

# KEVÄTPÄIVÄT 2015

## Rankings and their impact on Nordic higher education institutions (7.5.2015)

An overview of the rankings THE and ARWU (Shanghai) and how they are used in a Nordic context

- report **Nordiske universiteter og internasjonale uiversitetsrangeringer** (by Fredrik Piro, NIFU, 2014)
- the report is about rankings of Norwegian universities and a comparison with other Nordic universities
- Nordic universities together are doing quite well in these rankings
- the rankings are not transparent which is a huge problem

**Shanghai ARWU** – research excellence – Nobel prizes, papers in Nature and Science, citations, size, difficult to change position from year to year, ranked today for research that was made 20-30 years ago, and Noble prizes that were awarded a long time ago

**THE** – reputation votes and citation of publications are important – can occur big changes in a university's position from year to year

- these rankings are not taking education into account, it is solely about research and reputation
- the rankings are interesting for Nordic universities, but in general not considered important in the strategic work at a Nordic university
- when a university climbs on the lists it has probably received some more reputation votes and has had a couple of more articles, but has not done anything new and very good

### Lund University

- the university doesn't like rankings, but universities have to at least discuss rankings and how to deal with them. How do we communicate the rankings and why?
- rankings are important in recruitment; many students choose Lund University because it belongs to "a top world 100 university", many scholarships abroad are awarded only for studies at ranked universities
- can also be important to employers – a good ranked university matters
- QS, THE, Shanghai (ARWU) are used at Lund University but also U.S.News and Universitas21

### U-Multirank – Haaga-Helia Polytechnic

- the data is 2-3 years old – considered old in a Finnish context, instead the data should be taken directly from the Ministry of Education and Culture's data system instead of asking all HEIs separately
- Polytechnics don't educate PhDs and in Finland there are no tuition fees → difficult to answer some of the questions
- cultural differences – hard to get the students to answer the feedback survey – instead the Finnish graduation feedback should be used
- Haaga-Helia Polytechnic has 1000 degree students from 90 countries, but the students have never been asked if they have heard about U-Multirank or how they learned about Haaga-Helia

### Discussion

- which rankings will be used in the future?
  - national rankings will be more used, like US News
  - other more subject related rankings like Financial Times
  - maybe an African ranking?
  - there will be different rankings that appeal to different kinds of students
- Shanghai has started to realise that the Nobel price is not a good indicator
- U-Multirank is not interesting for good research based multidisciplinary universities because other similar good universities don't use it, doesn't give any added value, it is conducted by using public money
- QS is the most interesting ranking from a student's perspective
- a lot of universities are submitting data but only 100 can be on the list