

Quality assurance, ranking and classifications: Where are we going?

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Session 4 – Governance and quality/performance of HE

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Taking the information function seriously...

- Most external quality assessment / accreditation gives crude information
 - ◆ Only basic ('threshold') quality
 - ◆ Only few summary statements
 - Accreditation: yes/no, as a whole

- What do (prospective) students want to know?



Taking the information function seriously...

- Rankings, 2 types:
 - ◆ Worldwide rankings of universities
 - ◆ National information systems about study programmes

Worldwide rankings

- Some examples
 - ◆ Shanghai Jiao Tong ranking
 - ◆ Times Higher Education
 - ◆ Leiden rankings
 - ◆ Webometrics

Ranking Web of World Universities

home world countries world rank rank by country european rank latin america

home > top 6000

Rank Data

About Us

About the Ranking

Top 6000 Universities

Premier League

Top USA & Canada

Top Latin America

Top Europe

Top Eastern Europe

Top Asia

Top South East Asia

Top South Asia

Top Arab World

Top Oceania

Top Africa










Distribution by Country

Best Practices

Notes

Top 6000 Universities

First | Previous | Next | Last | Universi

	WORLD RANK	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	SIZE	VISIBILITY	POS
1		Massachusetts Institute of Technology		1	3	
2		Stanford University		2	2	
3		Harvard University ***		3	1	
4		University of California Berkeley		6	4	
5		Cornell University		4	5	
6		University of Michigan		10	6	
7		California Institute of Technology ***		8	8	
8		University of Minnesota		9	16	
9		University of Illinois Urbana Champaign *		14	10	
10		University of Texas Austin		11	9	

How to rank – and how not

An example of a widely accepted ranking

Tabelle

Pl. ▲	Verein	Sp.	g.	u.	v.	Tore	Diff.	Pkte.
1	▶ KR	10	8	2	0	26:9	17	26
2	▶ RS	10	7	2	1	21:11	10	23
3	▶ FC	10	6	2	2	21:9	12	20
4		10	5	4	1	15:11		19
5	▶ Sta	10	5	2	3	16		17
6	▶ KVC Westerlo	10						17
7	▶ Germinal Beerschot	10						15
8	▶ KAA Gent	10						15
9	▶ Excelsior Mouscron	10						14
10	▶ KSV Roeselare	10						12
11	▶ FC Molenbeek Brussels	10	3	3	4	11:12	-1	12
12	▶ RAEC Mons	10	3	3	4	9:11	-2	12
13	▶ Cercle Brugge	10	3	1	6	7:10	-3	10
14	▶ KSK Beveren	10	3	1	6	7:15	-8	10
15	▶ KSC Lokeren	10	2	4	4	8:13	-5	10
16	▶ SV Zulte-Waregem	10	2	3	5	10:16	-6	9
17	▶ Sint-Truidense VV	10	2	1	7	11:17	-6	7
18	▶ Lierse SK	10	0	1	9	4:20	-16	1

clear,
unequivocal
positions

clear rules for
calculation of
overall score

Source:
presentation
Federkeil,
CHE

How to rank – and how not

Can we rank HEIs like that ? – Some do ...

2005 RANK	2004 RANK	NAME	COUNTRY	PEER REVIEW SCORE (40%)	RECRUITER REVIEW (10%)	INT'L FACULTY SCORE (9%)	INT'L STUDENTS SCORE (5%)	FACULTY/STUDENT SCORE (20%)	CITATIONS/FACULTY SCORE (20%)	OVERALL SCORE
1	1	Harvard University	US	100	100	100	23	21	57	100.0
2	3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	US	84	100	12	41	16	53	86.9
3	6	Cambridge University	UK	84	100	12	34	20	16	85.8
4	5	Oxford University	UK	84	100	12	37	23	15	83.9
5	7	Stanford University	US	84	100	12	30	12	56	83.4
6	2	University of California Berkeley	US	84	100	12	13	7	39	80.6
7	8	Yale University	US	84	100	12	27	42	19	72.7
8	4	California Institute of Technology	US	84	100	12	41	26	100	71.5
9	9	Princeton University	US	84	100	12	30	20	100	64.8
10	27	Ecole Polytechnique	France	84	100	12	36	100	100	61.5
11=	52	Duke University	US	36	79	24	20	66	100	59.1
11=	1	London School of Economics	UK	43	86	99	100	100	100	59.1
13	14	Imperial College London	UK	59	15	99	54	100	100	59.0
14	23	University of Toronto	US	56	15	99	54	100	100	58.1
15	17	Beihang University	China	71	15	99	54	100	100	56.3
16	17	University of Michigan	US	73	15	99	54	100	100	55.1
17=	2	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	24	15	99	54	100	100	54.9
17=	1	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	52	15	99	54	100	100	54.9
19	2	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	66	15	99	54	100	100	54.5
20	1	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	56	15	99	54	100	100	53.9
21	1	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	49	15	99	54	100	100	53.5
22	1	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	62	15	99	54	100	100	53.0
23	1	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	64	8	52	17	17	13	52.9
24=	3	University of Wisconsin-Madison	US	64	8	52	17	17	13	51.6
24=	21	McGill University	Canada	64	8	52	17	17	13	51.6
26	15	University of Texas at Austin	US	64	8	52	17	17	13	51.5
27	25	Johns Hopkins University	US	64	8	52	17	17	13	50.2
28	34	University College London	UK	64	8	52	17	17	13	48.4
29	37	University of Toronto	Canada	64	8	52	17	17	13	47.8
30	48	Edinburgh University	UK	64	8	52	17	17	13	47.7
31	29	Kyoto University	Japan	64	8	52	17	17	13	47.5
32	28	Pennsylvania University	US	64	8	52	17	17	13	47.3
33	33	Monash University	Australia	64	8	52	17	17	13	46.5
34	32	Ecole Polytech Fédérale de Lausanne	Switzerland	64	8	52	17	17	13	45.0
35	43	Manchester University & Umist	UK	64	8	52	17	17	13	44.8
36	31	University of Michigan	US	46	32	17	19	17	15	43.9

weights of indicators ?

clear rank position

rank scale with overall score

is this university 64,8% as good as Harvard?

Source: presentation Federkeil, CHE



Worldwide rankings

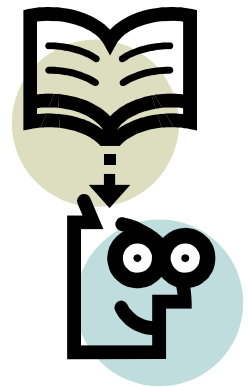
- League tables, as if $1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > \dots 155 > 156 > \dots 200$
- Whole university, as if it has same level of quality all over
 - ◆ Does not apply to rankings of e.g. business schools
- One quality, as if there is a single thing called quality
 - ◆ Indicators: research, (some?) peers, whatever is measurable...





Worldwide rankings

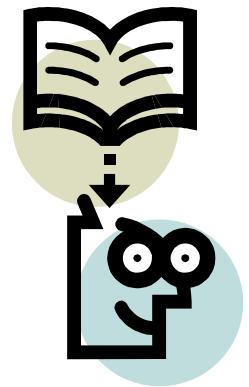
- “Gaming the rankings”:
manipulation of processes,
numbers etc. to get better
indicators
 - ◆ E.g. allow more applicants into
first stage of entry, to become
more selective
 - ◆ Easier for education-related
than for research-related
indicators? (input vs. output?)





Worldwide rankings: Publication

- Rankings achieve high sales volumes → journal and magazine publishers have commercial interests
- Publications must be credible
 - ◆ Harvard, MIT, ... in top
- Publications must be exciting
 - ◆ Change of methods to reshuffle top positions
- On rankings, see:
 - Van Dyke
 - Dill & Soo
 - Usher & Savino etc.





National student information systems

- Some of the better:
 - ◆ Robust ratings
(top – middle – bottom)
 - ◆ Ratings per indicator
 - Choose your own set of indicators
 - ◆ Interactive (web-based) rather than printed
- Exist in e.g. Germany, the Netherlands, UK



CHE ranking: publication – Internet

UNIVERSITÄTEN						
integration clinical – pre-clinical						
mentoring (s)						
student – staff ratio (f)						
good exam results (f)						
overall judgement (s)						
Uni Regensburg »	🟢	1,6	🟢	6,6		
Uni Magdeburg »	🟢	1,9	🟢	6,6		
Uni Witten / Herdecke (priv.) »	🟢	1,5	🟡	73,7		
Uni Halle-Wittenberg »	🟢	2,0	🔴	72		
Uni Genève / Genf (CH) »	🟢	1,9	⊖			
Uni Bern (CH) »	🟢	1,7	⊖		🟢 10,5	🟡 2,3

Results of indicators ordered lexicographically

Problem of internationally incomparable data

You are here

Choose criteria

Add new criteria or change weighting.



Results

Your comparison in an easy-to-use table.



Stop and start again

Results of search query



New search

 Bachelor Master

 English only All studies

Filter results

[change criteria](#) | [advanced search in 3 steps](#)

Information of the association and the selected courses on score
HAN-University, Arnhem

Business Economics

www.han.nl
HAN-University, Arnhem

Management, Economics and Law

www.han.nl
Amsterdam Univ of Professional Edu...

Business Economics

www.economie.hva.nl
InHolland University Alkmaar

Business Economics

www.inholland.nl
Saxion Univ of Applied Science, Dev...

Commercial Economics

www.saxion.nl
Amsterdam Univ of Professional Edu...

Business Economics

www.hva.nl
InHolland University Den Haag

Commercial Economics

www.inholland.nl
Maastricht University

Economics

www.unimaas.nl
Maastricht University

Fiscal Economics

1. Career preparation (student opinion)

2. Teaching quality (student opinion)

3. Ease of study

4. Study & teaching facilities (stud.opinion)

5. Study intensi ave. hours/wk

	1. Career preparation (student opinion)	2. Teaching quality (student opinion)	3. Ease of study	4. Study & teaching facilities (stud.opinion)	5. Study intensi ave. hours/wk
HAN-University, Arnhem Business Economics www.han.nl	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.2	
HAN-University, Arnhem Management, Economics and Law www.han.nl	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.7	
Amsterdam Univ of Professional Edu... Business Economics www.economie.hva.nl	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.1	
InHolland University Alkmaar Business Economics www.inholland.nl	6.7	6.5	7.1	6.1	
Saxion Univ of Applied Science, Dev... Commercial Economics www.saxion.nl	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.1	
Amsterdam Univ of Professional Edu... Business Economics www.hva.nl	6.7	6.5	7.1	6.4	
InHolland University Den Haag Commercial Economics www.inholland.nl	6.7	6.1	6.8	6.6	
Maastricht University Economics www.unimaas.nl	6.4	7.4	6.9	7.6	
Maastricht University Fiscal Economics	6.4	7.4	6.9	7.6	



Highest score



Average score



Lowest score



No score



Classification of higher education institutions

- CHE ranking: universities and *Fachhochschulen* separate
- SK123: universities and *hogescholen* mixed (if you want)
- Which higher education institutions are comparable?



Definitions

Diversity:

- The level of variety in a system at a specific point of time.

Differentiation/Diversification:

- The process in which the diversity of a system increases.



A General Distinction

External Diversity:

- differences between entities in a system.

Internal Diversity:

- differences within entities in a system.



In Higher Education

Systemic/Structural/Institutional Diversity:

- The level of variety in different types of institutions.

Programmatic Diversity:

- The level of variety in types of programmes offered.



Diversity in the EHEA

- **Diversity is a strength!**
- **Needs to be made transparent**
- **By means of a European classification**



Classifications are International Phenomena

- **Carnegie Classification (USA):**
1973, 1976, 1994, 2000, 2006
- **Chinese higher education classification:**
2007

First Version of a European Classification of HEIs

Education

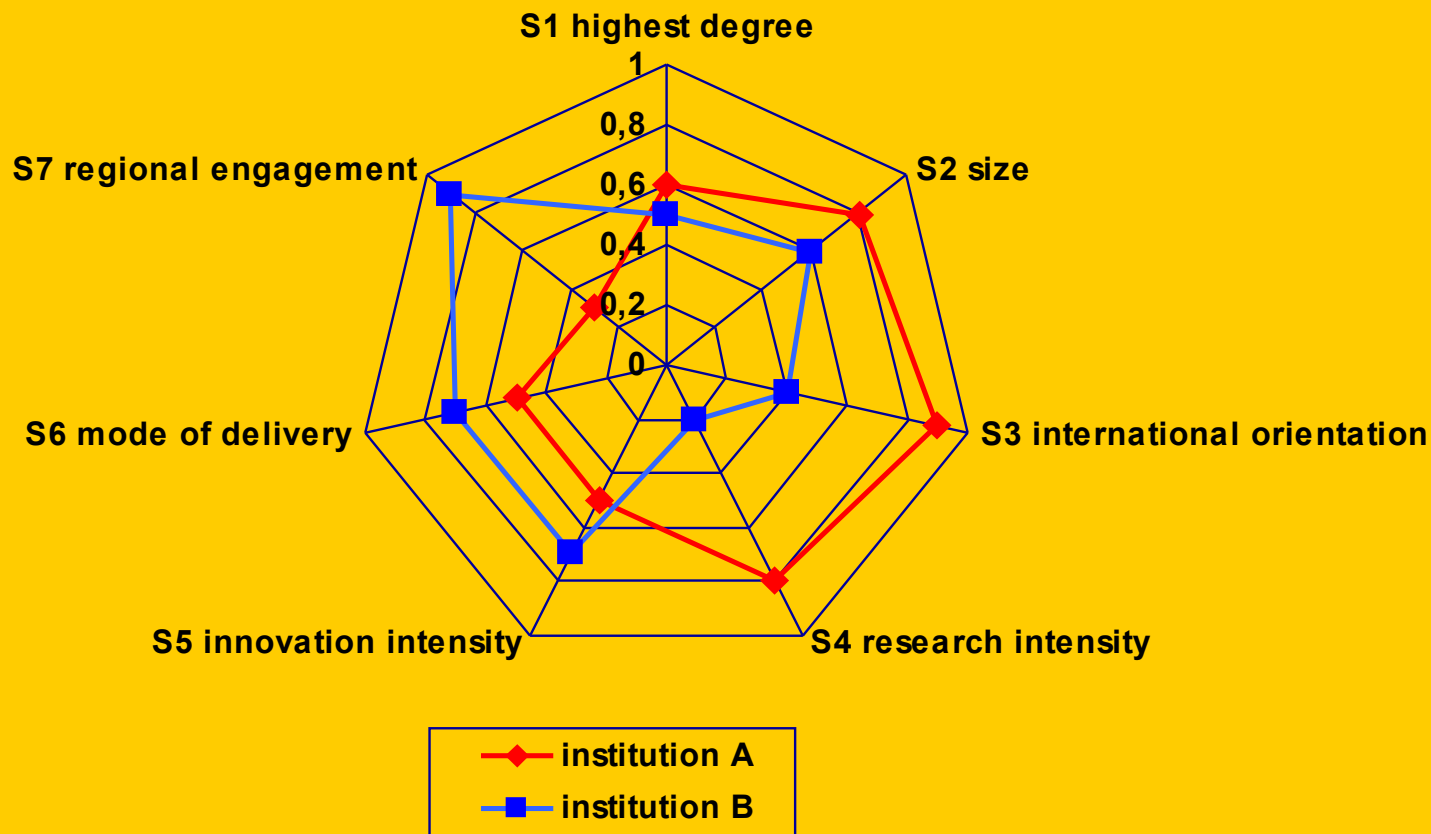
**Research and
innovation**

**International
orientation**

Size and setting

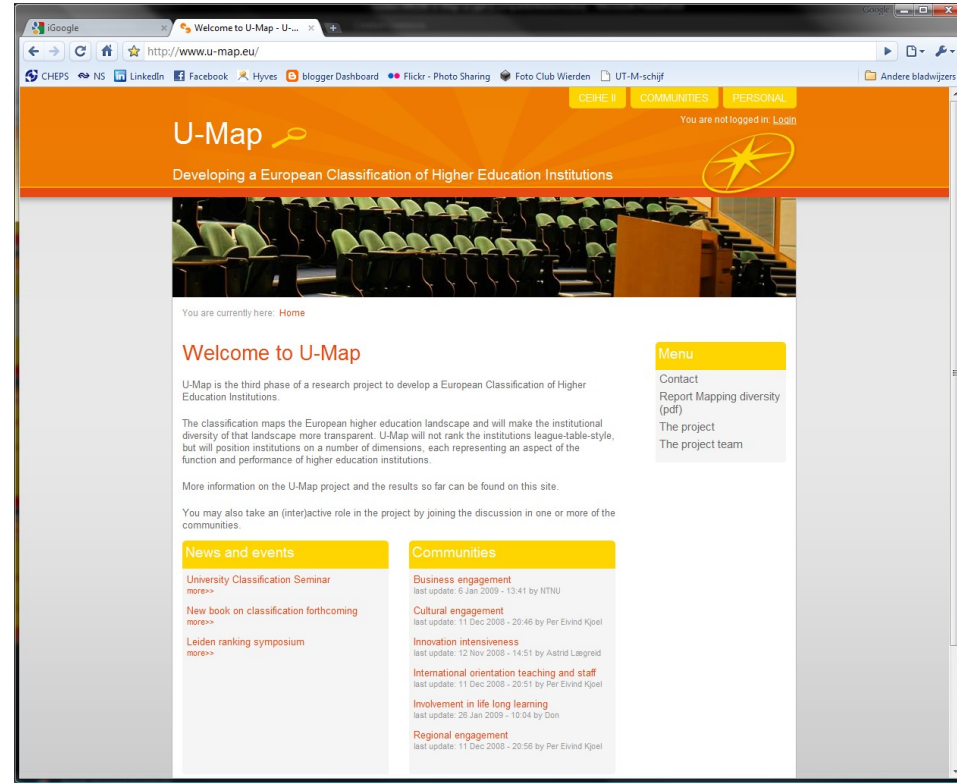
**Community
engagement**

Future use of the Classification





www.u-map.eu



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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Design and testing the feasibility of
a

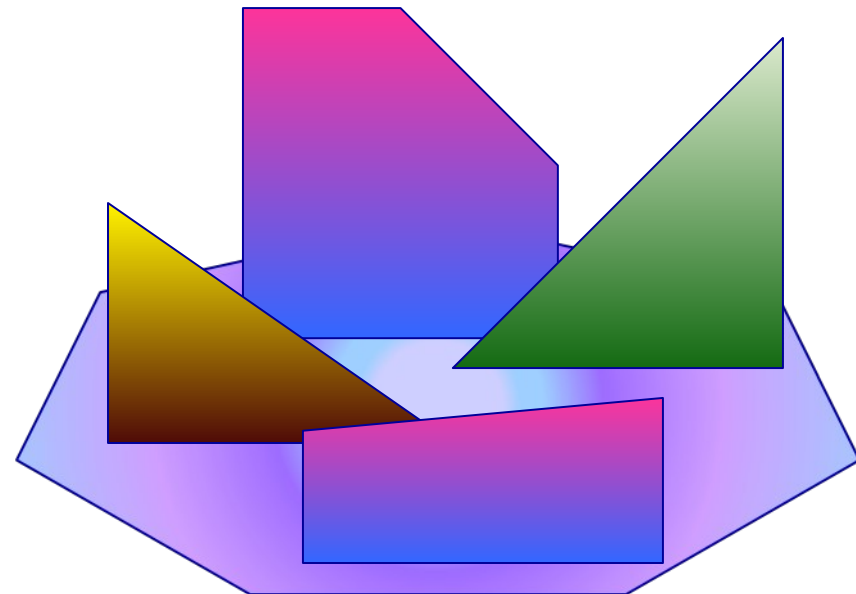
Multi-dimensional Global University Ranking

*A research proposal in response to the
European Commission
Call for Tender EAC/36/2008*



Main model of MGUR project

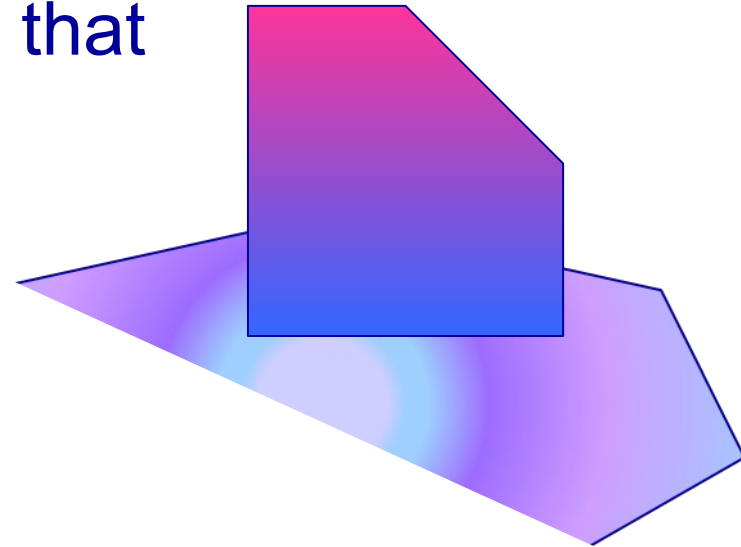
- Classification as 'cradle'
- Focused rankings growing out of the 'cradle'





Aimed-for output of MGUR project: Hypothetical examples

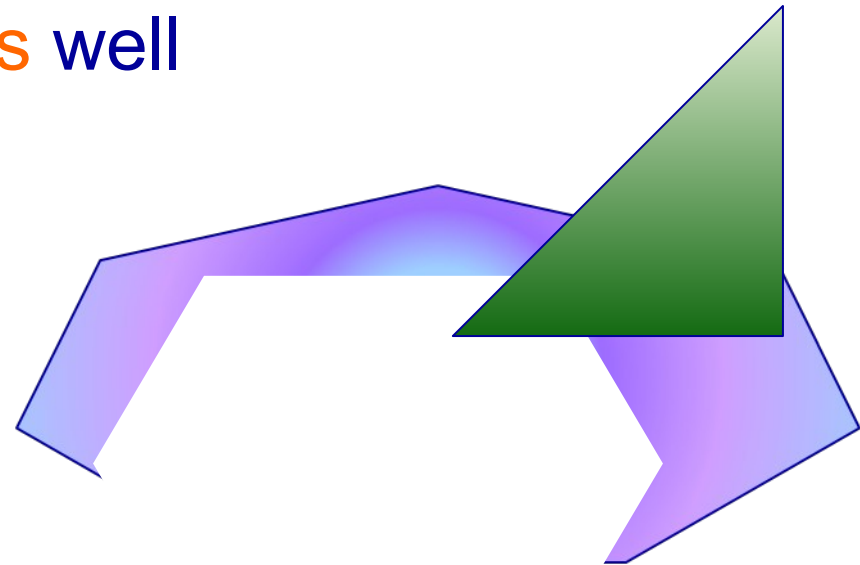
- **Student:** Where in the world can I find a higher education institution **classified** as concentrated on undergraduate education that **performs** well on student satisfaction and on job chances?





Aimed-for output of MGUR project: Hypothetical examples

- **Company:** Where in Europe can I find a higher education institution **classified** as concentrating on innovation activities that **performs** well on patenting?



Questions?





References

- Dill, David D., and Maarja Soo. 2005. Academic Quality, League Tables, and Public Policy: A Cross-National Analysis of University Ranking Systems. *Higher Education* 49:495-533.
- Van Dyke, Nina. 2005. Twenty Years of University Report Cards. *Higher Education in Europe* 30 (2):103-125.
- Usher, Alex, and Massimo Savino. 2006. A world of difference: A global survey of university league tables. Toronto: Educational Policy Institute.



Further reading, e.g.

- Marginson, Simon. 2006. Global university rankings: private and public goods. Paper read at 19th Annual CHER conference, 7-9 September, at Kassel
- van der Wende, Marijk, and Don Westerheijden. 2009. Rankings and Classifications: The Need for a Multidimensional Approach. In *Mapping the Higher Education Landscape: Towards a European Classification of Higher Education*, edited by F. van Vught. Dordrecht etc.: Springer.