

Inspectorate Profile

Education Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia

June 2024

1. Overview of the Inspectorate

Age of inspectorate

The Inspectorate was formally founded in 1996. Prior to this, no such institution was operating in Slovenia, some tasks were performed by the National Education Institute.

Structure of inspectorate

The Inspectorate is a body under the Ministry of Education. It is organised centrally with the main office in Ljubljana.

Size

The number of serving inspectors currently stands at 13 including Chief Inspector.

Remits

The Inspectorate inspects public and private kindergartens, primary schools, all types of secondary schools, dormitories for students, music schools, institutions for children with special needs and higher vocational schools. We do not inspect universities.

Unit of inspection

The Inspectorate primarily inspects schools, principals, and teachers. We do not inspect local authorities.

Purpose of inspectorate

In accordance with Article 2 of School Inspection Act 1996, the Inspectorate has a statutory role to cover the supervision of the implementation of laws, other regulations and acts that regulate the organisation and performance of educational activities carried out by kindergartens, primary schools, music schools, lower and secondary vocational schools, secondary technical and vocational schools, gymnasiums, higher vocational schools, institutions for the education and training of children and adolescents with special needs, organisations for the education of adults and private individuals who are educated according to publicly valid programs. The school inspection also includes supervision of the enforcement of laws, other regulations and acts that regulate dormitories for students.

What is your strapline/motto?

“Co-create an inclusive and safe educational environment.”

Relationship with government

The Inspectorate is an independent body under the Ministry of Education. We have our program, finances, and leadership. We also work with the Ministry on legislation.

The Ministry of Education is an appellate body for some of the Inspectorate's decisions. We are allowed to publish reports or findings without the Ministry's approval.

Under the School Inspection Act 1996, the Chief Inspector in agreement with the minister determines the annual work program of the Inspectorate and organises its implementation.

Accountability

The Inspectorate is accountable to the Ministry of Education for the delivery of its functions. We report to the Ministry and public annually.

Impact of inspections

The Inspectorate occasionally publishes inspection reports. We publish the Chief Inspector's Report annually. We do not publish post-inspection surveys of principals.

Quality assurance of inspections

The Inspectorate uses mechanisms to ensure that its work is conducted to the highest professional standards and that its judgements are legitimate and reliable. These include publication of the standards that the Inspectorate is committed to in its work, the recruitment of inspectors from among highly qualified candidates, constant training of inspectors, supporting inspectors in their work, surveys of principals following the subjects' inspections in schools, team review, cooperating with other inspectorates and public agencies etc. One of the internal strategies for assuring that inspections are of good quality is also the Chief Inspector's review of inspection files.

2. Evaluation process

Self-evaluation

In Slovenia, schools are required to prepare a self-evaluation every year. It is an internal school review that is focused on school improvement. Principals are responsible for ensuring and determining quality through self-evaluation and preparing an annual report on the self-evaluation of the school or kindergarten. Self-evaluation is usually not published.

Lower and secondary vocational schools, secondary technical and vocational schools and gymnasiums must also write a chronicle.

Focus of inspection

We focus on legal compliance (supervision of the implementation of laws, regulations, and acts). We do not look at teaching and learning, we do not grade students, and we do not look at schools' finances (with one exception).

The majority of inspectors' time during inspection is spent analysing schools' documents, questioning principals or teachers. Inspectors may also interact with students as a part of inspection activity.

Inspection framework

We do not have an inspection framework.

Inspection time and resources

Typically, inspection activity in schools takes one or two days, but the full process from start to final decision is concluded on average in two months. Usually, one or two inspectors go on inspection. Our inspectors are usually former teachers, headmasters, or those who previously worked at the Ministry of Education (e.g., lawyers).

Frequency of inspections

Under the School Inspection Act 1996, kindergartens and schools must be inspected once every five years. Unannounced inspections are more frequent.

Non-inspection activities

Non-inspection activities include counselling to schools, teachers, and principals. The Inspectorate is accessible to everyone. We also participate in changing of legislature and cooperate with other public institutions.

3. Consequences of inspection

Reporting

If public interest is high, some reports on institutions may also be published. Mostly our findings are available to parent councils and school or kindergartens boards (school and kindergarten boards in Slovenia appoint principals).

Grading

We do not assign ratings to schools.

Sharing inspection findings

We publish an annual report of our work and some of our findings.

What happens following an inspection?

During an inspection, we can warn a principal, issue him a recommendation and/or an official act. In some cases, we can also penalize school. We cannot fire a principal or teacher, and we do not have an influence on the financing of schools or kindergartens. In worse case scenarios, school may be temporarily shut down as a result of the Inspectorate's findings.