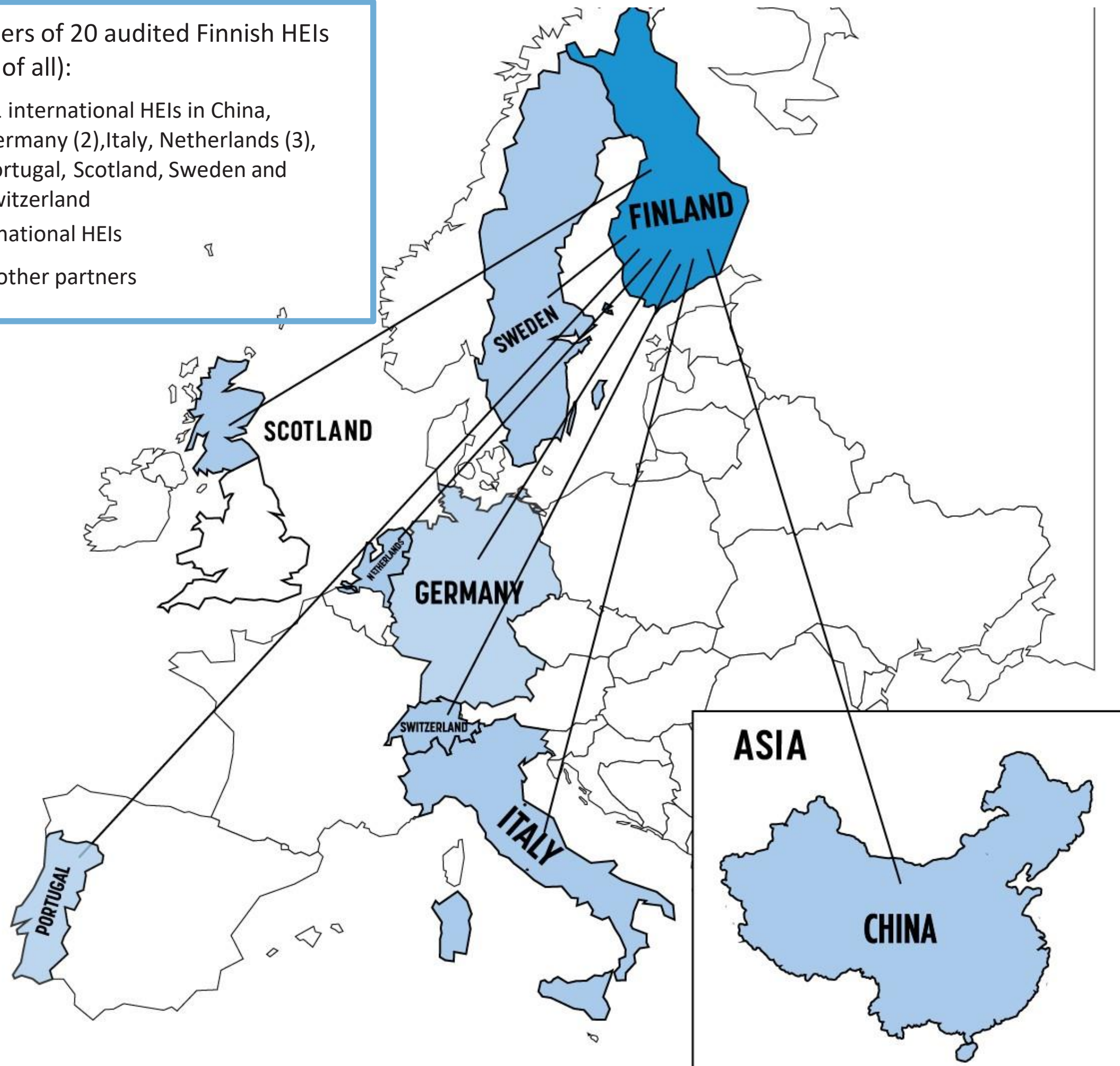
## HOW

- The HEI selects a topic and a partner for benchlearning. The HEI may select several partners.
- The scope of the activity may vary and is decided by the benchlearning partners; however, it needs to be connected to at least one of the evaluation areas of the audit.
- The HEI reports about the benchlearning to FINEEC in connection with the self-assessment report - how was benchlearning process implemented; what good practices the HEI identified in the own and partner organisation; and how the HEI plans to apply the new ideas.
- In the final audit report, the benchlearning project will not be assessed as such.
- However, each HEI will receive audit team's feedback and proposals on how to proceed.

# Benchlearning partnerships and themes

Partners of 20 audited Finnish HEIs (53% of all):

- 11 international HEIs in China, Germany (2), Italy, Netherlands (3), Portugal, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland
- 8 national HEIs
- 7 other partners



## 1. Supporting students and studying

- Development of student feedback systems
- Smoother thesis processes
- Comprehensive guidance of studies

## 2. Study paths and lifelong learning

- Flexible study paths and enabling year-round study
- Organisation and development of continuous learning
- Multi-modal teaching and stakeholder cooperation in continuous learning

## 3. Wellbeing and competence development

- Staff and student well-being
- Teachers' pedagogical competence development
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

## 4. Societal impact

- Managing social interaction
- Promoting effectiveness and innovation
- Development of strategic abilities and competence

# Successful benchlearning projects

## 1. Development of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - EDI between the Aalto University and EPFL in Switzerland

- Strategic topic and mutual interest
- Building on existing partnership
- Several meetings (online and onsite) and action plan

## 2. Development of strategic capabilities and competence between Savonia UAS and three local companies in Finland

- UAS with a strong regional role in competence building
- Renewal of the UAS partnership model – strengthening the foresight aspect
- New partnership model benefiting UAS students