Overview

The following table provides an overview of external and internal quality assurance (QA) measures that are used in the different education areas in Austria and which are explained in the following chapters. Below the table, the main legal bases of QA are listed.

Fig. 1: Overview of external and internal QA measures and processes in Austria by education areas.

Concerning Primary and Secondary Level the Education Reform Act 2017 [1] stipulates to develop a uniform QM system for all types of schools in Austria. The law provides for an implementation of the common QM at the beginning of the school year 2020/21. The QM systems SQA and QIBB remain valid during the transition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education area</th>
<th>External QA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education and Care</td>
<td>• Inspections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 'Education framework plan' [2]'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 'New teacher training' [3]'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Different measures and processes: continuing and further education and training for employees, coaching, quality circles, research &amp; development, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary and Secondary Level</th>
<th>Internal QA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>• School inspections [4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National educational standards [5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Standardised, competence-oriented matriculation (and diploma) examination [6] (Reifeprüfung / Reife- und Diplomprüfung)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• New teacher training [7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National report on education [8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education sector</td>
<td>• Quality management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VET schools and colleges</td>
<td>• School Quality in General Education (SQA) initiative [9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• SQA online [10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• VET Quality Initiative (QIBB) – peer reviews</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Competence-oriented teaching at VET schools and colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• VET Quality Initiative (QIBB) [11]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dual VET

- Assessment procedures for training companies
- Safeguarding the quality of VET trainers
- Safeguarding the quality of the apprenticeship-leave examination: Clearing office
- Safeguarding the training quality at schools and colleges
- Quality Management in Apprenticeship (QML) initiative
- Report on the situation of youth employment and apprenticeship training submitted to the National Parliamentary Council

- Control by actors of the governance structure
- In-house measures depending on the type and organisation of the company-specific quality assurance

Education area | External QA | Internal QA
--- | --- | ---
Tertiary Level

- **Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria** [12] (AQ Austria) responsible for the entire higher education sector (with the exception of university colleges of teacher education), based on the Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education [13] (HS-QSG)
- Audits carried out on the quality management systems of universities [14] and universities of applied sciences [15] (Fachhochschulen)
- Accreditations of educational establishments and study courses (private universities [16] and universities of applied sciences [15])
- Quality assurance council for teacher training [17] (QSR) (as part of the new teacher training scheme [18])

- Regulated by the Universities Act [19], Universities of Applied Sciences Studies Act [20], Private Universities Act [21], Teacher Education Act 2005 [22]
- Concrete design within the autonomy of HE establishment
- and Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education [13]

Adult education

- Ö-CERT - Quality framework for the adult education sector in Austria
- Training and further training programmes at the competence centre for adult learning - the Federal Institute for Adult Learning [23] (BIFEB)
- Certification and recognition of competences of adult educators by the Academy of Continuing Education [24] (WBA)
- Specification of quality guidelines by the Adult Education Initiative [25]

- Various QA processes depending on the provider (such as EduQua, EFQM, different ISO standard procedures, etc.)

Legal bases

Aspects of quality assurance in the different education areas are regulated in the following legal bases in Austria:

### Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

The tasks and responsibilities in the Austrian ECEC sector rest with the provinces. The respective childcare laws of the provinces set forth a general obligation to take quality-assuring measures.
Individual aspects of childcare which contribute to care quality are also regulated in provincial laws, such as the staff-child ratio, group sizes, the extent of further training for care personnel, and the equipment and facilities of care institutions.

**Primary and Secondary Level**

Quality assurance and development in the school sector is mainly enshrined in the following three laws:

- The *Federal Constitutional Act* [26] as amended with *Federal Law Gazette I no. 31/2005* [27] of 9 June 2005 – Art. 14 (5a) explicitly obliges Austrian schools to safeguard “an as high as possible educational level while continually assuring and developing the best possible quality”.
- The *Federal School Inspection Act* [28] as amended with *Federal Law Gazette I no. 28/2011* [29] of 20 May 2011, § 18 stipulates that quality management be set up which comprises all levels of school administration and the schools and also includes school inspections. According to the Act, as one major part of this quality management procedure, a national Quality framework must be drawn up and based on academic criteria.
- The *School Education Act* [30], as amended with *Federal Law Gazette I no. 29/2011* [31] of 20 May 2011, § 56 (2) sets forth, among other issues, the responsibilities of school principals, whose tasks include the quality management at schools.
- The *2017 Education Reform Act* [1] defines a comprehensive framework on school quality and introduces a *new system of school inspection and school evaluation*. The Federal Ministry and the *boards of education* [32] cooperate closely in the new governance model for the education system since 2019. The *Federal School Inspection Act* [33] has been replaced by the *Boards of Education Establishment Act*. [34]

The legal requirements about quality management that are set forth in the *Federal School Inspection Act* [33] and the *School Education Act* [35] are implemented in the general education sector by the *School Quality in General Education initiative (SQA)* [36] and in the vocational sector by the *VET Quality Initiative (QIBB)* [37].

The *Education Reform Act 2017* [1] stipulates to develop a uniform QM system for all types of schools in Austria. The law provides for an implementation of the common QM at the beginning of the school year 2020/21. The QM systems SQA and QIBB remain valid during the transition.

The *School Education Act* [35] legally enshrines *national educational standards* [38] and standardised competence-oriented *matriculation (and diploma) examinations* [39].

‘New teacher training’ [40] is legally regulated in the *2005 Act on Organisation of University Colleges of Teacher Education* [41], the *2002 Universities Act* [42] and the *Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education* [43]. The major legal bases for quality assurance in the apprenticeship training system are laid down in the *Vocational Training Act* [44].

**Tertiary Level**

The laws which are relevant for quality assurance in tertiary education are the *Universities Act* [19], the *Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education* [13], the *2005 Higher Education Act* [22] and the *Federal Act on Private Universities* [21].

**Adult Education**

An agreement concluded between the Federal Government and the provinces forms the legal basis of
the Quality framework for the adult education sector in Austria (Ö-CERT).

The **Federal Institute for Adult Education** [23] (BIFEB) is a service of the **Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research** [45] based on the **Federal Act on the Promotion of Adult Education and Public Libraries from Federal Funds** [46].

The **Adult Education Initiative** [25] is based on an agreement concluded between the Federal Government and the **provinces** [47] on the funding of basic education/basic skills programmes for adults and of programmes for adults to resume and complete compulsory schooling, therefore the initiative is a uniform funding scheme throughout Austria.

**Source URL:** https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/quality-assurance-1_pt-pt

**Links**
[1] https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/legislation-1_en#legB14a
[9] https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/quality-assurance-early-childhood-and-school-education-1_en#11_1_2_6_2_1
[12] https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/institutions-1_en#instH2