

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
INSPECTORATES IN EDUCATION (SICI)

Respected conference participants,

Respected colleagues from the Institute for Evaluation of the Quality of  
Education,

I am honoured to welcome you on behalf of the Minister of Education, Mladen Šarčević, who strongly supports the development of the quality of education at all levels of the system – from preschool level to higher education. Furthermore, it is an honour to personally welcome you here and a pleasure to see the familiar faces I have been working with in the process of developing our national system for quality assurance.

Among the priorities of this ministry, two may be defined as top priorities: ensuring quality of education, as well as developing the culture of evaluation and self-evaluation in schools and kindergartens. In order to attain these goals, we have partnered with the Institution for Evaluation of the Quality of Education, which has often been a front runner in carrying the workload. We take pride in numerous results which are visible, but many challenges still lie ahead.

It is my particular pleasure to inform you that we have improved the national framework for evaluation and self-evaluation of institutions after seven years of its implementation. We have thus far received rather positive expert feedback. May I remind you that, with the expert support from SICI international organisation, we set up a national system for evaluation of institutions in 2011. I am using this opportunity to thank the representatives of SICI, both those who are here with us today, and those who are not, for carefully guiding us through the process of developing standards for the quality of institutions. The results of evaluation show that this system worked really well. A revision of standards was necessary in order to encompass all innovations in the education system, as well as new demands set before schools and their teachers. The process of revision was realised as a wide-scope consultative process including key target groups:

school teachers, kindergarten teachers, principals, psychologists, unions, education advisers, independent experts, academia and researches in the field of education.

In the next two years, we will pay special attention to promoting the revised quality framework, as well as providing support to schools and kindergartens in realising quality self-evaluation.

I wish all conferences participants productive work. I also hope our guests from the regions and other European will have a pleasant stay in Belgrade. I am confident that you will leave this conference, and our beautiful Belgrade, full of lasting impressions, and more importantly, assured that you are doing something good for our common future.

Mrs. Jasmina Đelić, Ministry of Education, Technology and Development,  
Republic of Serbia.