Ranking for quality

AHERS
Agency for Higher Education
of Republic of Srpska

SUMMARY

The Agency for Higher Education of Republic of Srpska set principles for ranking with the aim to insure quality of HEIs through multidimensionality covering different areas of activity of institutions. Set of criteria for each component and weight factors for each criterion are developed. The indicative ranking criteria are based on the Berlin principles of ranking with a special focus on the evaluation of the three missions of the university: teaching, scientific research and cooperation with the economy and community . With the aim to collect and process relevant and exact information regarding HEIs the Agency obtained the data related to scientific research productivity in cooperation with Center for Evaluation in Education and Science. Indicators of scientific performance refer to productivity expressed by the number of published papers, fractions of papers, impact of papers expressed through realized citations and citation fractions. Citation information on international performance were taken from citation databases in which data on authors are given in a complete and reliable form, with addition of performance achieved in regional and national journals not represented in global citation indices. Data related to the infrastructure and resources of the HEIs were collected through on-site visits conducted by the International Expert Team.

RANKING PRINCIPLES IN REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

-Given the heterogeneity of ranking methodologies, Berlin principles for good ranking practice will be the basis for ranking in the Republic of Srpska as well.
- Multidimensionality (should cover different areas of activity of institutions: education, research, innovation, internationalization and community relations),
- Independence (should be carried out by experts in the field of quality system and ranking outside the higher education system of the Republic of Srpska),
- Transparency (should offer users a clear insight into all factors used to measure results),
- Globality (should be comparable to existing recognized ranking methodologies)

ACTIVITY

Project proposal with principles for ranking approved
International Expert Team formed
Stakeholders informed about the project and activities
4 informative seminars organized
Citation data collected and analyzed
Total data collected and processed
Ranking list created
Data collection process started
Web-sites of HEIs analyzed
On-site visits conducted
Indicative criteria developed
Outputs summarized

PURPOSE OF RANKING
- responds to user requests for information regarding the position/reputation of higher education institutions,
- stimulates competition between higher education institutions,
- provides specific annotations that can be used for funding,
- helps differentiate between different types of institutions and programs and disciplines,
- choosing a higher education institution by students,
- provide a wide range of stakeholders with their explicit (measurable) indicators,
- contribute to the definition of "quality" of higher education institutions within the higher education system, complementing quality assessments conducted in external evaluation procedures.

Bibliographic citation bases:

Citation base	Status	Number of journals	Level of excellence
Web of Science Core Collection: SCI, SSCI i A&HCI i Conference Proceedigs	Commercial – Clarivate Analytics	24.200	5
SouthEast European Science Advanced through Evaluation (SEESAmE)	CEES Beta base	500	3
Serbian citation index Plus (ScIndex Plus)	CEES internal base	530	2
Sample of national scientific journals	Licensed in DOAJ	20	2

METHODOLOGY
The ranking methodology envisages bibliometric ranking (CEON), web PAGE review of all higher education institutions in Republic of Srpska (78 faculties/colleges in total), as well as visits to each faculty/college.

CRITERIA
Three sets of ranking criteria based on the Berlin principles of ranking with a special focus on the evaluation of the three missions of the university: teaching, scientific research and cooperation with the economy and the community.

DATA COLLECTION
- Time frame: 2011-2021
- Two levels: Universities and Colleges
- List of faculties (from Universities only) according to OECD Frascati
- Weighting of papers and citations according to the level of excellence
- PHP mySQL web application in two languages (Serbian and English)

EVENTS
- 4 informative seminars
- Presentation of criteria and open discussion with stakeholders
- On-site visits to all HEIs
- Results and ranking list presentation

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