

External Experts for Quality assurance in European projects

1 Introduction

In Erasmus+ and other European programmes, it is either mandatory or strongly recommended to include an external expert for quality assurance into your proposal. Also your chances to be successful can increase when clearly outlining in your proposal, how you want to ensure quality through external monitoring. It is not enough today to only assign quality control to one of the partners. Also if you already have successfully passed the selection process, you will need to identify an external expert that ensures from a neutral and objective perspective that the goals of the project are achieved.

This is why you may consider to use the services of the GII.

2 How the GII can help you

The GII offers external experts to assure the quality of your European projects. We offer three types of services:

1. **Quality and outcome assessment for the final report:** this service is ordered by clients who only wish to receive a final assessment of the results of the project related to the original aims for the final report.
2. **Quality and outcome assessment for the interim and final report including recommendations for the second project phase:** this service is ordered by clients who wish to receive the same service as in the first case but also want to already have an interim assessment in order to be able to improve in the second phase of the project.
3. **Continuous QA monitoring including interim and final assessment and recommendations:** This is ordered by clients who want to not only receive a final assessment of the project quality but also aim to ensure throughout the entire duration of the project that the goal achievement is assured and deviations are revealed to be dealt with.

In all three cases, we apply two instruments for quality assurance:

- A. **General requirements:** We apply a monitoring and evaluation scheme that ensures that you fulfil all the basic requirements set by the European Commission as regard to the specific programme for which you apply or in which you already received a confirmation for your proposal. As methodology for evaluations, we deploy the OECD-based 5 DAC (Development for Assistance and Cooperation) criteria model based on 5 indicators: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability and Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) approach.
- B. **Project-specific goals:** we also carefully analyse all goals and deliverables that you promise in your project (e.g. in your logical framework). For service 1, we can only provide an ex-post analysis. For service 2, we will provide an assessment of the status quo at the time of the interim report and suggestions for changes in order to ensure the achievement of goals and deliverables for the final report. For the final report, we will then assess the project-specific outcomes and the reactions towards our interim report recommendations and the consequences of these reactions. For service 3, we set up a monitoring scheme indicator-based (qualitative and/or quantitative) scheme in the very beginning of the project that will not only control whether you achieve the different goals and deliverables but rather allows

for a constant progress control and – if necessary – adjustments to the procedures. In this way, you do not run the risk of realising at the end of a project that you did not achieve all that was promised without a chance of improvement. Our continuous monitoring ensures that you can achieve the goals and deliverables as long as you act according to the recommendations made. This part of our external QA service is 100% tailor-made to each individual project.

3 USPs of the GII

The main USPs are:

1. The various of the GII members have global reputation in the field of internationalisation and impact.
2. The GII combines practical, consulting and academic competence.
3. The team members involved with external QA expertise have long-standing experience with E+ projects.

4 Costs of the external QA expertise

The costs depend on the type of service required and the specific conditions of the individual request:

Type of service
Service 1: Quality and outcome assessment for the final report
Service 2: Quality and outcome assessment for the interim and final report including recommendations for the second project phase
Service 3: Continuous QA monitoring including interim and final assessment and recommendations

The costs are invoiced in the following way:

Service 1 is invoiced in two instalments: 50% are invoiced with the signature of the contract and 50% are invoiced with the delivery of the assessment. Service 2 is invoiced in three instalments: 40% are invoiced with the signature of the contract. Another 30% are invoiced with the delivery of the interim report assessment and the final 30% are invoiced with the delivery of the final report assessment. Service 3 is invoiced in equal annual instalments depending on the length of the project with the first instalment due with the signature of the contract and the last instalment invoiced with the delivery of the final report assessment.

Travel that is considered necessary for the performing of monitoring and evaluation activities are to be covered by the client in addition to the staff costs.

VAT is only charged if the client is based in the Czech Republic. For European clients, we apply the reverse charge mechanism. For international non-EU clients, the usual international conditions apply.

For further information regarding our prices and services please contact the Managing Director, Dr. Uwe Brandenburg at uwe.brandenburg@globalimpactinstitute.eu.

5 Introduction to the main individual members of the GII for external QA expertise

The Managing Director: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Uwe Brandenburg



Uwe Brandenburg holds a PhD from Bristol University. He is the director of the Global Impact Institute as of July 1st 2017 and Associate Professor for Regional Cooperation and Impact of Higher Education at the Universitat Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona, Spain. Previously, he was a managing partner at CHE Consult Berlin and CHE Consult Prague (2013-2017), worked as a project manager at CHE Consult and CHE (2006-2012) and headed the International Office at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for (1997-2005) and the International office at the Technical University in Cottbus, Germany (1994-1997). Uwe was the head author and team leader for various major studies on impact and assessment such as the Erasmus Impact Study (2013-14) and the follow-up EIS Regional Analysis (2016) the European Voluntary Service Impact Study (2016-17), the InHoPe Project - funded by the German BMBF on internationalisation of administrative staff (2014-17), the IMPI project (Indicators for Mapping and Profiling Internationalisation) (2009-12), and also lead a number of advisory projects in the fields of mobility, internationalisation, controlling, strategy development, organisation development, diversity management, benchmarking, and quality control (EMQT, IMS2020, various Tempus projects).

Uwe has published widely on financing models for studying abroad, international education systems, foreign marketing, internationalisation, EU projects regarding benchmarking, internationalisation, and Change Management at European universities. He is specialising in effect measurement in general and in effects of mobility in particular. Uwe was an elected member of the General Council of the European Association for International Educators (EAIE) and currently serves as an elected member of the Convocation Court of the University of Bristol. He was a core expert to the IAU (International Association of Universities) and to the Ad Hoc expert group on internationalisation. Uwe has more than 20 years professional experience in internationalisation and project leadership. He holds a British Masters' Degree in Political Science and a German Masters' Degree in Islamic Studies (Arabic and Turkish). Besides English - native speaker level - he is also fluent in Spanish as well as French and speaks Arabic and Czech.

Senior Advisor and Expert for Applications and Evaluations: Carlos Machado



Dr Carlos Machado has participated since 1998 in EU funded projects related to modernization of higher education, capacity building and development and research. His research background lies in the field of social policies with participation in two FP frameworks and more particularly in social inclusion through new technologies. He has written over 20 articles and publications within this sphere. He graduated in Political Sciences and International Relations at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Thereafter, he obtained a Master degree in Science, Society and Technology by University of East London. He was also awarded with a Master degree in Management and an MBA by Solvay Management School in Brussels together with a PhD degree in Social Sciences by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He has extensive experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation. He has received Bolashak scholarships to teach in Kazakhstan, Likewise he has coordinated international projects and prepared numerous proposals for institutions like Georg-August Göttingen Universität, Universidad Santiago de Compostela, VUB among many others. He has participated as individual expert for different initiatives of EuropeAid and the European Commission. He frequently conducts monitorings, evaluations and impact analysis related to higher education across the globe.