



Observatory on Academic
Ranking and Excellence

Drive to increase the quality of rankings

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Higher education - a big business

- A century ago only society elite attended university
- Now a half of young population gets some higher education
- Foreign student brings money and brains - is best export



Educated consumer wants to know

- Students, their parents, employers seek information on
- Tuition, chances for employment, earning prospects, position in the society



Ranking to increase circulation

- US News & World Report “Best Colleges”,
Perspektywy University Ranking in Poland
- Shift from print to internet without losing
popularity



Rankings criticized

- professors do not like someone from outside the academia to tell that some universities or colleges are better than others
- colleges refuse to cooperate with rankers
- some rankings are poorly made and deserve critic



International rankings

- Higher education market has become global
- Growing international student mobility
- Shanghai ranking, QS-THE, Webometrics



Rankers get together

- Informal group of experts IREG (international ranking expert group)
- IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence established in 2009
- Members from Europe, Asia and North America



Rankers take responsibility

- Only good rankings can give consumer valuable information and help improve the quality of higher education
- Berlin principles on rankings



Ranking audit

- Based on facts
- Transparent
- Independently verified



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Thank you

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