

SICI CONFERENCE BRATISLAVA “INSPECTING THE FUTURE”

School evaluation in the Flemish Community of Belgium Recent Developments

1. Introduction

- Decree on Quality of Education of 2009:
 - Autonomy of schools: every school is responsible for its own quality
 - External evaluation by inspection with CIPO-framework
- 2011: Visit of OECD Review team
- Supreme Audit Institution Report on school evaluation
 - To what extent have the recommendations lead to quality improvement?

2. Recent developments

a) Data for school improvement

- OECD: “Strengthen information flow for use in school evaluation” and “Recognise the key role of school leaders in self-evaluation and strengthen their policy-making capacity”
- Data for schools project (“Databundel”)
- Policy Research Centre for Test development and Assessments
- Toolkit broad assessment of language competences
- Self evaluation tool for policy making capacity

b) Increased transparency

- OECD: “Clarify the criteria for inspection judgments on the quality of education”
- Broaden the scope of the inspection for recognition
- New type of inspection report
- Improved motivation on the output part in the report

c) Better communication about standards of educational quality

- OECD : “Ensure regular and meaningful feedback to schools on key CIPO inspection framework indicators” and “Devise ways to improve public use of inspection results”
- CIPO-framework explicitly used in report in order to create a common language
- Positive feedback from schools
- Discussion on inspection report in school council

d) Improving inter-rater reliability

- OECD: "Go further in improving the inter-rater reliability of inspection reports"
- Improve inter-rater reliability in looking at the processes
- Developing scales for judgement of processes

3. Role of the inspectorate

- Take into account contextual data:
 - No central testing
 - No standards for quality insurance
 - Local autonomy
- Consequences for the inspectorate:
 - Need for
 - Subject expertise en thorough examination
 - collegial consultations and conversations
 - The inspectorate needs to make its own choices to fulfil its mission
- Based on external audits and internal development track
 - => goals:
 - Transparency
 - Uniformity
 - Balance between controlling and stimulating role
 - Data collection
- Stepped approach with a high involvement of inspectors (as high as possible)
 - Practice-oriented exercises
 - Collegial consultations
 - Final product with a maximum support

4. Conclusion: Have the recommendations lead to quality improvement?

- Impact on its own functioning
 - More cohesion
 - More uniform research and transparent reporting
 - Pupil = central
- Effects on schools
 - Clearer feedback to schools
 - Information rich environment: win/win situation
 - Promotion of CIPO framework and quality framework → consistency self-evaluation and external evaluation
- Effects on policy
 - Enhanced policy advice
 - Consultation recognition values