The quality criteria used in our study is shown below:

QA1. Is there a definition of DevOps in the paper?

- Yes (+1). The definition provided is clear and precise.
- Partly (+0.5). The definition provided is informal and /or not clearly expressed.
- No (+0). No definition is provided.

QA2. Does the paper describe any DevOps practices implemented in a GSD/DSD setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper describes some practices implemented in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper describes a DevOps practice without mention the setting. However, that practice would be useful for GSD/DSD settings.
- No (+0). No practice is mentioned.

QA3. Does the paper explain the goals of adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper clearly explains the goals of adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper explains the goals of adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting briefly or indirectly, without providing details.
- No (+0). No explanation is provided.

QA4. Does the paper describe the benefits obtained as a result of adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper clearly explains the benefits obtained as a result of adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper indirectly explains the benefits obtained as a result of adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting, without providing details.
- No (+0). No explanation is provided.

QA5. Does the paper mention the challenges confronted when adopting DevOps in a Distributed setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper clearly explains the challenges confronted when adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper indirectly mentions the challenges confronted when adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting, without providing details.
- No (+0). No mention is made.

QA6. Does the paper describe a tool that is employed to enable DevOps to be used in a GSD/DSD setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper explains the usage of one or several tools that allow(s) DevOps to be adopted in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper mentions the usage of one or several tools that allow DevOps to be adopted in a GSD/DSD setting, without providing details.
- No (+0). No mention is made.

QA7. Does the paper include any evaluation criteria or metrics with which to evaluate the DevOps practices adopted in a GSD/DSD setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper clearly explains the metrics or evaluation criteria used to evaluate the DevOps practices adopted in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper proposes evaluation criteria or metrics with which to evaluate the DevOps practices adopted in a GSD/DSD setting, without using them.

• No (+0). No mention is made of evaluation criteria or metrics.

QA8. Does the paper address a case study or experiences related to adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting?

- Yes (+1). The paper describes a case study or experiences related to adopting DevOps in a GSD/DSD setting.
- Partly (+0.5). The paper does not include a case study or experiences related to adopting DevOps but proposes a way of doing so in a GSD setting.
- No (+0). Neither a case study nor an experience is provided, and there is no proposal.

Table B1 the results obtained from this process. Each of the columns lists the quality criteria fulfilled and eventually agreed upon by all the authors (Y = Yes (+1); P = Partly (+0.5); N = No (+0)).

| References | Quality assessments | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | QA1 | QA2 | QA3 | QA4 | QA5 | QA6 | QA7 | QA8 | Score |
| [36] | P | P | N | Y | Y | P | N | Y | 4.5 |
| [16] | P | Y | P | Y | Y | N | N | Y | 5 |
| [14] | N | Y | N | P | P | N | N | Y | 3 |
| [46] | N | Y | N | P | Y | N | N | Y | 3.5 |
| [41] | N | P | N | P | P | N | N | N | 1.5 |
| [56] | N | Y | N | Y | Y | N | N | Y | 4 |
| [8] | N | Y | N | P | P | Y | N | Y | 4 |
| [28] | N | Y | P | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 5.5 |
| [20] | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 7 |
| [11] | Y | P | N | P | P | N | N | P | 3 |
| [40] | Y | P | P | P | Y | N | N | Y | 4.5 |
| [48] | N | Y | P | P | P | P | N | Y | 4 |
| [58] | P | P | P | N | P | N | P | N | 2.5 |
| [72] | N | Y | P | P | P | P | N | Y | 4 |
| [70] | N | Y | N | N | P | N | N | P | 2 |
| [81] | N | Y | N | N | P | P | Y | P | 3.5 |
| [67] | N | Y | N | N | P | Y | N | N | 2.5 |
| [31] | P | P | P | N | N | Y | N | N | 2.5 |
| [3] | N | Y | N | P | P | N | N | N | 2 |
| [73] | Y | P | Y | N | Y | N | N | P | 4 |
| [51] | Y | N | P | P | N | N | P | P | 3 |
| [24] | Y | Y | Y | P | P | N | N | N | 4 |
| [19] | Y | N | N | P | P | Y | N | P | 3.5 |
| [9] | N | Y | Y | Y | P | P | Y | Y | 6 |
| [22] | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 8 |
| [37] | Y | Y | N | P | N | N | N | N | 2.5 |
| [5] | Y | P | N | Y | N | N | N | N | 2.5 |

TABLE B1. Quality assessments