

# SICI – The Newsletter 10/25

**We support the improvement of education**

*through improving inspection processes*

## From the President

Dear colleagues,

This month's newsletter highlights the strength of our network in shaping high-quality inspection and education practice across Europe. From job shadowing visits to shared frameworks and dialogue on the green transition, it is clear that collaboration remains central to our collective impact. As inspectors, we are uniquely positioned to connect evidence with improvement. These stories are a reminder of the value of mutual learning, and the importance of building systems that are not only accountable, but also adaptable and inclusive.

Thank you for the work you do every day to improve learning and life chances in your context—and for your continued contribution to SICI.

Warm regards,  
**Janie McManus**  
President, SICI



## Webinar Event

---



### **Green Transition and Lifelong Learning – ETF Webinar Summary**

The ETF webinar *Green Transition and the Role of Lifelong Learning* brought together experts to explore how education systems, especially vocational education and training (VET), can support a just and inclusive green transition. Framed by the global climate and economic context, the webinar emphasised the urgent need for adaptable learning systems that equip people of all ages with green skills.

Key messages included the importance of lifelong learning, targeted adult upskilling, and accessible approaches such as individual learning accounts and recognition of prior learning. Case studies from both EU and non-EU countries illustrated how green skills can be integrated into sectors like agriculture and energy.

Participants agreed that a sustainable transition must go beyond employment to embrace systemic change—calling for collaboration across education, policy, and industry. The webinar reaffirmed the critical role of inspectorates in evaluating how systems prepare learners for a more sustainable future.

## ERASMUS+ exchange

---

### Romanian Inspectors Visit Portugal

In March 2025, the Portuguese Inspectorate (IGEC) welcomed eight Romanian inspectors from the Judeţean Caraş-Severin Education Inspectorate for a three-day Erasmus+ exchange focused on vocational education and training (VET). The visit included site visits to three institutions with strong external evaluation results, offering insights into Portugal's approach to vocational learning.

Hosted in Lisbon and Setúbal, the programme featured sessions on national VET strategy, optional curricular modules, and immersive workshops in sectors such as automotive mechatronics, massage therapy, and performing arts. Romanian participants gained valuable exposure to Portugal's practical, labour market-oriented training models, while also sharing perspectives from their own inspection work.

This exchange not only deepened understanding between inspectorates but also highlighted the value of mutual observation and reflective dialogue. SICI thanks IGEC for their leadership and looks forward to continued cross-border collaboration under the Erasmus+ framework.



## New Resources

---



### The VEBADO Compass for Inspectorates

The VEBADO Compass is a new tool developed by the Flemish and Dutch inspectorates through an Erasmus+ project titled *Strengthening Basic Skills through Inspection*. It offers a structured reflection framework across 16 strategic dimensions to help inspectorates analyse how they evaluate and promote basic skills within schools.

The compass was co-developed through joint job-shadowing involving 40 inspectors across both countries and reflects shared learning about definitions, challenges, and effective inspection practice. It is now available in English with a user-friendly layout for broader use across the SICI network.

Members can explore the VEBADO Compass and consider how it might support their own strategic thinking about basic skills. It is particularly valuable for planning inspection frameworks or reviewing national priorities.

For questions or to request the tool, please contact Tessie Kuiper ([t.kuiper@owinsp.nl](mailto:t.kuiper@owinsp.nl)) or Jeroen Lauwers ([jeroen.lauwers@onderwijsinspectie.be](mailto:jeroen.lauwers@onderwijsinspectie.be)).

## SICI Guidelines

---



### **Guidelines on the organisation of the General Assembly and SICI workshops**

The EC has prepared two sets of guidelines, one for SICI members hosting the SICI General Assembly and one for SICI members hosting workshops. The guidelines outline the key areas of responsibility and activities involved in the organisation of these important events in the SICI calendar. They also set out the process of organising the General Assembly and workshops through the various stages – from preparation to delivery and follow up after the events.

The new guidelines are informed by the collective experience of SICI members in organising previous events. Many thanks to all those who assisted in the preparation of the guidelines. The guidelines will be updated annually to reflect feedback from those hosting SICI events. Please send feedback to Pádraig Mac Fhlannchadha at [padraig\\_macfhlannchadha@education.gov.ie](mailto:padraig_macfhlannchadha@education.gov.ie).

We hope that you find them useful.

The guidelines are available on the SICI website at the following link: [sici | downloads](#)

## Contact & Secretariat

---

### **SICI Secretariat**

Koning Albert II-laan 15

1210 Brussels - BELGIUM

[www.sici-inspectorates.org](http://www.sici-inspectorates.org)

[contact@sici.international](mailto:contact@sici.international)