International Seminar
ROAD TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES IN RANKINGS BY SUBJECT
Program

Moscow, 9-10 April 2015
Program

Thursday, 9 April 2015

12:00 – 13:30  Registration

13:30 – 14:45  Opening session
   Alexander Povalko, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Russian Federation (tbc)
   Georgy Rudnitskiy, Director, Sociocenter, Project 5-100 Headquarters
   Waldemar Siwinski, President, Perspektywy Education Foundation, Vice President,
   IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence

14:45 – 16:00  First Session: Understanding rankings by subject

   Rankings by subject are of prime interest to future students as they help make best choices
   for their career path. But also the management of universities and educational authorities took
   at these rankings with the rapidly growing interest as they allow for a precise monitoring and
   planning university reforms. In his presentation Waldemar Siwinski will discuss the
   characteristics and development of rankings by subject.

   The criteria related to research results dominate in all major global university rankings by
   subject. Usually indicators based on publications, citations and the Hirsh index are used. For all
   universities interested in improving their standing in rankings it is very important to learn how to
   stimulate publications in the prestigious journals. It is the main path to improve the position of a
   university in rankings by subject. Alex Usher will talk about this key element.

   Both presentations will provide a necessary and essential background for all the session that
   will follow in his seminar. In addition to these presentations, Dmitry Grishankov will be speaking
   about what Russian employers and rectors expect from international subject rankings. His
   presentation will be based on the interviews conducted with employers and rectors of best
   Russian universities.
Chair: Kazimierz Bilanow, Managing Director, IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence (Belgium)

Speakers:
Waldemar Siwinski, President, Perspektywy Education Foundation; Vice President, IREG Observatory: - Introduction to the rankings by subject - the way they are and the way they should be

Alex Usher - President, Higher Education Strategy Associates; Editor-in-Chief, Global Higher Education Strategy Monitor (Canada): - Methods to stimulate publications in renown scientific journals – a way to improve position of universities in rankings by subject.


Discussion

16:00 – 16:30  Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00  Second Session: Rankings by subject - new players, new approaches

The landscape of university rankings has been changing fast. During this session two global university rankings will be introduced. The US News & World Report, the most experienced ranking organization in the world that has been in the ranking business since 1983, started to publish international university rankings in 2014. The vast experience of US News and its rigorous adherence to the ranking principles guarantees that it will become the key provider of global rankings - institutional and by subject.

The U-Multirank prepared by a European consortium led by CHE (Germany) and CHEPS (the Netherlands) will play a similar role. The second edition of the U-Multirank has been published on 30 March 2015. Moscow seminar offers the first opportunity to discuss the position of Russian universities in this ranking.

Chair: Kazimierz Bilanow, Managing Director, IREG Observatory

Speakers:
Bob Morse, Director of Data Research, US News & World Report (USA):
- The US News new global university ranking by subject – main assumptions and analysis of first results

Gero Federkeil, Vice President, IREG Observatory, U-Multirank Head, Manager in Charge of Rankings, CHE Centre for Higher Education (Germany): - The U-Multirank approach to rankings by subjects

Discussion

18:00  End of the first day
Third Session: Methodologies applied in the rankings by subject

The session will discuss the two global rankings by subject that rely the most (compared with other such rankings) on publications and citations in highlighting the successes of their institutions in carrying research mission. The Leiden University Ranking, by its very nature, is nothing but a ranking by subject as it does not publish at all an overall classification of universities. For this, it is important that this session will discuss the methods and analytical tools developed by the Leiden University’s Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) to identify the strong sides of universities and their network of desirable partners. Considering that the highest efficiency in citations receive research done by authors coming from different countries and academic centers, the session will offer an opportunity to learn about methods helpful in planning university strategy.

Research is also the main measure of university activity in rankings by subject and by field published along with the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) produced in Shanghai by Prof. Nian Cai Liu’s team. The methodology applied in these rankings and challenges their authors face will be discussed at the session.

Chair: Alex Usher, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates (Canada)

Speakers:
Paul Wouters, Professor of Scientometrics, Director, Leiden University’s Centre for Science and Technology Studies CWTS (The Netherlands): How to use the CWTS analysis and tools to identify university’s strong points in particular subject? A case of Russian universities.

Zhuolin Feng, Doctor of Education, Center for World-Class Universities (CWCU), Graduate School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China): Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) by Subjects and Fields: Methodologies and challenges.

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:00 Special presentations: Data sources for the rankings by subject

Overview of scientific competencies of the Russian Federation and growth strategy of the publication activity of the universities - participants of the 5-100 program.

Speakers:
Philip J. Purnell, Thomson Reuters: The potential growth of Russia scientific competencies - the most promising fields

Vadim Sobolev, Elsevier: Rankings by Subject – How should we interpret them?
12:00 – 13:30  Fourth Session: **Different rankings by subject tell different things**

At the session the rankings by subject of the two, competing with each other organizations, will be discussed. The common feature of the Times Higher Education and the Quacquarelli Symonds rankings is that they rely on the data gathered in the process of preparing their university world rankings. There are, however, differences in the methodologies applied. Understanding these differences and similarities could be a key in building university strategy towards the rankings by subject. In particular, the experience in ranking in the fields of Science, Natural Science and Engineering will be discussed.

Chair: **Alex Usher**, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates (Canada)

Speakers:

**John O’Leary** - Executive Board member, QS World University Rankings (United Kingdom): - *QS World University Rankings by Subject*

**Phil Baty**, Times Higher Education (United Kingdom): *video presentation*

Comment:

**Richard Holmes**, Prof. Emeritus at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UK, Malaysia); Editor, University Ranking Watch blog: - *THE and QS Rankings by Subjects - similarities and differences.*

Discussion

13:30 – 14:15  Closing session: **Remarks from speakers and organizers**

**Bob Morse**, Director of Data Research, US News & World Report

**Gero Federkeil**, Center for Higher Education, Germany

**Paul Wouters**, Professor of Scientometrics, Director, CWTS Leiden

**Zhuolin Feng**, Doctor of Education, CWCU Shanghai

**John O’Leary** - Executive Board member, QS World University Rankings

**Richard Holmes**, Editor, University Ranking Watch blog

**Alex Usher**, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates

**Waldemar Siwinski**, President, Perspektywy Education Foundation

**Georgy Rudnitskiy**, Director, Sociocenter

14:15 – 15:00  **Farewell lunch**

15:00 – 16:00  Informal individual meetings with speakers

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Seminar website:

SPEAKERS

Waldemar Siwinski, founder and President of the Polish Education Foundation “Perspektywy”. Vice President of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence. He has considerable experience as author of over 60 professional rankings of universities, business schools and secondary schools in Poland.

Waldemar Siwinski has extensive and rich media background as writer, journalist and manager. WS served as president of the Polish Press Agency (PAP); was bureau member of the European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA); board member of the European PressPhoto Agency (EPA); member of the International Press Institute; was Chairman of the Conference of Polish Media. As President of “Perspektywy” Foundation WS is active in Academic Cooperation Association (ACA). He founded the first magazine on computers in Poland. WS is an author of several books including a documentary book on “Chernobyl” nuclear disaster. WS founded and headed for several years “Perspektywy Press”, a publishing and marketing company specializing in education.

WS graduated the Warsaw University of Technology; and studied at the postgraduate School of Diplomacy in Warsaw.

Alex Usher, President of Higher Education Strategy Associates and Editor-in-Chief of Global Higher Education Strategy Monitor. An internationally recognized expert in student financial aid and quality measurement in post-secondary education, Mr. Usher has authored numerous ground-breaking studies in higher education. In addition to Canada, his recent work spans Asia, Europe and Africa.

In his former role as Director of Educational Policy Institute Canada (EPI Canada), Mr. Usher managed the Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Aid Project for the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, a 4-year $4 million research project to investigate the long-term effects of student aid. He has written the theme document for UNESCO Europe’s decennial meeting on higher education, Ten Years Back and Ten Years Forward: Developments and Trends in Higher Education in Europe Region.

Prior to joining the Educational Policy Institute in 2003 and founding the Higher Education Strategy Associates Mr. Usher served as the Director of Research and Program Development at the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. He holds degrees from McGill University and Carleton University.

Dmitry Grishankov is the General Director of International Group of rating agencies “Expert RA” and the science editor of «Expert» magazine. He is leading the development of university ratings in Russia and CIS as well as ratings of the companies, banks and regions. He serves as an expert for the Central Bank of Russian Federation and several ministries.

He is a graduate of the Moscow Aviation Institute and author of more than three hundred publications. Dmitry Grishankov was elected in May 2014 as the Executive Committee member of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence.

Kazimierz Bilanow, Managing Director of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence. His academic background includes PhD Poznan University; MCL Columbia University. MA University of Warsaw. Fulbright scholar at the School of International and Public Affairs and the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University; fellowship at the Institute of State and Law, Academy of Science, Moscow.

Past professional experience: International and Commercial Director, Polish Press Agency, correspondent for Polish and international press in Scandinavia, USA and Canada; researcher at the Institute of State and Law, Polish Academy of Science; lecturer at the New School for Social Research, New York and at the International College, Elsinore.

Robert Morse is the Director of Data Research for U.S. News & World Report. He is in charge of producing the America’s Best College and other domestic and international rankings all of which are published by U.S. News & World Report. He takes the lead role in survey design, ranking methodology changes and higher education research as well as monitoring data collection.

Mr. Morse is the author of a widely read blog on academic rankings called Morse Code Inside the College Rankings (http://www.usnews.com/blogs/college-rankings-blog/index.html).

In October 2009, he was elected Executive Committee member of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence.
Gero Federkeil, Manager in Charge of Rankings, CHE-Centre for Educational Development, Germany. In October 2009, he was elected Vice President of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence. His main fields of work are ranking, evaluation, quality management and performance indicators. He is coordinating the international ranking activities at CHE and has published on quality assessment and rankings. He plays a leading role in the U-Multirank Project funded by the European Union.

He is a member of the German Association of Higher Education Research and the German Association of Evaluation. He started to work for the German Science Council in 1993 where he focused on higher education, evaluation and indicators, higher education and employment and on university medicine. He conducted many evaluations of German higher education institutions.

Paul Wouters, Professor of Scientometrics, Director of Centre for Science and Technology Studies Leiden University (the Netherlands). Wouters is member of the editorial boards of Social Studies of Science, the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Scholarly Communication, and Cybermetrics.

He has been member of the council of the Society for the Social Study of Science and is currently member of the board of the Dutch graduate school Science, Technology, and Modern Culture (WTMC). He is involved in the European project NESSHI and is PI of the 7th Framework project ACUMEN.

Zhuo Lin Feng, Professor of Education, a member of the Center for World-Class Universities (CWCU), Graduate School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China. She is an expert in the field of world-class university ranking and university strategy regarding research and innovation. She has been a speaker at international conferences in China and Europe and is an author of several articles.

John O’Leary is a member of the Executive Board responsible for the QS World University Rankings and is consultant editor of QS Showcase, focusing on higher education in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. He is a journalist and education consultant, who works for QS and a variety of newspapers and magazines, universities and national organizations.

John O’Leary writes regularly on education for The Times, Education Journal and Higher Education World, and is a frequent speaker at international conferences. He also edits The Times Good University Guide, which introduced the first university rankings to the UK. He is also the author of Higher Education in England, published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in 2009.

Philip Purnell, Thought Leadership & Customer Education Manager, Thomson Reuters. Graduated from the Institute of Psychiatry, London and then went on to hold a research post at the Max-Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich, Germany. He then spent several years working with pharmaceutical companies and subsequently moved into the scientific, technical and medical publishing. Philip has advised universities, government research institutions and funding bodies across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia on strategies to evaluate their research output and performance. He has also studied the underlying publication and citation data used in scientometrics which he has communicated through workshops, lectures and publications.

Vadim Sobolev, Head of Research Intelligence – Russia, Belarus & Ukraine, Elsevier B.V.

Richard Holmes is world known higher education expert. Prof. Emeritus at Universiti Teknologi MARA in Malaysia. He is editor of University Ranking Watch blog.
IREG Forum 2015

Rankings by Subject
- Inclusive Approach to University Performance

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