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Evaluation of Government's key projects for higher education 2017–2022

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Evaluation of Government's key projects for higher education 2017–2022

- A national evaluation funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture with the aim of assessing the impacts and effectiveness of the higher education development projects (Key project 3) and teacher education development projects (Key project 1) funded by the Ministry.
- Key project 1: 45 projects funded with € 27.2 million
- Key project 3: 36 projects funded with € 65 million

The main themes of the evaluation

- The impacts and effectiveness of the development projects in higher education and teacher education in the development of higher education.
- The realisation of the objectives of the Teacher Education Development Programme.
- Functioning of the key project model and development of higher education in the future.

Theme 1: The impacts and effectiveness of the development projects

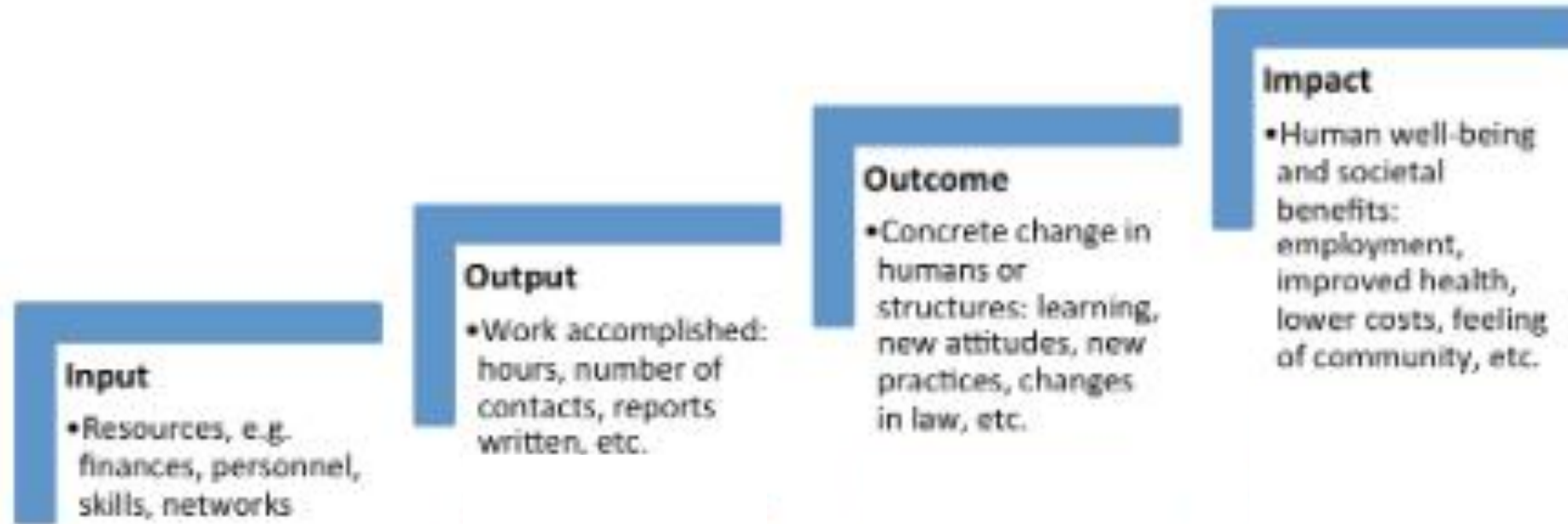
The evaluation questions:

- What results have been achieved in the projects?
- How widely have the project results been disseminated?
- What kinds of changes have the projects initiated in higher education institutions?
- What permanent activities or impacts from the project results have been integrated into the structures or practices of higher education?
- How is the activity that emerged during the projects being maintained and utilised?
- What have higher education institutions learned from any possible failures?

The evaluation data

- The project documents of the development projects in teacher education and higher education
 - Qualitative analysis by NVivo program
- A survey targeted at higher education institutions
 - 35 Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences
- Focus group interviews, in which representatives of higher education institutions, stakeholders and students participated.
- Answers to the questions on the key projects in the teacher and student surveys carried out in the The evaluation of the state and renewal of higher education pedagogy
- The development webinar.

The impact chain (iooi-method)



The key strenghts

- In the development based on the key projects, cooperation and co-creation worked well. The networks strengthened the cooperation.
- The project work and the networks created by the projects strengthened the personnel's competence. In addition, the personnel employed to the projects strengthened competence in the higher education institutions.
- The Teacher Education Forum played a significant role in the coordination of the development projects in teacher education, the cooperation conducted in them, their monitoring and the dissemination of their results.
- New project ideas and proposals for further development and research were generated in the development projects.

The key development recommendations

- The participation of personnel, students and stakeholders should already be strengthened in the preparation of the projects. The ways of participation in the different stages of the project should be written in the project plan.
- The evaluation of effectiveness should be strengthened by taking advantage of impact chain thinking during the entire lifecycle of the project. Quantitative and qualitative indicators should be developed to support evaluation. The evaluation of effectiveness should be separated from the project activities and made into a separate process, and evaluation must be carried out a sufficiently long time after the end of the project.
- An entity should be formed of projects related to a specific theme and interaction between these projects should be ensured.
- The development funding for higher education should have continuity, which would also promote the development of project competence and project support related to the development of the cooperation networks and the education, the establishment of the results and the evaluation of effectiveness.