

Stanislav Michek, Milan Pol, Martin Chval  
Czech Republic

## Peer Review in School Self-evaluation: Cultivating Skills in Data Use

### Abstract

This paper is focused on peer review used by schools as a potential means of support for mutual learning and the development of staff professionalism. It is based on empirical material obtained from *The Road to Quality Improvement*<sup>1</sup>, a Czech national project designed to support self-evaluation in schools. Data from 32 schools were collected by questionnaire surveys, interviews, focus groups and document analysis. Main findings are as follows: (1) a prerequisite for successful peer review is previous experience of evaluation activities and work with data; (2) peer review develops participants' sensitivity in terms of the need for the development of evaluation skills; (3) evaluation activities and work with data develop participants' professionalism and their potential to contribute to school development.

**Keywords:** *peer review, work with data, evaluation activities, professionalization, school development*

### 1. Introduction

The changing requirements for schools and their work accentuate new or, in some instances, repeated questions of quality and effectiveness of the work of schools, their development and their multilateral accountability. The combination of outer pressure on schools and support of schools' efforts to improve their work

<sup>1</sup> Cf. <http://www.nuov.cz/ae?lchan=1&lred=1>