



SICI WORKSHOP

Inclusion, Equity, Quality, and School Improvement

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country, Spain

23-24 June 2022



Welcome speech delivered by Ms Maite Ruiz, Chief Inspector of the Basque Country Inspectorate

Good morning to all of you.

First of all, I would like to welcome you to our city, Vitoria-Gasteiz, where we are going to run this workshop as part of the SICI activity. As you all know, the priority theme for this year is “Contribution of inspection to equity and excellence”, a topic that has a high impact on the quality of the educational response we give our students.

To start with, I would like to recall the agreement adopted by the UN General Assembly, included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as an action plan in favour of people, the planet and prosperity, which at the same time tries to strengthen universal peace and access to justice. States committed to mobilizing the necessary means for its implementation through partnerships focused especially on the needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable ones.

In the 2030 agenda, the Member States of the United Nations recognize that the greatest challenge in the world today is the eradication of poverty. They also state that without achieving it, there can be no sustainable development.



As we all know, the Agenda proposes 17 Objectives with 169 goals of an integrated and indivisible nature that cover the economic, social and environmental spheres.

Among the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals we must highlight goal 4: "Guarantee inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", a goal that fully meets the task we have set ourselves for this workshop.

We would like to reflect on the role of the education system and specially on the role of the Inspectorate to help achieve this objective.

Inclusion, equity, quality, and improvement are elements that are probably included in all our regulatory frameworks. And it is also very likely that those frameworks state that the Inspectorate must contribute to guaranteeing them through its intervention in the schools.

But, how to develop this task? Have we defined and specified what the role of inspection in these areas is? How do we put it into practice?

We know that the supervision and evaluation of schools is the workspace of the Inspectorate, but how should we intervene? What is the role of inspectors in supervising schools in order to promote and guarantee inclusion and equity? What skills do we need for this? What kind of training should inspectors have?

On the other hand, do our current work dynamics favour strategies that contribute to guaranteeing inclusion and equity? Should we change something? Can we act as a network to share good practices? Could we collaborate with each other to promote research around these topics?

There are many questions to be answered but we also have some certainties as we strongly believe that we can contribute to promoting inclusion and equity by providing useful information and giving high quality professional technical advice to those responsible for making decisions in our educational systems.

In the workshop that we are starting now, we would like to highlight the dynamics of group work, as a tool for cooperative construction of knowledge.



We intend to reflect on the contribution we make to society, especially in these times of crisis, when there is a high risk of giving priority to other interests rather than working to promote inclusion and equity.

We also want to reflect on whether it is necessary, in favour of the commitment we have with society, to refocus our actions towards new areas, needs or groups.

We would like to contribute to visualizing and understanding the relationship between inclusion, equity, and educational quality, as well as the direct connection between the improvement of these and the improvement of our schools.

Lastly, it would be interesting if a reference framework document emerged from this workshop for all our inspections and, perhaps, for other institutions that work to promote inclusion and equity.

I hope that all the work we are going to do will take place in an environment of friendship and creative and shared work.

I do not want to end without expressing our solidarity with the Ukrainian people:
У вас є всі наші співчуття та солідарність

I hope you enjoy our city and its surroundings, and that when we all return home, we feel that we have shared an enriching professional and human experience.

Maite Ruiz
Chief Inspector
Basque Country Inspectorate