

Workshop C

"Quality assurance of inspectorates' work"

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The two questions raised by Wulf were

1. In which area do we have to assure quality?
2. Which instruments do we have to do so?

The participants split up in groups to discuss these questions in detail.

Summary of the statements of the group-speakers:

The representatives of the different countries present had various approaches to inspection and quality assurance in their countries.

Still quite a few instruments were in common:

Some countries reported about a special feedback about inspection given by pupils, teachers and local stakeholders.

One of the questions was about the inspection reports and the results of inspections in these reports.

Romania stated that the focus should be

- on the learning process
- on the teaching process
- on the professional development of teachers
- on a standardized approach of inspection.

Feedback from external experts (Northern Ireland):
Independent consultants handle the contact with schools
and ask questions about:

- how was data collection organized?
- were the inspectors qualified?
- the quality of interaction between inspectors and teaching and non-teaching staff
- communication with parents
- was oral feedback to staff adequate?

Quality assurance can also be reached by :
working in teams or
post inspection conferences about the contents of the written report.

Professional concept for inspectors:

- several meetings a year to train inspectors
- researchers are asked for reliability of evaluation
- comparison across the borders of the German Länder.

We also discussed the changing focus of inspection due to political changes.
e.g. from a "general inspection" to a "focussed inspection"

In each country the inspectorate has to reflect permanently its own role in the
quality management system.

That's why we found that RFG initiative "Strategies for Inspections..." would be
quite helpful to all of us.

F.K.