



NEWS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2017

Introduction

The SICI Executive Committee would like to improve communications with members, especially concerning the implementation of our new Strategic Plan. One approach to this is to issue a regular 'News Update', usually produced after each Executive Committee meeting. We would encourage members to respond to the information in this update, and to submit any information that they would like to highlight to other members. Please use the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Update from the Executive Committee

An Executive Committee meeting was held on 19-20 January in Brussels. Key decisions at this meeting were:

- **General Assembly** – The EC are proposing some changes to the way the GA is run from 2018 onwards. It would be held over two days, with no workshop being run at the same time, and would take place in November at the end of the SICI calendar. It would be a conference primarily for Heads of Inspectorate and National Coordinators, with some additional places available for other interested staff. The purpose of the event would be to bring to a conclusion the priority theme for that year, and launch the next year's theme (see below). The "business" part of the meeting would be shorter. For Malta in 2017 we will try some of these ideas, but the overall format of workshop and GA will stay the same.
- **National Coordinators** – most members have submitted the name and contact details of their national coordinator. Thank you!. The few remaining will be politely reminded by the Secretariat.
- **Development Officer** – You will have already received an invitation to consider whether your inspectorate would like to provide and host the SICI Development Officer.
- **Priority themes** - It was agreed that after the GA in Malta SICI workshops each year should focus on a single theme, with each workshop during the year discussing a specific aspect of that theme. This will build up our evidence to allow SICI to publish a report on that theme at the General Assembly each year for members to use as appropriate. The GA would also launch the theme for the coming year. These themes have been drawn from consultation with members. In Malta in 2017 we will conclude the theme on "The balance Between Internal and External Evaluation". We also intend to launch the theme of the "Impact of Inspection" for 2018.
- **Inclusion Project** - The report on the first phase of the inclusion project is published on the SICI website



- **Financial year** – In order to improve the transparency of SICI finances it was agreed that in future we should continue to use the calendar year as the financial year for SICI and report to members on this. The focus of the GA will be on agreeing the budget for the next calendar year, whilst receiving a brief report on how well the budget for the current year has been managed.
- **Auditors** – It was also agreed that since SICI has its finances audited annually by an external accountancy firm, the internal auditors would no longer have to check the detailed paperwork kept by the secretariat, but rather confirm that the external audit had taken place, and check that the update for the GA was properly created.
- **EU Funding** – We discussed potential routes to gain EU funding for SICI. We will continue to progress these ideas and report back in due course.
- **Non-members attending workshops** – the EC was in favour of non-members attending SICI events, although this should not be in place of members and be limited to 3 members from any external body. Non-members should pay their own expenses to attend, and SICI will examine asking external bodies to pay an additional fee to attend for 2018.

Updates from the SICI Network

This section is for SICI members to highlight new developments to other members. Please contribute by sending information to the contact details at the end of this bulletin.

- **Inspection myths** – Scotland are launching a social media campaign to address the myths and misconceptions related to inspection. Similar campaigns have been run recently by Ofsted in England and Estyn in Wales. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook by searching for @EducationScot and follow our hashtag #InspectionMythBusters

Other information

- **Interactive Map** - Melanie Ehren attended the General Assembly in Bolzano to discuss the interactive map associated with her EU funded project. SICI would encourage members to submit examples of inspections of educational networks through the following form: <http://map.schoolinspections.eu/submit-an-example>. Contributors are asked to submit a brief summary in 3 categories (explained in the form) and attach any documents that are relevant, including details of a contact person. SICI is negotiating with Melanie to take control of this map when the EU project ends in September 17. We would then expand what types of information we could all place here to share with each other.

SICI Contact Details



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