



SICI NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

Introduction

The SICI Executive Committee would like to improve communication with members, especially concerning the implementation of our new 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

An Executive Committee meeting was held on 23 January in Brussels. Key decisions at this meeting were:

- **National coordinators' network:** the kick-off meeting of the national coordinators in Malta has taken place. One of the main tasks of the national coordinators is to optimize the communication and exchange of knowledge between members. To facilitate this, Amy Finch from OFSTED, developed a template with questions about crucial features and tasks which need to be answered by every inspectorate. By doing so, comparing or checking information about inspectorates will be a lot easier. So far, we have received four completed templates. We would like to thank these inspectorates for their work and we would also like to take the opportunity to kindly remind the other inspectorates to fill in the template at the latest on 15 February. Thank you!
We chose the application Yammer for the communication between the national coordinators. The EC is currently working on a first try-out.
- **SICI Erasmus + project 'BIBESOIN':** Our development officer presented the SICI Erasmus + Project at the national coordinators meeting. The project 'better inspection for better social inclusion' or 'BIBESOIN' focuses on the European priority 'Social inclusion'. The EC decided to give the 'green light' to this project. Immediately after the NC Meeting in Malta, a call of interest was sent out. We received a positive response from 6 SICI members and 2 external partners. The call of interest is now closed .
- **Professional communication project:** Unfortunately, at this moment, there are no candidates willing to coordinate the project. Nevertheless, the EC hopes that this project can continue and that is why we would like to make one last call, especially to the project members in order to find a coordinator.
- **The General Assembly of 2018:** Save the date! The General Assembly will take place in Serbia on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 November. The GA in Serbia will be organised around a wrap up conference on the priority theme of the year: The Impact of inspection.
- **Website:** we are currently working on the improvement of the SICI website. The platform with the contacts of the national coordinators will be situated in the head section 'members' on our website. The profiles, as mentioned before, will also be published here. Under construction...
- **French trainee inspectors:** 2018 is the year when SICI works around the theme: 'the impact of inspection'. Three French trainee inspectors from ESENER are contributing to the thematic report which will be presented in Serbia and published on the SICI website.

- **Possible raise of funding for the organisation of the GA:** During the GA in Malta, the question was asked whether an increase was possible for the organisation of the GA. At this moment, the EC is making an analysis of the total costs of the GA in Malta and Bolzano. During the EC Meeting in Prague, a final proposal will be prepared for the GA.

Please find our previous newsletters by clicking on the following link: <http://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/Contact-us/EC-Minutes>. This newsletter builds further on the information of the report of the business meeting in Malta, which was sent to everyone by e-mail via the SICI secretariat.

Updates from the SICI network

Some words about ...

...The SICI workshop in Prague of 2017

SICI workshop *Assessment of Educational Results by School Inspectorates* (Prague, the Czech Republic, March, 29 – 30, 2017) hosted over 70 participants from more than 20 countries.

The event was organized by the Czech School Inspectorate with the financial and organizational support of SICI. The workshop was opened by the Czech Deputy Minister of Education Stanislav Štech and the Chief Czech School Inspector Tomáš Zatloukal who welcomed participants with a presentation *Survey and Assessment of Educational Results as a Part of the Czech School Inspectorate's Activities*.

Dr. Bruno Vreeburg of the Dutch Inspectorate, introduced the Dutch practice in *Use of Indicators for Educational Outcomes by the Dutch Inspectorate. Pitfalls and New Challenges in a Network Society*.

Marc Foucault, Inspector General and Coordinator of International Issues of the General Inspectorate of France presented *What Makes the Added-value of a Lycée?*

The final keynote speakers Carol McDonald and Sadie Cushley, Lead Inspectors of Scotland, shared their paper *Analysis of Attainment during Inspection in Schools in Scotland*.

Detailed programme is accessible on the SICI I web pages.

...The SICI workshop in Vienna of 2017

SICI-Workshop on „Roles and Responsibilities in School Quality Management – The Austrian Approach”

The first SICI-Workshop in Austria took place from 17th to 19th May, 2017, at the Europahaus in Vienna with about 60 participants from 21 different countries. The meeting did not only provide an excellent insight into the basic philosophy of SQA (School Quality in General Education in Austria), but also included interesting presentations by various keynote speakers who all dealt with school quality. With its interesting plenary sessions, its group sessions and its school visits, the workshop, which was jointly opened by Chantal Manes, the President of SICI and Kurt Nekula, the Director General of General Education at the Austrian Ministry of Education, focused on such important issues as school quality, teaching and learning in the context of the Austrian primary, compulsory and secondary grammar schools. The presentation of the Austrian education system and the comparison with other European countries was a highly successful enterprise. All presenters provided the relevant information that the participants needed to get an overview of how education is organised, delivered and monitored in Austria. The workshop also dealt with educational standards and international assessments, with trust in education, as well as with school development, school autonomy and evidence-based research.

...The SICI workshop in Paris of 2017

SICI workshop Impact of inspection on education policies (Paris, France, November 13-14, 2017) hosted 61 participants from 17 countries.

The workshop focused particularly on the theme: how does inspection impact education policies? It was also the kick-off of the SICI thematic year 'impact of inspectorates' in 2018. The workshop was organised so as to allow researchers, policy makers and field actors from different countries to exchange on the subject.

Some conclusions out of this workshop are that there is no scientific method or objective criteria to measure the impact of inspection. The second idea is that the most striking impact of inspection is often brought about by reports, thematic or annual. The third idea is that the impact of the reports can vary greatly according to a number of factors and finally, the most influential reports are often those which benefit from a good strategy of communication and a good media coverage. The conclusion is that although it is difficult to have objective indicators, the impact of inspection has to be better monitored and not underestimated.

...The inspectorate update of North Rhine Westphalia (Germany)

Since 2013, the procedure and the instruments of Quality Analysis have been updated and refined.

The newly defined procedure of Quality Analysis consists of a preliminary phase and a main phase. Both phases are characterised by transparency, participation and cooperation. Schools now actively contribute to organizing and designing their 'own' inspection. That means that in addition to the compulsory criteria of the inspection framework, optional criteria can be agreed on by the school and the school inspection team in the "initiative meeting", which is part of the preliminary phase. Depending on the schools development stage, the main phase takes place within a maximum of two years after this meeting.

The end of the updating process is marked by the new "Inspection Framework North Rhine-Westphalia" which is closely related to the "Reference Framework for School Quality North Rhine-Westphalia". A number of tools are provided to support the inspection teams working with the new evaluation scheme. Online questionnaires for all the stakeholders will be implemented as further source of information for the inspection teams.

...The inspectorate update of Flanders

The Flemish inspectorate coordinated the development of the first 'framework for educational quality', involving stakeholders and using scientific research and literature. The framework expresses a consensus on expectations for quality education. It is now implemented by schools with help from the pedagogical support organizations. At the moment, the inspectorate is piloting a new system for external control around this framework. Features of the renewed inspection are among other things: more focus on school internal quality assurance, controlling but also more stimulating quality in education, more trust in schools, more frequent inspection visits, a learner-centered approach, less administrative burden for schools, a stronger inspection methodology, a better professional dialogue between inspectors and school actors. The change is both structural and cultural and leads to a new inspection design and scenario.

...The inspectorate update of Estonia

Since September 2017 the organisation of inspection has changed. The inspection is exercised only by the Ministry of Education and Research (previously also exercised by county government officials).

Since September 2017 it is possible to control the activities of the educational institution's owners.

The objective of inspection has changed. The main objective is to ensure the accessibility of basic and secondary general education, also organisation of education and schooling, its quality and efficiency on equal bases. The legality of educational institution and the owner's actions are controlled when conducting the inspection.

The inspectors are located in four regions. Their main tasks are to consult educational institutions, the owners, parents and local community; response to requests; build cooperation network; arrange information interchange between the ministry, educational institution and its owner. The inspection is conducted across the country by experts in case of schooling permits and inspection in individual matters. If necessary, it is possible to control the educational institutions' activities in certain field (thematic inspection).

Updated overview is available „**The Inspection of Education of Estonia**“ in the SICI website <http://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/Members/Inspection-Profiles/Estonia>.

**** We would like to kindly inform you about the fact that we received more inspectorate updates than mentioned in this newsletter. We will use these updates for the following newsletters. We would also like to take the opportunity to address other inspectorates, that have undergone significant changes, to write a text and send this to the SICI secretariat. Please keep in mind that this text has to be short (10 lines) and to the point****

Other information

Coming SICI events

Date	Country	Activity and theme
22 – 23 March	Luxembourg	Workshop: Impact on public opinion
17 – 19 Sept	Scotland – Glasgow	Workshop: Impact on school improvement, the quality of teaching, performance of children
15 – 16 November	Serbia	General Assembly: wrap up conference on the priority theme of the year: The Impact of inspection

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 projects

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 remind and stimulate members to make use of this possibility. You can always contact the SICI secretariat for more information about a possible funding of your project.

Updates about projects

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

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