



Swiss Association  
for Quality and Management  
Systems (SQS)

## Media release

# SQS celebrates IQNET Day!

*IQNET's partners cover more than 360,000 management system certificates. This makes it the most important network of conformity assessment bodies in the world. SQS is the exclusive partner of IQNET in Switzerland - and one of the organisations that founded IQNET on 11 November 1990. Happy Birthday!*

Bern, 11 November – The Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems (SQS) was founded in 1983 as one of the world's first conformity assessment bodies (CABs) for quality assurance and later for quality management systems. As part of this pioneering role, SQS, together with six other partners, founded the International Certification Network (IQNET) on 11 November 1990. IQNET now has 36 CABs as partners, with 400 offices, 55,000 employees and over 360,000 valid certificates for management systems. Every year on 11 November, we celebrate IQNET Day, the union of the world's leading CABs!

SQS is the exclusive IQNET partner in Switzerland. IQNET partners are selected through a rigorous qualification process. A best practice assessment model supports their continuous improvement and consistent customer focus. IQNET is committed to complying with the relevant international auditing and certification standards, which is why IQNET certificates enjoy a high level of credibility worldwide.

### *Development, approach and activities*

In the early 1990s, the network consisted only of European CABs. Its aim was to achieve a high level of international market relevance and recognition through cooperation and competence. The members were required to use the same or comparable procedures, which would allow mutual recognition of audit results and thus wide acceptance of the certificates.

IQNET's approach was - and still is - that of self-regulation. The CABs that are members of IQNET check themselves regularly by means of peer assessments. IQNET runs a further education program to ensure that its members meet the requirements. It has also developed a best practice assessment model and a maturity rating. In addition to the compliance criteria, this also serves to check and measure the entrepreneurial components of the certification bodies, to promote them in a targeted manner by means of benchmarks. Thus, ensuring the benefits of the IQNET system.

SQS played a key role in the institutionalisation and business-oriented development of IQNET. For three years from 1997, it financed the position of the first Secretary General, who had previously been Managing Director of SQS, and ensured that the IQNET association, founded in 2000, was based in Bern.

### *Knowledgeable: Rich in expertise and experience*

IQNET and its partners have a wealth of expertise and experience that they put to work for you and all those who rely on IQNET. For more information, please visit our official IQNET Day 2024 website: <https://www.iqnet-certification.com/en/iqnet-day-2024>

