



The CSI holds a prestigious position within an international context too. It is actively engaged in international cooperation, in particular in OECD and SICI (the Standing International Conference of Inspectorates) bodies. The CSI, as one of the founding members of the latter organisation associating national and regional education inspectorates, still plays a key role in this institution. Currently the CSI, inter alia, administers the operation of interactive web pages of the SICI providing information, publications and common international space for communication among SICI members.

The MEYS has vested the CSI with the administration of the National Reference Point for ensuring quality of vocational education and the preparation of EQAVET-CZ. In this way CSI representatives, along with representatives of the National Institute of Technical and Vocational Education (Národní ústav odborného vzdělávání), were fully involved in coordination and organisational activities. Activities carried out by the National Reference Point EQAVET-CZ are based on activities performed by the European Network for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET) and closely relate to the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of June 2009 on the establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training.

Bilateral cooperation under MEYS international agreements between the CSI and Poland, France, Germany and Slovakia has proved to be beneficial.

Working with the MEYS the CSI welcomed delegations from different countries, and during their visits the CSI gave presentations about the Czech inspection system and the progress made with reforms to the Czech Republic's education system. The CSI has newly acquired representation in other prestigious international organisations, such as the OECD and IEA, and carried out assignments in international survey projects.

In the course of the school year the CSI received financial support from the Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness for "The National Inspection Evaluation System for the Education System in the Czech Republic" (NIQES) development project. The development of the methodology of inspection evaluations towards identification of successfully functioning schools and identification of risks which could lead to a reduction in the effectiveness of the education system was commenced. One of the key activities is ascertaining whether it is possible to gather the educational results of pupils in an electronic way for the purposes of national surveys. It has only been possible provisionally to use outputs from the self-evaluation of schools for the assessment of results or international research.

Towards the end of the school year two significant individual national projects, entitled "Preparation and Implementation of International Surveys in Initial Education and Their Disclosure (Competence I)" and "Implementation of International Surveys of Lifelong Learning and Disclosure of Their Results (Competence III)", were transferred, by the decision of the Minister, to the remit of the CSI. Thus inspection evaluations can also encompass important international sample surveys, such as PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS, ICILS and TALIS, which have become an important element for assessing the effectiveness and quality of the education provided by the Czech education system in the framework of international competition.

