

# U-Multirank

## The Implementation of a Multidimensional International Ranking

### *Where are we, Where are we going?*

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# Agenda

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- *Why another ranking?*
- **Basic facts about U-Multirank**
- **The benefits of U-Multirank**
- **Activities and next steps**

# Why another ranking?

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## Rankings are here to stay

- They receive high public attention
- They have impacts on HEIs (obsession about “world class universities”)
- They have political impacts (e.g. on excellence initiatives, mergers, immigration policies; see EUA report)

## But so far there are no rankings that really help HE

- The current rankings have serious flaws and problems
- They nevertheless appear to trigger policy initiatives disregarding these problems

# What are the problems of the existing rankings?

- Composite indicators reflect preferences of ranking producers
- Research orientation remains intransparent

Are not oriented to needs of stakeholders

Focus on a small segment of HE

- Majority of HEIs neglected, diversity not represented
- League tables exaggerate differences

Do not support institutional quality management

- No links to quality management
- No relevant questions generated for quality assurance

Another ranking is needed

Methodologically easy (and cheap)

- Limited dimensions
- Focus on easily measurable data (e.g. reputation, bibliometrics)
- Low investment in data quality

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# What are the distinctive features of U-Multirank?

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- **Multidimensional ranking - Going beyond the traditional focus on research excellence**
  - Five dimensions: teaching & learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation, regional engagement
  - No composite indicators, no pre-defined weights on individual indicators, single ranking for each indicator
  - Validity, reliability, feasibility of each indicator
- **User-driven ranking**
  - Personalised ranking allows users to rank by their own preferences and priorities on dimensions and indicators (“democratised” approach)
  - Flexible web tool

# What are the distinctive features of U-Multirank?

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- **Comparing like with like**

- Link to mapping indicators allowing identification of institutions with similar institutional profiles

- **Multi-level ranking**

- Combining institutional ranking (whole institutions) and field-based rankings (start with: electrical and mechanical engineering, business studies, physics)

- **Stakeholder-oriented processes**

- Intensive inclusion of stakeholders in development and continuous refinement of U-Multirank

# Is this still a ranking?

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- EUA-report 2013: This is something very different
  - but it is still a vertical order
- We keep the ranking terminology to question the traditional rankings explicitly
- Communication will make the difference clear



# With this approach U-Multirank will create multi-dimensional performance profiles

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## Teaching and Learning

	Institutional ranking	Field-based ranking
• Student-staff-ratio		●
• Graduation rate (BA and - separately - MA)	●	●
• Percentage of academic staff with PhD		●
• Percentage of students graduating within normative period (BA and –separately - MA)	●	●
• Rate of graduate employment	●	●
• Inclusion of work experience in degree programme		●

With this approach U-Multirank will create multi-dimensional performance profiles

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## Teaching and Learning – Student Satisfaction Indicators

	Institutional ranking	Field-based ranking
● Overall learning experience		●
● Quality of courses & teaching		●
● Organisation of the programme		●
● Contact to teachers		●
● Social climate		●
● Facilities (libraries, laboratories, rooms, IT)		●
● Research orientation of teaching /programme		●
● Inclusion of work experience /practical elements		●

# With this approach U-Multirank will create multi-dimensional performance profiles

## Research

	Institutional ranking	Field-based ranking
• External research income (per fte academic staff)	●	●
• Doctorate productivity		●
• Total research publication output (per fte academic staff)*	●	●
• Art related output	●	
• Field-normalised citation rate*	●	●
• Highly cited research publications *	●	●
• Interdisciplinary research publications*	●	●
• Research orientation of teaching (student survey)		●
• Number of post-doc positions	●	

# With this approach U-Multirank will create multi-dimensional performance profiles

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## Knowledge Transfer

	Institutional ranking	Field-based ranking
• Income from private sources (service contracts, consultancies, licenses, royalties, trials, etc.)	●	●
• Joint research publications with industry*	●	●
• Patents (per fte academic staff)	●	●
• Co-patents with industry (per fte academic staff)	●	●
• Number of spin-offs (average over three year period)	●	
• Patent citations to research publications*	●	●
• Revenues from Continuous Professional Development	●	

# With this approach U-Multirank will create multi-dimensional performance profiles

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## International Orientation

	Institutional ranking	Field-based ranking
• Educational programmes (BA/MA) in foreign language	●	
• International orientation of degree programmes		●
• Opportunities to study abroad (student survey)		●
• Student mobility (composite of incoming, outgoing, joint degree students)	●	●
• Percentage of international academic staff	●	●
• Percentage of PhDs awarded to foreign students	●	●
• International joint research publications*	●	●
• International research grants		●

# With this approach U-Multirank will create multi-dimensional performance profiles

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## Regional Engagement

	Institutional ranking	Field-based ranking
• Percentage of graduates working in the region	●	●
• Student internships in regional enterprises	●	●
• Degree theses in cooperation with regional industry		●
• Regional joint research publications*	●	●
• Income from regional sources	●	●

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# U-Multirank provides specific benefits to participating institutions

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## Basic benefits

- Visibility of institutions with different profiles
- Visibility of specific profiles: tool to look for “similar” institutions
- Comparison of performance with like
- Allows analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses (SWOT), evidence-based discussions, at institutional and field levels

## Additional analysis of own data

- Compared with the total sample
- Institutional & field-based data
- Detailed analysis of student survey

## Support for benchmarking processes

- Either for networks or organisations
- Multi-level: institutional and fields
- Option: Protected area on website



# What does participation ask from universities?

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## **We asked for participation in data collection**

- Institutional data – including profile indicators
- Field-based data
- Student survey

## **In addition we use publicly available data from other sources**

- Bibliometric data / indicators
- Patent data

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# The first ranking: 2014

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- First rankings go online in Spring, 2014
- Institutional rankings
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- Rankings for four academic fields
  - Mechanical engineering
  - Electrical engineering/information technology
  - Business/management
  - Physics
- Coverage: around 500 institutions

# The first ranking: 2014

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- Rankings your way
- Ready-made rankings
  - Academic research ranking of PhD awarding institutions
  - Knowledge transfer and regional engagement ranking of Bachelor/Master degrees awarding institutions, active in three specific disciplinary fields.
  - Teaching & learning and international orientation ranking of institutions offering Master degrees in business studies

# Plans for future extension of U-Multirank: the scope of fields

Project phase 1		Project phase 2		Post project phase
2014	2015	2016 I	2017 II	2018 III
Business	Computer Science /IT	Sciences	Social sciences	Engineering & technology
Mechanical engineering	Sociology	Mathematics	Business	Civil engineering
Electrical Engineering	Psychology	Phycis	Sociology	Mechanical engineering
Phycis	Music	Chemistry	Political Science	Electrical Engineering
	Social Work	Biology	Law	Process Engineering
			Services	Computer Science /IT
		Health/life sciences	Education / welfare	Arts & humanities
		Medicine	Education	Music
		Psychology	Social Work	History
		Nursing		Linguistics (Languages)
				Geography

red - "high attention fields"

# What will be the next steps?

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## Pre-registration for U-Multirank 2015 is open

- Institutions which have already registered for 2014 do **not** have to re-register for 2015
- The fields then will probably be
  - Computer Science,
  - Psychology,
  - Sociology/Social Sciences and
  - Music

# Information / Contact

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- Information about U-Multirank  
[www.u-multirank.eu](http://www.u-multirank.eu)

- Final report of the feasibility study

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc/multirank\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc/multirank_en.pdf)

Extended version in: Van Vught, F. & F. Ziegele (Eds.) (2012). *Multidimensional Ranking: The Design and Development of U-Multirank*. Dordrecht etc.: Springer.

- Contact/Expression of interest in participation (2015)  
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