

25.7.2024

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**Title**

Quality assurance in doctoral education : what are the issues? / Thomas Jorgensen ; Francesca Maltauro

**Publication year**

2016

**Source/Footnote**

In: Journal of the European higher education area. - 6 (2016) 4, S. 83 - 97

**Inventory number**

44727

**Keywords**

Qualitätssicherung ; Promotion : allgemein ; Wissenschaftlicher Nachwuchs : allgemein ; Bologna-Prozess

**Abstract**

During the last 10 to 15 years, universities have changed their approach to doctoral education by establishing doctoral schools to give institutional support and imbed activities in institutional strategies. This development has also brought about structured internal quality assurance systems within universities. At the same time, national quality systems focused particularly on doctoral education have emerged, giving institutions a common framework. Funding agencies have also been active in promoting better management through the external funding of doctoral programmes. This article gives an overview and examples of these three elements: internal quality assurance, national frameworks and the role of external funding. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)