

QA/SAC Switzerland – Activities and Achievements

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The GAW Quality Assurance/Scientific Activity Centre (QA/SAC Switzerland) was established at Empa in 2000. It is co-funded by MeteoSwiss and Empa, and closely linked to the World Calibration Centre (WCC-Empa) for surface ozone, carbon monoxide, methane and carbon dioxide. QA/SAC Switzerland mainly supports measurements of the same gases but with much wider scope, providing worldwide technical and scientific support.

This paper will give a comprehensive overview of the main tasks of QA/SAC Switzerland, which are

- training, twinning, and capacity building, i.e. technical support of GAW stations, advice for adequate instrument selection, instrument operation and calibration strategies, assistance with data quality and data submission issues, and regular teaching activities within GAWTEC;
- research activities promoting technical progress and scientific data analysis, e.g. evaluation of novel measurement techniques, assessment of their applicability for long-term monitoring purposes, dissemination of know-how to the GAW community through publications and presentations, and supporting GAW investigators in data exploitation and publications;
- contribution to GAW outreach, e.g. by being actively involved in writing GAW reports, in particular measurement guidelines and standard operation procedures, as well as contributing GAW results to other reports and publications;
- networking / cooperation with other programmes / projects in line with the GAW strategy, e.g. by sharing expert knowledge to establish close links to GAW, to foster synergies between GAW and other programmes, projects and initiatives, and to ensure accordance with GAW measurement guidelines.