

Country Profile MONTENEGRO

1. Basic information

Country name: Montenegro

Structure of inspectorate: The work of the Department for Quality Assurance is being organized centrally as it is one of the organizational units of the Bureau for Education Services of Montenegro (BES)¹. There are common standards and regulations that apply throughout Montenegro.

Age of inspectorate: School supervision with its current structure and methodology framework was established in 2003. Until then, it functioned as Education Inspectorate.

Size: Currently, there are 21 supervisor in the QA Department.

Remits: Department of Education evaluates the quality of work in preschool institutions, primary schools, secondary schools (gymnasiums, vocational education), mixed schools (general education subjects) as well as in students' dormitories.

Unit of inspection: Supervision can focus either on individual teacher or on the subject department. The report refers to the subject itself (in some cases it refers to the subject department). Supervision does not evaluate the local authorities.

What is your strapline? Quality education for all children in Montenegro.

Relationship with government: Department for Quality Assurance functions within the Bureau for Education Services, which is an independent state administration body. Ministry of Education conducts the administrative control (legality of work) of the Bureau for Education Services. The Bureau is legally obliged to publish reports on school quality.

Accountability: General Law on Education and the Rulebook on determining school quality regulate this area. A report on the school/institution quality contains the justification of the assessment and recommendations for improvement. The annual report on the quality of schools is submitted to the Ministry of Education and it is published on the website of the Bureau for Education Services. Moreover, the annual report on the quality of evaluated schools is submitted to the National Education Council².

1. Evaluation process

Self-evaluation: The schools are obliged to carry out the complete process of self-evaluation once every two years, and same elements of the process must be carried out each year. The methodology of school self-evaluation is compatible with the

¹ In addition to the Bureau for Education Services, Centre for Vocational Education and the Education Inspection are responsible for school supervision. Centre for Vocational Education monitors the professional subjects in vocational and mixed schools and in adult education. Education Inspection monitors legality of work.

² National Education Council is established by the Government, and decides on professional matters in the process of decision-making and preparation of regulations in the field of education.

methodology of the external evaluation. Planning and improvement activities implementation are evaluated.

What do you examine during inspection? The supervisors observe lessons and assess the quality of teaching and learning by subjects. They analyse the pedagogical documentation, talk to stakeholders and assess the quality of key areas³.

Do you have an inspection framework? Is this a quality or compliance model? The framework for supervision is the quality model with defined quality indicators, established in 2005 and is constantly improving⁴. Supervision staff evaluate the quality of teaching and learning by subjects and the key areas. They observe lessons, analyse pedagogical documentation and conduct surveys and interviews with stakeholders⁵.

Inspection time and resource. The length of the school supervision visits depend on the size of the school (usually 2-3 days). The team usually consists of 6-8 supervisors. The supervisors are former teachers and head teachers.

Frequency of inspections: Regular supervision of schools is planned in four-year cycles. Extraordinary supervision visits can be carried out upon the decision of the Bureau for Education Services, after the complaint has been made.

Main business: Supervisors participate in commissions for determining the quality of teaching and learning upon parents complaints; professional examinations; curricula developing. They also give opinions on the work of the head teachers and deputy head teachers in the process of competition or promotion.

2. Consequences of inspection

Reporting: Reports of institutions have been published on the website of the Bureau for Education Services since 2010 for pupils, parents, institutions and public in general.

Grade: Key areas and the quality of teaching are evaluated on a scale of 1 to 10, or at four levels⁶. For getting the lowest grade, the Minister may dismiss the head teacher.

Knowledge sharing: The data obtained in school supervision are used as a basis for planning teachers professional development and for curricula revision. The data are also used for promotion of head teachers and deputy head teachers to a higher post. The Ministry of Education uses them to make decisions within its jurisdiction.

What happens following an inspection? After supervision, the school develop The Quality Improvement Plan and implement it. Supervisors review the quality of the plan and its implementation.

What is the stated purpose of your inspectorate? Continuous monitoring of the process and school results and undertaking adequate measures for improvement.

³ School management and leadership, personnel, spatial, technical and hygienic condition, school ethos, cooperation, support to students, students' achievements

⁴ Definition of quality standards of institutions is in its process

⁵ Students, parents, teachers, staff in school administration and school management

⁶ Unsatisfactory, satisfactory, successful, very successful