# **HRK** Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

Die Stimme der Hochschulen

#### 04.7.2025

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**Title** 

Recent trends in quality assurance / Alberto Amaral and Maria Joao Rosa

## **Publication year**

2010

## Source/Footnote

In: Quality in higher education. - 16 (2010) 1, S. 59 - 61

## **Inventory number**

28168

## **Keywords**

Qualitätssicherung ; Akkreditierung ; Bologna-Prozess ; Ausland : Europa : Hochschulwesen allgemein

#### **Abstract**

In this paper we present a brief description of the evolution of quality assurance in Europe, paying particular attention to its relationship to the rising loss of trust in higher education institutions. We finalise by analysing the role of the European Commission in the setting up of new quality assurance mechanisms that tend to promote accreditation and stratification rather than quality enhancement. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)