

Austria - internal evaluation

QMS is the new quality management system for all Austrian schools, encompasses both general and vocational education and training, and further it comprises both internal (self-) and external evaluation.

QMS is based on the principle of the quality cycle (which is the same as the EQAVET quality cycle, both based on Demings' PDCA). Thus, internal evaluation is an integral part of the QMS. The QMS offers to schools a range of evaluation methods and instruments via an evaluation platform. All of these instruments are in line with the quality framework for schools (QF), which is obligatory for all Austrian schools.

Evaluation is an integral part of quality assurance and quality development at organisational level. School projects and school processes are evaluated regularly. The evaluation activity and results are documented in the school development plan and in the Q-Manual (Q-Handbuch) which is under construction.

Naturally, feedback plays a major role too. Teachers, school leaders, and school staff are expected to ask for feedback regularly. The QMS also provides an abundance of feedback methods and instruments for school staff.

To get an overview of their own position in relation to the quality framework, schools should use a specially designed instrument – the internal self-assessment tool (siQE: <https://siqe.qms.at/>), which is not an evaluation instrument per se but more of a common tool for headteachers and teachers which can be used to reflect systematically on school quality according to the dimensions of the quality framework.