



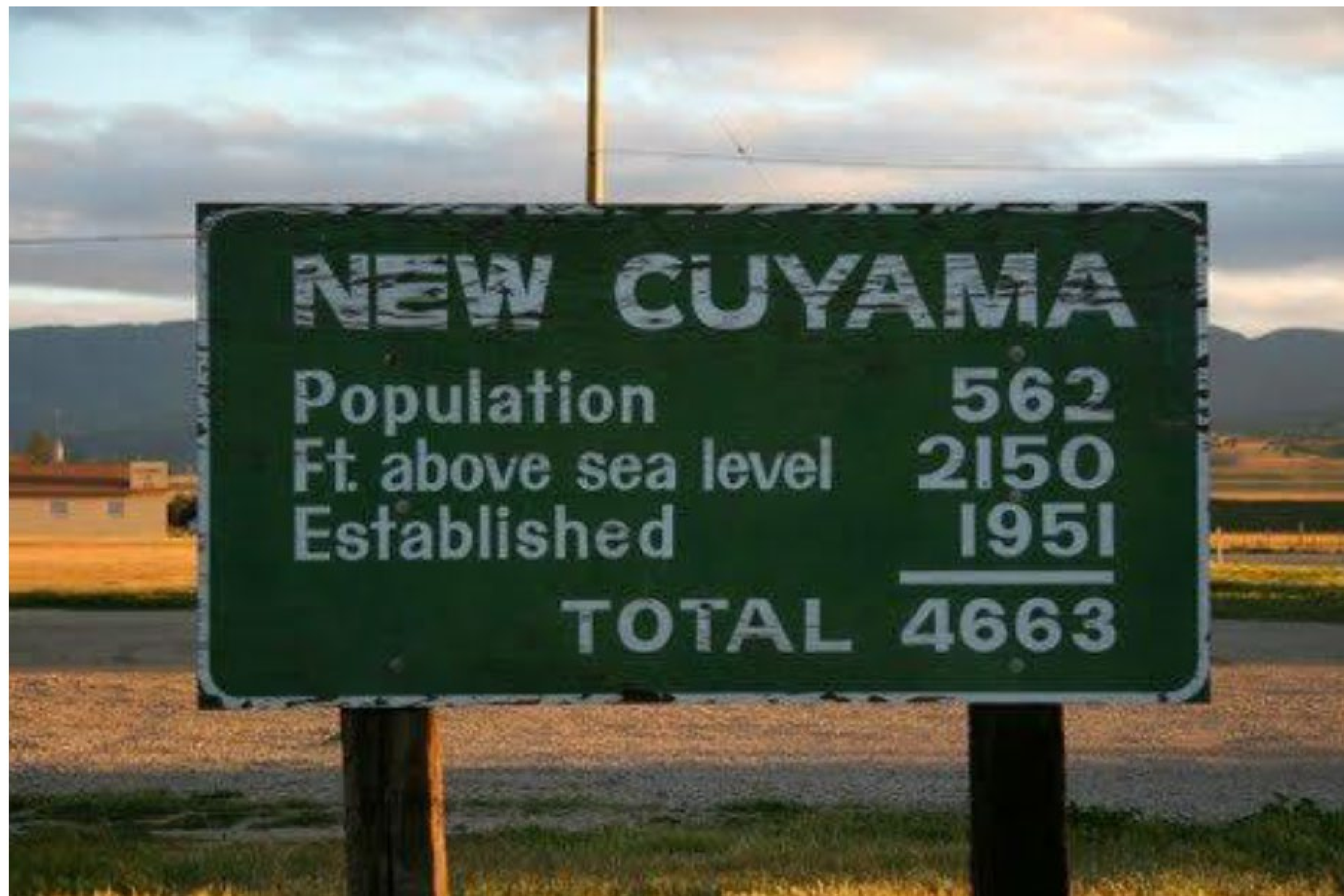
Arab universities in global context – Evidence from U-Multirank

Gero Federkeil – Managing Director U-Multirank,
CHE Centre for Higher Education, Germany

IREG 2021 Jeddah Conference, Effects of Rankings on Community and Society, 15-16 Nov 2021

Presentation

- U-Multirank: Multi-dimensional profiles instead of simplistic league tables
- The profile of Arab universities in global context – evidence from U-Multirank
- Recent developments in U-Multirank and Outlook



**Traditional
rankings
follow a
simplistic model
of quality**

LINKING

SCORES

Rank

Name
Country/Region

Overall

Teaching

Research

Citations

Industry
Income

International
Outlook

1

University of Oxford

📍 United Kingdom



Enquire

Admissions Support

95.6

91.3

99.6

98.0

68.7

96.4

2

Stanford University

📍 United States



Explore

94.9

92.2

96.7

99.9

90.1

79.5

3

Harvard University

📍 United States



Enquire

Admissions Support

94.8

94.4

98.8

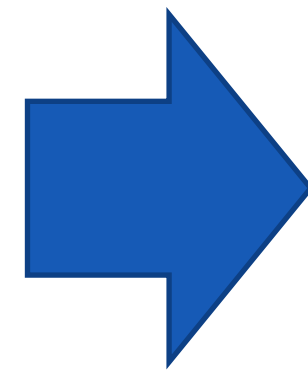
99.4

46.8

77.7

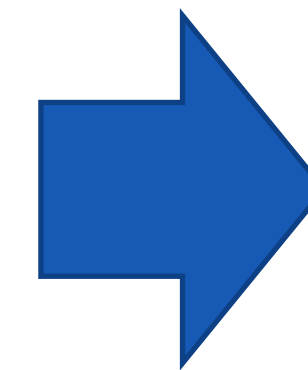
**Traditional
rankings
follow a
simplistic model
of quality**

No composite
score,
no weights on
indicators



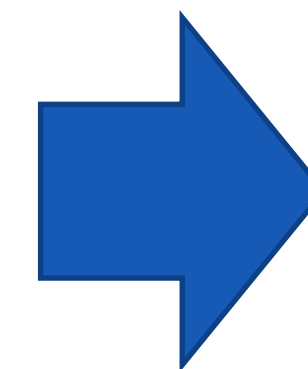
Multi-dimensional
ranking

No league table



Ranking into
5 categories
(‘A’ to ‘E’)

Not limited to
international
research
universities



Diversity of HEIs

**U-Multirank
is radically
different**

A recent example from the QS Asia ranking

According to an article in University World News, QS “pointed out that City University of Hong Kong was the only Hong Kong institution to make the top 50 in the metric of faculty staff’s academic qualifications”

As measured by the % of academic staff with a PhD

In fact:

- The first 33 all have the same score of 100; a score of 99,9 already means rank 34
- Rank 51 still has an (normalised) indicator score of 96,4 - which means there is no real difference to the Top 50 and to rank 1

**League tables
tend to
exaggerate
differences
between
universities in
an absurd way**

Existing
processes

- Data collection process was affected
- Impact on indicators, e.g. student mobility, internships

Covid-19 as
topic of
rankings

- The management of the pandemic became an issue of itself
- UMR “Covid-19 radar”
- Studyportals Global Student Satisfaction Award, UMR award category “Pandemic management”

Adaptation of
rankings

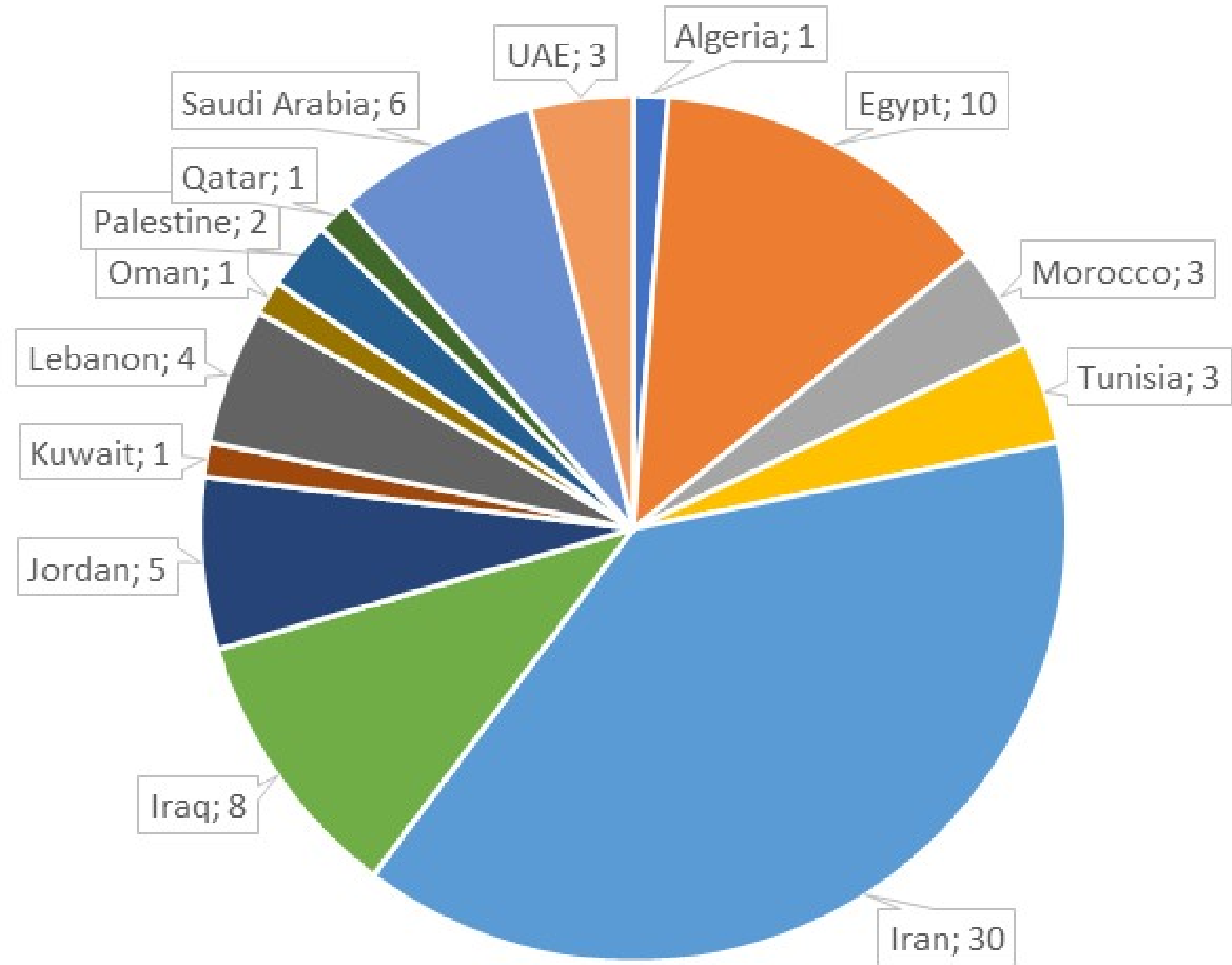
- Adaptation of HE has to be taken up in rankings, e.g.
 - Digitalisation/new forms of (blended) teaching
 - Virtual mobility

And, last but
not least

- The pandemic showed the need for cooperation in HE/research, so is it still the time to ask “Who rules?”, i.e. heat up re competition by rankings ?

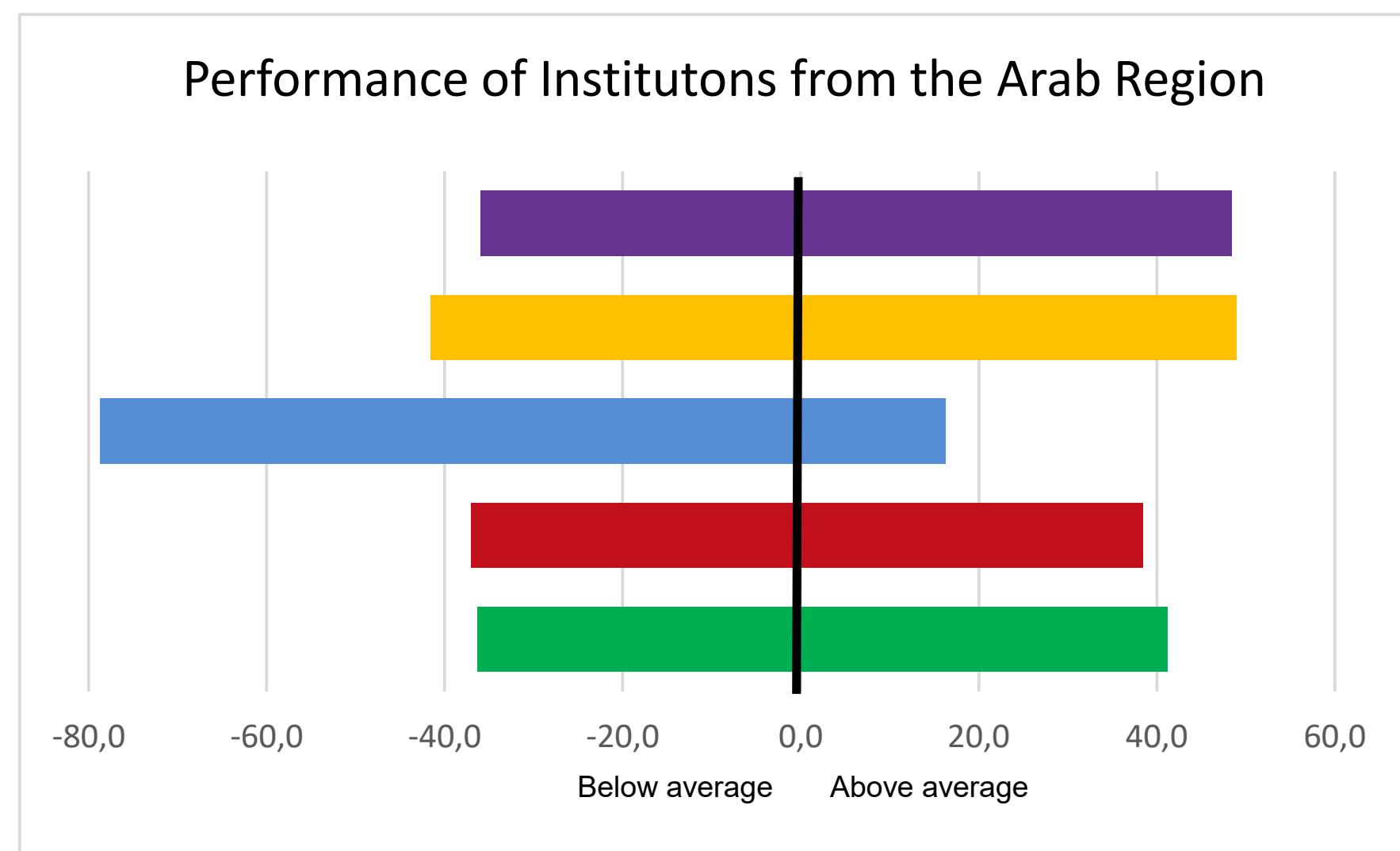
The pandemic has various impacts on rankings

Arab universities in U-Multirank



**The 2021 UMR
edition covers
78 institutions
from the Arab
region**

Regional Engagement
International Orientation
Knowledge Transfer
Research
Teaching and Learning



Percentage of all indicator scores of all Arab universities above global average (groups A and B) and below global average (groups D and E)

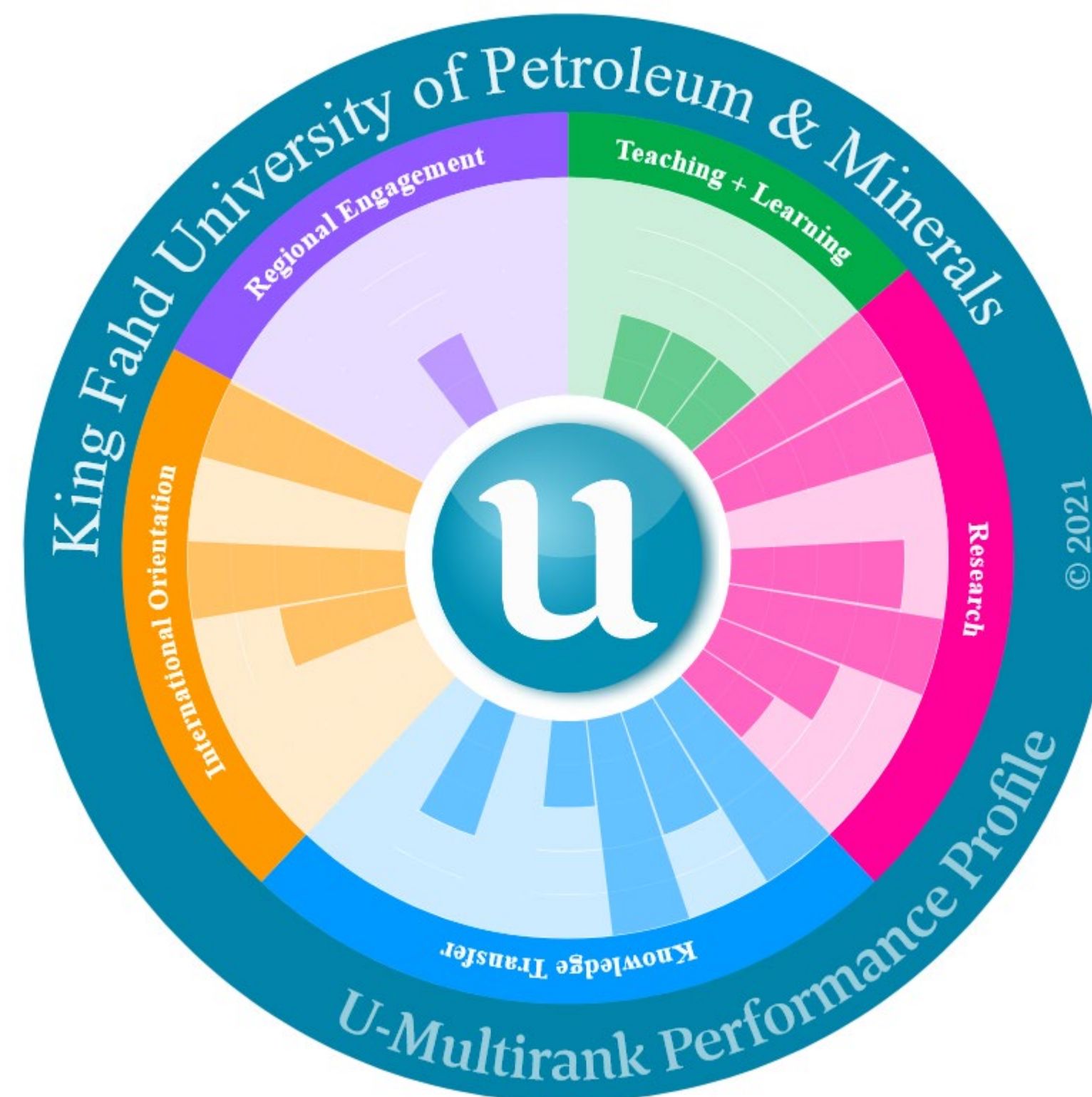
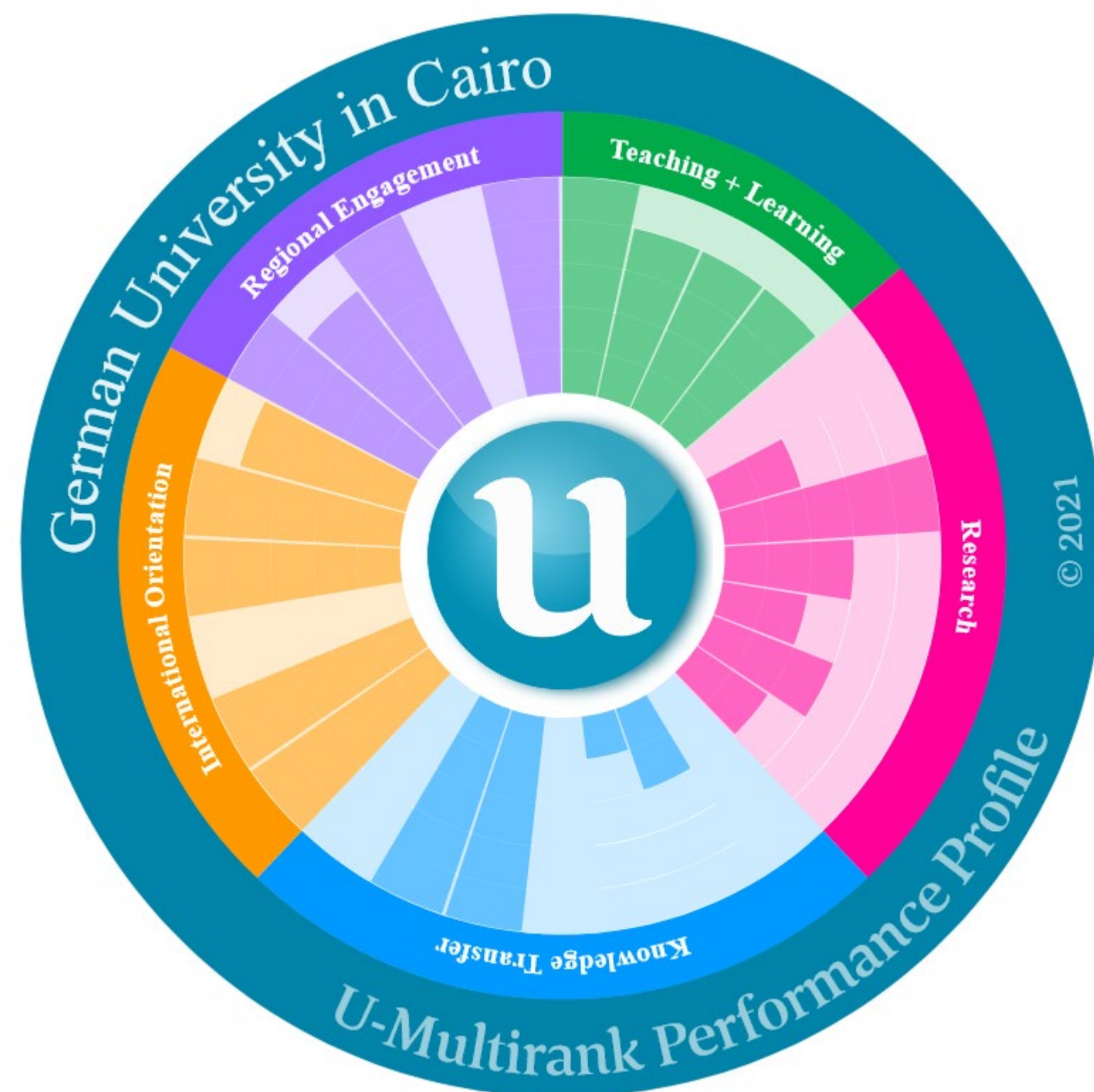
**Arab
universities
are highly
connected,
both
internationally
and regionally,
but are weak
in knowledge
transfer**

			Show symbols		Show the whole table		Bachelor graduation rate	Masters graduation rate	Graduating on time (bachelors)	Graduating on time (masters)	
A-Z		Top scores									
			Personalise this ranking								
			Show symbols								
			Show the whole table								
A-Z		Top scores		Citation rate	Research publications (absolute numbers)	Research publications (size-normalised)	External research income	Top cited publications	Interdisciplinary publications	Post-doc positions	Open Access Publications
Univers	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals	SA	B	B	A	A	A	A	C	D	D
German	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology	SA	A	B	A	-	A	B	-	-	C
	King Saud University	SA	C	B	A	-	C	A	-	-	A
Al-Nisou	Mashhad University of Medical Sciences	IR	B	B	A	-	A	B	-	-	D
Norther	Tabriz University of Medical Sciences	IR	C	B	A	-	B	A	-	-	C
Lebane	United Arab Emirates University	AE	B	C	-	-	B	A	-	-	A
Prince S	Khalifa University of Science and Technology	AE	B	B	-	-	A	A	-	-	D
	American University in the Emirates	AE	B	D	D	-	A	A	E	-	D
AlFarabi	Islamic Azad University of Najafabad	IR	A	C	D	-	A	C	D	-	D
Beirut A	University of Petra	JO	D	D	D	D	C	A	X	-	A
Univers	King Abdulaziz University	SA	B	B	A	-	B	B	-	-	B
	Qatar University	QAT	B	B	A	-	B	B	-	-	B

**U-Multirank
shows there is
no „the best“
university:**

**Institutions
perform quite
different on
different
dimensions
and indicators**

<div>Change measures</div> <div>Personalise this ranking</div>			<div>International Orientation</div> <div>+</div>									
<div>Personalise this ranking</div> <div>Show symbols</div> <div>Show the whole table</div>												
			Co-publications with industrial partners	Income from private sources	Patents awarded (absolute numbers)	Patents awarded (size-normalised)	Industry co-patents	Spin-offs	Publications cited in patents	Income from continuous professional development	Graduate companies	
<div>A-Z</div> <div></div> <div>Top scores</div>			<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	
Beirut Arab University			SA	A	-	A	A	D	-	A	-	-
Al Akhawayn University			AE	A	-	A	-	A	-	A	-	-
German Universities of Applied Sciences			IQ	X	B	E	E	X	A	X	A	A
American University of Beirut			SA	C	A	A	A	D	-	C	-	-
Lebanese American University			IR	D	C	E	E	X	A	D	A	A
Arab American University			EG	-	C	-	-	-	A	-	A	A
Birzeit University			JO	A	D	E	E	X	D	A	D	A
University of Petra			SA	D	-	A	A	D	-	A	-	-
Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University			EG	D	-	E	E	X	A	A	-	A
Al-Ahliyya Amman University			JO	C	D	E	E	X	A	E	D	A
K.N. Toosi University of Technology			IR	D	A	E	E	X	A	D	E	D
University of Al-Qadisiyah			SA	D	-	A	A	D	-	D	-	-



**Even the
„Top
performers“
show
particular
strengths
and
weaknesses**

“Then, universities are extremely diverse. Some are very research intensive. Others are focused almost exclusively on the education of a regional workforce. You can’t say one university is better than another using a one-size-fits-all approach.”

Michael Murphy, President European University Association (EUA)

Recent developments in UMR and outlook

1. Development of an online benchmarking tool
2. Development of new indicators

Introduction

Find benchmarks 1

» Find your benchmarks

» See your companions

Who are your companions? 2

» General info

» Benchmark info

Start learning from them 3

» Performance

» In time: HEI

» In time: indicators

Tables

13
HEIs selected

Select my institution
Alexandria University

Select preferred institutions (max 3)
King Saud University King Abdulaziz University

Select a network
none

Institutions that are similar on:

☐ Expenditure on teaching

☐ Level of study

☐ Graduate students

☐ Scope

☐ Expenditure on research

☐ Income from private sources mapping

☐ Foreign degree seeking students

☐ New entrants from the region

☒ Age of institution

☒ Legal status

☐ Size of institution

☐ Female students bachelor

☐ Female academic staff

☐ Online provision of degree programmes

☐ Universities of Science and Technology

Educational field offered: any of the fields similar or all fields similar?

☒ no filter on field

☐ any

☐ all

☐ Main field of specialisation (if any))

Institutions that perform slightly better on:

Teaching & learning

☐ Bachelor graduation rate

☐ Masters graduation rate

☐ Graduation rate long first degree

☐ Graduating on time bachelors

☐ Graduating on time masters

☐ Graduating on time long first degree

☐ Relative graduate unemployment bachelors

☐ Relative graduate unemployment masters

Knowledge transfer

☐ Graduate companies

☐ Income from continuous professional development

☐ Income from private sources

☐ Spin offs

☐ Co publications with industrial partners

☐ Industry co patents

☐ Patents awarded absolute numbers

☐ Patents awarded size normalised

☐ Publications cited in patents

Research

☐ Art related output

☐ External research income

☐ Post doc positions

☐ Professional publications

☐ Publication output

☐ Strategic research partnerships

☒ Citation rate

☐ Interdisciplinary publications

☐ Research publications absolute numbers

☐ Research publications size normalised

☐ Top cited publications

☐ Open Access Publications

International orientation

☐ Foreign language bachelor programmes

☐ Foreign language long first degree programmes

☐ Foreign language master programmes

☐ International academic staff

☐ International doctorate degrees

☐ Student mobility

☐ International joint publications

Regional engagement

☐ Bachelor graduates working in the region

☐ Master graduates working in the region

☐ Income from regional sources

☐ Strategic research partnerships in the region

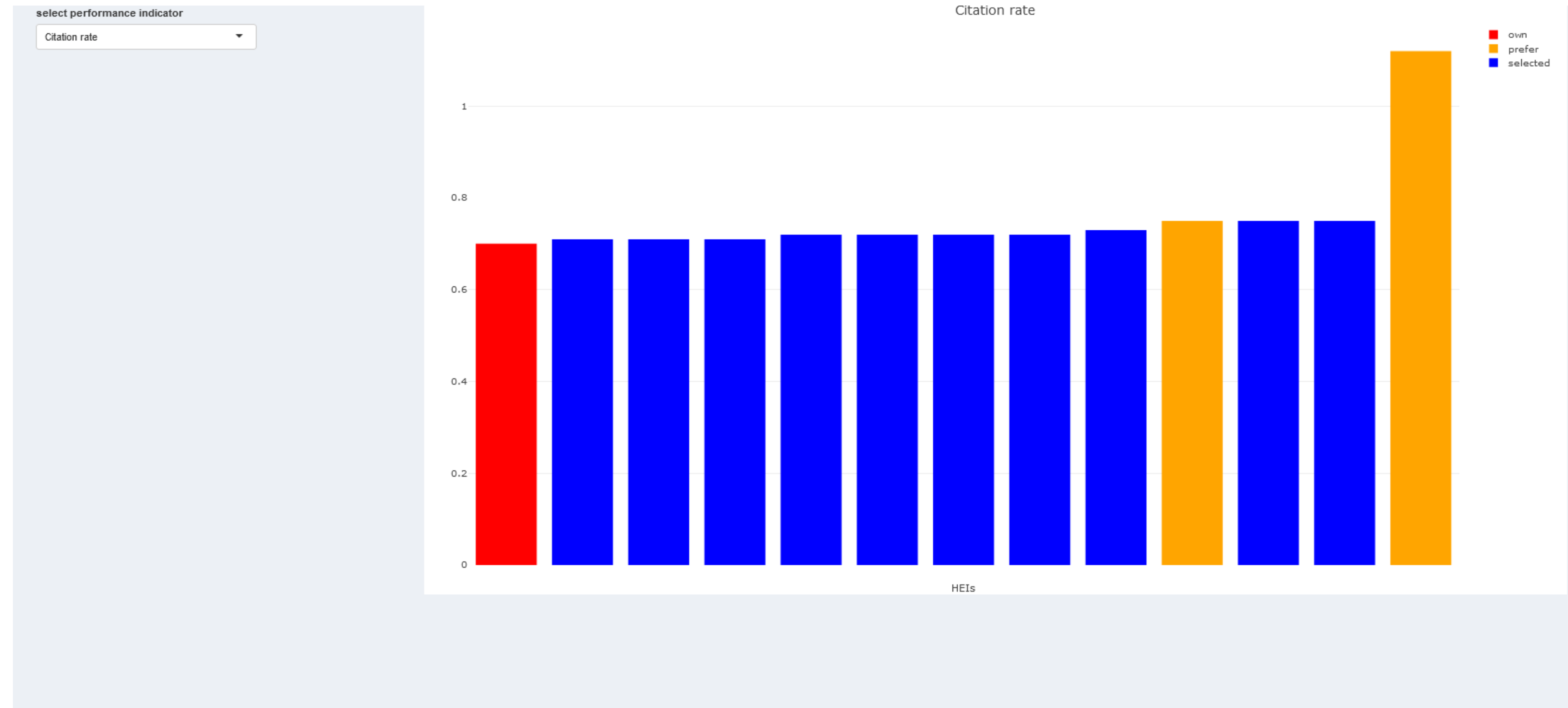
☐ Student internships in the region

☐ Regional joint publications

☐ Regional Publications with Industrial Partners

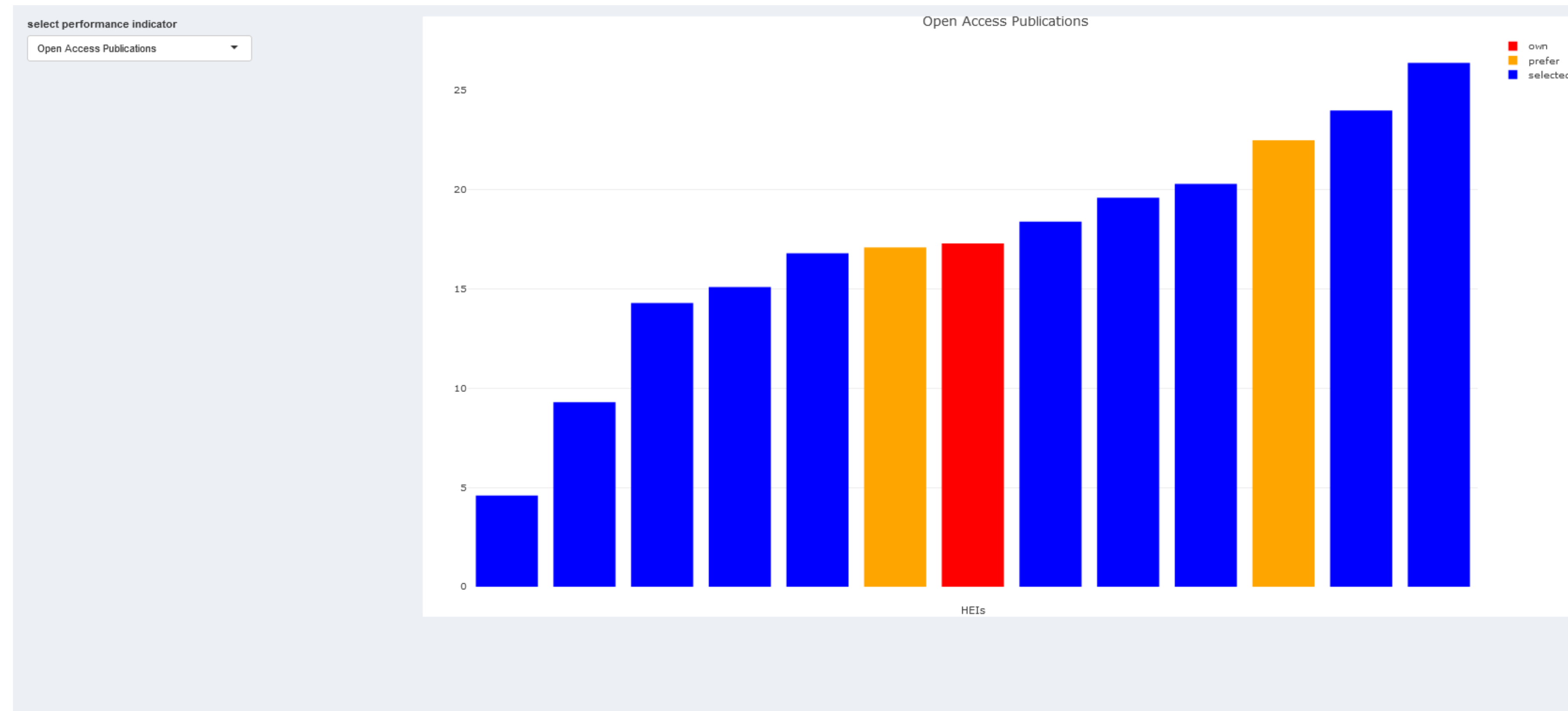
**U-Multirank is
going to
launch a
unique
benchmarking
tool for
institutions:**

**Learning from
others instead
of race for
reputation**



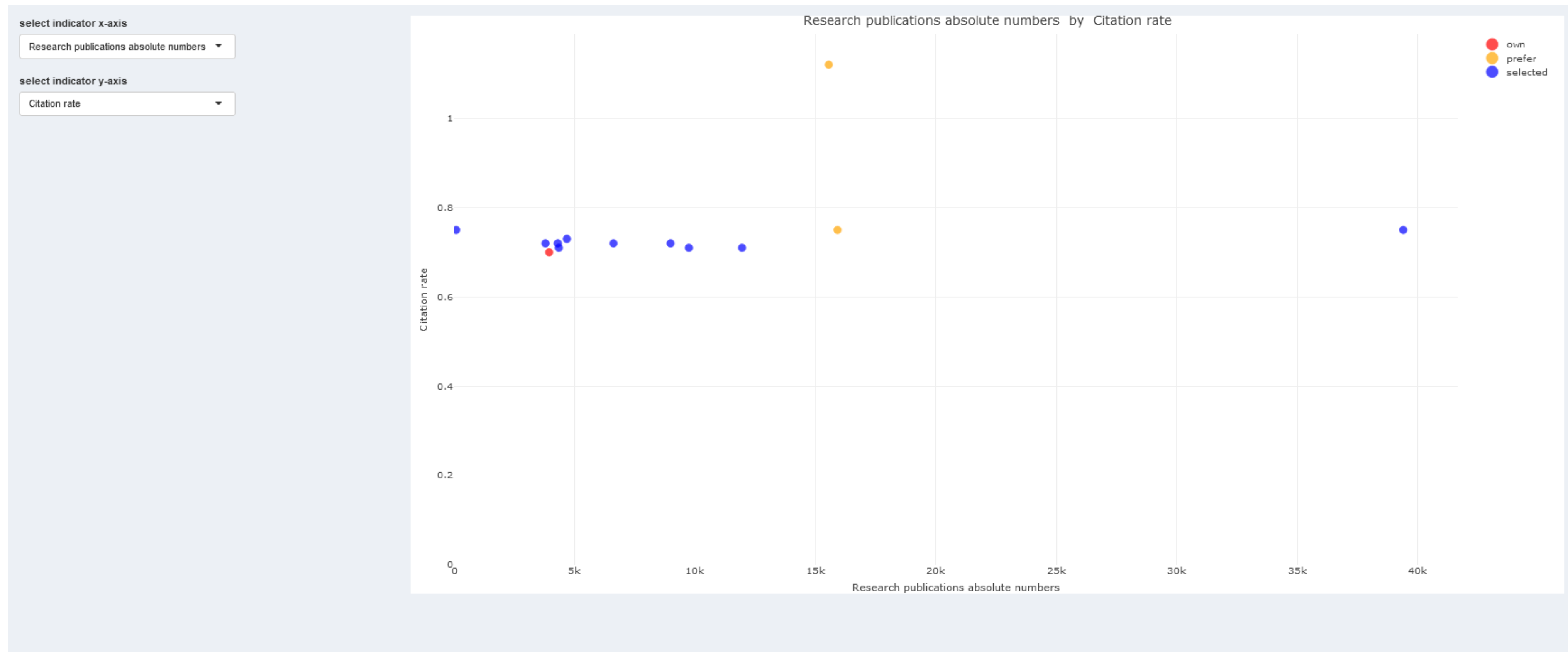
**U-Multirank is
going to
launch a
unique
benchmarking
tool for
institutions:**

**Learning from
others instead
of race for
reputation**



**U-Multirank is
going to
launch a
unique
benchmarking
tool for
institutions:**

**Learning from
others instead
of race for
reputation**



**U-Multirank is
going to
launch a
unique
benchmarking
tool for
institutions:**

**Learning from
others instead
of race for
reputation**



**U-Multirank is
going to
launch a
unique
benchmarking
tool for
institutions:**

**Learning from
others instead
of race for
reputation**

2022

Social inclusion

New entrants by:

- gender
- Age
- Disabilities
- Family background

Outreach programmes

2022 /2023

Effective teaching

- Pedagogically skilled staff
- Digital education investment

2023/2024

Education for Sustainable Development

- ..
- ..

**U-Multirank
is
developing
new
indicators**

Registration for participation in the 2023 edition will start in January

Your institution can already express its interest by mailing us:
info@umultirank.org





Arab universities in global context – Evidence from U-Multirank

Gero Federkeil – Managing Director U-Multirank,
CHE Center for Higher education, Germany