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**Title**

Assessing the organisational impact of external quality assurance : hypothesing key dimensions and mechanisms / Bjorn Stensaker and Theodor Leiber

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**Abstract**

The aim of the article is to provide a framework in which the organisational impact of external quality assurance (EQA) can be assessed. Based on existing studies of the impact of EQA in universities and colleges it is suggested that greater systematisation of how impact is measured is needed for a better understanding of how EQA can be used as a policy instrument. The article identifies key dimensions with respect to the categorisation of organisational impact of EQA. It discusses the possible links between different types and forms of EQA and their relation to organisational change and development. It also provides some reflections on elements of hypothetical mechanisms for organisational impact of EQA. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)