



SICI NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

Introduction

The SICI Executive Committee would like to improve communication 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 9 and 10 July in Prague. Key decisions at this meeting were:

- **Professional communication project:** Now 4 members are participating in this project (see below 'Updates about projects').
- **Twitter:** The Executive Committee opened a Twitter account for SICI: @Siciln. National coordinators will be asked to share information by this communication means.
- **Yammer:** All national coordinators are now member of a Yammer group. By this way, they have the possibility to share information and contact each other.
- **The General Assembly of 2018:** Save the date! The General Assembly will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th November. The GA in Serbia will be organised around a wrap-up conference on the priority theme of the year: 'The Impact of inspection'.
- **The National Coordinators Meeting:** Save the date! The National Coordinators Meeting will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, on Friday 16th November from 12.30 until 15.30.
- **The regional groups:** The Executive Committee was talking about the meetings of the German group in the Netherlands and the Offshore group in Belfast. The EC will organise meetings with the regional groups at the General Assembly. The topic will be 'contribution of the regional groups to the priority theme of 2019 – 'Innovative practices'. The regional groups will also be made visible on the SICI website.
- **Trainee and communication management:** SICI is seeking to appoint an internship for a trainee in communication management. That trainee should support implementation of the priorities contained within SICI's strategic plan. The main task will be to make an overall communication plan and to work out new internal and external communication strategies.
- **Erasmus+ project BIBESOIN:** Our application "Better Inspection for better social inclusion" scored 71%. The project proposal got a high enough score to be eligible for subsidies but at this moment the financial resources available are not enough to fund our project. If there are additional financial

resources, our project might be financed. We don't know the exact timing, but the Flemish Erasmus+ agency, EPOS, will let us know in November 2018. If we get the green light, the kick-off meeting will be organised in Brussels December 13th - 14th.

Please find our previous newsletters by clicking on the following link: <http://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/Contact-us/EC-Minutes>.

Updates from the SICI network

Some words about ...

...The SICI workshop in Luxembourg of 2018

SICI workshop Impact of inspection on public opinion (Luxembourg, March 22-23, 2018) hosted 33 participants from 17 countries.

The topic of the workshop, proposed as part of a series focused on impact of inspection, was the impact of inspection on public opinion. The workshop focused on the type of information made accessible to the public, how does the public perceive it and what is the public's scope.

The awareness of the different ways and dynamics shaping opinions on school quality are of high importance for school inspection. For this reason, the core element of the SICI workshop was to find out, together with Luxembourgish students and parent's representatives as well as school presidents and teachers, how their personal opinions are built, what pieces of information are available for various school actors and how do these contribute to views and opinions about school. Furthermore, the workshop aimed to determine the perceived influence of the various actors, their opinion has on school quality.

... Cooperation with Estonia and the Netherlands

Herman Franssen from the Netherlands will take part in inspection in Estonia (September, 24-28). We offer the opportunity to participate in an inspection at the Basic School of Tallinn Central City <http://www.reaalkool.ee/>.

...Study visits in the Netherlands

As in many other inspectorates, the Dutch inspectorate is developing continuously. They want to improve their supervision or adjust it to changed circumstances within their education system. In doing so, they would like to make use of the experience and developments of their foreign colleagues. This is the main reason why a team of Dutch inspectors keeps a close watch on the development of the supervision in one or two inspectorates of SICI.

In the past few years, they collected information through SICI-workshops, international studies about school supervision and regional meetings (Offshore-group). Next year, they would like to give some of their inspectors the opportunity to visit the inspectorates concerned for a study visit. During this study visit they would like to gather information about the way the supervision takes places. Their aim is to get a view on current themes and developments regarding supervision.

So it could be that they will contact some of the SICI-colleagues about these study visits to ask them whether they would like to cooperate.

...The inspectorate update of Bulgaria

According to the new educational law, adopted in 2016, the National inspectorate of education was established in May 2018. Our main tasks are:

- Development and improvement of criteria and indicators for inspection
- Selection and training for external inspectors
- Inspection of all kindergartens and schools in Bulgaria
- Preparing analyses for the Minister of education and science and the Council of ministers in order to develop and improve educational policies.

Currently we are working on the Framework of inspection, which includes criteria, indicators and their descriptors and a set of tools for inspection as well. In short term, till end of 2018 we plan to test all instruments for inspection in the real life in piloting schools and kindergartens. Afterward we will expand the piloting model in more institutions. At the same time we build our team with internal inspectors and develop the training program for the external inspectors. One of our main tasks also in the next year will be the SICI- conference in Bulgaria.

...The inspectorate update of Wales (Estyn)

Estyn established in 1992 as a Crown body, inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales. Our Chief Inspector is Meilyr Rowlands.

In recent years, there have been a number of changes to the way Estyn inspects schools, further education colleges, independent specialist colleges, pupil referral units and work-based learning providers.

Education providers

- can no longer predict when they will be inspected during the cycle
- receive 15 working days' written notice of an inspection
- are evaluated under five inspection areas
 1. Standards
 2. Wellbeing and attitudes to learning
 3. Teaching and learning experiences
 4. Care, support and guidance
 5. Leadership and management
- are judged using a 4 point scale of Excellent, Good, Adequate and needs improvement, and Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement

We have also enhanced our inspection methodologies and the range of evidence that we draw on during inspection. The outcomes of inspection are informed by:

- Observing learning in the classroom, training centre or workplace through lesson observations and learning walks
- A review of learners' work in lessons and in discussion with them
- Questionnaires to learners, governors, staff, parents/carers and employers
- Conversations with pupils, staff, parents/carers, teachers, governors, leaders and employers

- A review of key documents and performance information

Our current projects include

- Support for a Curriculum for Wales
- A Learning Inspectorate - An independent review of Estyn's role in supporting curriculum and education reform was published in May 2018 made 34 recommendations.
- OECD and Estyn joint self-evaluation project
- A review of the inspection arrangements for non-maintained settings and initial teacher education and training.

For more information, including progress on our current projects, please visit our website <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/>

...The inspectorate update of Hesse

Since school inspection in Hesse is obligatory only for schools with a higher level of autonomy, our organization focusses more on "evidence based policy/decision making" on the one hand and school counselling on the other hand. To support decision makers in ministry we conduct evaluation of projects and central strategic aims (media education, promotion of pupils supposed to be highly gifted, programs to reduce violence and addictions...).

Right now we're working on an offer for schools to support their internal evaluation. Beyond counselling in how to do internal evaluation, we offer them services in e.g. questionnaire development, online administration, data interpretation action planning on the basis of data.

...The inspectorate update of Ofsted

There will be a new inspection framework for schools, early years and further education in 2019. The framework will be built upon the best available evidence on educational effectiveness, and will have a renewed focus on the curriculum. They will be consulting on the proposed changes in January 2019.

...The Inspectorate update of Portugal

Managing the Curriculum: Teaching English in the 1st and 2nd Cycles

The Portuguese educational policies have been aiming at the improvement of the students' linguistic skills in what English as a foreign language is concerned since it has had poor outcomes in the past few years. Since 2014 English became a compulsory subject from grade 3 up till grade 9. Simultaneously, special attention was given to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The new national curriculum for English as a foreign language from grades 3 to 12 was built up and published in 2015. A new teacher recruitment group was created for teaching English to young learners. And more recently, the *Perfil dos Alunos à Saída da Escolaridade Obrigatória (Students' Profile at the End of the Compulsory Education)* and the *Aprendizagens Essenciais (Fundamental Knowledge)* were published.

In 2017, the Portuguese Inspectorate of Education and Science (IGEC) implemented a new activity within the monitoring program - *Managing the Curriculum: Teaching English in the 1st and 2nd Cycles*. The objectives are to

get to know and monitor the teaching learning process from grades 3 to 6 and to contribute to the construction of a strategic action orientated towards the quality of the subject's outcomes.

IGEC believes it to be vitally important to get to know how the English curriculum is being managed by schools and teachers, and to induce effective pedagogical practices in the English classroom that would have impact on the students' learning. Throughout 2 years of this process, good practices concerning the curriculum planning, development and assessment have been identified. The ultimate aim is to compile and disseminate the best practices encountered.

***** We would like to take the opportunity to address other inspectorates, that have undergone significant changes, to write a text and send this to the SICI secretariat for the next newsletter. Please keep in mind that this text has to be short (10 lines) and to the point*****

Updates about projects...

Some words about ...

...The SICI project "Professional Communication"

The inspectorates of Scotland, Estonia, Lithuania and the Netherlands currently work together on the SICI-project 'Professional communication'. The aim of this project is to identify and describe structures, elements and competences of communication in inspection sessions where results are reported to the school.

The first meeting of the participating inspectorates took place in June in Utrecht. The project group is currently developing a questionnaire to investigate which elements of professional communication in feedback sessions have a positive impact on the willingness of schools to improve their quality.

If you would like to have more information about this project, please contact Herman Franssen H.Franssen@owinsp.nl

...Erasmus+ project with French supervisors in Estonia

This is a project with French supervisors (head teachers and inspectors) working in the academy of Grenoble in France. (Erasmus+ project for February 1st 2018 to achieve a mobility in Europe in 2018-2019). The aim of this mobility is to develop new skills and knowledge, to discover new working methods and tools, and to allow educational cooperation to pool synergies between European educational managers and the working world.

They

- meet with heads of schools in your country
- meet inspectors and discover your inspection system
- visit schools
- discuss transversal topics such as school dropout, academic success, motivation, care for students with special needs, innovation, citizenship, teacher training, piloting ...

*****We would also like to ask to keep the SICI secretariat up to date about ongoing activities between members. This will make it possible to create an overview of existing projects and report about them at the General Assembly.*****

Other information

Coming SICI events

Date	Country	Activity and theme
17 - 19 Sept 2018	Scotland – Glasgow	Workshop: Impact on school improvement, the quality of teaching, performance of children
15 - 16 Nov 2018	Serbia	General Assembly: wrap up conference on the priority theme of the year: The Impact of inspection
End of March 2019	Bulgaria	Innovative practices of inspections
May/June 2019		
September/October 2019		
13, 14, 15 November 2019	London	General Assembly: Innovative Inspection Practice
March 2020		
May/June 2020	Czech Republic	Internal quality assurance of inspectorates
September 2020	Finland	Internal quality assurance of inspectorates
November 2020		General Assembly

You can always find an overview of the SICI activities by clicking on the following link: <http://www.sici-inspectorates.eu/News/Calendar>

Call for workshops

The priority theme for 2019 is "Innovative practices of Inspection" and for 2020 " Internal quality insurance of Inspectorates". The workshops have to address the priority theme or at least one of its aspects. If you are interested in organizing a SICI Workshop in 2019 or 2020 or the General Assembly in 2020, please contact the SICI Secretariat as soon as possible.

Call for projects

One of the key actions of the SICI strategic plan is to promote and support partnership and cooperation between inspectorates. A subtheme of this key action is to help fund projects working collaboratively in line with SICI's aims and priorities. Therefore, we would like to remind and stimulate members to make use of this possibility. You can always contact the SICI secretariat for more information about a possible funding of your project.

SICI contact details

Please let us know if you have any remarks or questions. Always feel free to submit any additional information, which can be used in the following newsletter.

Email SICI secretariat: sici@vlaanderen.be