



# U-Multirank

## A new multi-dimensional ranking

Gero Federkeil)

AEC Annual Congress 2014  
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## Part One

### U-Multirank – key elements

## Part Two

### U-Multirank – basic facts

## Part Three

### U-Multirank - selected results 2014

# Agenda

## Part One

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## U-Multirank – key elements

# The background

Need for transparency about the European higher education area

Focus on Europe

Yet a global outreach

Benchmarking European higher education institutions against the rest of the world

# The main purpose: Making diversity visible

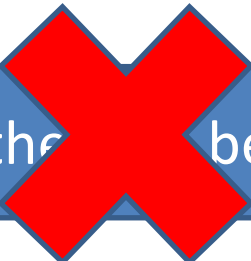
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The “global system” of higher education is characterised by an enormous diversity in university profiles and missions

Different groups of stakeholders are interested in different types of performances by universities

But diversity is not yet transparent nor understood

Diverse preferences and needs of students, university leaders, academics, business and industry, governments etc.

“University X is the  best in the world”

Multi-dimensional ranking: ranks on 30 individual indicators (performance measures) in five dimensions of performance

Teaching and learning	Research
Knowledge transfer	International orientation
Regional engagement	

# Performance profile instead of a composite overall score

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 “Indicator 1 counts for 20%, indicator 2 for 30%, etc., altogether leads to a score of X”

No composite overall scores, transparency lost  
if scores are weighted / aggregated

User-driven: user decides on areas of  
performance to compare – YOUR WAY!

# Agenda

## Part One

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## U-Multirank – some basic facts



# U-Multirank 2014 is the most comprehensive international data comparison in higher education



➤ 850

universities are included with publicly available data

➤ 70

countries have universities in U-Multirank

➤ 500

of the 879 universities have provided comprehensive data

➤ 1,000

faculties/departments are included in the four field based rankings

(physics, electrical and mechanical engineering, business studies)

➤ 5,000

study programmes within these faculties are included

➤ 60,000

students completed the student satisfaction survey



# U-Multirank offers a global view of a large variety of university profiles



## Worldwide coverage

In 2014, 62% of U-Multirank universities are from Europe, 17% from North America, 14% from Asia and 7% from Africa, Latin America and Oceania

PhD-awarding institutions  
+  
universities of applied sciences

small  
+  
large universities

specialised institutions  
+  
comprehensive universities

old (pre 1870)  
+  
young institutions (after 1980)



# Agenda

## Part Two

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Live - the U-Multirank web tool

[www.umultirank.org](http://www.umultirank.org)

# Agenda

## Part Three

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## Some U-Multirank results

# U-Multirank shows diversity in performance

Very few univs.  
with no “A” scores

“A” scores per univ.	% of univs.
0	2 %
1 to 5	43 %
5 to 10	43 %
11 to 15	10 %
16 to 21	2 %
22 to 28	0 %

Many univs. have  
specific strengths

No univ. has  
“across the board”  
“A” scores

Around 100 univs.  
have a wide range  
(>10) of “A” scores

300 univs. never before visible in  
global rankings. Out of these, 30  
have more than 10 “A” scores



# The “world’s top 100 universities overall”?



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- U-Multirank demonstrates for the first time the diversity of university profiles in the international context.
  - The findings indicate that it is not possible to meaningfully identify “the world’s top 100 or 200 universities overall”.
  - U-Multirank identifies top performers – but these are different depending on the indicator and dimension.
  - U-Multirank is a flexible tool where students, parents, academics, policy-makers, administrators, etc., can find information to support decision-making

# U-Multirank 2014 was only the first step

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2015  
registration of  
> 200 new  
institutions

Psychology,  
computer  
science and  
medicine will  
be added as  
new subject  
fields in 2015

to be continued...

# Some views on U-Multirank



## **Professor Sir Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool**

"U-Multirank provides an elegant solution to a problem which undermines conventional rankings. It does not seek to weight different activities of a university but allows users to devise their own ranking according to what they believe is important. Therefore it democratises university rankings and will be an essential tool for all those who are stakeholders in modern universities."



## **Stefan Jahnke, President of the Erasmus Student Network**

Through U-Multirank it is possible for the first time to truly compare higher education institutions with each other according to different aspects. For the Erasmus Student Network it is very important to compare not only research outcomes but also to have a look at the international perspective of institutions. We fully support the U-Multirank project and believe it will benefit students greatly in choosing institutions for their studies.



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- For more information on U-Multirank visit us, at [www.umultirank.org](http://www.umultirank.org)
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