



# EU Insight - Launch of U-Multirank

A new global university ranking tool, [U-Multirank](#), which assesses the performance of more than 850 higher education institutions worldwide, was launched by the European Commission (EC) on May 13, 2014.

With U-Multirank, the universities are tested against up to 30 separate indicators and rated in **five performance groups: teaching and learning, research, international orientation, knowledge transfer and regional engagement.**

As a multidimensional ranking tool, U-Multirank demonstrates the diversity of university profiles in the international context for the first time. It provides no composite overall scores, as the adding and weighting of scores to one overall score, leads to a loss of transparency.

The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou said:

*"We are proud of our world-class higher education, but we need many kinds of universities, catering for a wide range of needs; that means strong technical and regional universities just as much as outstanding research universities. U-Multirank highlights many excellent performers that do not show up in current, research-focused, global rankings- including more than 300 universities that have never appeared in any world ranking until now."*

Results show that while over 95% of institutions achieve an 'A' score on at least one measure, only 12% have more than 10 top scores. Of the 850 universities in the ranking 62% are from Europe, 17% from North America, 14% from Asia and 7% from Oceania, Latin America and Africa.

U-Multirank is a flexible learning tool for students, academics, policy-makers and administrators looking for information to support decision-making. **At this stage** it covers **four subject areas**, namely **business studies, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and physics**. Fields of study to be included in 2015 are psychology, computer science and medicine. Another target for 2015 is also to increase the number of institutions in U-Multirank to a total of 1000-1100 universities.

The U-Multirank project receives seed funding through the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (now Erasmus+) for an initial period of two years (2013-2015) totaling €2 million with the option of an extension for a further two years (2015-2017). The goal is for an independent organization to manage the ranking on a sustainable funding model thereafter.

The initiative originated at a conference under the 2008 French Presidency of the European Union, which called for a new methodology to measure the different dimensions of excellence of higher education and research institutions



To register your institution for the participation, complete registration form online at [www.umultirank.org](http://www.umultirank.org), until early autumn

in Europe and in an international context. Subsequently, the EC commissioned a feasibility study on a multi-dimensional ranking in 2011.

An independent consortium led by the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) in Germany and the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) in the Netherlands compiled the new ranking. Other partner organisations include the Centre for Science and Technology at Leiden University (the Netherlands), Catholic University Leuven (Belgium), academic publishers Elsevier, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the student advice organisation Push and software firm Folge 3.

Sources:

- [1] [U-Multirank website](#)
- [2] [U-Multirank May Newsletter](#)
- [3] [Q+A Memo U-Multirank](#)
- [4] [Press Release U-Multirank from the European Commission](#)
- [5] [Presentation on U-Multirank from the European Commission](#)
- [6] [Multidimensional Ranking- The Design and Development of U-Multirank](#)