

IEP METHODOLOGY: FOUR QUESTIONS

The evaluation process is based on four strategic questions:

- 1 What is the institution trying to do?**
The mission and objectives of the institution
- 2 How is the institution trying to do it?**
The operational aspects of the institution
- 3 How does the institution know it works?**
The internal monitoring and quality assurance arrangements aiming to ensure that objectives are met
- 4 How does the institution change in order to improve?**
The institutional capacity for change in a rapidly developing context

THE EVALUATION TEAMS

The experience and expertise of its experts is one of IEP's greatest strengths. The IEP expert pool includes current and former rectors and vice-rectors, students and senior higher education experts from across Europe.

Each evaluation team is carefully composed on the basis of the institution's priorities and profile. The nature of the team offers a diversity of expertise and university cultures. In addition, as experienced university leaders, the teams apply the concept of peer-review when visiting the institution.

INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION PROGRAMME

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A TOOL FOR STRATEGIC CHANGE

IEP – EUA-Institutional Evaluation Programme
c/o OGH Expertises
Case postale 3174 · 1211 Geneva 3 · Switzerland
Tel. +32-2 230 55 44 · Fax +32-2 230 57 51
iep@eua.be · www.eua.be/iep

Full member of



Listed in



INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION PROGRAMME

Higher education institutions today face a number of challenges as they strive to fulfil their critical role in society. These include increased autonomy, competition for staff and students, internationalisation, declining public investment, additional activities and curriculum reforms. The Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) offers institutions support as they face these challenges, manage institutional change and enhance quality.

"The IEP represented a perfect complement for the previous self-evaluation efforts and the accreditation processes that the Universidad Nacional de Colombia has undertaken. The Evaluation Report has been taken as an important tool, to be considered along with other material, for future plans."

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia

IEP has provided external evaluation services to higher education institutions in the context of their own aims and profiles since 1994. To date, IEP evaluation teams have carried out around 300 evaluations and follow-up evaluations of diverse higher education institutions in 45 countries worldwide. On request of local stakeholders in higher education (ministries, national rectors' conferences, NGOs), IEP also conducts coordinated evaluations at the national or regional level.

"The process provided a strong basis for the development of new policies, during a period of major changes in the Portuguese higher education legal framework. It proved particularly valuable for the negotiations with the government that ultimately led to the modification of the legal status of the University of Aveiro."

University of Aveiro, Portugal

AN IEP EVALUATION

By signing up for an evaluation, institutions benefit from:

- an evaluation procedure tailored to their **institutional profile** and geared towards improving their capacity to reach their strategic goals;
- a **truly European focus** taking into account the framework of current developments in higher education across the continent, such as the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area;
- a **self-evaluation process** that will contribute to increased awareness across the university of the need to develop an internal quality culture and complement external accountability exercises;
- **two site visits of an evaluation panel**, composed of current or former European rectors or vice-rectors, a student and a senior higher education expert; and
- a **final report** that highlights good practices identified and includes recommendations for improvement.

IEP is a voluntary process independent from governments and other bodies, and does not lead to accreditation. Rather than providing summative judgement, IEP evaluations aim to support higher education institutions actively in fulfilling their mission.

IEP provides recommendations on and insights into the institutions' structures, processes, policies and culture, to enable them to perform the full range of their activities in line with their strategic plans and objectives, and build the capacity to address change processes.

An indicative evaluation cycle

April-June
Annual registration period

October
Preparatory workshop for institutions

October-February
Self-evaluation process

February-March
1st site visit

April-May
2nd site visit

June-July
Compilation of the final report

THE FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE

IEP does not end with the final report. The true benefits of an evaluation come afterwards, as the university community examines the findings of the evaluation team and addresses their recommendations.

"The results of the institutional evaluation performed by IEP confirmed some of our expectations, pointing out aspects we had been already aware of, but, at the same time, they offered new perspectives, showing us new paths for modernisation and change. The recommendations included in the report have consistently contributed to shaping the university's future. The entire evaluation process took place in a remarkably professional way. We appreciated the effort of the evaluation team to give a thorough and realistic insight into our institution."

Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania

To support institutions further in their strategic change, IEP gives evaluated institutions the option to register for a follow-up evaluation one to three years after the initial evaluation.

Follow-up evaluations aim to identify the impact that the initial evaluation has had on the institution's development, investigate the experiences gained from changes implemented after the initial evaluation and give further impetus for change.

"In this fast-changing environment, the insights of experienced experts were priceless for deciding on our university's development priorities and its strategy. Therefore, we would like to express our gratitude for the very informative and instructive suggestions provided by the experts of the Institutional Evaluation Programme."

Vilnius University, Lithuania