SICI The Standing International Conference of Inspectorates
Better Inspection, Better Learning

SICI – The Newsletter

October 2026

We support the improvement of education

through improving inspection processes

From the President

As we move into the final months of 2025/2026, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all members for your continued engagement, generosity and collaboration across the network. The past weeks have been particularly rich, with our workshop offering valuable opportunities for shared learning, thoughtful discussion and international exchange. I am grateful to our Scottish hosts, and to every member who contributed their experience and insight.

This edition also highlights the growing role SICI is playing in international projects, including our contributions to the OECD's work on research-informed school evaluation and the Horizon Europe INTEGRED initiative. These opportunities strengthen our collective voice and ensure that inspectorates' perspectives are represented in wider debates about evidence, evaluation and improvement.

We are now preparing for our General Assembly in Lisbon, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Your participation continues to shape SICI's direction and deepen the sense of community that underpins our work.

Thank you, as always, for your commitment to SICI and for the shared purpose that connects us across countries and systems.

With warmest wishes,

Janie

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Workshops

Scotland

SICI's recent workshop in Edinburgh, *Embedding Learner Voice in Policy, Practice and Inspection*, brought colleagues together to explore how learners' experiences can meaningfully shape educational inspection, evaluation and improvement. Contributions from members created a rich space for shared inquiry, prompting thoughtful discussion about how we understand education as children and young people experience it, and how that understanding influences our work as inspectorates and evaluation bodies.

Across the two days, three connected messages emerged. First, learners' experiences are essential to understanding educational quality, helping us consider whether the intentions set out in policy and planning are realised in everyday practice. Second, meaningful participation requires professional judgement: whose voices do we hear, whose experiences might be missing, and how do we ensure participation is accessible, purposeful and safe? Third, listening must lead to action, with learners able to see how their contributions have been considered and what happens next.

Thank you to all members who attended and shared their experience, questions and insights. Our sincere thanks also go to HMIE, our Scottish hosts, for their generous hospitality, organisation and warm welcome.

If you have not already done so, please complete the workshop evaluation. Your feedback will help SICI and future hosts strengthen the value of workshops for our members.

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Bulgaria

Our workshop in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, "Future-Oriented Inspection as a Driver for Educational Quality", explored how inspection can respond to digital transformation, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity while strengthening its contribution to educational improvement. Presentations and discussions examined the relationship between school self-evaluation and external evaluation, alongside approaches supporting wellbeing and inclusion. A strong message emerged: future-oriented inspection requires professional expertise, responsiveness to context and a clear connection between evaluation and improvement. Thank you to our hosts, the National Inspectorate of Education, and to all members who contributed to this international exchange. The workshop report is available on our member portal provides a valuable resource for colleagues who were not able to attend the event and/or wishing to explore the learning further. (SICI Workshop 2026 Bulgaria)

General Assembly Registration Open

Registration for our General Assembly in Lisbon is open until 30 October 2026. We warmly encourage all members who have not yet registered to do so. The General Assembly is an important moment in our shared calendar, offering space for reflection, decision-making and connection across the network.

Registration link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sici26
Event website: https://www.igec.mec.pt/sici2026/

We look forward to seeing you in Lisbon next month.

Call for Expressions of Interest: Hosting a SICI workshop in 2027 or 2028

As members know, the Executive Committee agreed that our overarching theme, Future-Ready Evaluation: Innovation, Improvement and System Leadership, would operate across a two-year cycle. This approach allows us to explore the theme in depth, build continuity across workshops, and strengthen shared learning across the network.

Workshops remain one of SICI's most valued opportunities for professional dialogue, international cooperation and shared improvement. They bring members together to examine emerging challenges, exchange practice, and deepen understanding of how inspection can support educational quality.

We are deeply grateful to all members who have hosted workshops in recent years. Your generosity, organisation and commitment have created spaces for rich learning that benefit the whole network.

We are now beginning to plan workshops for **2027 and 2028** and warmly welcome expressions of interest from members who may wish to host an event. An expression of interest at this stage is **not a binding commitment**; once the survey has been completed, the EC will follow up with interested members before finalising our future programme.

Survey link: Workshop 2027/2028 – Member Survey - Formulier invullen
Please complete the survey by **16 November 2026**.

National Coordinators Open Forum

The next NCOF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 29th October 2026. The agenda features four primary items:

1. **Approval of the prior report** from the NCOF meeting held on 25 June 2026.
2. **'Future agenda shaping NCOF'**, focusing on a discussion regarding the specific hard and soft indicators used to determine whether a school undergoes a 'light-touch' or an 'in-depth' inspection.
3. **Inspection system reviews**, featuring presentations by colleagues from **Azerbaijan and the Cayman Islands** on the strengths and challenges of their respective inspection systems.
4. **Any Other Business (AOB)**.

To foster broader insights and exchange perspectives, the SICI Secretariat invites two or three additional members to volunteer for short (5 to 10-minute) presentations on their own systems at upcoming meetings. Interested colleagues should contact the Secretariat directly.

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SICI Contribution to International Projects

OECD Project on Research-Informed School Evaluation

We are pleased to share that SICI is contributing to a new OECD project focused on strengthening how school inspectorates evaluate the use of research evidence in schools. The OECD is developing a toolkit designed to support inspectorates in understanding how schools engage with research, how evidence informs decision-making, and how this contributes to educational improvement.

SICI has been invited to join a small group of international experts supporting the development of this work. We look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses.

Horizon INTEGRED Project

We are also pleased to share that SICI is contributing to the **INTEGRED** project, a major Horizon Europe initiative involving **13 partners across nine countries**. INTEGRED brings together universities and international organisations to strengthen how evidence is generated, interpreted and used within education systems.

SICI is supporting this work by bringing the perspectives and experience of inspectorates and evaluation bodies into discussions about evidence use and system learning. We look forward to contributing to this important work and sharing updates with members as the project progresses.

SICI on LinkedIn – Page Launched

We are pleased to share that SICI has now launched its official LinkedIn page. This new space will help strengthen visibility for our work, and support international cooperation about SICI activities. As the page develops, we will use LinkedIn to share workshop reflections, and project updates. We warmly encourage members to follow the page and to share posts within your own networks. Doing so helps broaden awareness of SICI's work and highlights the collective expertise of our community.

Follow us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-standing-international-conference-of-inspectorates/

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