The 7th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2015

Wednesday 20th May 2015
Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels
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. What originated as a consumer product aimed at undergraduate domestic students has now become both a manifestation and a driver of global competition and a battle for excellence in itself.

The European Commission launched U-Multirank in Spring 2014, an initiative aimed at becoming a nuanced tool for students and institutions in the contentious field of global rankings. The second edition of the U-Multirank rankings comparing five performance areas — teaching and learning; research; knowledge transfer; international orientation; and regional engagement - is due to be published in March 2015. It will include 1,200 higher education institutions, with nearly 700 fully participating in U-multirank.

This annual international symposium, now in its seventh year, will assess the challenges that lie ahead in creating and maintaining comprehensive and user-friendly systems for ranking universities. Indicators and data collection are key areas which need to be addressed and explored 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, collaborate and 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 debate.

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
- Consider how to facilitate student and staff participation and access to information
- Understand U-Multirank’s second edition of rankings, methodology and implications
- 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

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium

“Education can lift people out of poverty and social exclusion, but to do so we need to break the link between social background and educational opportunity.” The biggest threat to inclusive growth is the risk that social mobility could grind to a halt. Increasing access to education for everyone and continuing to improve people’s skills will be essential to long-term prosperity and a more cohesive society.”

- Angel Gurria, OECD Secretary-General,
  September 2014

“Higher education is more than responding to short-term labour market needs. It is about equipping citizens with the capacity for critical thought and the cross-cutting skills that will serve them, and society well in the long term. It is about creating an environment where creativity and innovation can thrive. It is about finding an appropriate place for rarer disciplines less direct links to economic activity that are nonetheless very valuable.”

- Tibor Navracsics, EU Commissioner Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
  January 2015
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Programme

09:15 Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00 Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10 International University Rankings – Current and Future Developments
   • Efficiency of Rankings – Coordination between Data Collection Activities for National and International Rankings
   • Realising the Potential of the Bologna Process - Qualifications Frameworks, Quality Assurance Systems
   • The Role of Rankings in Higher Education Policies
   • Recommendations for Future Policy Action
10:40 First Round of Discussions
11:10 Morning Coffee Break
11:30 U-Multirank – Discussing the Second Release and Data Collection
   • Understanding the Methodological Approach
   • Experiences with Data Collection and Analysis: Second Release of Results
   • Discussing the Internationalisation of Higher Education
   • Next Steps and Future Perspectives
12:00 Second Round of Discussions
12:30 Networking Lunch
13:30 Encouraging Students’ Participation and Role in University Rankings
   • Students’ Role in the Academic Community and their Perspective on Indicators
   • Involving Students in the Multi-Dimensional Approach to Ranking
   • Reflecting the Student Experience through University Rankings
   • Discussions and Recommendations
14:00 Third Round of Discussions
14:30 Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50 Rethinking the Role of Universities – Discussing Successes and Shortcomings of Existing Global Rankings
   • Measuring the Third Mission of Universities: Improving Data on Employment-Oriented Outcome Indicators
   • Discussion of Different Rankings and Methodologies
   • Best Practices and Lessons Learned
15:20 Fourth Round of Discussions
15:50 Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
16:00 Networking Reception
16:30 Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 20th May 2015
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels

Speakers Include:

✓ Adam Tyson, Acting Director, Modernisation of Education II: Education, Policy and Programme, Innovation, EIT and MSCA, DG Education and Culture, European Commission
✓ Prof. Dr Frank Ziegele, Director, Centre for Higher Education; Project Leader, U-Multirank
✓ Maria Kelo, Director, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
✓ Johnny Rich, Chief Executive, Push/Higher Education Consultant
✓ Dr Fumi Kitagawa, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Edinburgh Business School

Forthcoming Events

✓ Unlocking the Potential of Migrants in Europe: From Isolation to Multi-level Integration
   27th May 2015
✓ Green Growth, Green Jobs: Integrating Environmental and Employment Policies in the EU
   17th June 2015

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