

SICI

The Standing International
Conference of **Inspectorates**

Better Inspection, Better Learning



School Evaluation for Improvement and Accountability: striking the right balance

Alternative School Inspection and Evaluation Models

SICI Workshop – Malta 27th & 28th March 2014



Quality Assurance Department
Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education
Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta

Theme and Rationale

Educational provision through schools is increasingly being challenged by notions of quality and efficiency advocated by external forces for more productivity and justification of the extensive investment made (Boyd, 2004). Nonetheless, whilst refuting the stance of education and efficiency as being at opposing poles or 'antithetical', fears raised on the compatibility of these two spheres are as legitimate as the inevitable pressures for greater accountability (Boyd, 2004). Moreover during times of financial crisis, quality education is often recognised as the main vessel for sustainable economic recovery.

Despite its importance, many people find quality an enigmatic concept. It is perplexing to define and often difficult to measure. One person's idea of quality often conflicts with another and [...] no two experts ever come to the same conclusion when discussing what makes an excellent school, college or university.

(Sallis, 2002)

In an attempt to address these pressures 'education is also recognising the need to pursue...' such an '...important quest' (Hargreaves, 2003). Central to this endeavour have been the deployment of traditional inspection models which are rooted or profoundly influenced by the models of accountability and quality management in education. These often take as given a market-based model of educational improvement driven by the dynamics of demand and supply. In this context, the 'quality' rationality leads to an assumption of scientific objectivity in the observation and judgment of schools, such that the morality and validity of scores and judgments, and their immense effects on schools and communities, is not questioned, as Ferguson, Earley, Fidler and Ouston (2000) argue.

However, discourse in educational research and international practice is gradually but increasingly reflecting the belief for the need to strengthen the role of internal evaluations aimed at ongoing school improvement complemented by external reviews which strive to balance accountability with development. In its report comparing the experience of 28 countries, *Synergies for Better Learning* published in 2013, the OECD recognises that *evaluation and assessment arrangements are key to both improvement and accountability in school systems*. The balance between these two purposes becomes critical in the role being played by results from assessment and evaluation in the educational field so as to establish *how well school systems are performing and for providing feedback, all with the goal of helping students to do better* (OECD, 2013).

The Quality Assurance Department within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education, Malta (Ministry for Education and Employment), is pleased to host a SICI workshop entitled – **School Evaluation for Improvement and Accountability: Striking the Right Balance – Alternative School Inspection and Evaluation Models**. Keynote speakers will present different models of school evaluation enacted in their respective contexts against a backdrop set by an OECD representative from the team responsible for drawing up the seminal publication *Synergies for Better Learning*. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss this critical theme and engage in reflections on the purposes being served by contemporary school evaluation systems.

References:

- Boyd, W.L., (2004). Are education and efficiency antithetical? Education for democracy vs the "cult of efficiency". *Journal of Educational Administration*, 42 (2). Cambridge, MA: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Ferguson, N., Earley, P., Fidler, B. and Ouston, J. (2000). *Improving Schools and Inspection: The Self-Inspecting School*. Sage Publications Ltd.
- Hargreaves, D., (2003). *Education Epidemic - Transforming Secondary Schools through Innovation Networks*. London: Demos.
- OECD, (2013). *Synergies for Better Learning: An International Perspective on Evaluation and Assessment*, OECD Reviews of Evaluation and Assessment in Education, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- Sallis, E. (2002). *Total Quality Management in Education – Third Edition*. UK: Kogan Page Ltd.

SICI Workshop – Malta, 27th & 28th March 2014


School Evaluation for Improvement and Accountability: Striking the Right Balance *Alternative School Inspection and Evaluation Models*

CORINTHIA HOTEL, ST GEORGE'S BAY, ST JULIAN'S

Day 1:	27 th March 2014
08:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, Malta • Response by Wulf Homeier, SICI President and overview of SICI's vision • Welcome by the Director General, Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education
09:50	<p><i>Synergies for Better Learning: An International Perspective on Evaluation and Assessment – OECD (2013)</i> OECD reviews of Evaluation and Assessment in Education <i>Claire Shewbridge</i> <i>Analyst OECD</i></p>
10:50	Coffee break
11:10	<p>The Maltese School Evaluation System <i>Ian Mifsud</i> <i>Director Quality Assurance Department, Malta</i></p>
11:55	<p>The Irish School Inspection System <i>Harold Hislop</i> <i>Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Skills, Ireland</i></p>
12:40	Light lunch
13:40	<p>The Finnish school Evaluation system <i>Rautopuro Juhani</i> <i>Finnish National Board of Education</i></p>
14:25	<p>The European Schools Inspection System <i>Kari Kivinen</i> <i>Secretary General, European Schools</i></p>
15:10	Coffee break
15:30	Workshops – <i>Participants will be guided to discuss the school evaluation models and the OECD recommendations presented during the day.</i>
16:30	<p>Plenary discussion Closure of the day by QAD</p>
17:00	End of Day 1
19:30	Gala Dinner hosted by the QAD at Bay View Restaurant – Corinthia Marina Hotel

Day 2:	28th March 2014
08:30	Leave Corinthia Hotel for visits to Maltese schools that have hosted external reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by Head and overview of School • School tour • Short lesson observations • Coffee Break • Focus group with teachers • Discussion with school SMT
12:45	Return to Corinthia Hotel
13:15	Light lunch
14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small workshops with Maltese external review officers (school inspectors) – discussing the parameters and results of Malta’s school improvement model • Implications for SICI member organisations and for SICI emerging out of the Workshop presentations and discussions
15:30	Coffee break
15:50	Plenary – presentation of workshop outcomes by rapporteurs
16:30	Concluding reflections by SICI President Closure and thanks by Host
17:00	End of Day 2 & SICI Workshop

Day 3: 29th March 2014 *(optional cultural event – special price of € 30 per participant)*



<http://www.maltasightseeing.com>

Prehistoric Temples Tour (Participants are to indicate interest on the [Registration Form](#))

A Malta Temples Tour is a must for anyone who travels to this beautiful Mediterranean island. Malta and Gozo are home to seven megalithic temples, all of which are designated as world heritage sites by UNESCO. These megalithic temples date back 5500 years ago and are the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world, even older than the Stonehenge and the Pyramids. It is also home to more than thirty other temples, all of which reflect Malta's rich past.

During this tour participants will visit Tarxien Temples which are an archaeological complex in Tarxien. They date back to approximately 3150 BC. The site was accepted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980. The temples consist of three separate, but attached structures. The main entrance is a reconstruction dating from 1956, when the whole site was restored. At the same time, many of the decorated slabs discovered on site were relocated indoors for protection at the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

Participants will then visit Ħaġar Qim & Mnajdra Temples. The megalithic complex of Ħaġar Qim is located atop a hill on the southern edge of the island, on a ridge capped in soft globigerina limestone. All exposed rock on the island was deposited during the Oligocene and Miocene periods of geological time. 500 metres from Ħaġar Qim stands the Mnajdra megalithic temple. The surrounding area is typical of Mediterranean garrigue in its starkness and isolation; it is designated as a Heritage park. A few hundred metres from the temple is one of the thirteen watchtowers built by Grand Master Martin de Redin, called Ħamrija Tower.

Participants will leave the Corinthia Marina Hotel at 08:30 and will be returned by 13:30.

Venue, Registration and Accommodation

The event will be held at the Corinthia Beach Resort in St George's Bay. This is comprised of two adjacent hotels, namely the Corinthia Marina (4 Star Hotel) and the Corinthia San Gorg (5 Star Hotel). Whilst accommodation will be offered at the Marina, the workshop will be held at the adjacent San Gorg Hotel. Nonetheless, guests will have access to all the facilities in both hotels.



Registration for this SICI workshop is open from the 13th January till the 7th February 2014. Due to limited spaces available participants are encouraged to apply at their earliest by filling in the **Registration Form** on page 8 of this draft programme and sending it to: pauline.caruana@ilearn.edu.mt. In case of oversubscription, participation will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.



Corinthia Marina Hotel



Corinthia San Gorg Hotel



Corinthia Marina Hotel



Corinthia Marina Hotel

Participants are strongly encouraged to book their accommodation at the Corinthia Marina hotel. The management of the hotel is offering a special rate of **€ 100.00** per night on a bed and breakfast basis for SICI members booking their accommodation through the purposely built landing page accessible at:

<http://www.marinahotel.com.mt/en/MEETINGS-AND-EVENTS/sici/>

All rooms at the Corinthia Marina Hotel enjoy balconies with breathtaking sea views, as well as mini-bar, safe, trouser press, airconditioning, central heating, cable/satellite TV, internet access and a modern bathroom.

HOTEL CONTACT DETAILS

Marina Hotel Corinthia Beach Resort
St George's Bay, St Julians, STJ 3301, Malta
Tel: +356 2370 2000
E-mail: info@marinahotel.com.mt
marinahotel.com.mt

THE CORINTHIA MARINA HOTEL



The Marina Hotel at the Corinthia Beach Resort boasts an advantageous position overlooking the striking St George's Bay and the great expanse of the Mediterranean Sea. With its unsurpassed panorama, the hotel is just a short stroll from the vibrant neighbouring town of Paceville and St George's Bay beach.

Ideally positioned at the water's edge, the Marina Hotel is part of the Corinthia Beach Resort which includes the luxurious Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay. The Corinthia Beach Resort offers a Day Spa, a private beach with easy sea access and a fully equipped water sports centre providing a variety of energising water sports.



Corinthia San Gorg Hotel



Corinthia San Gorg Hotel



Corinthia Marina Hotel



Corinthia Marina Hotel



Corinthia Marina Hotel



Corinthia Marina Hotel

HOTEL SERVICES

- Languages spoken at the hotel: English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Italian, Arabic
- Wi-Fi in the lobby & Broadband Internet in guest bedrooms
- Concierge & Porter
- Dry cleaning / Ironing
- Safety deposit box in all guest bedrooms
- Currency exchange
- Parking - Private Indoor & Outdoor
- Ramp access & Reduced mobility facilities

LEISURE FACILITIES

- Apollo Day Spa (beauty, wellness and relaxation therapies, massages etc)
- Fitness centre
- Indoor heated pool
- Whirlpool & Sauna
- Volleyball court
- Full watersport centre and private Yacht hire
- Diving centre & Sailing facilities
- 5 outdoor swimming pools - fresh water and 1 outdoor children's pool at the Corinthia Hotel St. George's Bay

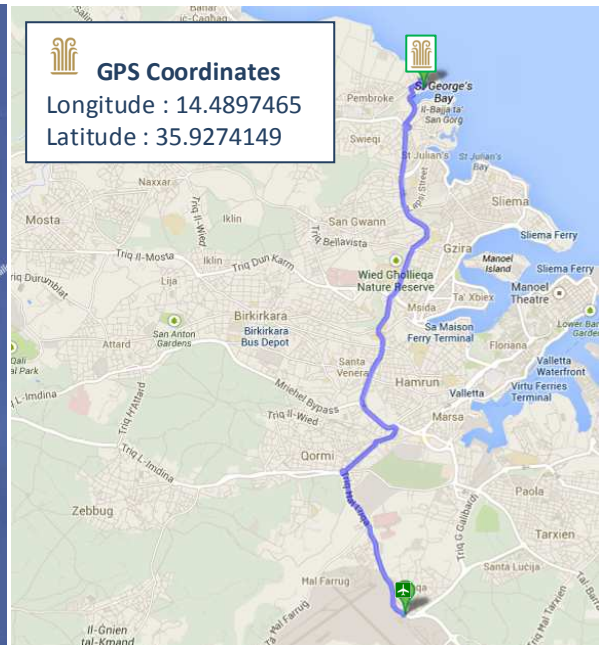
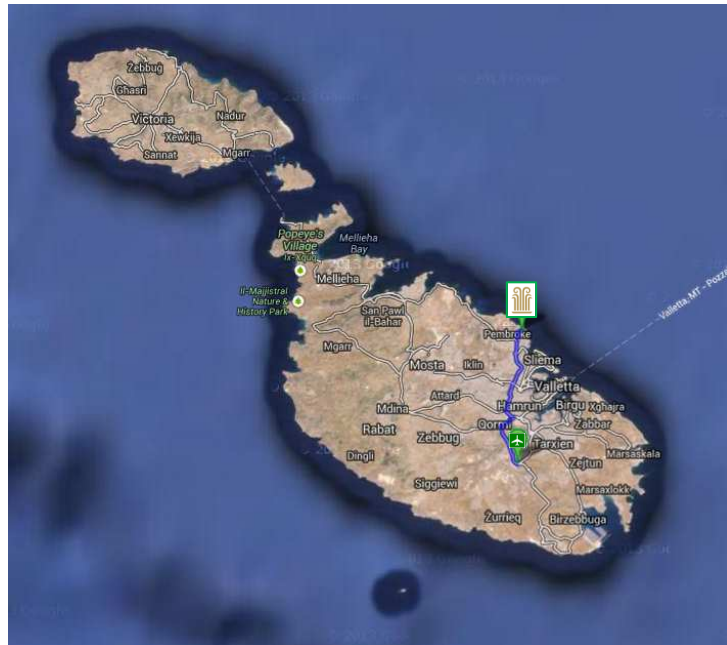
- Private rocky beach with direct access to the clear and safe Mediterranean Sea
- 5 minutes walk to St. George's Bay sandy beach
- Private Jetty

SECURITY FEATURES

- 24 hour security staff
- Complies with Hotel Safety Act 1990
- Video camera at building entrance & video surveillance in public areas
- Smoke alarm in public areas

Location of Venue and Getting There

The Corinthia Marina is located in St Julian's, a town situated along the northern coast of the Island. With its winding promenades and breathtaking seaviews, St Julian's is Malta's premier destination for leisure and an oasis of temptation for culinary delights. Picturesque St Julian's Bay shelters colourful traditional Maltese boats (Luzzu) all year round and is lined with bougainville-clad cafés and eateries.



Getting to the Corinthia Marina Hotel takes approximately 20 minutes drive from the Malta International Airport. **Malta Transfer** is the official Airport Shuttle Service offering airport to hotel shuttle service throughout Malta and Gozo. SICI Workshop participants can avail of a fixed discounted price of € 5.00 per person for a one-way trip from the Malta International Airport to the Corinthia Marina Hotel, or € 10.00 for a return trip when booking on-line via the booking system from the link below and quoting the promotional code: **SICI**. Alternatively one can also book the service upon arrival at the booking desk located in the baggage reclaim area of the Malta International Airport.

<http://gettinghere.maltairport.com/en/shuttle.htm>



About Malta

Megaliths, medieval dungeons and Calypso's Cave – the Maltese Islands are positively mythic. The narrow meandering streets of their towns and villages lead to the main square, which is invariably dominated by the huge baroque church. As the countryside is dotted with medieval towers, wayside chapels and the oldest known human structures in the world, the Islands have rightly been described as an open-air museum.

The Maltese archipelago lies virtually at the centre of the Mediterranean, 93 km south of Sicily and 288 km north of Africa. The archipelago consists of three islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino with a total population of over 400,000 inhabitants occupying an area of 316 square kilometres.

Malta is the largest island and the cultural, commercial and administrative centre. Gozo is the second largest island and is more rural, characterised by fishing, tourism, crafts and agriculture. Comino, the smallest of the trio, has one hotel and is largely uninhabited.

With superbly sunny weather, attractive beaches, a thriving nightlife and 7,000 years of intriguing history, there is a great deal to see and do.



More information can be accessed from www.visitmalta.com, the official tourism portal for the Maltese Islands.
You may click on the logo below to access the site.



www.visitMALTA.com

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Personal Details

Name

Job title / position

Organisation

Address

Telephone Number

Email Address

Workshop Details

School Visits on Day 2 – Kindly express your preference for choice of sector and cycle of school. The organisers will do their best to meet the participants’ preferences, whilst reserving the right to make the required arrangements to meet logistic needs.

Sector: State Church Independent
Kindly choose Sector – tick one of the above boxes

Cycle: Primary Secondary
Kindly choose Cycle – tick one of the above boxes

Hospitality & Accommodation Details

Expenses covered by host organisation (QAD – DQSE, Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta)

Day 1 (27/03/14) • Coffee breaks and light lunch provided at workshop venue.

• Workshop Gala Dinner at Bay View Restaurant – Corinthia Marina I will attend conference dinner
Kindly tick one of the boxes

I will not attend conference dinner

Day 2 (28/03/14) • Coffee breaks and light lunch provided at workshop venue.

Expenses to be covered by participant

Accommodation I will be staying at the Corinthia Marina Hotel
Kindly tick one of the boxes

Participants staying at the Marina Hotel are still required to book their accommodation from:
<http://www.marinahotel.com.mt/en/MEETINGS-AND-EVENTS/sici/>

I will not be staying at the Corinthia Marina Hotel

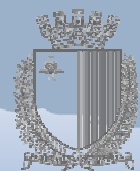
Optional Cultural Tour Details

Expenses to be covered by participant (€ 30.00 per person – to be collected at the registration desk on arrival)

Day 3 (29/03/14) I will be joining the **maltasightseeing** tour to the Prehistoric Temples
Kindly tick one of the boxes

I will not be joining the **maltasightseeing** tour to the Prehistoric Temples

Visit <http://www.maltasightseeing.com/en/content/78/Prehistoric%20Temples%20Tour> for more information.



Air Malta, the official airline of the Maltese islands flies to and from most European countries.
Visit <http://www.airmalta.com/> to book your flight.



We look forward
to welcome you at
this SICI workshop
in Malta...

...sahtha

SICI

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