The 6ᵗʰ Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2014

Public Policy exchange

Wednesday 25ᵗʰ June 2014
NH Hotel du Grand Sablon
Brussels

Federico Zeri Foundation Library

Overview

The concept of university rankings is rapidly becoming one of the most important tools used by both students and academic professionals across the world. Universities use them to define their performance, professional reputation and status, whilst students use them to choose their future place of study and research. With the higher education sector widely acknowledged as one of the essential drivers of economic growth, this places an ever greater importance on the systems for assessing and comparing the higher education options available.

More than a consumer product, these international rankings have become both a manifestation and a driver of global competition for excellence, therefore placing an ever greater importance on the system for assessing and comparing the higher education options available.

Recognising the need for greater clarity, last year the European Commission implemented its initiatives *U-Multirank* and *U-Map* - independent from public authorities and universities. Seeking to offer a multidimensional, user-driven approach to international rankings of higher education institutions, U-Multirank is due to publish its first results imminently. It is hoped that a comprehensive ranking system will assist policymakers in developing longer term strategies as part of the broader higher education modernisation agenda.

Whilst universities and policy makers play an important role in establishing a vision for university ranking systems, students should also contribute to the process. In this sense, various students' associations across Europe have called for a more socially-driven approach to university rankings, which would enable classifications to better reflect students' real experiences in their universities.

This annual international symposium, now in its sixth year, will assess the challenges that lie ahead in creating and maintaining comprehensive and user-friendly systems for university rankings. Indicators and data collection are key areas which need to be addressed through an integrated and joined-up approach under the guidance of the European Commission. The symposium offers an invaluable opportunity to discuss the dynamics between international rankings and national initiatives developed in various countries, as well as to communicate strategies and share best practices.

Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debates.

> *In a global economy, competitiveness and future job prospects will depend on what people can do with what they know. Young people are the future, so every country must do everything it can to improve its education system and the prospects of future generations…"*
>
> **- Angel Gurria, OECD Secretary General, December 2013**

> *Existing international rankings still tend to attach too much weight to research reputation. Our multi-dimensional ranking will provide a more accurate and comparable guide to university quality. U-Multirank will help young people make the right study choices and it will motivate institutions to improve their performance across a whole range of activities. It will also be a useful tool for decision-makers, enabling them to be better placed to develop effective higher education strategies for the future."*
>
> **- Androulla Vassiliou, EU Commissioner, January 2013**

Venue and Accommodation

NH Hotel Grand Sablon,
Rue Bodenbroek 2/4. B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

Why Attend?

✓ **Discuss current policy initiatives and priorities of the EU**

✓ **Analyse the mechanisms for defining performance, professional reputation and status of universities through user-friendly rankings**

✓ **Understand U-Multirank's results, methodology and implications**

✓ **Consider students' perspective and participation in university ranking systems**

✓ **Share best practices from the implementation of the rankings system both nationally and internationally**

Who Should Attend?

- Registrars and Senior University Administrators
- Faculty Deans
- University Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors
- Rankings Agencies
- Quality Assurance Institutes
- Researchers
- Academics
- National Ministries for Education
- International Organisations
- Higher Education Organisations
- Employer's Organisations
- Data Centres
- Standardisation Organisations
- Careers Services and Advisers
- Admissions Bodies
- Research Councils
- Schools and FE Colleges
- Funding Bodies
- Local Authority Education Officers
- Representatives of Industry and Commerce
- Education Charities and NGOs
- Lifelong Learning Practitioners
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Access Officers
- Disability Practitioners
- Campaigning Organisations
- Student Organisations

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Programme

09:15 Registration and Morning Refreshments

10:00 Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:10 **Analysing the Impact and Potential of Ranking Systems for Universities**
• Discussing the AHELO Study - Evaluating Students' Performance at a Global Level
• Increasing Employment Opportunities
• Realising the Potential of the Bologna Process - Qualifications Frameworks, Quality Assurance Systems
• Recommendations and Policy Actions

10:40 **First Round of Discussions**

11:10 Morning Coffee Break

11:30 **U-Multirank – Discussing the First Release and Data Collection**
• Understanding the Methodological Approach and The Web Tool
• Experiences With Data Collection and Analysis
• Next Steps and Future Perspectives

12:00 **Second Round of Discussions**

12:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 **Recognising Students' Role and Participation in Ranking Systems**
• Involving Students in the Multi-Dimensional Approach to Ranking
• Capturing the Social Dimension of University Rankings
• Understanding the Students' Perspective on Indicators
• Discussions and Recommendations

14:00 **Third Round of Discussions**

14:30 Afternoon Coffee Break

14:50 **Global Rankings and Projects – Lessons Learnt**
• Discussing the Internationalisation of Higher Education
• Successes and Shortcomings of Existing Global Rankings
• Responsibility of Ranking Institutions
• Exploring Alternatives to Rankings: the AHELO Initiative
• Recommendations for Future Actions

15:20 **Fourth Round of Discussions**

15:50 Chair's Summary and Closing Comments

16:00 Networking Reception

16:30 Symposium Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact:
Parvin Madahar on **+44 (0) 20 3137 8630**
or email **parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk**

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 25ᵗʰ June 2014
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: NH Hotel du Grand Sablon, Brussels

Speakers Include

✓ **Mr Jordi Curell**, Director, Lifelong Learning: Higher Education and International Affairs, DG EAC, European Commission (confirmed)

✓ **Mr Phil Baty**, Deputy Editor, Times Higher Education; Editor of Times Higher Education World University Rankings, UK (confirmed)

✓ **Prof. Dr Frank Ziegele**, Director, Centre for Higher Education; Project Leader, U-Multirank (confirmed)

✓ **Miguel Gallardo Albajar,** Projects Director, AEGEE, European Students' Forum (confirmed)

Forthcoming Events

✓ Cross-Border Healthcare in Europe: Improving Co-operation to Deliver a Patient-Centred System
18th June 2014

✓ Strengthening Data Protection Standards in Europe: Towards a Harmonised European Digital Market
1st July 2014

✓ Unlocking the Potential of Migrants in Europe: From Isolation to Multi-level Integration
2nd July 2014

✓ Smart Cities, Smart Europe: Putting Our Energy into Innovation and Sustainability
9th July 2014