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# SICI NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

## Message from the President

Dear SICI Members,

I hope this message finds you well and as enthusiastic as I am about the incredible strides we are making together. It's always a pleasure to see our community thrive through collaboration and shared dedication. Our recent workshop in Limassol was a testament to our collective commitment to enhancing education inspection and evaluation worldwide. I'm incredibly proud of the insights we've gathered and the relationships we've strengthened.

As we look forward to our upcoming events and projects, let's carry this momentum with us. Each of you plays a crucial role in our mission, and together, we can continue to drive meaningful change. I encourage you to stay engaged, share your experiences, and embrace the opportunities ahead with an open heart and mind. Let's make this journey as impactful and inspiring as possible!

*Janie McManus*

## Update from the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee is excited to share some updates on our work. A lot is underway to enhance our collaboration and resource sharing. We are in the process of developing our new SICI website, which will feature a secure area accessible through member login. This private space will allow you to share documents and guidance with fellow members securely, fostering a more connected and supportive community.

In addition, the EC is diligently reviewing and updating our policies and guidelines to better serve you. We are refreshing the guidelines for hosting workshops and providing comprehensive information for organising study visits and job shadowing. This will include details about the financial support available from SICI to help facilitate these valuable experiences.

## Reflections on the SICI Workshop in Limassol, Cyprus



Our first workshop this year took place in the vibrant city of Limassol, Cyprus. This gathering brought us together to discuss and explore critical issues facing education today. Over the course of the workshop, members engaged in deep, insightful discussions and shared valuable experiences, all aimed at improving the quality of inspection and education for children and young people.

One of the central themes of the workshop was the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on education systems globally. We heard about and discussed the challenges that schools continue to face as they adapt to the disruptions caused by the pandemic. The discussions underscored the importance of resilience and innovation in supporting educators and students during these times. The need for adaptable and flexible inspection frameworks has never been more apparent.

Thought-provoking discussions centred around the balance between supporting school improvements and maintaining our independence as evaluators. This tension was explored through the lens of developing new inspection frameworks. Colleagues shared the challenges faced not only in crafting these frameworks but also in gaining the engagement and approval of stakeholders and inspectors. The dialogue that followed emphasised the importance of securing true buy-in from the educational community to ensure that these frameworks are effective and meaningful.

In addition to the rich professional content, the workshop also provided ample opportunities for networking and building stronger relationships among members. The gala dinner was a highlight, offering exceptional food, inspirational music, and outstanding dancing. It was a celebration of our shared mission and a reminder of the community and collaboration that underpins our work.

The workshop in Limassol was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and participation of all involved. The discussions we had, the insights we gained, and the relationships we strengthened will undoubtedly drive our efforts forward.

Thank you once again to our hosts, our organisers, and to every member who contributed to making this workshop a meaningful and impactful event.

### Next SICI Workshop in Tartu, Estonia “Inspection and school autonomy: Benefits and challenges in a changing world”

We are very much looking forward to seeing our members at the next workshop in Tartu, Estonia, on **13th and 14th of June 2024**, where we will continue our important conversations with a focus on **“Inspection and School Autonomy: Benefits and Challenges in a Changing World.”**

The aim of this workshop is to explore the evolution and impact of inspection systems within educational environments that recognise school autonomy in diverse ways. Participants will have the opportunity to hear about and discuss the experiences of several countries, including our hosts, where schools enjoy extensive autonomy, allowing them to shape their educational environments independently. This workshop will facilitate reflection on key learnings from various inspectorates and how these insights might be applied to different inspection contexts. Additionally, we will delve into Estonia's success in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). We look forward to your active participation in these enriching discussions.



### SICI project “Supervision of education related to the development of civic values and skills”.

We are delighted to share the inspiring collaboration between the Swedish, Scottish, and Dutch inspectorates on our recent project focused on the supervision of education related to Civic Values and Skills (CVS). This initiative exemplifies our commitment to promoting and supporting partnership and cooperation between inspectorates.

Civic Values and Skills are essential for individuals to engage positively in society and uphold democratic values. These skills, including social and emotional competencies, are fundamental to the socialization process in education. Given the current climate of political polarisation and the pressures on democratic values, the relevance of CVS has never been more critical.

The project aimed to explore how various inspection processes can provide insights into the impact of education on CVS. Our members also investigated how inspectorates can use these insights to drive improvements. By clarifying the tools used to assess CVS and exchanging best practices through case studies and work experiences, they have gathered valuable information that can benefit all our member organizations.

The project activities, which included job shadowing, roundtable discussions, and a seminar, were made possible through SICI's funding. This collaborative effort has culminated in a comprehensive final report, highlighting key findings and recommendations. Here are a few key messages from the report:

- **Integrated Approaches:** Effective supervision of CVS requires integrated approaches that combine both qualitative and quantitative assessment tools.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Sharing best practices and experiences through job shadowing and discussions enhances the capacity of inspectorates to address CVS in diverse educational contexts.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Ongoing dialogue and cooperation among inspectorates are vital for continuous improvement in the supervision and development of CVS.

Our thanks to the Swedish, Scottish, and Dutch inspectorates for their dedication and collaboration. Their commitment has made this project a success, providing valuable insights and strengthening our collective efforts.

The final report is now available to all SICI members on our website, and we would encourage you to review it and consider how its findings might support your work.

Together, let us continue to foster strong partnerships and cooperation, ensuring that our educational systems support the development of civic values and skills for a better future.

#### **STESSIE :TRAINING ACTIVITY DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIÁN 11-15 MARCH 2024**

From March 11th to 15th the 3rd Training Activity of STESSIE took place in Donostia-San Sebastián, Basque Country. The objectives of the week were: to know about the specific characteristics of the Community of Madrid, the Valencian Community and the Basque Country in relation to social inclusion policies; to evaluate and propose improvements to TESSIE 2.0.; to listen to experts on the matter; to visit schools and exchange experiences

related to inclusion; to apply the TESSIE 2.0 tool and analyse results in several schools; and to disseminate the project and its results to other institutions. We had the chance of listening to Andrea Hathazy (PHD. Special Education Department Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences in Babeş-Bolyai University Romania, From policies to best practices in inclusive education), to Dr. Thomas Michels (President of a regional inclusion-commission in Luxembourg, Inclusion programs in Luxembourg) and to Noorani Sogol (Education Policy and Systems Analyst. European Commission-EACEA-Eurydice).

TESSIE 2.0 tool was piloted in several schools: the questionnaire has been passed on to teachers, parents and students of Primary level (11-12 y.o.) and we have used three different versions: Spanish, Catalan and Basque. The schools have given an assessment of the tool: in terminology, we received 309 answers and most people said there was no word that was hard to understand, and that the questionnaire was well understood, although some questions may be redundant, repetitive.

Future events: online meeting in May, Training Activity in Sofia (June 3rd-7th), online meeting in September, Training Activity in Serbia in October, online meeting in December, and in 2025 online meeting in February, Training activity in Flanders in March, online meeting in May, Training Activity in Estonia in June, online meeting in September, in November Multiplier Event in SICI General Assembly.



### **CALL TO ACTION: SICI country profiles SICI**

We have updated our member country profile template, and this has been shared all national coordinators. We are asking for your completed profiles to be sent to Sylvia by the end of June. The completed country profiles will exclusively appear on the new SICI website, enhancing our collective resource. Your attention and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated.

## Dates for your diary: SICI Workshops and General Assembly 2024 -2025 - 2026

SICI Calendar			
Date	Event	Location	Title
25 January 2024	Webinar	MS Teams	SICI project on 'Supervision of education related to the development of civic values and skills'
11 - 12 April 2024	Workshop	Limassol - Cyprus	Inspection in a changing world: "Navigating change and adapting inspection practices"
13 - 14 June 2024	Workshop	Tartu - Estonia	Inspection and school autonomy: benefits and challenges in a changing world
19 - 20 September 2024	Workshop	Romania	
20 - 22 November 2024	General Assembly	Malta	
May/June 2025	Workshop	Tbilisi- Georgia	
Sept/Oct 2024	Workshop	Bavaria - Nürnberg	
19 - 21 November 2025	General Assembly	the Netherlands	
November 2026	General Assembly	Portugal	

If you are interested in organising a SICI workshop in 2025 or 2026, please contact the SICI Secretariat at [sici@vlaanderen.be](mailto:sici@vlaanderen.be).

### 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](mailto:sici@vlaanderen.be)