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## **Abstract**

This article considers the overall success of the quality movement in the context of questions about the political status and role of quality assurance agencies. These agencies have gained a significant degree of legitimacy and respect among major stakeholders but the political reality is that their long-term sustainability depends on whether policy makers remain committed to quality assurance as an oversight mechanism for higher education. Agencies can address this vulnerability and continue to serve the public interest by drawing on their current strengths, including effective operations and networks for international collaboration. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)