



SICI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

Introduction

The SICI Executive Committee would like to improve communication with members, especially concerning the implementation of our Strategic Plan. One approach to this is to issue a regular 'News Update', usually produced after each Executive Committee meeting. We would encourage members to respond to the information in this update, and to submit any information that they would like to highlight to other members. Please use the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Update from the Executive Committee

Executive Committee meetings were held on 16 January 2020 in Brussels and by videoconference on 11 March 2020. Key decisions at these meetings were:

- The General Assembly 2020 in Paris will take place on 19 and 20 November and will have the same format as the General Assembly in London. The General Assembly will be connected with the dissemination conference of the Erasmus+ KA2 project BIBESOIN which will take place on 18 November 2020.
- The paper on 'Innovative practices of inspection – Conclusions of SICI's reflections in 2019' is published on the SICI website under 'thematic report', in English and French. <https://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/getattachment/bac3386e-eee2-4b48-af05-c36b23b76f36/Innovative-Practices.pdf;.jpg;.aspx>
- The priority theme for 2020 is "Internal quality insurance of Inspectorates".
- The priority theme for 2021 will be "Contribution of inspection to equity and excellence" with sub priority themes "Contribution of inspection to inclusive school systems" and "Communication (with schools, policy makers, among inspectors,...)"
- The EC members discuss the guidelines for SICI workshops and the General Assembly.
- The SICI website is completely renewed: <https://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/>
- The development officer explored the possibility of European funding by writing a KA3 project. The result will be known in June 2020.
- SICI will have a trainee studying 'Public governance and Management' from the middle of March until the middle of May. Her main tasks will be to help the EC define new communication strategies and processes to improve SICI's organisation and make it more visible in the professional community.
- To renew our strategic plan for the future, the EC agreed that the Bratislava Memorandum continues a founding document. Therefore we would like to ask SICI members/National Coordinators to read the

Bratislava Memorandum in order to identify the themes they would like to continue developing in the future and those which need to be introduced in the future document. They will be contacted by the trainee.

- The SICI Workshop in Prague on 'Improving the quality of inspection using feedback from schools in impact' has been cancelled.

Please find our previous newsletters by clicking on the following link: <http://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/Contact-us/EC-Minutes>.

Updates from the SICI network

Some words about ...

...The inspectorate of ANACEC, Republic of Moldova

In 2019, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC) from the Republic of Moldova carried out the external evaluation in several general (i.e. primary and secondary) education institutions, various in type and status (both private and public, from urban and rural areas etc.). The external evaluation was initiated in the context of piloting the *Methodology for evaluating the general education institutions* and the *Methodology for evaluating the managerial staff in general education*.

The evaluation of the institutions participating in the piloting process of the methodologies was carried out at the same time as the external evaluation of the managerial staff of these institutions, a process carried out for the first time for the Republic of Moldova.

The piloting of the *Methodologies for evaluating the general education institutions and the managerial staff in general education*, with the general objective of launching the external evaluation process of the general education institutions and of the managerial staff in the Republic of Moldova, has followed both the implementation of the methodological provisions and the applicability of the tools in the external evaluation process, for the purpose of testing and determining their functionality and improving them based on the evaluation results. The findings in the report on the results of the piloting process confirmed the functionality and necessity of the Methodologies in the evaluation process and for quality assurance in the education system, and the results of the external evaluation of the general education institutions, provided the information necessary to improve some provisions of the normative acts and the tools applied in the external evaluation process.

...The inspectorate of Czech Republic

The Czech School Inspectorate (CSI) actively ensures the Czech Republic's participation in the OECD network Early Childhood Education and Care. The CSI representative participates in regular meetings of this network, prepares analytical materials for realized international surveys and provides cooperation in finalizing comparative studies focused on the quality of pre-school education. Studies conducted (such as the Starting Strong series, <http://www.oecd.org/education/school/earlychildhoodeducationandcare.htm>) identify trends in early childhood education and early care in OECD countries, provide concrete key evidence of quality and bring challenges for further improving this segment.

Through its active involvement, the Czech School Inspectorate has the opportunity to present the national system of pre-school education as well as some conclusions from its evaluation obtained by inspection activities in kindergartens. At the same time, it can compare its experience with different types of political and inspection systems, learn about good practice and use examples of good practice from other countries. The obtained information and analytical materials for individual studies are used to refine the indicators used in inspection activities for the evaluation of individual schools, as well as for the assessment of the pre-school segment at the national level. Experience from the international environment helps not only to streamline inspection activities and its conclusions, but also to propose specific strategies for improving the quality of pre-school education in the Czech Republic.

...The inspectorate of Kosovo

Education Inspectorate in the Republic of Kosovo is the central executive body for quality assurance, under the direct responsibility of the Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI). It carries out its activities based on the Law 06/L-046 on the Education Inspectorate in the Republic of Kosovo and the legal acts deriving from this law

(Link to the Law <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=17744>).

In the last two years the Education Inspectorate has started two new processes:

1. Performance evaluation of pre-university educational institutions (Link to Administrative Instructions (IA)<https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2017/08/4-2017-ua-vleresimin-e-performances-se-institucioneve-arsimore-ne-arsimin-parauniversitar-rotated.pdf>);
2. Teacher performance assessment (Link to Administrative Instructions (IA) 14/2018 <https://masht.rks-gov.net/udhezimet-administrative-2018>).

In addition, during this year, it is expected to start with the performance evaluation process of directors and deputy directors of schools.

The Education Inspectorate has good cooperation with international organizations, such as:

1. Kosovo Education System Improvement Project (KESIP) - Funded by World Bank;
2. Capacity Development in Basic Education - Implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
3. Improved Capacity Building for Teachers Professional Development (Trainings of Pre-School and Primary Teachers) Funded by the European Commission, Implemented by European Union Office in Kosovo;
4. Critical thinking and problem solving - Implemented by British Council;
5. Inclusion in education – Save the Children – UNICEF.

...the inspectorate of the Netherlands

Peer review of Inspectorates from the Netherlands and Flanders

In 2019 both inspectorates participated in a peer review. The aim of a peer review is to get external feedback on certain topics of the inspection approach in each country.

Both the Netherlands and Flanders renewed their inspection approach. The peer review covered elements of this new approach, so that the results can be used in the further implementation of the new approach.

In February the peer review was finalized with a meeting in which the Dutch inspectors presented their findings to the Flemish inspection, Flemish inspectors presented their findings last year. The Dutch participants also drew up a report on interesting topics for their own development which they noticed during Flemish inspections.

Dutch report about some developments at colleague inspectorates

As in many other inspectorates, the Dutch inspectorate is developing continuously. We want to improve our supervision or adjust it to changed circumstances within our education system. In doing so, we would like to make use of the experience and developments of our foreign colleagues. This is the main reason why a team of Dutch inspectors keep a close look on the development of the supervision in several SICI-inspectorates. In the past few years we collected information through SICI-workshops, study-visits at colleague inspectorates, international studies about school supervision and regional meetings (Offshore-group).

Based on all the gathered information we made a report in which we described developments we noticed at other inspectorates. We selected a number of topics that we thought were interesting for our development.

We described the following subjects in a report:

- Variation in supervision approaches
- The supervision of the curriculum
- Evidence gathering and judging
- Involvement of stakeholders (parents) in the supervision
- Reports
- Working with additional inspectors
- Supervision of the educational system as a whole (systemic inspection)

...The inspectorate update of Portugal

The Portuguese Inspectorate of Education and Science (IGEC) envisages to collaborate with the Spanish Congreso de la Asociación Nacional de Inspectores de Educación, which will take place in Lisbon, in October 2020 with the presentation of a paper titled IGEC – inputs to improvement. Also following the invitation of the Inspector General de Educación y Evaluación da Consejería de Educación y Empleo - Junta de Extremadura, IGEC expects to participate in the Jornada de Difusión de los Resultados del Proyecto "Supervising schools in the 21st century: Digital tools and improvement plans" to know the conclusions of the international project Supervising schools in the 21st century: Digital tools and improvement plans. It will be an opportunity of sharing, joint reflection and laying the foundations for future cooperation.

IGEC is putting forward a fresh perspective for the near future concerning the 2020 institutional Activity Plan, which brings together the focus areas of the monitoring program. These areas are the Organization of Multidisciplinary Teams to Support Inclusive Education; National Network of Kindergartens, Experimental Teaching of Sciences; Teaching English in grades 3 to 6; Development of Speaking and Writing; and Specific Tutorial Support. In the core of the objectives among the focus areas is the development of an inclusive school able to, within the framework of its autonomy and curricular flexibility, provide quality learning for all the students.

...The inspectorate update of Sweden

The inspectorate in Sweden started an inspector's programme 2,5 years ago. The program is for new employees and a program you take part in at the same time as the regular job as an inspector.

The program includes several modules with a focus on pedagogy, methodology and law. Several courses are available at a basic and an advanced level. As an example, we have a course in basic interview methodology and also advanced courses in "difficult conversations" and "interviews with children". Some of the modules are online, others on videoconference and some given as seminars a whole day at the office. Many of the modules are available for inspectors who want repetition or deepen their knowledge in a specific topic.

In the coming week the first group will finish their program. One of the participants says "the program has given me good and necessary tools for my work as an inspector". At the moment there are two groups with approximately 30 persons enrolled in the program.

****** We would like to take the opportunity to address other inspectorates, that have undergone significant changes or want to communicate other relevant information, to write a text and send this to the SICI secretariat for the next newsletter. Please keep in mind that this text has to be short (20 lines) and to the point******

******We would also like to ask to keep the SICI secretariat up to date about ongoing activities between members. This will make it possible to create an overview of existing projects and report about them at the General Assembly.******

Updates about projects...

Some words about ...

...The SICI project "Professional Communication"

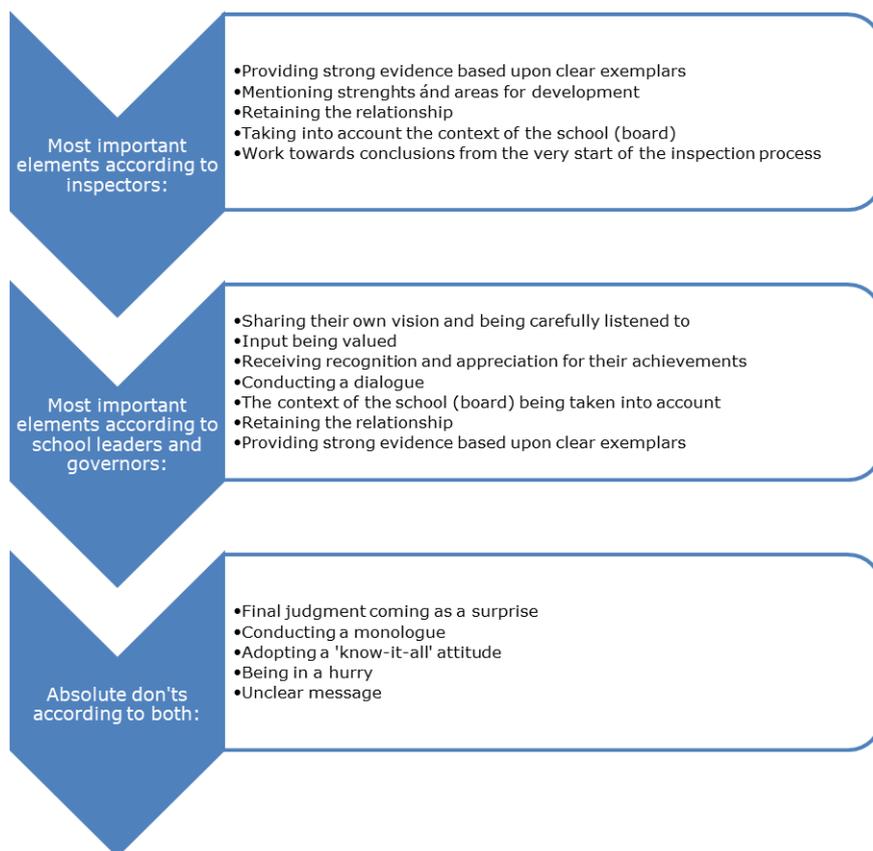
The project about professional communication in which Estonia, Lithuania, Scotland and The Netherlands work together, is completed.

The research was focused on which particular aspects of the feedback meeting after an inspection contribute positively to the willingness of schools to improve their education.

The report and a poster are published on the SICI-website. <https://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/>

The main conclusions of the project are presented in the scheme below.

Which elements of a feedback meeting after an inspection have a positive effect on the willingness of schools/schoolboards to improve?



...The Erasmus+ project “BIBESOIN”



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Transnational project meeting in Tallinn, Estonia

Estonia organised the second ‘transnational project meeting’ of the BIBESION project in October. Participants from the Flemish Region of Belgium, Spain, Wales, Estonia, Cyprus, Malta and France met in Tallinn to discuss the work that has been done and the future plans for the BIBESION project.

On Monday 07th October 2019 there was an optional visit to Collegium Educationis Revaliae. It is a basic and upper secondary school (both in one institution) that belongs to the City of Tallinn. The school defines itself as an “educational–cultural” institution under Tallinn City municipal government. According to the school, its main characteristics are integration of general and art education as well as integration of education and cultural activity of musicians, artists and actors.

The aim of the visit was to give the participants who arrived to Tallinn early an optional opportunity to experience school life in Estonia. The school staff gave a presentation about the school. There was also a discussion about possible tools for the TESSIE toolbox, the school presented the participants their ideas. The meeting was chaired by Kersti Nigesen, the founder and headmaster of the school and support specialists of

Collegium Educationis Revaliae (www.vhk.ee). In the afternoon, all participants had an opportunity to participate in the optional Tallinn Old Town tour. The aim of the tour was to give the participants some insights into Estonian history and culture that have formed the system of education of Estonia. In order to understand the inspection system of Estonia, it is important to know something about the educational system. However, all educational systems are closely connected to the culture and history. The tour was led by Elen Ruus, chief expert of the external evaluation department of the Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia.

On Tuesday 08th July 2019 the experts of the external evaluation department of the Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia gave a presentation about the Estonian system: tools, strategies, practices and expertise of inspection. Since the Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia took over the inspection from County Governments in 2017, many changes in the system have been made. One of the biggest changes has been a decrease in the number of inspectors. There are just 6 inspectors in Estonia and thus, no regular supervision is carried out in schools and pre-schools. The different types of supervision carried out by the Ministry of Education and Research were introduced. In addition, the inspection approach in the field of special educational needs and inclusion were presented.

Inspectors from The Flemish inspectorate explained how and to what extent their organisation supports inclusion. A recent change in the inspection system is that the main focus is on the school's quality development and assurance. Quality standards are set out in the reference framework for quality of education 'OK'. This framework is the result of co-creation with different stakeholders and it connects the internal quality assurance of schools with the supervision by the inspectorate of education. The principles of the new inspection system of Flanders 'Inspection 2.0' and the inspection framework (inspection design, scenario and evaluating quality within development scales) were presented.

On Wednesday 09th October 20 the meeting started with discussing offer and practical information about the possible BIBESOIN/TESSIE website. After a presentation about different possibilities for building websites, breakout sessions were held to discuss the best options for building BIBESOIN/TESSIE website. After lunch, breakout sessions were held to concentrate on 3 different topics: the structure of the toolbox, the structure of the possible website (layout of the toolbox) and practical matters concerning the project, future of the BIBESOIN project.

On Thursday 10th October 2019 participants whose flights were later in the day, had an option to visit the Tallinn Jakob Westholm Secondary School in the morning. It is a basic and upper secondary school (in one institution) belonging to the City of Tallinn. The headmaster of the school gave a presentation about the school. There was also a discussion about how the school approaches inclusion and a discussion about possible tools for inspecting inclusion. Every participant had an opportunity to observe a lesson. The aim of the visit was to give the participants some more insights about the Estonian educational system.

Next project meetings

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances at a European level we will be postponing the BIBESOIN Malta training event to a date which will be confirmed at a later stage.

About the training event in Cyprus (8 – 12 June 2020) we will decide later.

It is our aim to connect the dissemination conference of the Erasmus+ KA2 project BIBESOIN with the General Assembly on 18 November 2020. Also this has to be confirmed later, due to the circumstances.

On the SICI website you can find all information about the BIBESOIN project: the purpose, information about the partners, all training event and transnational meeting reports and TESSIE (the Toolbox for Evaluation and Stimulation Social Inclusion in Education). <https://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/Activities/Projects>

Other information

Coming SICI events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Theme</u>
21 – 22 May 2020	Prague	Improving the quality of inspection using feedback from schools on impact.
24 – 25 September 2020	Finland	Devising communication strategies
November 2020	France	“General Assembly”
February/March 2021	?	
May 2021	Basque Country	
September 2021	?	
November 2021	Sweden	“General Assembly”

SICI-workshop March 2020 in the Netherlands:

On 5 and 6 March 2020 the SICI-workshop was held in Utrecht about ‘Internal quality assurance on judgements’. A summary report, the used powerpoint presentations and the photos are available on the SICI-website. <https://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/>

You can always find an overview of the SICI activities by clicking on the following link: <http://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/News/Calendar>

Call for proposal for SICI Workshops in 2021

The GA in London chose the theme of “Contribution of inspection to equity and excellence” .

We need two propositions from two different members for February/March 2021 and September/ October 2021.

If you are ready to organize a workshop, please let the Secretariat know **by April 25th 2020 at the latest**. The EC will help to develop and structure the content and the organization. The more detailed content will be discussed during 2020.

The workshops could be structured around the different strategies that inspection can use to promote both equity and excellence. There are three different aspects that could be taken into account in each workshop.

- How do inspections support schools and providers to have the appropriate guidance and resources to reach both equity and excellence? How do members reach excellence through equity? What are the strategies used to do so? (differentiation in inspection forms, frequency, intensity, risk-based, board inspection, situation-based)

- How do the different stakeholders influence the strategies that are implemented in each member country? How are they engaged and involved in the implementation of the strategies? How do we communicate the strategies to the stakeholders?
- How are the results of the strategies evaluated? What indicators could be appropriate?

Call for projects

...funded by SICI

One of the key actions of the SICI strategic plan is to promote and support partnership and cooperation between inspectorates. A subtheme of this key action is to help fund projects working collaboratively in line with SICI's aims and priorities. Therefore, we would like to inform you about the new criteria for funding SICI projects:

SICI can fund projects up to 3000 euros per year for two years in a row.

The EC will make a decision within one month about the application on the basis of the following elements:

1. The project is designed as a multilateral project of minimum 3 members.
2. All participating members co-finance and invest human resources into the project.
3. The project aims at developing or at further exploring an aspect of the SICI strategic plan. The aims are part of a short project description.
4. There is a project budget.
5. A plan for evaluating the project is presented with the application.
6. The dissemination into SICI is planned (Minimum: report in a workshop or GA)

A member of the EC will be appointed as a contact person for the project.

SICI contact details

Please let us know if you have any remarks or questions. Always feel free to submit any additional information, which can be used in the following newsletter.

Email SICI secretariat: sici@vlaanderen.be