



International Conference
The Future of Education



Do School Inspections improve school quality?

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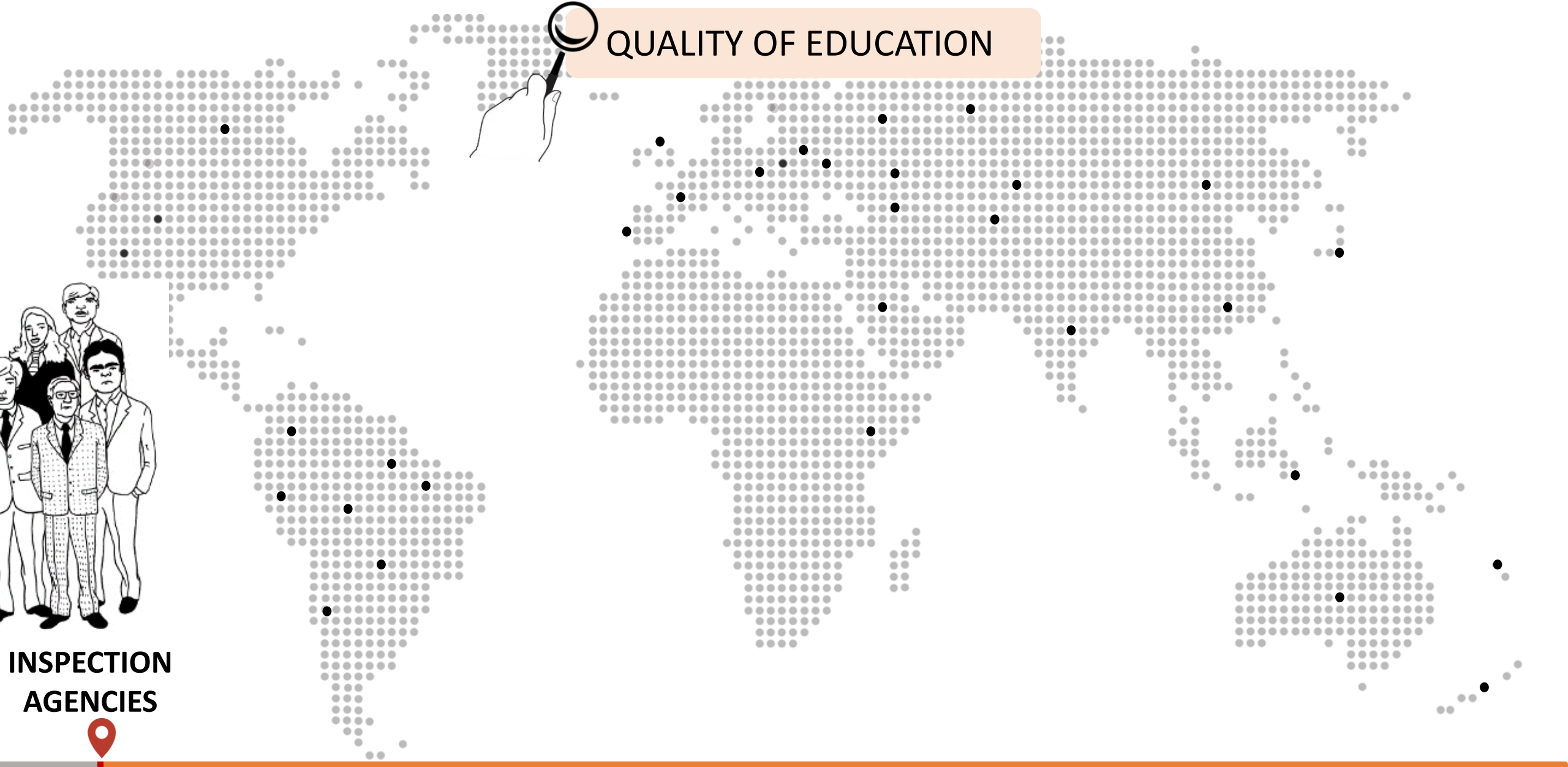
University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro
Centre for Research and Intervention in Education (CIIE), University of Porto



QUALITY OF EDUCATION



**INSPECTION
AGENCIES**



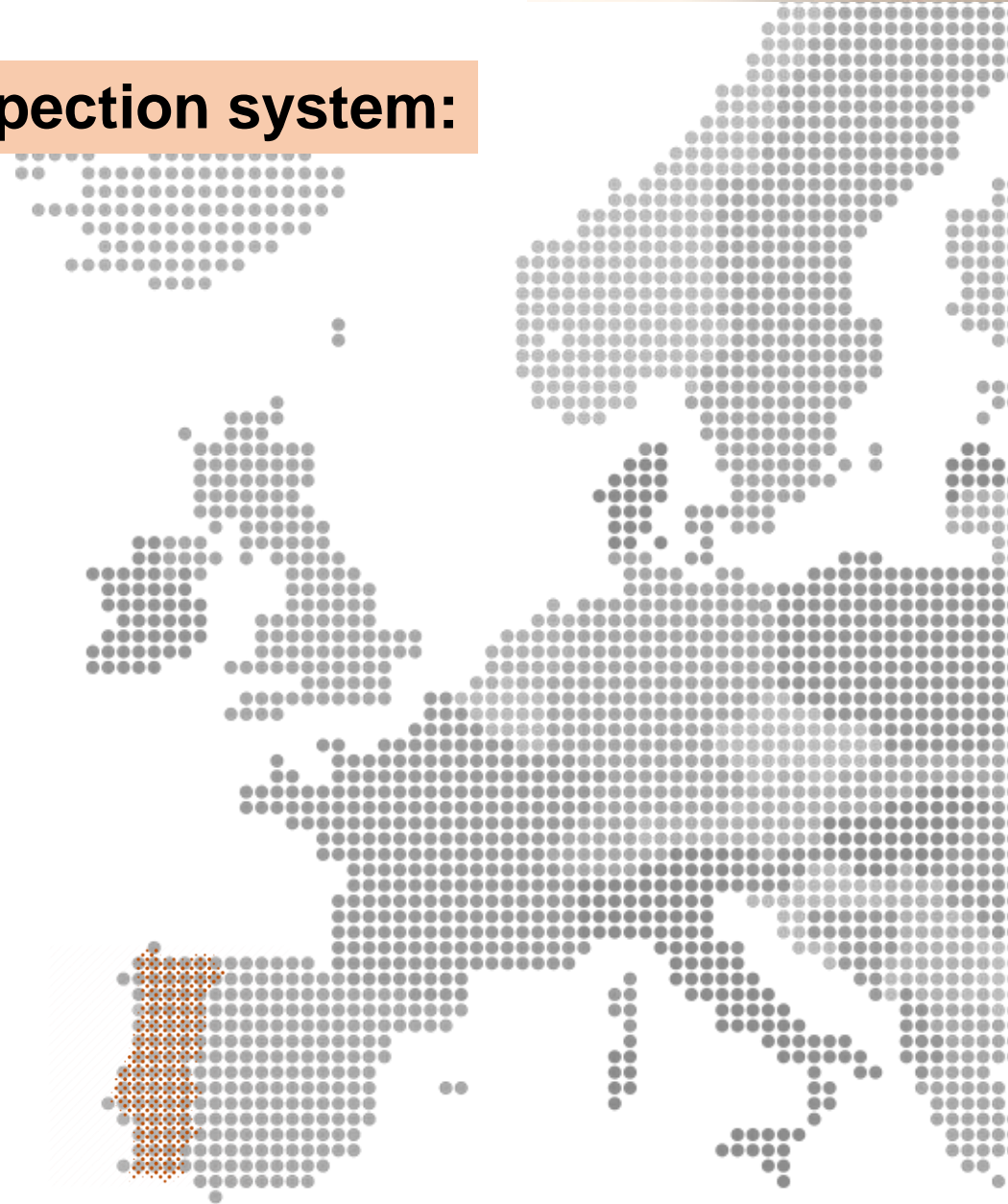
Portuguese school inspection system:



[General Inspection of Education and Science]

Main Goals:

- improve quality and equity in the educational services
- improve its management and regulation
- strengthen national and international cooperation

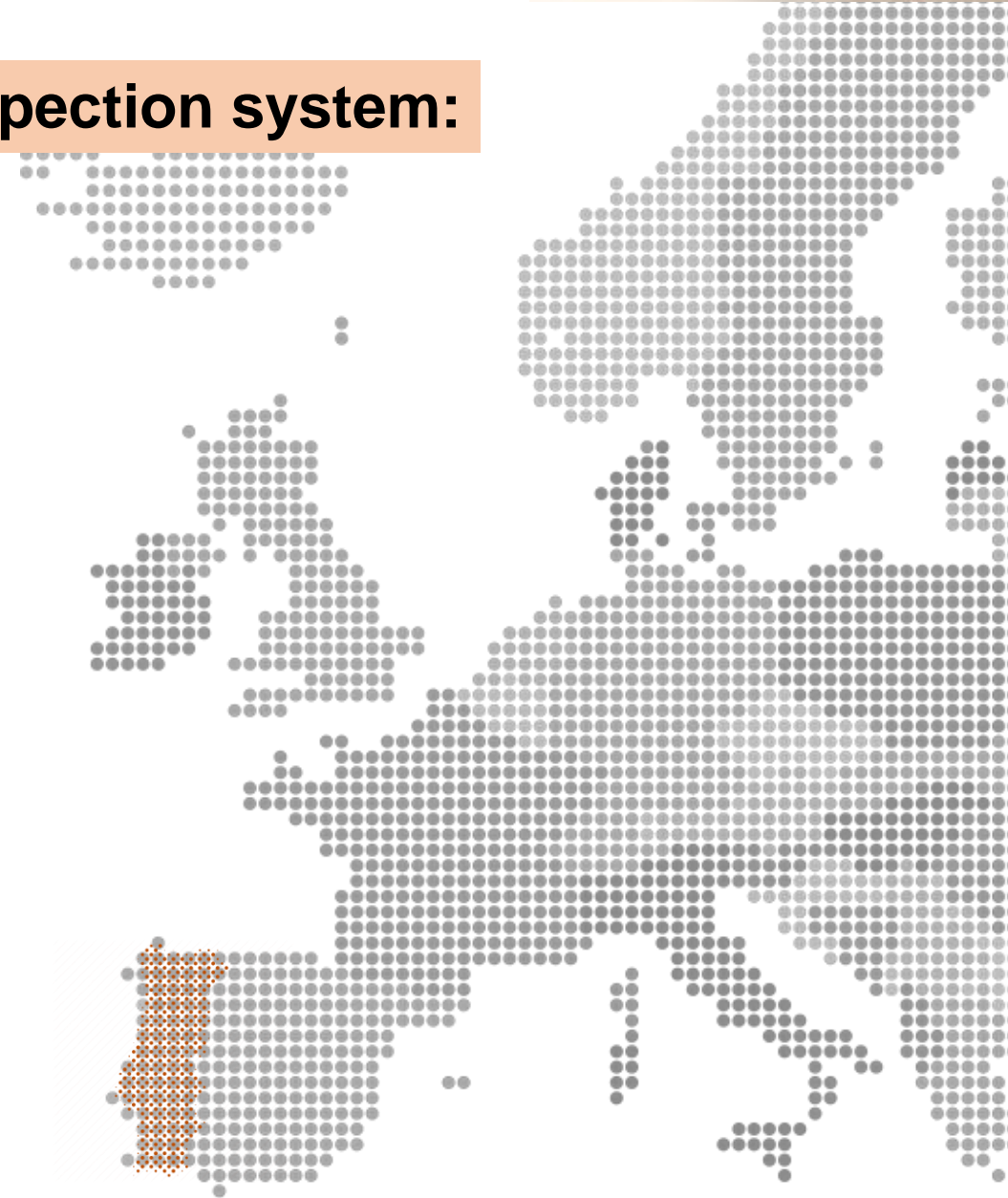




Portuguese school inspection system:

PROGRAMS:

Control	Monitoring
Audit	Evaluation





Portuguese school inspection system:

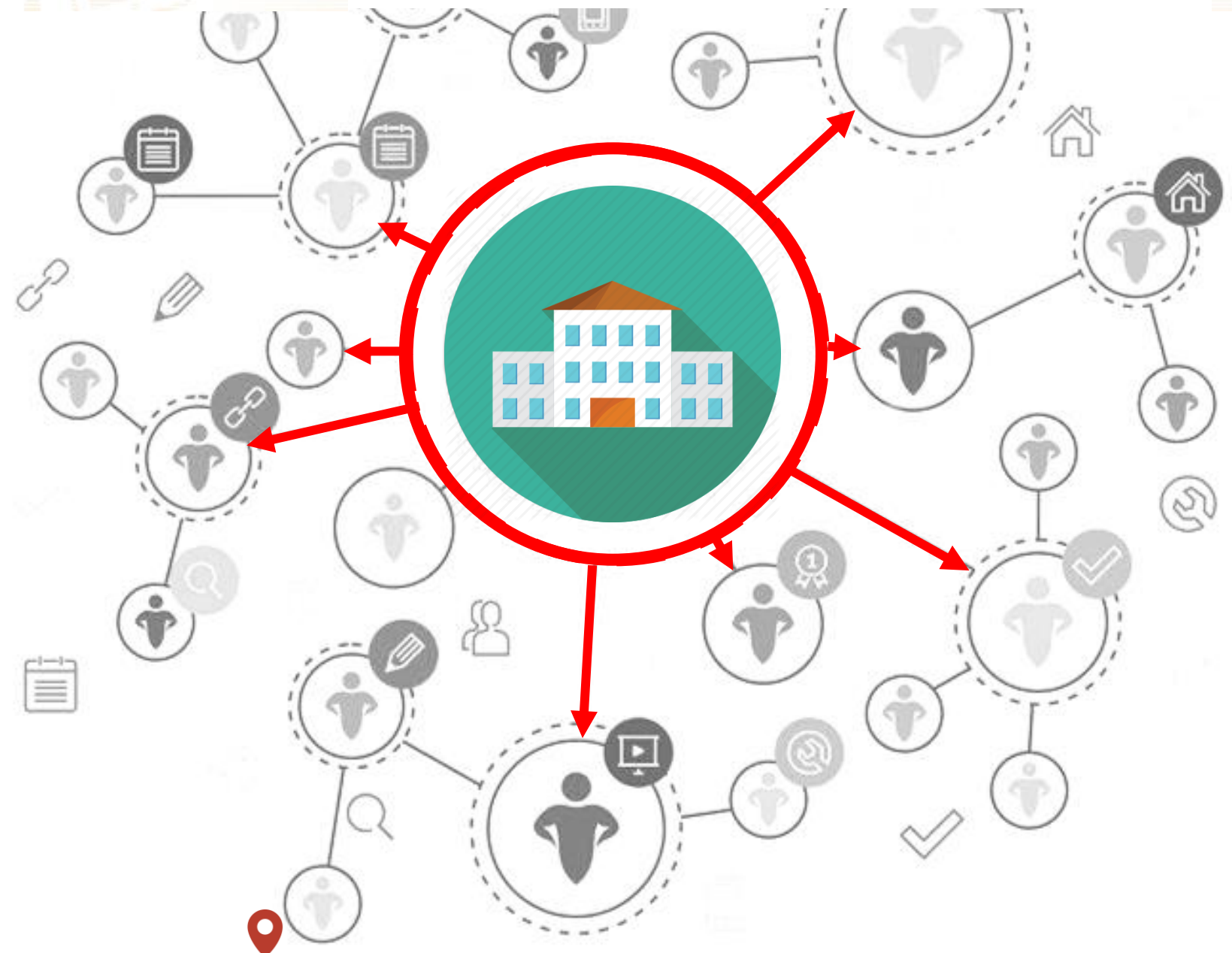
PROGRAMS:

	Monitoring
	Evaluation

- Monitoring of Educational Action
- Specific Tutorial Support
- Curriculum Management: Experimental Science Teaching
- Kindergartens of the National Network
- Curriculum Management: Teaching English in 1st and 2nd grades
- Orality and Written Development

Activities







Research Goals



- (1) representations that teachers and inspectors have about this Monitoring Program
- (2) the impact of it on the school organization
- (3) the relationship established between actors



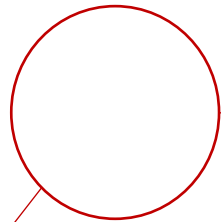


Methodology

case study

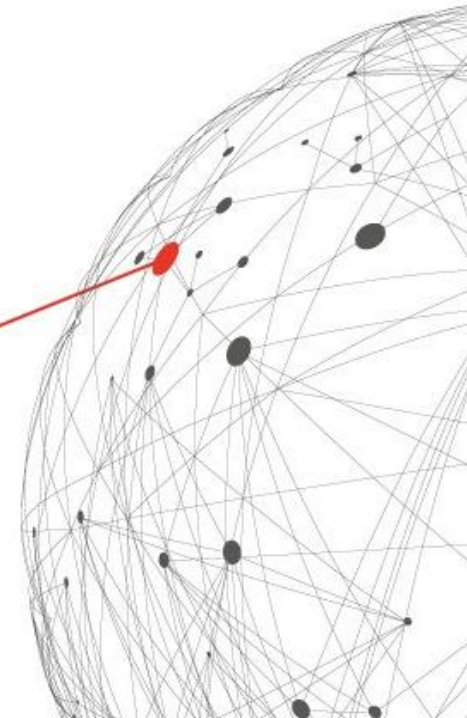
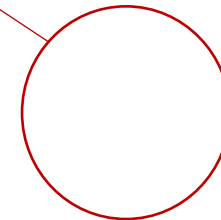
data collection instruments

questionnaire
semi-structured interviews



23 participants

teachers (19)
school inspectors (4)

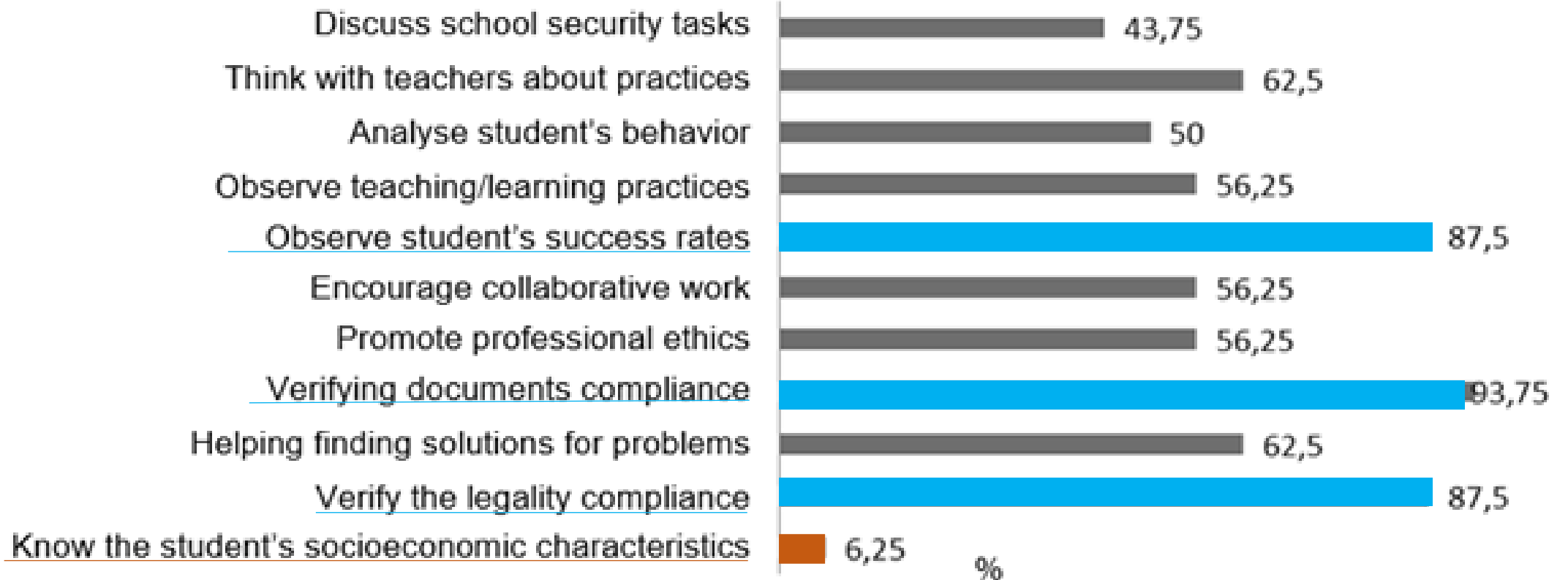




What are the main purposes of the inspection activities?

1 | 3

[teachers representations]





What are the main purposes of the inspection activities?

2 | 3

[teachers representations]

"there is always something positive [in the inspector's actions] but much more important than the work of the inspection (...) are the educational policies, the quality, and intensity of government programs and the socio-economic situation of the families" (T2).

"Documentary verification and legal compliance will bring an education with higher quality since it is a more organized education and, the more organized the school is, better the results will be for students" (T3)

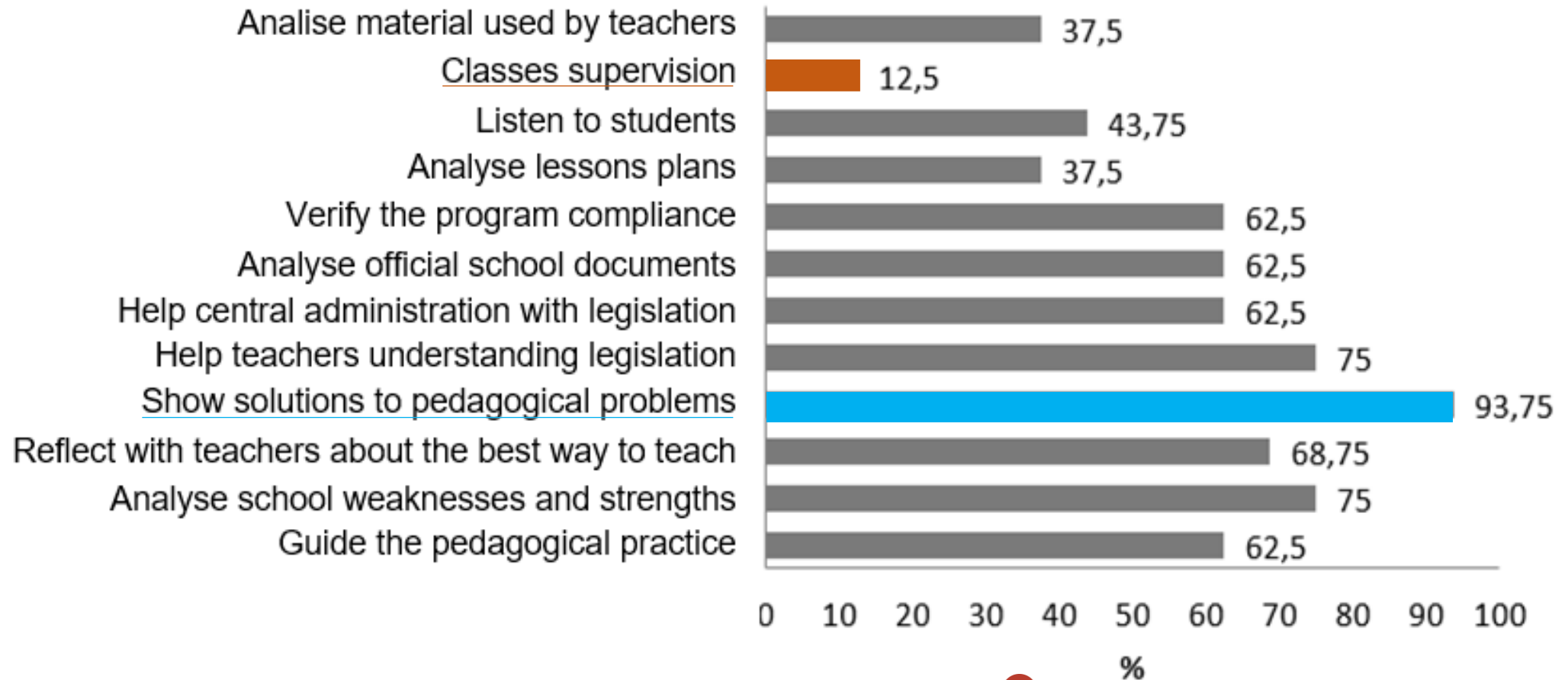


T - teacher



What **should be** the main purposes of the inspection activities?

[teachers representations]

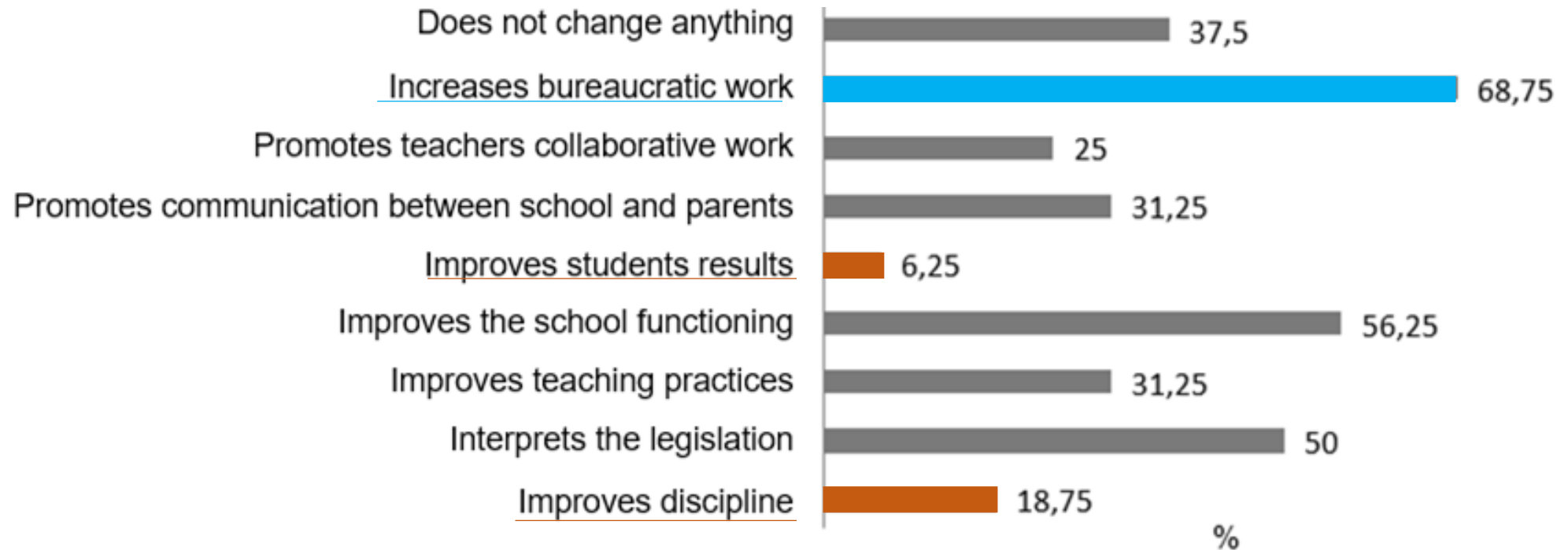




The impact of inspection action

1 | 2

[teachers representations]





The impact of inspection action

2 | 2

“

the changes brought by the inspections are very superficial, in fact they don't see practically nothing and almost nothing change (T2)

“

Changes made in schools are rather slow. They will not change with only one inspector's visit. Schools have a very heavy structure. They have their own culture, but I believe that something has changed in the course of this time (I2)

“

“

There are some changes but they are very slow and, most of the time, forgotten over time (T3)

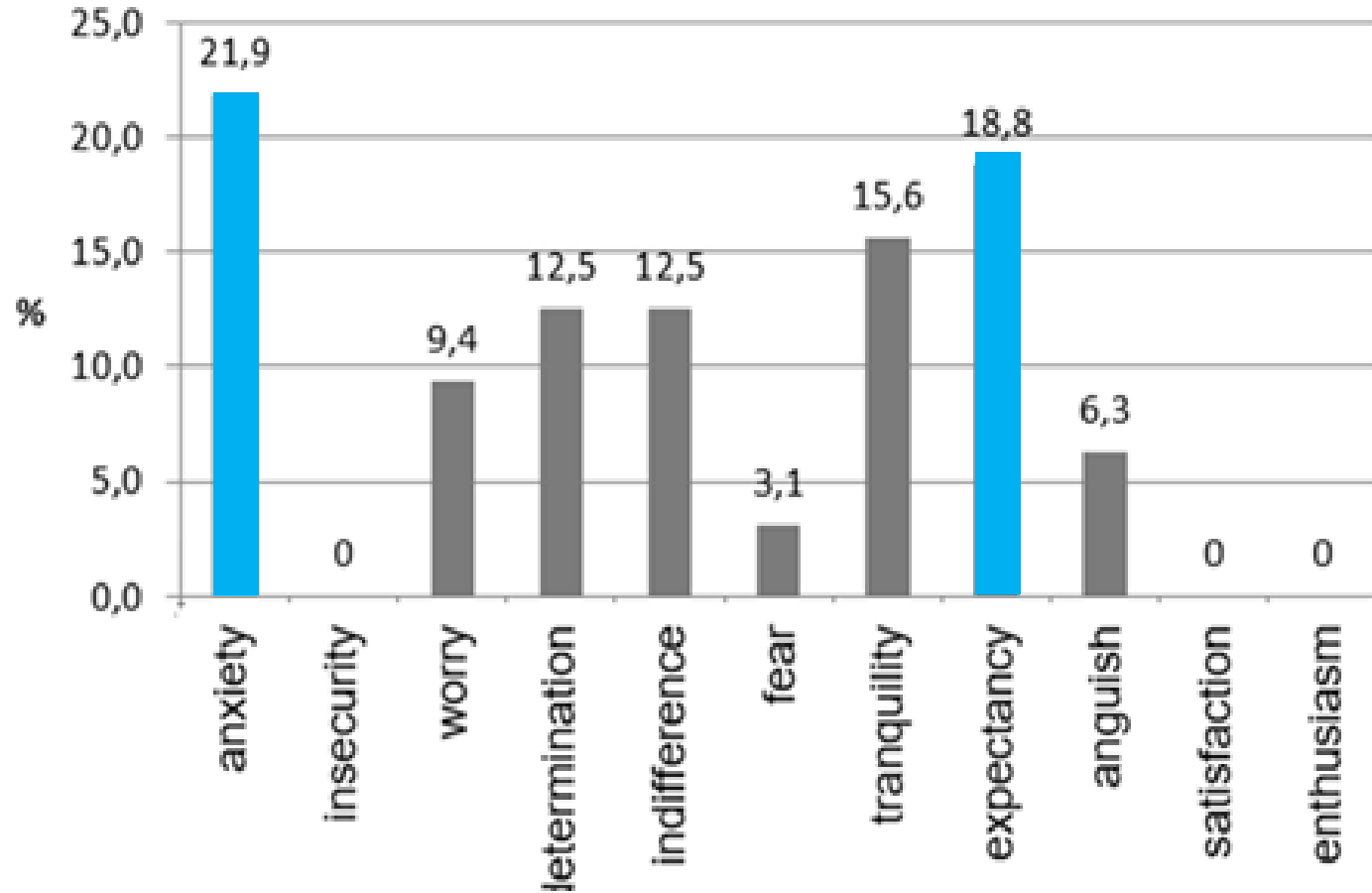


T – teacher
I – inspector





The relationship between teachers and inspectors



Graph 4: Feelings experienced by teachers during an inspection visit





The relationship between teachers and inspectors

2 | 2

“ We never know if they come to collaborate and help or if they come to criticize (T5)

“ I feel that some teachers want our help and support but this is not our job. (...) teachers must know where they stand. Expectations should be limited to what is asked (I2)

“ “ The function of inspection haven't always a collaborative character (T3)

“ I feel that the teachers hope that we help them but we can't work with their expectations, we have to carry out our work (I1)

“ When we find that some teacher is stressed with our presence we try to clarify what we are going to do in order to make him feel more comfortable (I3)

T – teacher



I - inspector



Conclusions

1

Teachers' representations about inspection activity are closer to the control.

2

Inspectors refer that their interventions are based on a very rigorous way, with limits of action well defined made by central administration, so they can't respond to all the teachers demands.

3

Legitimize the characterization of school inspection performance made by the teachers: so harsh and distant, generating feelings of apprehension, anguish, and concern.





THANK YOU

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