

Instructional (standardised) tests and school-leaving essays were taken by students in 198 schools pursuant to Sec. 78a (4) of the Education Act for taking a substitution examination or a repeat examination.

The CSI supervised the course of the school-leaving examinations from 9th to 21st September 2011 in 73 schools. Supervision also continued during oral examinations of the common part of the school leaving examination and during the school-based component of examinations in selected schools also monitored in the spring examination period in 2011.

School inspectors concentrated mainly on how the rights of students are safeguarded in the course of school-leaving examinations, but also on the organisation and the overall running of school-leaving examinations. They also monitored how the schedule of the school-leaving examination is met, whether there were any security, staffing or material risks or whether there were problems with the implementation of the school-leaving examination and areas in which schools could be overloaded during the school-leaving examination.

Positive Findings

- During school-leaving examinations **school inspectors did not record any breaches of students' rights.**
- **Inspectors recorded improvements in the organisation of school-leaving examinations** when they compared them with the mock examination held in 2010 and with the period of monitoring of the preparedness for the school-leaving examination. Monitoring confirmed a **qualitative shift in the organisation of school-leaving examinations** resulting from the professional approach of head teachers and members of school-leaving examination boards.
- Besides one case which was pointed out by the Centre (early opening of a safe box) **no signals of breaches of security of school-leaving examinations** were reported. The CSI found, by means of an on-the-spot-check in the school in question, that the specified safe box was opened early but the jackets of testing materials were not damaged. The distribution of tests and instructions, including their safe deposit, was without any problems in the autumn examination period.
- **Logistics provided by the Centre were functional** and there were no problems with the technology used.
- **Staffing risks** recorded during the monitoring of preparedness **were not confirmed.** All schools provided well trained staff to cover relevant positions (a school-leaving examination commissionaire, assessors and teachers authorised to distribute and collect tests and instructions); members of school-leaving examination boards were duly appointed and present on the days when the school-leaving examination took place. At the request of the MEYS the CSI trained 43 inspectors to be able to perform the responsibilities of school-leaving examination commissionaires in case some problems occurred. These reserves of personnel were prepared but never used.
- **The organisation of examinations** was without visible problems and the standardised (unified) examination scheme was respected. Organisational problems were, thanks to the helpfulness of school managements and **good communication with the Centre**, operatively solved and therefore they could not substantially affect the course of examinations.