



Observatory on Academic  
Ranking and Excellence

# **University Rankings as Integral Part of Higher Education Landscape**

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and Excellence

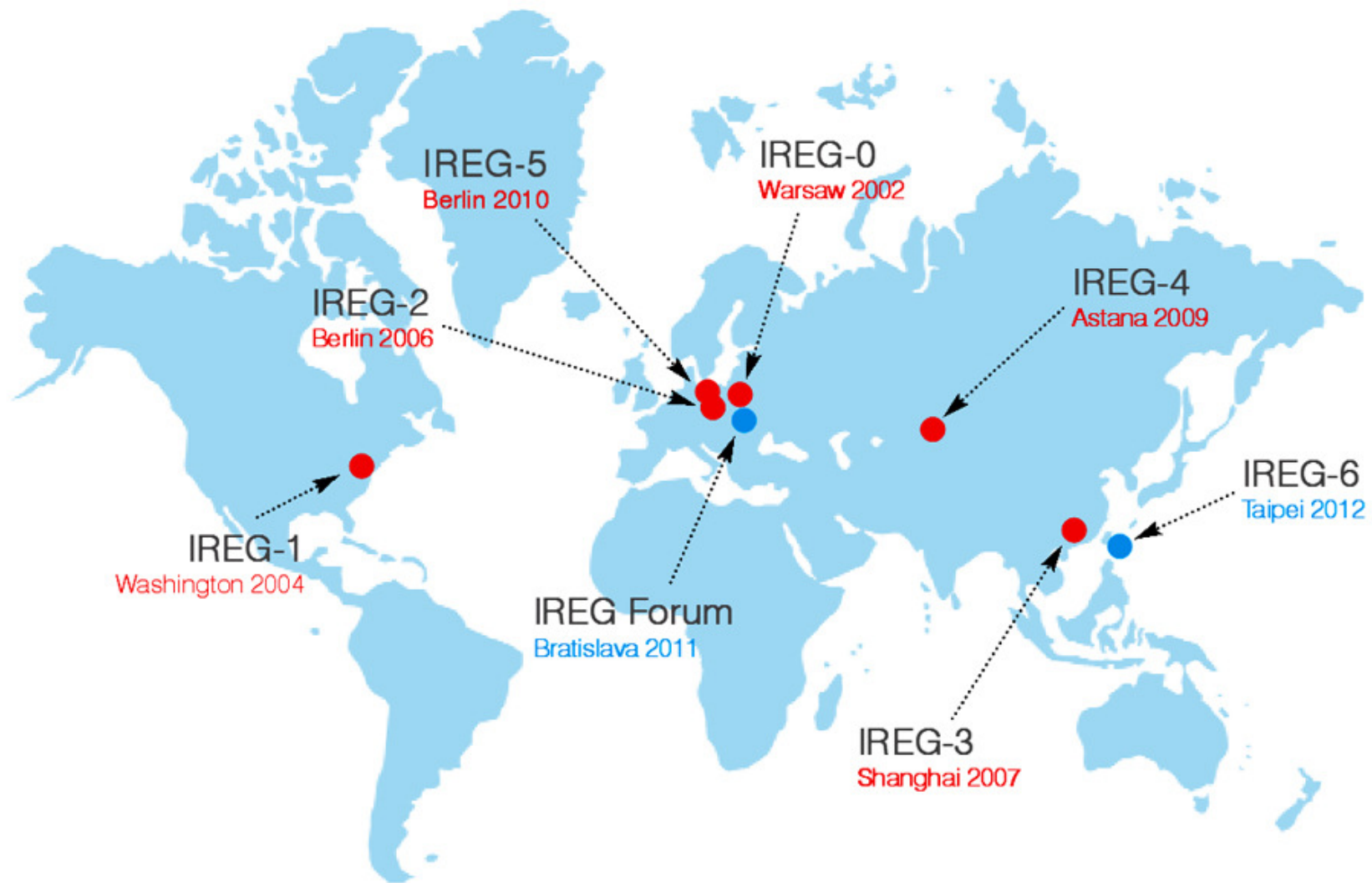
- **What is IREG Observatory?**
- **Current trends in higher education.**
- **What rankings are, and what are not?**
- **For whom are rankings made?**
- **International Rankings.**
- **National Rankings.**
- **Regional Rankings.**
- **Evolution of Rankings.**
- **Standards in ranking.**

## **IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence**

is an association of ranking organizations and universities.

Its goal is the improvement of the quality of rankings through  
establishing the permanent system of discussion  
(opened to international community)  
evaluation of rankings  
and exchange of 'good practice' in rankings.

## What is IREG Observatory?





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## IREG Observatory Executive Committee

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**Robert J. Morse**, U.S. News & World Report, Washington, DC, USA

**Victor Antonovich Sadovnichy**, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia

**Managing Director: Kazimierz Bilanow**, Poland

[www.ireg-observatory.org](http://www.ireg-observatory.org)



### Mass access to Higher Education (**massification**)

- HE is no longer a privilege of the social elites.
- In a number of countries, over 40% of student age youth attend HE institutions.



## Globalization

In a knowledge based economy  
research and innovation  
determines position  
and competitive edge of the  
country and its economy.






























## Internationalization

Students, academic teachers and researchers in large numbers move from country to country, from continent to continent.



# Current trends in higher education

## World-Class university challenge

RANK	COUNTRY		Top 200	Top 500	Top 1000
1	United States of America		104	179	354
2	Germany		17	49	67
3	Canada		17	27	38
4	United Kingdom		12	35	68
5	Australia		6	13	29
6	Netherlands		6	9	13
7	Spain		4	27	42
8	Sweden		4	9	14
9	Japan		3	10	38
10	Switzerland		3	8	10
11	Norway		3	4	5
12	Taiwan		2	10	23
13	Brazil		2	9	16
14	Hong Kong		2	5	6
15	Austria		2	4	9
16	Czech Republic		2	3	10
17	France		1	16	47
18	Italy		1	13	35
19	Finland		1	7	10
20	Belgium		1	6	8
21	China		1	5	16
22	Denmark		1	5	8
23	Israel		1	5	7
24	Republic Of Korea		1	4	12
25	Mexico		1	2	6

Number os best universities according to *Webometrics 2009*.

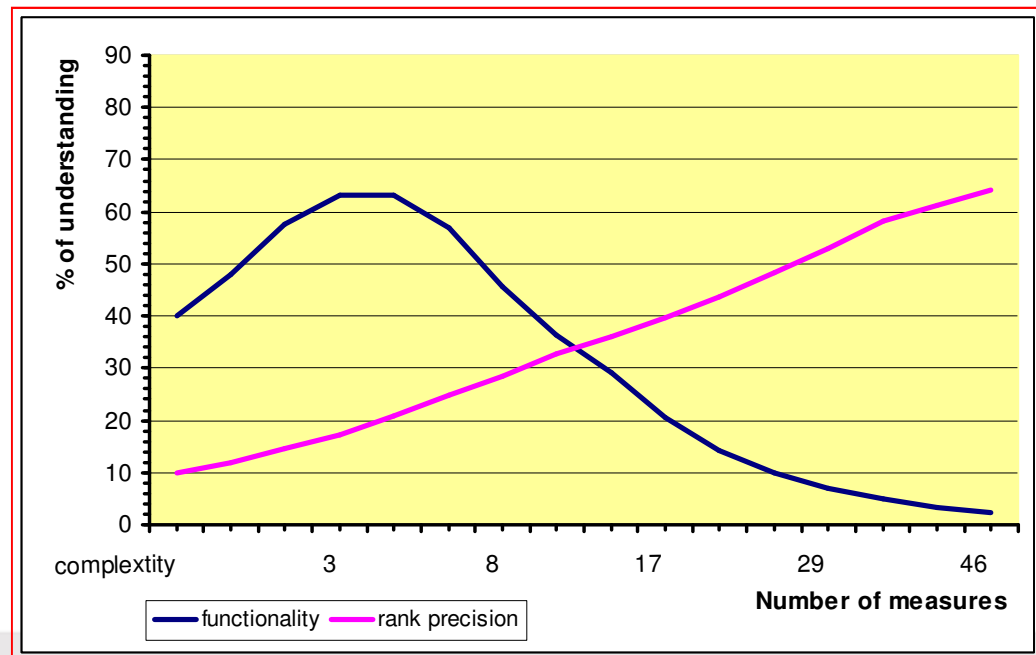
# What rankings are, and what are not?

## Ranking is information arranged in order

about: universities, faculties and programs sorted and arranged to serve:

- high school graduates (and their parents) looking for college or university,
- academics who want to compare its own faculty with other in the field,
- politicians searching for tools to best (let's hope!) allocate financial resources.

Balance between desired and achievable elements.



# What rankings are, and what are not?

There always are two **subjective elements** present:

- criteria,
- percentage weight.

All other factors can be **objective and standardized**:

- methodology of measuring,
- data verification,
- mode of presentation.



## For whom are rankings made?

- Students and their parents.
- Academic teachers and researchers.
- Rectors and University Presidents.
- Policy makers.



UNAM Conference, Mexico, 14 April 2011



### National ranking

1983 US News & World Report

**Bob Morse** “US News & World Report”

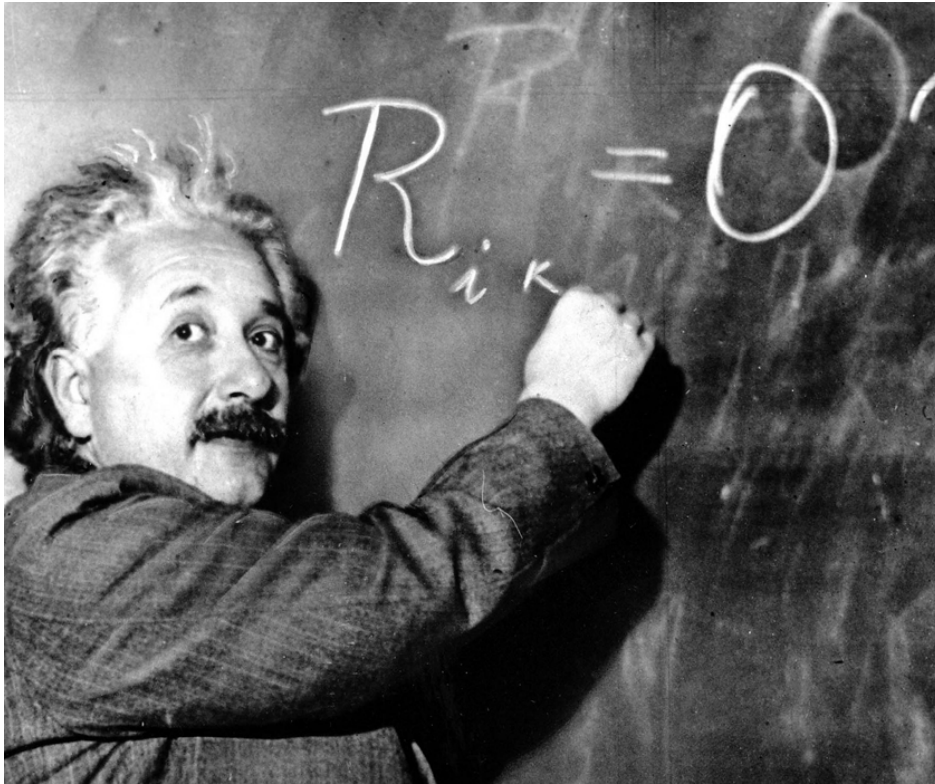


### International ranking

2003 Shanghai World University Ranking

prof. **Nian Cai Liu**, Shanghai Jiao Tong University



**Albert Einstein:**

*– Not everything that  
can be counted counts,  
and not everything that  
counts can be counted*



**IREG-5 Conference, 6-8 October, Berlin.**

## Academic Ranking of World Universities

Multicriteria ranking

Number of institutions reviewed: 1200

Number of institutions ranked: 500



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

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## THE World University Ranking

Multicriteria institutional ranking

Number of institutions reviewed: 400

Number of institutions ranked: 200



[www.timeshighereducation.co.uk](http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk)



### QS World University Rankings



Multicriteria ranking

Number of institutions considered in the last stage: 600

Number of institutions ranked: 500

[www.topuniversities.com](http://www.topuniversities.com)

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### HEEACT Ranking of Scientific Papers

(Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan)

Ranking based on bibliometric analysis

Number of institutions in published ranking: 500



[www.heeact.edu.tw](http://www.heeact.edu.tw)



## Webometrics Ranking of World Universities

Ranking based on the Internet resources  
Number of institutions (final stage): 15 000  
Number of institutions ranked: 12 003



[www.webometrics.info](http://www.webometrics.info)

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## Leiden University Ranking

Ranking based on bibliometric analysis  
Number of ranked institutions: 500



[www.socialsciences.leiden.edu](http://www.socialsciences.leiden.edu)

## FT Business School Rankings

Based on programs peer reviews  
and alumni careers development.

Ranking Masters in Management 2010.



<http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings>

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## SIR (SCImago Institutions Rankings)

Ranking of Worldwide Research Institutions  
Number of ranked institutions: 3833



[www.scimagoir.com](http://www.scimagoir.com)





## CHE Cross-National Ranking

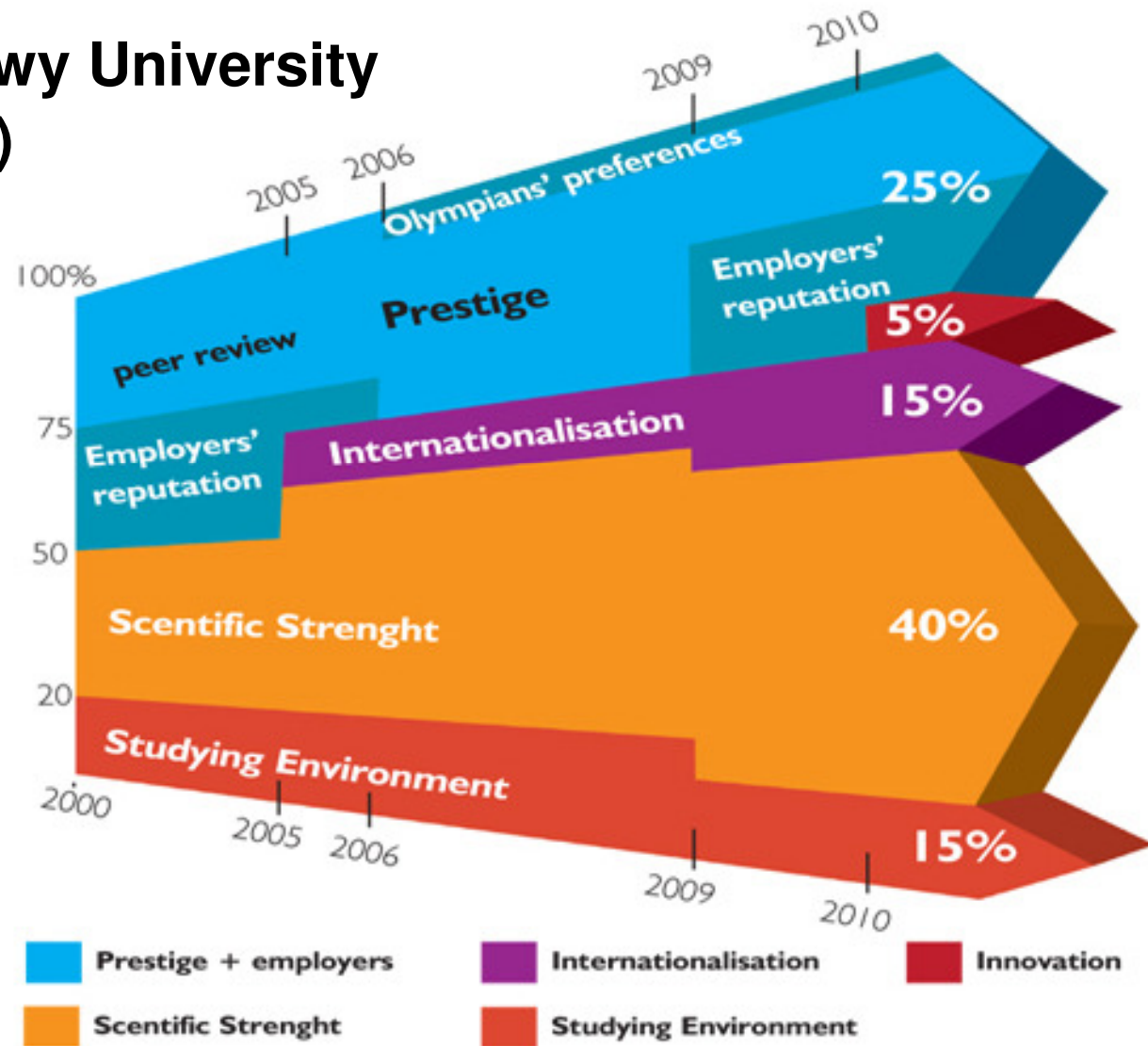
Step-by-step internationalisation:

- 2004 Austria,
- 2005 Switzerland,
- 2006 pilot Netherlands,
- 2009 Netherlands & single universities from other countries.

### Case: Perspektywy University Ranking (Poland)



5 groups of criteria  
32 indicators





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■ **BERLIN PRINCIPLES ON RANKING OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

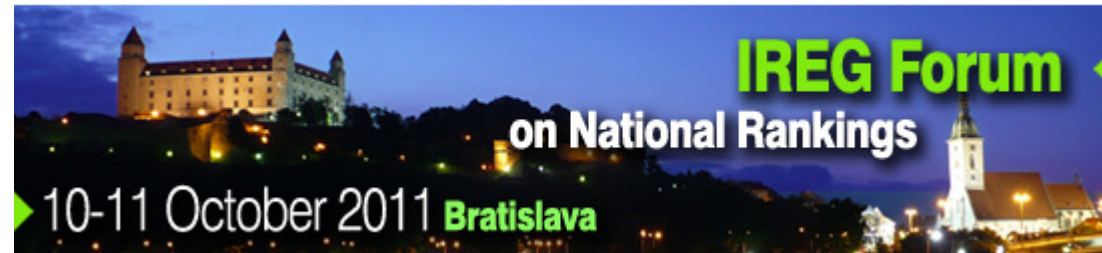
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- Be clear about purpose and target groups.
- Provide clarity about sources.
- Specify linguistic, cultural, economic, and historical contexts.
- Be transparent regarding methodology.
- Pay due attention to ethical standards and good practice.
- Use audited and verifiable data.
- Apply measures of quality assurance.



The purpose of the audit, conducted by independent academic teams, will be:

- **to verify** if a ranking under review is done professionally,
- **observes** good practices and
- **provides** students, their parents and employers with the **information** allowing them to compare and assess programs offered by higher education institutions.

**IREG Forum:**

*National Rankings on the Rise,  
Bratislava, October 2011*

**IREG-6** Conference, Taipei, 18-22 April, 2012

*Academic Rankings and Advancement of Higher  
Education: Lessons from Asia and other Regions*



Observatory on Academic  
Ranking and Excellence

*Thank you*

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