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**Introducing the University Ranking
System In Bulgaria**

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Structure of the presentation:

- Main drivers
- Purpose and approach
- Methodology
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Next steps

The main drivers:

- Widespread interest in what is the real situation in the higher education sector;
- The need for comparisons
- A demand for independent and objective information about HEI' s and the quality they provide

Purpose

- To assist potential students in deciding where to study;
- To integrate various sources of information about HEI's
- To allow identification of issues for concern as well as windows of opportunity and prompt development of adequate policies and strategies

The approach:

- A multidimensional system based on a set of indicators, describing the three major university functions- teaching, research and commitment to the social development;
- A flexible system, allowing for periodic updates of information;
- An interactive system allowing for tailor-made classifications

Ranking Methodology

- Multiple classifications are generated on the basis of 52 indicators
- Indicators are organised in 6 groups and each group is given a weight by experts
- Institutional diversity is taken into account when assigning the weights to the groups

The 6 groups of indicators- combine survey results with statistics

1. "Learning and Teaching" – 20% weight
2. "Resources" – 10%
3. "Research and Development"- 20%
4. "Student Social and Living Conditions"- 5%
5. "Reputation" – 15%
6. Graduate employment and professional fulfillment" – 30%

The choice of indicators and their different role

- Process and outcome indicators dominate over the input indicators (85% against 15% weight)
- Graduate employment is considered as universal quality indicator – 30% weight
- “R&D” group of indicators is excluded from the classification of institutions of Arts and Drama

The ranking process- just a few steps away:

- Go to <http://rsvu.mon.bg>
- Select a subject field in which you would like to rank universities
- Select the type of ranking you would like to retrieve (e.g., one of the 6 groups);
- Review the set of indicators applied
- Produce the ranking.

Achievements:

- Possibilities for comparisons alongside multiple dimensions
- Customized and interactive system
- Allows for system-level analyses
- First ranking of such a scale
- Prompted reform discussions;
- Renewed government-HEIs' dialogue regarding new directions for change

Challeneges:

- Quality and reliability of data received from HEIs;
- Some key quality indicators are missing (e.g., related to the assessment of graduate competences, access of students to ICT, organisation of experiential learning, graduates' impact on the labour market, internationalisation, etc.)

Next steps:

- Institutionalization of ranking – ensuring independence, , transparency, impartiality and continuity + the necessary human resources;
- Further development of the system and improvement of its methodology...
 - Should take into account the impact of individual HEI on the market;
 - Should identify problem or possibility areas
 - Should be more responsive to student needs

Thank you for your attention!

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