

8 International Activities and Cooperation of the CSI

International activities play an important role in the CSI assignments. The outputs from specific activities and the gained information is valuable both for an evaluative institution of the CSI type and for the Czech educational policy makers as well as for professionals in general. Besides the experience and evidence from the international education practise represent an important source of knowledge for development of CSI's methodologies and approaches. From the other perspective, through the CSI, the Czech Republic has a chance to introduce abroad partners to its own approaches, methods and tools of education policy and examples of good praxis as well as successes and experience and by that means to strengthen its international position.

Beside its evaluative and controlling assignments the CSI fulfils also partial tasks arising from international obligations of the Czech Republic, most of all the membership in the EU and the OECD.

A specific and important activity is realization of key **international surveys** such as PIRLS, PISA, TIMSS, ICILS and TALIS. This provides an important feedback not only to education policy makers but also to teachers and pupils. The realization of international surveys is conducted under the auspices of the CSI which processes – beside comprehensive result outputs – crucial secondary analyses.

The CSI representatives have been nominated as members of the OECD executive body, specifically in the **Directorate for Education in the Centre for Educational Research and Innovations Governing Board** (GB CERI). Since 1968 the CERI has been one of the most important world organizations providing data on education. It is responsible for processing and publishing of numerous outputs which present an important insight into an international comparison in the area of education.

An important international obligation for the CSI is its activity within the **European schools** system in the primary and secondary cycle of which the CSI conducts inspection activities and cooperates on forming school policies, evaluation processes or education of pedagogues.

In 1995 the CSI was one of nine founders of **Standing International Conference of Inspectorates** (SICI) which has gradually become a prestigious and respected international institution gathering inspection authorities from 32 countries. The CSI was awarded a representation in the SICI Executive Committee. Membership in SICI brings a valuable knowledge as well as exchange of information on examples of good practise, for example in the form of study visits by abroad partners.

9 Control Activities Summary

The control performed by the CSI as a public administrative body is one of the government's tools for assuring nation-wide interests and for complying with duties arising from legal regulations. The objectives are to find out whether the controlled entities:

- a) comply with legal regulations;
- b) comply with binding rules, binding indicators and decisions;
- c) comply with criteria for economical, effective and meaningful performance, which are set by binding indicators a decisions;