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**Abstract**

Considerable funding is invested in international cooperation projects in higher education by national donors and the European Commission. This paper is addressed to practitioners and donor organizations interested in project quality assurance in international cooperation projects in higher education. Most principles and tools can, however, easily be used in other contexts as well. It gives an introduction to what constitutes quality assurance (QA) in such projects and explains why it is important to consciously include QA from the onset of the project. It aims to broaden a typically narrow understanding of QA by differentiating the four functions ? planning support, advice, facilitation and control ? that it should ideally serve. It describes which qualifications a quality assurance partner should ideally have in order to maximally contribute to effective and productive project management. Lastly, the paper provides an overview of QA instruments that can deliver a real added value to any international project and shows how each of them relates to the four functions of QA. This paper argues that having a competent QA partner can significantly improve the delivery of

**11.9.2025**

the desired results and their sustainability once a project has ended. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)