

The 4th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2012:

Rankings as a Global Tool – National, Regional and International Perspectives



Thursday 12th April 2012

Radisson Blu Royal Hotel,
Brussels

"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in higher education quality and standards on a global scale"

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The 4th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2012: *Rankings as a Global Tool – National, Regional and International Perspectives*

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. Currently, there are 33 countries which possess some form of rankings system, and the field continues to grow both domestically and internationally. 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.

As the higher education sector is recognised as one of the key drivers of economic growth, the productivity, quality and the status of research produced by institutions can be used as a vital indicator. Recognising the need for greater clarity, the European Commission has launched its own initiatives (U-Multirank and U-Map) that are independent from public authorities and universities. Its aim is the design and testing of a new multidimensional university ranking system, one with a more global outreach. 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.

This annual international symposium, now in its fourth 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.

“As part of Europe’s strategy for jobs and growth, the European Commission today presented a reform strategy to boost graduate numbers, improve teaching quality and maximise what higher education can do to help the EU economy emerge stronger from the crisis. The strategy identifies priority areas where EU countries need to do more to achieve shared education objectives and sets out how the European Union can support their modernisation policies. EU-level initiatives will include university ranking which will better inform students about the courses which are best for them and an ‘Erasmus for Masters’ loan guarantee scheme for students taking a full degree course abroad.”

- European Commission Press Release, 11 September 2011

Venue and Accommodation

**The Radisson Blu Royal Hotel,
Rue du Fossé-aux-Loups 47
Wolvengracht 47
1000 Brussels, Belgium**



Through our partnership with the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel we are pleased to be able to offer our delegates specially negotiated accommodation rates. These discounted room rates are subject to availability and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Why Attend?

- ✓ **Analyse and discuss 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**
- ✓ **Explore challenges to existing systems in rankings, data collection and indicators**
- ✓ **Share best practices from the implementation of the rankings system 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

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Programme

- 09:00** Registration and Morning Refreshments
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- 10:00** **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**
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- 10:10** **Standards for International Rankings – Current and Future Developments**
- The Future Development of U-Multirank
 - CHE Approach for Cooperation of National Field-Based Rankings
 - Efficiency of Rankings – Coordination between Data Collection Activities for National and International Rankings
 - Standards Set by the New IREG-Audit for Rankings
 - Recommendations
-
- 10:50** **First Round of Discussions**
-
- 11:30** Morning Coffee Break
-
- 11:50** **University Rankings – Facilitating Student Participation and Access to Services and Information**
- New Standards in International University Performance Comparisons – Lessons Learned
 - Linking National with Regional and International Rankings
 - Using Data through an Integrated Framework – Challenges and Opportunities
 - Promoting Rankings Nationally and Internationally
 - Recommendations
-
- 12:40** **Second Round of Discussions**
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- 13:10** Networking Lunch
-
- 14:10** **Creating Effective Data Systems and Indicators on University Rankings**
- Possible Relationships with Other International Data
 - Promoting Development and Harmonisation of Existing Data Institutions
 - Improving Data on Employment-Oriented Outcome Indicators
 - Field-Specific Data and Institutional Level Data
 - Regional Engagement and Knowledge Transfer
 - Recommendations
-
- 15:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
-
- 15:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
-
- 15:45** **Case Study – Implementing a Field-Based Ranking System in Europe**
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned
 - Bottom-Up and Top-Down Ranking Approaches
 - Developing Trust and Credibility
 - Recommendations
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- 16:10** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
-
- 16:40** **Chairman's Summary and Closing Comments**
-
- 16:50** Networking Reception
-
- 17:20** Close

Sponsorship 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:** Thursday 12th April 2012
Time: 10:00am – 5:20pm
Venue: The Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Brussels



Speakers include

- ✓ **Mr. Jordi Curell**, Director, Lifelong Learning: Higher Education and International Affairs, DG EAC, European Commission (confirmed)
- ✓ **Prof. Waldemar Siwiński**, Vice President, IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence; President, Polish Education Foundation "Perspektywy" (confirmed)
- ✓ **Prof. Andrea Bonaccorsi**, Professor of Economics and Management, Pisa University, Italy (confirmed)
- ✓ **Mr. Phil Baty**, Deputy Editor, Times Higher Education; Editor, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, UK (confirmed)
- ✓ **Mr. Gero Federkeil**, Head of Rankings, CHE – Centre for Educational Development; Vice President, The Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence (confirmed)
- ✓ **Prof. Andrés Carrión García**, Director, Centre for Quality and Change Management, Valencia University of Technology (confirmed)

“ IREG Observatory plans to undertake a responsibility in raising the quality and standards of university rankings [for institutional and program rankings] exactly taking into consideration the increasing importance of rankings among future students, and the fact that rankings can influence financial decisions of government bodies responsible for higher education”

- Dr. Jan Sadlak, President of IREG Observatory, 12 April 2010