



University Rankings for the Present and the Future: the Case of Greek Departments of Economics

Dimitrios A. Giannias, Eleni Sfakianaki

Hellenic Open University, Greece

dgiannias@gmail.com, esfakianaki@eap.gr

The interest in university rankings has a long history. Rankings serve many purposes but in essence the intention of ranking tables is to objectively assess the quality of each university aiming to assist the decision-making of a number of parties such as academics, students, parents, funders, employers and society. Different methodologies for the assessment of universities have been developed over the years using criteria such as research, teaching and social input. The factors adopted (for example should research be the only factor to evaluate) as well as the methodologies developed have been an issue of controversy and as such university rankings have received a lot of criticism. However university evaluations are perhaps even more popular these days with the global economic recession considering that education is one of the sectors that countries should invest to increase economic development. The present paper presents a methodology for ranking universities based on research output and quality using as criterion the different academic positions in a university i.e. professors, assistant professors, and uses the Greek departments of economics as a case study. The results are evaluated in the context of each position but also on a departmental level (all academic positions) at four different time periods producing useful conclusions for the present and future status of the institutes. Decision-makers can use the results as guidance to assess their present status and to identify if and how they want to improve assisting in the overall strategic approach of the institute and/or the external public accrediting agency.