



U-Multirank

# U-Multirank

Developing a concept and testing the  
feasibility of a multi-dimensional global  
university ranking

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IREG 5 Conference  
Berlin, 6 – 8 October 2010



# *Presentation*

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- I. Context
- II. Basic Approach: Mapping Diversity
- III. Indicators
- IV. Pilot Study
- V. Conclusions



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# *Projectpartners*

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CENTRE FOR HIGHER  
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Center for Higher Education Development (CHE)



Center for  
Higher Education  
Policy Studies

Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS)



Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS)



International Centre for Research on Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation Management (INCENTIM)



Observatoire des Sciences et des Techniques (OST)



*European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)*



*European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI)*



## Context: Policy Issues

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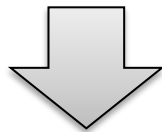
**Bologna process /  
European higher  
education area**

**Growing  
mobility of  
students /  
staff**

**Cooperation/  
competition  
between  
European  
HEIs**

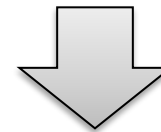
**European Union:  
Lisbon Strategy**

**International competition**



**Need for *European*  
transparency**

**&**



**Need for *global*  
benchmarking**



## *Context: Global rankings*

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### **Global university rankings**

**Neglect of  
teaching and  
learning**

**Neglect of  
non-  
university  
research**

**Focus on  
sciences**

**Cultural and  
language  
bias**

**Confined to research excellence of  
international research universities (in sciences):  
de-valuation of other profiles**



**Need to take into account diversity  
of higher education institutions**



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# *The EC call for tender (2009)*

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- development of concept *and* feasibility study
- *global* ranking (not only European)
- multi-dimensional
  - teaching and learning (incl. employability)
  - research
  - knowledge transfer
  - internationalisation (incl. mobility)
  - community outreach
- institutional and field-based (disciplines)
- *all* types of higher education and research institutions
- multiple stakeholders



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## *Classification and ranking: Mapping diversity*

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Diversity of higher education institutions in Europe/the world

Identifying *comparable* institutions that can be compared in one ranking

### **CLASSIFICATION U-MAP**

Description of horizontal diversity



**Activity profiles**

### **RANKINGS U-MULTIRANK**

Assessment of vertical diversity



**Performance profiles**

+

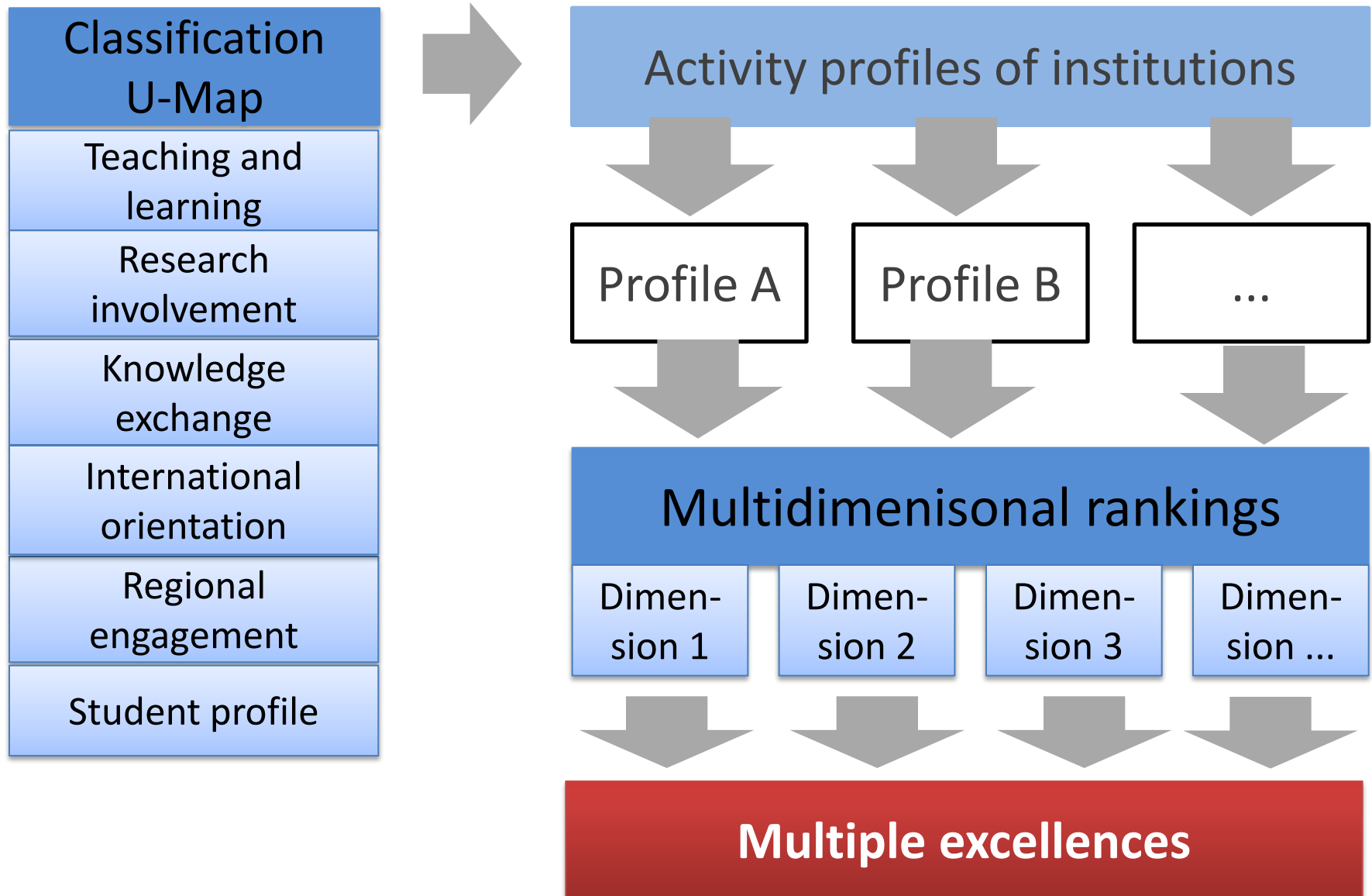
Complementary instruments of transparency



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## *U-Map and U-Multirank*

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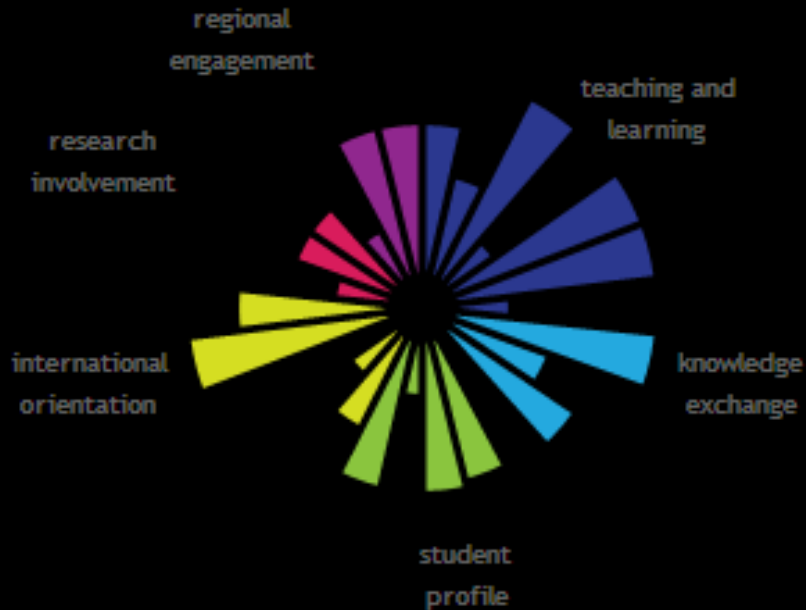




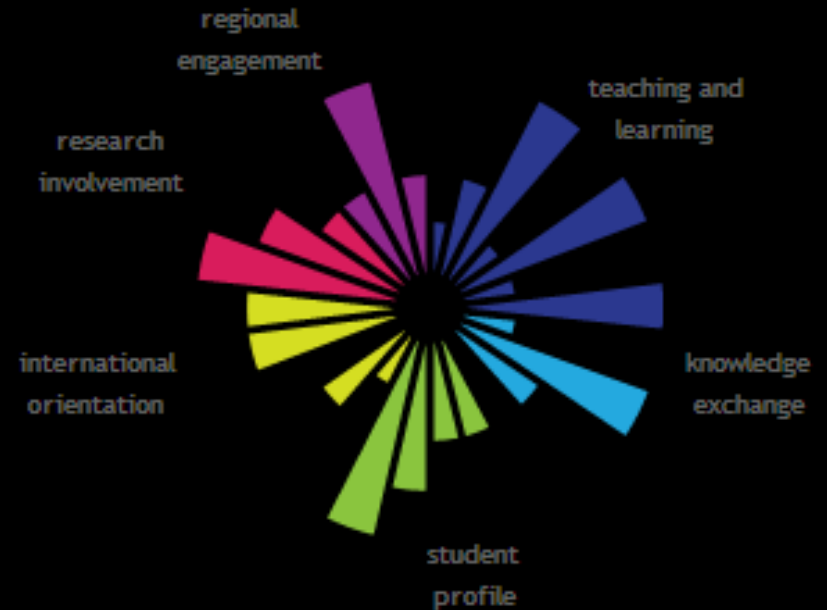
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# *U-Map institutional profiles*

"University F"



"University K"





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# *U-Multirank - Dimensions*

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**Focused  
institutional  
ranking**

**Business**

**Engineering**

**Mechanical  
engineering**

**Electrical  
engineering**

**Teaching & Learning**

**Research**

**Knowledge Transfer**

**International Orientation**

**Regional Engagement**



# *U-Multirank – Basic concepts*

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## Basic methodological approach

### Multi dimensional

- **Multi-dimensional view on profiles**
- **No composite overall indicator**
- **No fixed weights for indicators**
- **Interactive ranking**

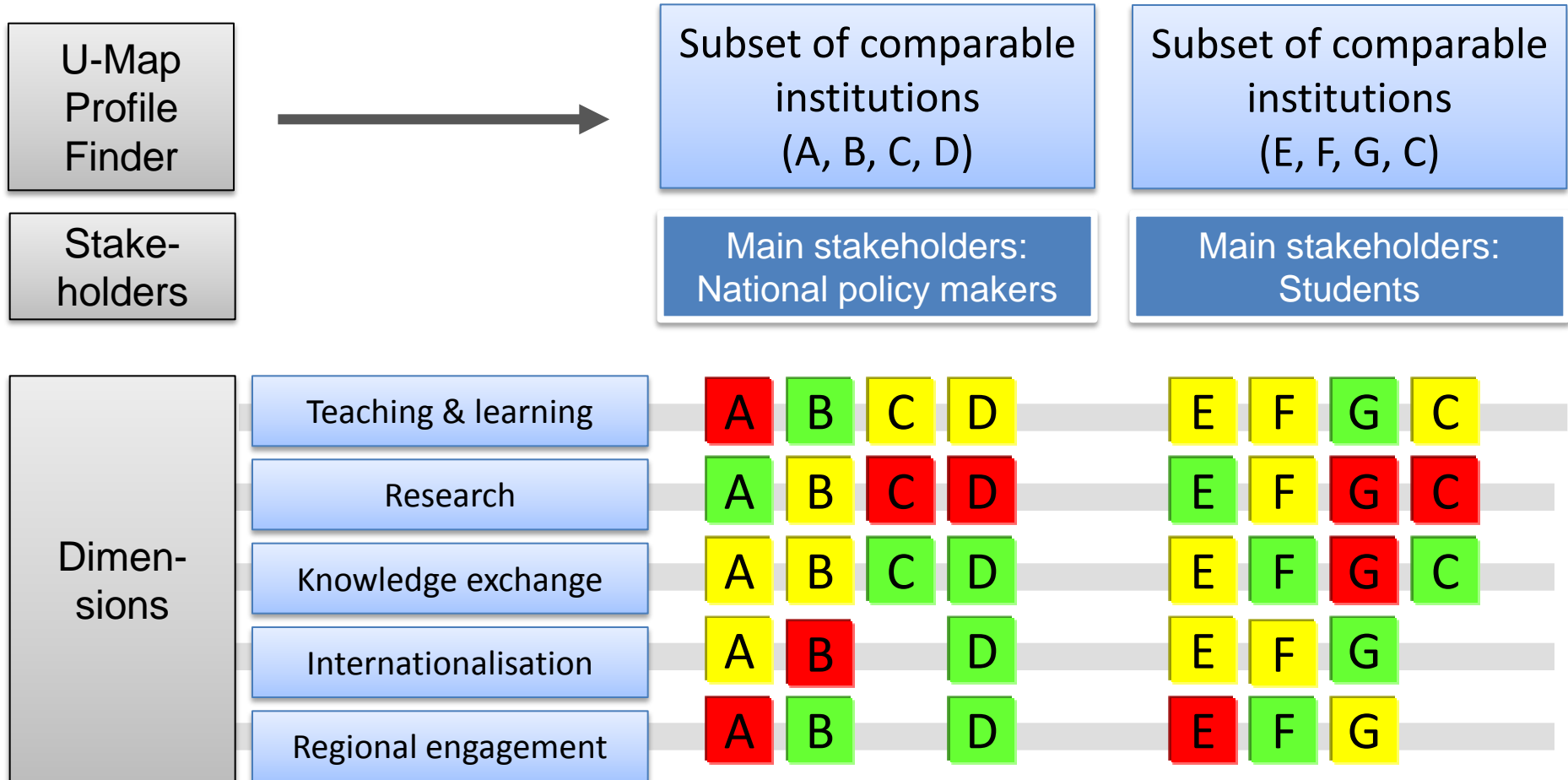
### Groups (no league table)

- **Avoiding false impressions of exactness**
- **No exaggeration of differences between HEIs**



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# *U-Multirank Logic of Rankings*





# *Presentation*

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III. Indicators

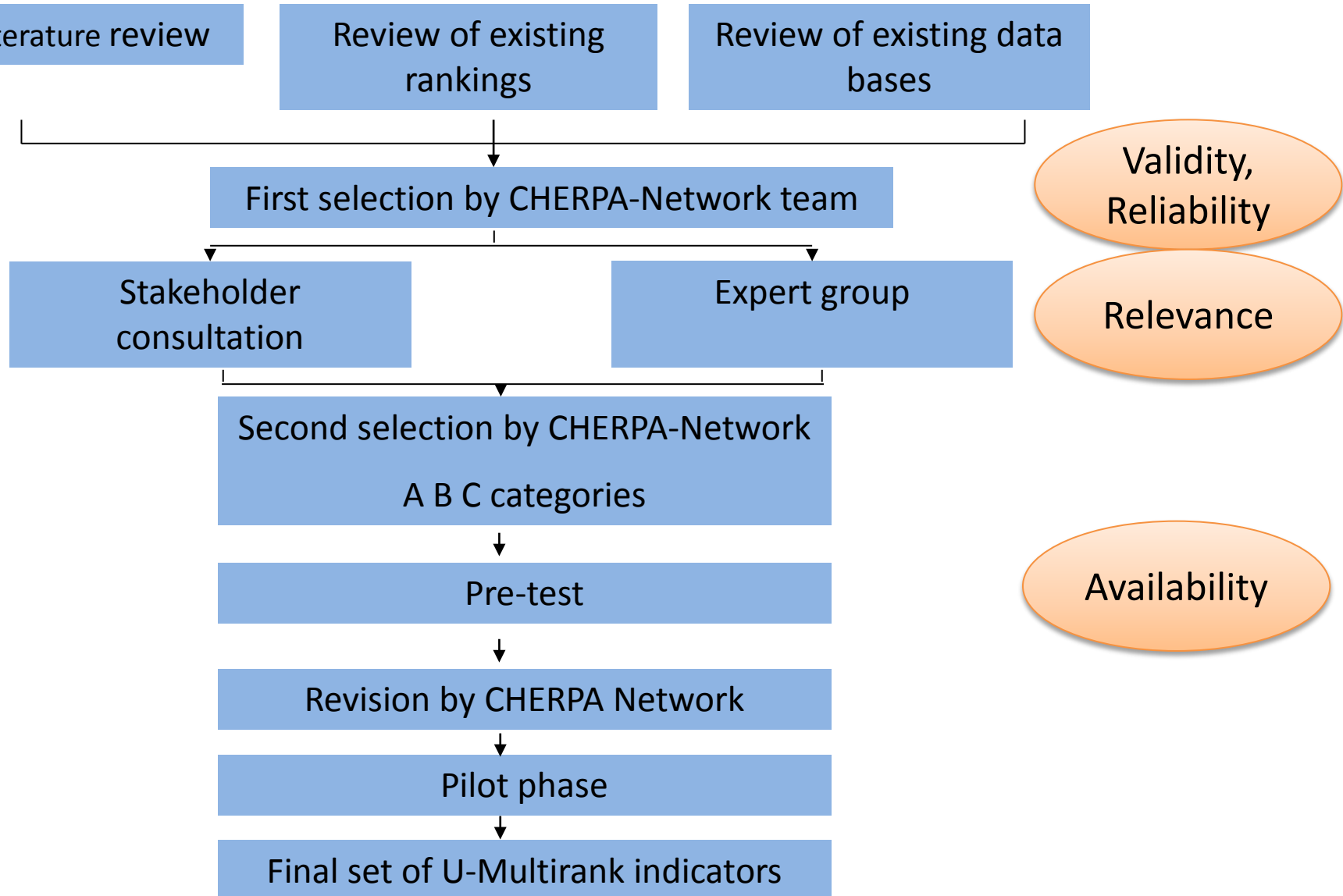
IV. Pilot Study

V. Conclusions



# *Selection of indicators: Process*

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# Indicators Teaching & learning

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	In (inter)national database	In institutional databases	Not readily available	Combined rating	
Graduation Rate				A	✓
Time to Degree				B	✓
Relative Rate of Graduate (Un)employment				B	✓
Interdisciplinarity of programmes				B	



# Indicators Research

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Institutional					
	In (inter)national database	In institutional databases	Not readily available	Combined rating	
Citations	▲			A	✓
Number of post-doc positions	■	▲		A	✓
Expenditure on research	■			A	✓
Research publication output	▲			B	✓
Art-related outputs			▼	B	✓
Highly cited research publications	▲			B	✓
National/international awards and prizes won			▼	B	✓
Research income from competitive sources	■	■		B	✓
Interdisciplinary research activities	▲			B	✓



# Indicators Knowledge transfer

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## Institutional

	In (inter)national database	In institutional databases	Not readily available	Combined rating	
Incentives for Knowledge Exchange		■		A	✓
University-Industry Joint Research Publications	▲			A	✓
Third Party Funding	■	▲		A	✓
Patents	▲			A	✓
Size of Technology Transfer Office		■		B	
CPD courses offered			▼	B	✓
License Agreements			▼	B	
Co-patents	▲			B	



# Indicators International orientation

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## Institutional






	In (inter)national database	In institutional databases	Not readily available	Combined rating	
Educational programs in foreign language		■		A	✓
Number of joint degree programs	■	▲		A	✓
International joint research publications	▲			A	✓
International academic staff		■		B	✓
International partnerships			▼	B	
International Graduate Employment rate			▼	B	✓



# Indicators Regional engagement

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## Institutional

	In (inter)national database	In institutional databases	Not readily available	Combined rating	
Income from regional/local sources				A	√
Graduates working in the region				B	√*
Student internships in local/regional enterprises				B	√*
Research Contracts with Regional Business				B	√
Regional joint research publications				B	√



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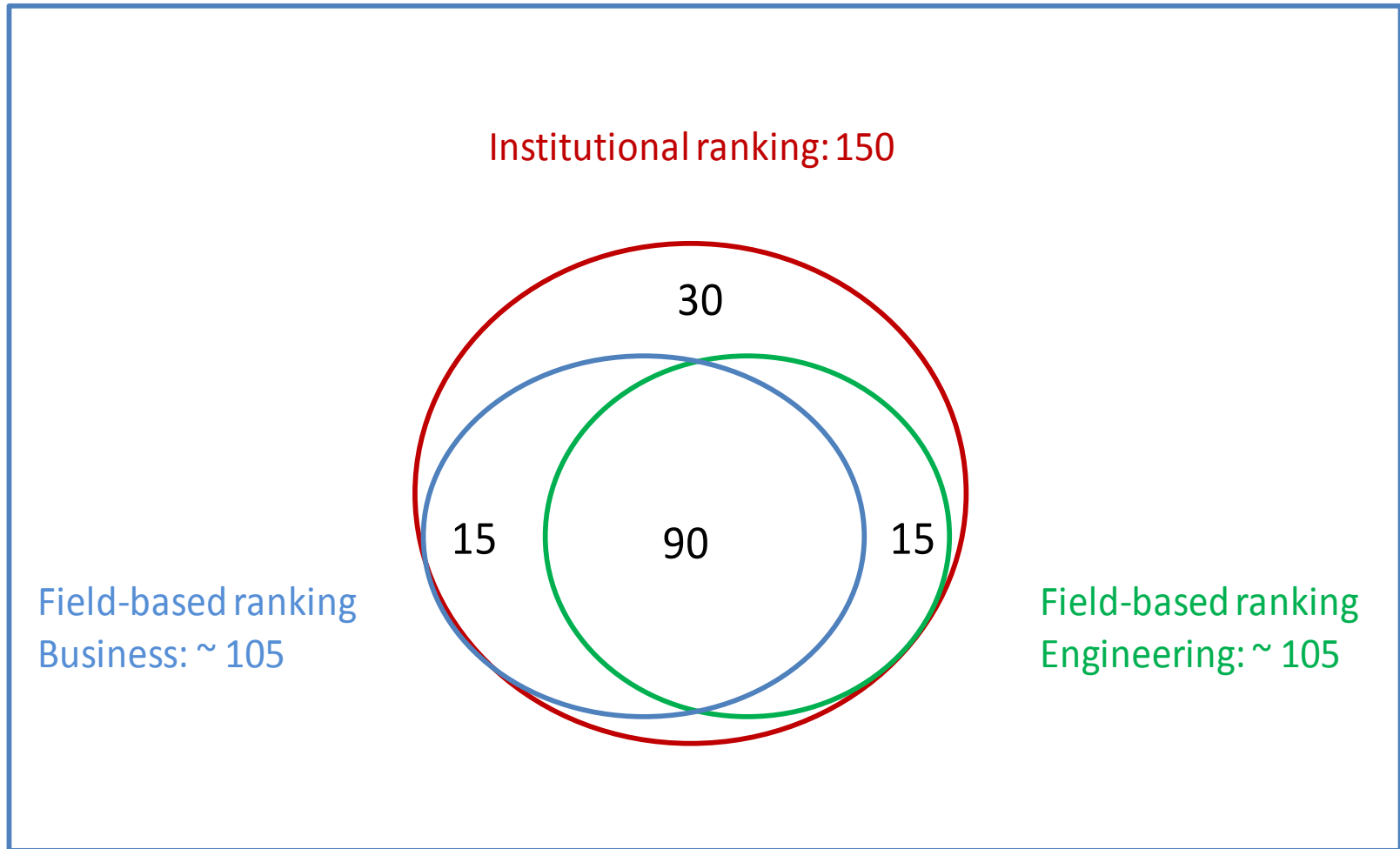
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# Sample plan

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## *Institutional profiles for feasibility study*

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### **Profile A**

#### **More internationally oriented, research intensive institutions**

- A minimum percentage of MA/graduate students (30 %)
- A minimum percentage of international students (10 %)
- Research: performing among the top 500 in the world in terms of bibliometric indicators

### **Profile B**

#### **More regionally oriented institutions with a focus on undergraduate education**

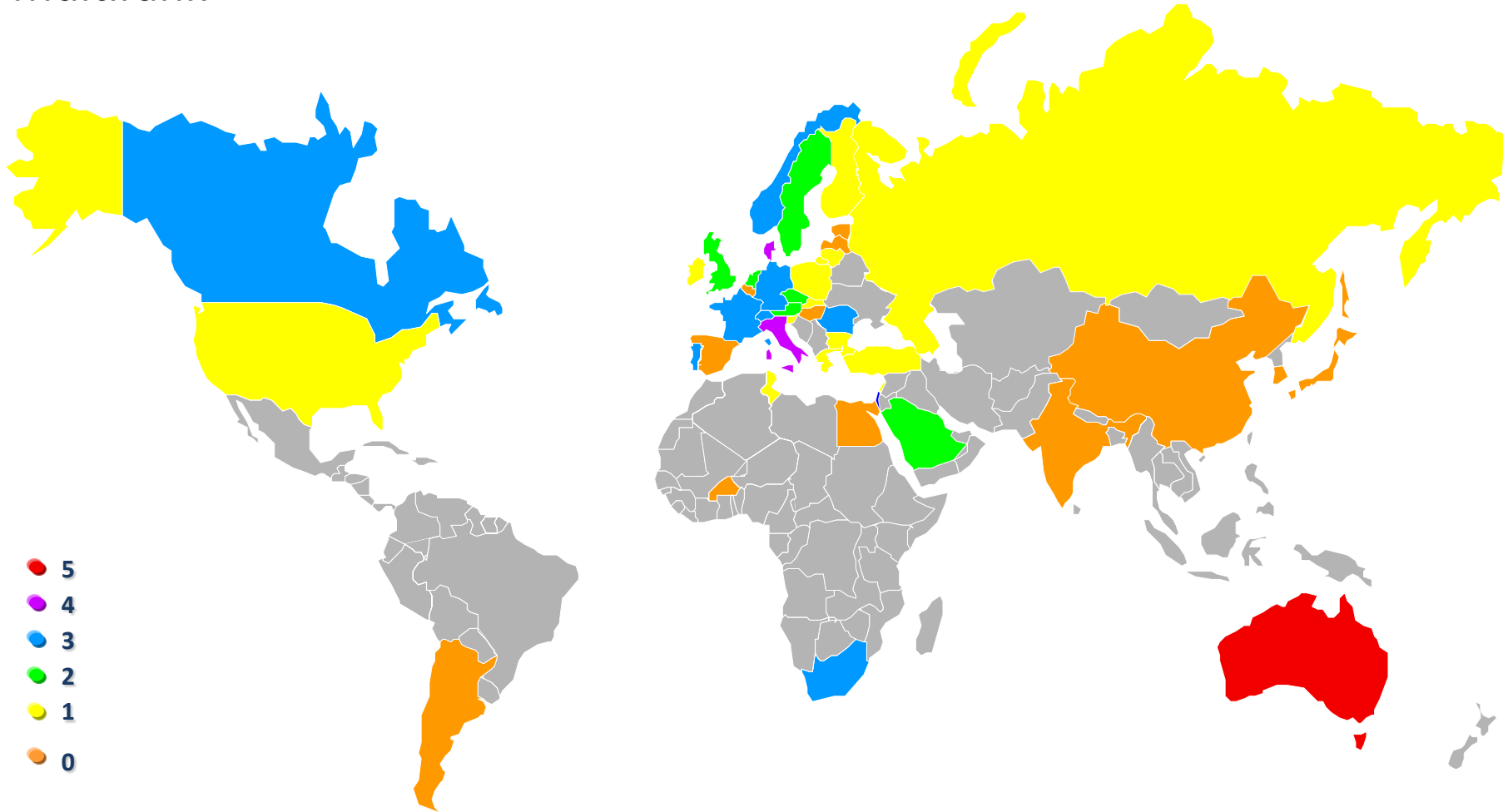
- Majority of students in BA/Undergraduate programmes (>70 %)
- Mainly regional recruitment



# *HEIs confirmed so far*

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Context

General approach

Indicators

The pilot



Volunteering pilot institutions are still welcome !

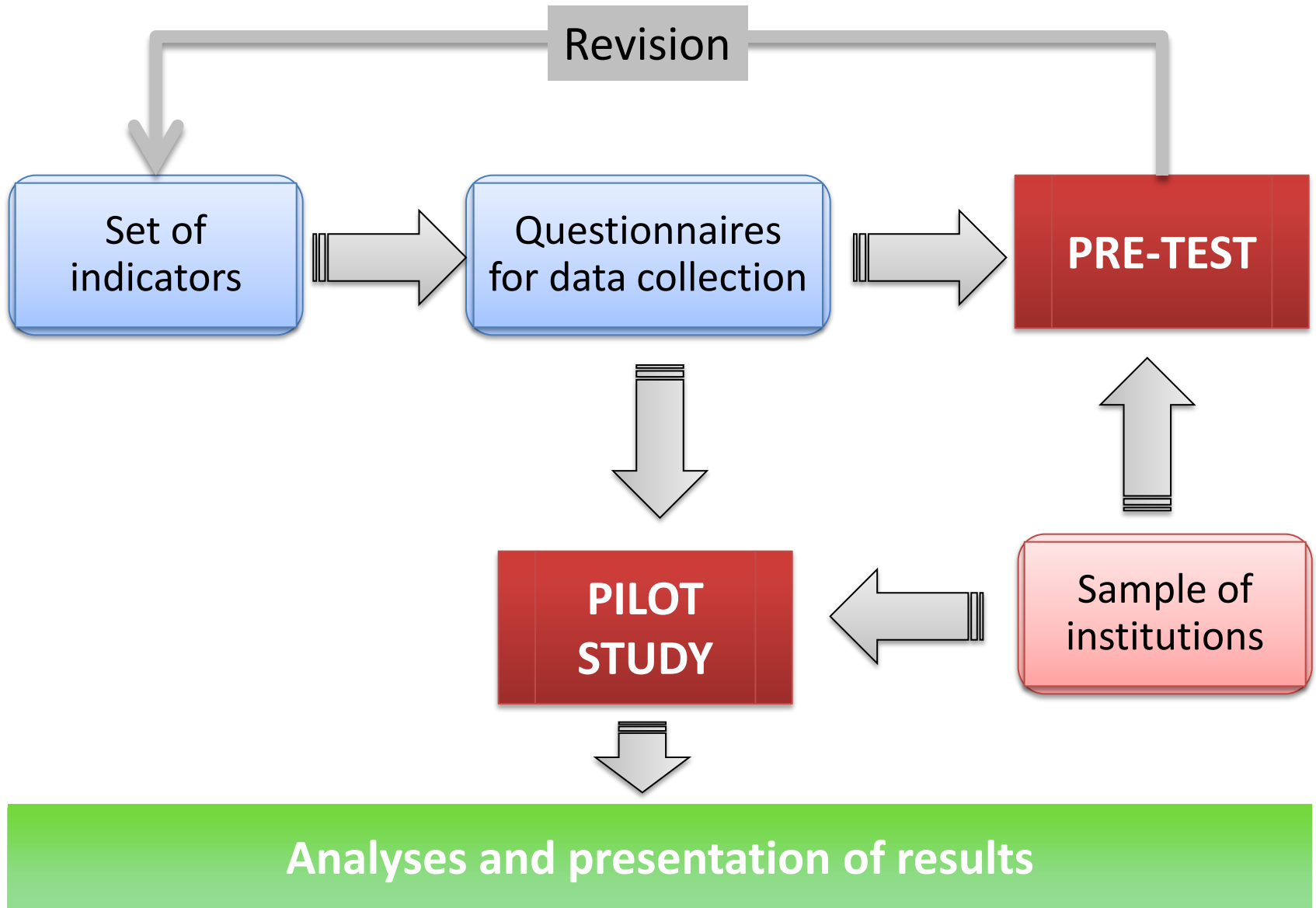
In case of interest please contact:

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Frans Kaiser, [f.kaiser@utwente.nl](mailto:f.kaiser@utwente.nl)

## Current activities – Next steps

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# *Conclusions I - results*

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## General results

- **Report on feasibility**
- **Concept for multi-dimensional international rankings**
  - **Set of indicators**
  - **Concept for publication /interactive web-tool**
- **No published ranking !!!**

## For pilot institutions

- **Participation in development of new ranking**
- **International Benchmarking within institutional profiles**



## *Conclusions II –Open questions*

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**How to ensure clearly defined/separated role of classification and rankings?**

**Relation of field-based and institutional rankings?  
Method of aggregation on institutional level**

**What is feasible?**

**Validity, reliability, comparability, availability**

**Regional scope: What can be global, what can only be European or even regional?**

**Can there be a valid global ranking showing excellence beyond the international research university?**



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## *More Information*

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**U-Multirank :**

[www.u-multirank.eu](http://www.u-multirank.eu)

**U-Map:**

[www.u-map.eu](http://www.u-map.eu)

**CHE-ranking:**

[www.che-concept.de](http://www.che-concept.de)

[www.che.ranking.de](http://www.che.ranking.de)



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