

Section C - Supporting Foreign Languages and Information and Communication Technologies - contains partial knowledge on implementing the goals of the National Plan for Teaching Foreign Languages, on the information schools possess on the Common European Reference Framework, and on the preparedness of basic schools to offer, in particular, teaching of the English language as early as from the third grade of elementary school (the lower level of basic schools). When monitoring how information and communication technologies are used CSI focused not only on the level of technical equipment but mainly on how ICT supports teaching itself and how technologies affect the climate of schools.

Section D - Establishment and Introduction of Quality Systems, Assessment Methods and Self-evaluation of Schools and School Facilities - summarises findings on the development of self-evaluation at the level of individual schools and school facilities. Inspections, in particular, strove to find out how self-evaluation can contribute to education quality enhancement, how it is reflected in the annual reports of schools and school facilities and whether it has become an integral part of developed school education programmes.

Section E - Increasing Professionalism and Improving Working Conditions of Pedagogical Staff - discloses data on the age structure, qualifications and skills, salary conditions and evaluation of the further education of pedagogical staff.

Section F - Utilisation and Benefits of Development Projects - is, in terms of its concept and content, included in the Annual Report for the first time as a separate chapter. CSI tried to indicate how regions had managed to meet the priorities of their own long-term objectives of education and development of the education system and by using examples of good practice CSI illustrated the benefits of projects, coordinated at the regional level, for teaching and education in schools. This section also provides information on the awareness of teachers of projects and trends in the European Union pertaining to the area of education, on the experience of schools with the implementation of such projects and their preparedness for future utilisation of the operational programme – Education for Competitiveness.

Annexes are included separately. Annexes encompass more detailed information and summary data relating to some areas and topics of the Report. For better orientation in the text Annexes are not parts of individual chapters.

In the school year 2007/2008 there were 282 school inspectors, 108 controllers, and 415 external experts. 106 school inspectors and controllers, who, as trainers of CSI, covered training courses for teachers, were an informal source of information about schools.

In the school year 2007/8 information centres for supporting provision of information on the current curricular reform commenced their activities in ten regional inspectorates. The centres received 1,322 inquiries, of which 1,242 were resolved by CSI within its scope of competence, whilst the others were transferred to partner organisations. Most of the queries concerned evaluation of students (classification and educational measures), the quality of education in schools or documentation about schools, but there were also questions regarding final and admission examinations in secondary schools, school injuries and consultations on how legal liabilities arising from the office of a head teacher are met.

Within the EU the Czech School Inspectorate is gaining the position of a reliable partner of other organisations dealing with evaluations. At the same time there has been an ever increasing interest in the experience, guidelines and the way of work of CSI, which has become inspiring for foreign partners in the process of modernisation and reforms of education systems and their evaluation. CSI also shares such experience through SICI – the Standing International Conference of Inspectorates. CIS prepared and (in September 2008) organised an international seminar, the agenda of which included, inter alia, presentation of a new inspection information system.

Experience resulting from a Czech-Scottish project proves to be beneficial. The project enabled both parties substantially to modernise their respective activities. Supporting