

1. Basic information

Country name: Federation Wallonia-Brussels (BELGIUM)

Structure of inspectorate:

The "Service général de l'Inspection" (SGI) is centrally organised. Inspection regulation or standards do not vary across regions.

Age of inspectorate:

Several types of inspectorates have followed one another in French-speaking Belgium since 1929. However, the Service général de l'Inspection en Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles was in fact created in 2007.

Size:

270 inspectors. 1 Chief Inspector and 2 General Inspectors and Coordinator Inspectors.

Remits:

Pre-primary, primary, secondary schools, artistic education, adult education, school guidance centres.

Unit of inspection:

Schools and teachers.

What is your strapline?

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Relationship with government:

The SGI is directly attached to the government in order to ensure its independence. Yet, it maintains close links with the Ministry of Education. The missions are multiple and varied: audit; control in the case of a presumption of a dysfunction affecting the respect of school curricula or in the case of possible mechanisms of segregation in schools; development of standardized tests; thematic inspections about the implementation of educational devices... The SGI is not allowed to publish reports without government approval.

Accountability:

A new decree defining the duties of the SGI was voted in 2019.

A report about the general state of education (every year) and a report about the activities of the SGI (every two years) are sent to the government.

2. Evaluation process

Self-evaluation:

Audits must be subject to a constant programme of quality assurance and improvement.

What do you examine during inspection?

Inspectors provide schools with assurance on the management of risks related to their activities with reference to the audit framework.

Furthermore, inspectors verify the legal compliance of a series of educational matters. Among other things, they evaluate educational devices or the professional and pedagogical skills of teachers.

Do you have an inspection framework? Is this a quality or compliance model?

For audits, a framework has been set up. In the context of other missions, the fulfilment of legal obligations is verified.

Inspection time and resource.

The inspections usually last several days. An audit is carried out by a team of two to four inspectors. Other missions are usually carried out by one inspector.

All inspectors are former teachers. Some have an experience as headmasters as well. Auditors (inspectors) receive specific training.

Frequency of inspections:

Audits are risk-based.

A planning is established for the evaluation of educational devices.

For the other missions, inspections are carried out on request.

Main business:

The SGI is also involved in numerous missions like complaints examination and support for initial training. Regarding audits, the achievement of the objectives set by the schools is used for risk assessments.

3. Consequences of inspection

Reporting:

Depending on the missions, reports are sent to the headmaster, the provider, the education authorities or the government. The points that have been made by the inspector(s) and the recommendations that have been addressed have to be taken into account by the headmaster, the provider or the education authorities.

Grade:

The SGI does not grade institutions. By decree, there are sanctions (eg. withdrawal of subsidies) for schools, providers or education authorities that do not comply with the rules or do not take the recommendations into account.

Knowledge sharing:

The findings are shared with other educational actors such as training institutes. The SGI uses thematic reporting (eg. the state of education in language immersion schools). The reports are sent to the government.

What happens following an inspection?

When a school fails to attain the requirements, the follow-up of the file is handled by the administration.

What is the stated purpose of your inspectorate?

As regards audits, the action of the SGI is based on the International Framework for Professional Audit Practice, including the Core Principles for the professional practice of internal audit, the Code of ethics, Standards and the definition of internal audit - 2017 edition