

BUCHAREST, October 2008, Roger-François Gauthier
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STRATEGIES FOR INSPECTIONS?

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STRATEGIES FOR INSPECTIONS?: WHAT AN IDEA!

- A STRATEGY FOR INSPECTIONS?
 - Our inspections are so different!
 - The systems in which we operate are so different!
 - This is just a corporate concern of old bodies that may already be sentenced to death : is it necessary to save Private Inspector?

- A STRATEGY FOR INSPECTIONS?
- Nothing but an extravagant idea of Ferry de Rijke, expressed in Lisbon one year ago?

- May be some more relevant challenge:
 - Some (most?) of our inspectorates obviously need strategic perspectives
 - It would be so helpful to get some elements of strategies from a international perspective, despite our differences!

■ A STRATEGY FOR INSPECTORATES?

- One condition : defining a strategy for inspectorates is not defining a strategy for inspectors
- It is defining a strategy that is part of an overall strategy of our systems for enhancing learning and fostering quality.

- A STRATEGY FOR INSPECTORATES?...
became
- ...A STRATEGY FOR INSPECTORATES
TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE
QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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STRATEGIES FOR INSPECTORATES TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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- **Why such a strategy NOW?**
- **New COMMON challenges?**
- **The CONTENT of a possible strategy**

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■ Why such a strategy NOW?

- New COMMON challenges?
- The CONTENT of a possible strategy

Why such a strategy NOW?

- **BECAUSE THE ROLES OF INSPECTORATES ARE CURRENTLY DEEPLY MODIFIED BY:**
 - Greater autonomy given to the schools
 - More attention given to the measure of short and long-term learning outcomes
 - New balances between the different levels of organization of each educational system (national; federal, local levels)
 - The expansion of the universe of available data and available scientific knowledge about individual schools as well as about the educational systems
 - Greater attention paid to the objectives of schooling, key competencies, learning competencies....

Why such a strategy NOW?

- **If we need a strategy,
we need it now!**

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- Why such a strategy NOW?

■ New COMMON challenges?

- The CONTENT of a possible strategy

New COMMON challenges?

All the inspectors meet the same challenges:

- To have our job defined in a coherent way;
- To deal with the pressures, the expectations of a great diversity of actors (parents, local authorities, media, the schools themselves being more autonomous...);
- To have a clear idea of our effectiveness;
- To locate our own production among others, in the new knowledge context.

New COMMON challenges?

So...

- New educational contexts...
- + New professional concerns
- = what can be the content of a possible strategy?

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- Why such a strategy NOW?
- New COMMON challenges?

■ The CONTENT of a possible strategy

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

- A SICI strategy? By the way it appeared that a SICI strategy would precisely be
 - To help each individual inspectorate to adopt a strategic position, in each territory...
 - To believe that this strategic position of each inspectorate could be fostered by the tentative definition of a modular strategy for inspectorates

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

1. Purposes and procedures clearly and publicly defined:

- No more Swiss-army knife shaped definition of our duty;
- Both external evaluators of the quality of schools
AND
- Working WITH them on specific topics (curricula, assessment methods and school self-evaluation)

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

1. Necessity of a clear framework of our job, guaranteeing:

- Its quality;
- Its independence;
- The rights of people and institutions we evaluate.

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

1. **Necessity to have our autonomy clearly guaranteed by the political authorities:**
 - The right to report publicly;
 - The right to take initiatives in inquiries and evaluation;

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

1. Clarification of the competencies and skills:

- Of all inspectors;
- Of some more specialized ones;
- Recruitment and training organized in light of these expectations.

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

- **Necessity to get rid of some operational tasks that have nothing to do with our fundamental responsibilities.**

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

1. A clear responsibility to be stressed in:

- Locating;
- Evaluating;
- Diffusing

GOOD PRACTICES in all the fields of our interventions

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

1. A clear responsibility in supporting school autonomy:

By supporting staff, parents, students to be involved more pro-actively in the managerial process...

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

- **A clear responsibility in elaborating and publishing adequate methods of measuring the short and long term effectiveness of our action and of our efficiency.**

The **CONTENT** of a possible strategy

- **A clear responsibility in clarifying the links between our own missions outcomes and the educational research performed by other actors, in order to map out the production of knowledge about schools.**

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Questions :

- Do you agree? Is there a minimum common factor between us? Or are we too different to have any interest in sharing strategic reflections?
- Do you think that this type of reflection can be helpful to us?
- What shall we do from this? In our various territories? At a European level?