What kind of information do we provide? And for what purpose?
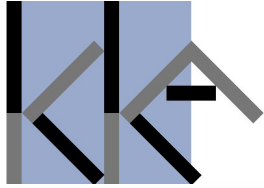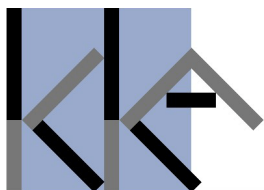
Secretary General Helka Kekäläinen
Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council
FINHEEC

The aim of
the audit of each HEI is:

- to evaluate what procedures and processes the HEI uses to maintain and develop the quality of its education and other activities;

- to evaluate whether the HEI's quality assurance works as intended,
  - whether the QA system produces useful and relevant information for the improvement of its operations
  - whether it brings about effective, improvement measures.

Fundamental audit questions

Comprehensiveness

> Does QA cover all the institutional units and activities?
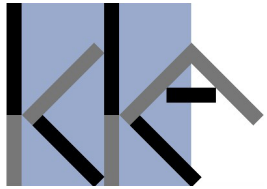
Effectiveness

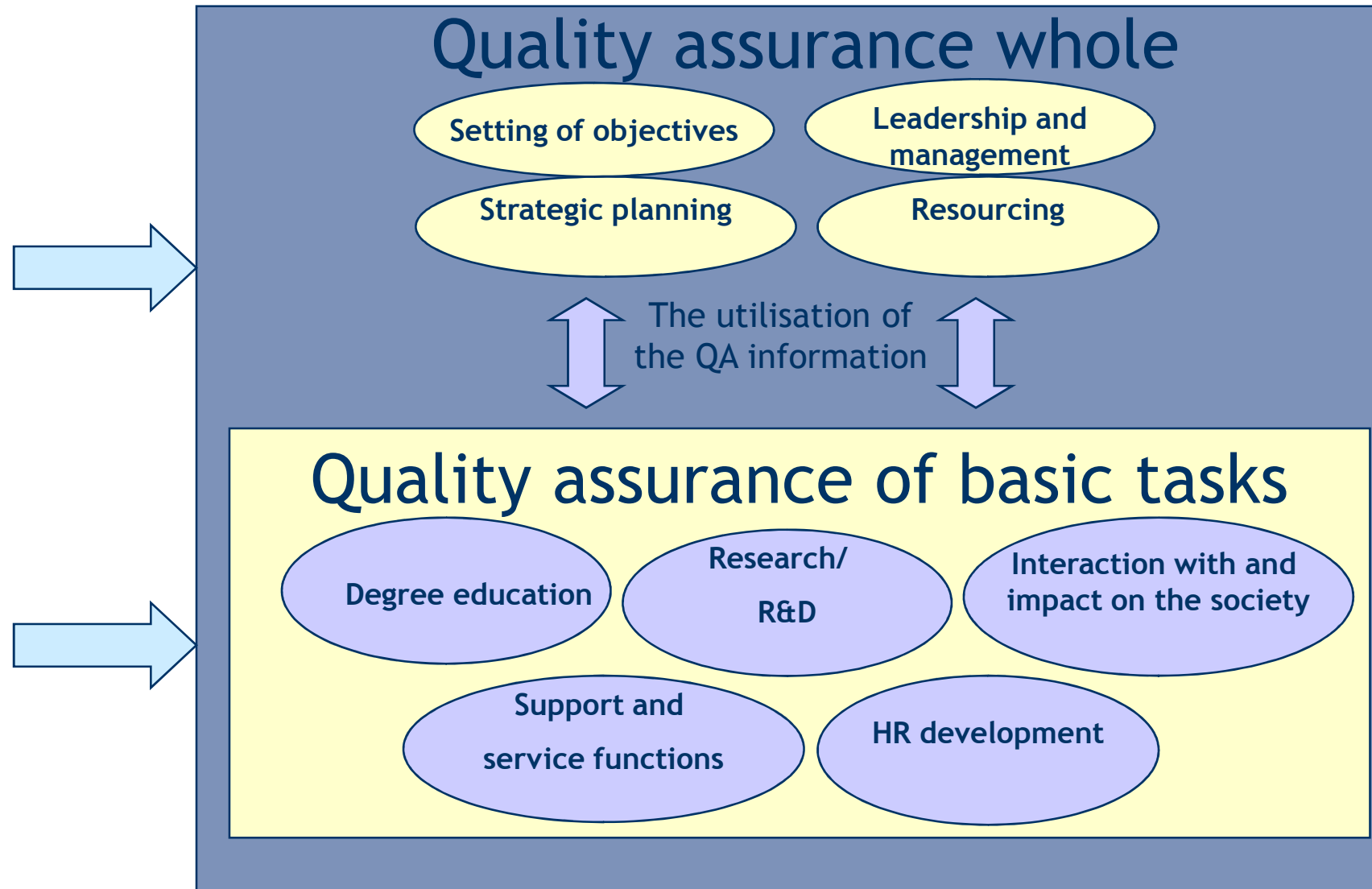> Does the QAS produce relevant information? Does this information lead to effective improvement measures?
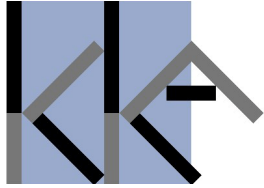
Transparency

> How is the information related to the QAS and to the quality available to staff and students?
>
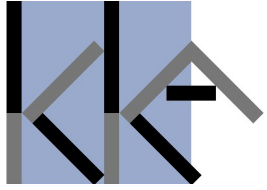> How does the HEI deliver this information to its external stakeholders?

Two levels of
the quality assurance system

Quality assurance whole

- Setting of objectives
- Leadership and management
- Strategic planning
- Resourcing

The utilisation of the QA information

Quality assurance of basic tasks

- Degree education
- Research/ R&D
- Interaction with and impact on the society
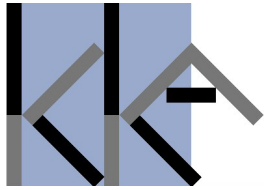- Support and service functions
- HR development

Audit conclusions and consequences

- The audit group issues an appraisal of the development stage of the QA system by each audit target

- The audit group can propose that the HEI passes the audit if all audit targets meet the minumun criteria of an "emerging" system, and that the QA system as a whole (audit target 7) is at least "developing".

- On the basis of the proposal of the audit group, FINHEEC will decide whether the HEI's QA system passes the audit or whether a re-audit is needed.
  - In the case of re-audit, the decision shall include the essential improvement needs of the QA system focused on in the re-audit.
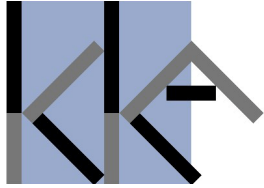
Content areas and criteria: Centres of Excellence in Education for 2010-2012

1. Mission of the unit
2. Programme and course design
3. Delivery of education
4. Outputs
5. Continual development
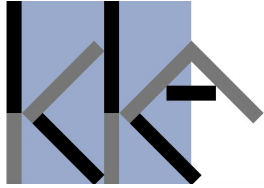
Conclusions – Quality in education

- clear profile and mission of the education
- leading education strategically
- pedagogical training of the teaching staff
- making degrees as meaningful wholes
- interlinking research and teaching in the unit
- versatile and international cooperation and networking in education and research
- continual and systematic development of education
- teaching and evaluation methods that enhance deep learning and active participation of the whole work community and students
- involving the working life in the development of the unit
- curriculum reform to promote learning
- research based attitude to own teaching
- proactive attitude to future challenges

Summa summarum

For HEIs: QA system check, recommendations for improvements, good practises, benchmark opportunities, acknowledgement for excellence in education

For policy-makers: evaluation of each HEI's QA system, thematical system-wide analysis, bases for granting perfomance based funding (excellence)

Summa summarum

For Students: guarantee that the institution has a functioning QA System, Centres of Excellence in Education

For Employers: evaluation of each HEI's QA system, thematical system-wide analysis, Excellence in Education