



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI – 110002**

**July, 2013**

**F.No.150-1/2012(IC)**

The Registrar  
All Indian Universities

Sub: 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Senior Officials on India- European Union Policy Dialogue on Education and Multilingualism.

Sir,

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, New Delhi vide this office letter No.7-10-2005-ICC/16810, dated 07-06-2013 has enclosed the information regarding "U-Multirank"-Key information for Universities which is self explanatory. This is for information / necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

**Charan Dass  
(Under Secretary)  
Ph.011-23238446**

Email:[charandassugc@gmail.com](mailto:charandassugc@gmail.com)

Uy. No. 782/2013/FC 93  
24-6-13

S.No 13 (PR)

**URGENT**

OM SECRETARY  
BY No. 22893  
DATE 13-6

F.No. 7-10/2005-ICC/16810  
M/o Human Resource Development  
Department of Higher Education  
International Cooperation Cell  
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New Delhi, Shastri Bhawan,  
Dated 7th June, 2013

**Subject: 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Senior Officials on India-European Union Policy Dialogue on Education and Multilingualism- forwarding of Conclusion of the Meeting - regarding.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of India-EU Policy Dialogue on Education and Multilingualism was held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 in New Delhi under Co-chair of Secretary (HE) from Indian side. A copy of the conclusion of the meeting is being sent herewith. In the Work Plan annexed to the conclusion of the SOM meeting both side agreed that India will encourage its universities to participate in the U-Multirank university ranking system.

4. It is requested that UGC my circulate the "U-Multirank" – Key information to the all universities.

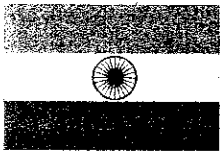
*Jonw*  
**( Dr.Jaipal Singh )**  
Director (ICC)  
Telefax: 23386232

Encl: As above

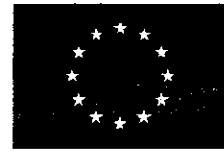
Prof. Ved Prakash,  
Chairman,  
University Grants Commission,  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
New Delhi-110002  
(Fax No. 23239659)

*21.6.2013*  
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*13/6/13*  
*US (IC)*  
*on 19.6.13*



India-EU Policy Dialogue on  
Education and Multilingualism  
New Delhi, 17 April 2013



**A. Conclusions of the  
Senior Officials Meeting on Education  
17 April 2013**

In the Joint Declaration on Education, signed by Commissioner Ján Figel' and Minister Shri Arjun Singh on 12 November 2008, the European Commission and the Government of India engaged in a sectorial policy dialogue to exchange best practices, share information on policy developments and challenges and to promote knowledge-building and sharing in relation to commonly identified topics linked to education.

As a first step in this policy dialogue, a Senior Officials' Meeting was hosted by the European Commission's Directorate-General of Education and Culture in Brussels on 25 May 2011.

On 17 April 2013, a second Senior Officials' Meeting was hosted by India's Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. **Ashok Thakur**, Secretary in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, and Mr. **Jan Truszczyński**, Director-General of the DG Education and Culture, European Commission.

Both sides considered that globalisation and technological development are radically changing the landscape of education and skills development. Both India and the EU are seeking to manage this change proactively in order to succeed in facing common challenges, such as the uncertain global economic market, the societal consequences of unemployment and skills development needs. Both parties stressed the importance of education and training for sustainable growth, as underlined respectively in their 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) and Europe 2020 strategies. These strategies show that there is ample scope for collaboration to work together and learn from one another.

The volume of international student mobility is growing and students increasingly expect to choose what they learn, how they learn and when they learn, according to their individual needs and interests. They are often ready to study not only in their country of origin, but also abroad or via courses offered online. Digital education and the emergence of massive open online courses are providing new opportunities for potential students who may not be able to travel but are eager to participate in education opportunities abroad.

It is against the backdrop of these common challenges that the second India-EU policy dialogue concluded that:

- (1) the sectorial policy dialogue on education should continue on a regular basis
- (2) each dialogue should include presentation of policies and reflection on successes and remaining challenges in higher education

- (3) the Erasmus Mundus programme and the Marie Curie Actions have been of benefit to India and the EU; their successor and other student exchange programmes should be widely promoted to potential beneficiaries. Such programmes should be seen in the context of reinforcing the knowledge triangle between key stakeholders, including education providers, research communities, business, industry, government and the broader community in order to shape the knowledge economy through the development of transferable skills and innovation
- (4) best practices in quality assessment, recognition and accreditation of institutes of higher education should be further discussed, notably on the occasion of the International Conference on Quality Assessment scheduled on 25-26 June 2013 in Brussels
- (5) international fora, such as ASEM Education Ministerial conferences and the Bologna Policy Forum, would benefit from full participation from India
- (6) VET policies and vision are vital for development of skills. Efforts are needed to support student and labour market mobility via transparent quality assurance procedures and mutual recognition of Indian and European qualifications frameworks. It was agreed to share understanding and best practice strategies on transitions into post compulsory schooling, training and work through apprenticeships, formal and on the job training

Agreement was reached on the follow-up activities identified in the annexed work plan.

The next SOM is provisionally planned to be held in Brussels in 2014. The timing will depend on progress with the work plan as well as policy developments on both sides.

### **B. Conclusions of the Senior Officials Meeting on Multilingualism, 17 April 2013**

In the Joint Declaration on Multilingualism, signed by Commissioner Leonard Orban and Minister D. Purandeswari on 6 March 2009, the European Commission and the Government of India had engaged in a sectorial policy dialogue to exchange best practices, share information on policy developments and challenges and to promote knowledge-building and sharing in relation to commonly identified topics linked to multilingualism.

As a first step in this policy dialogue, a Senior Officials' Meeting was hosted by the European Commission's Directorate-General of Education and Culture in Brussels on 25 May 2011.

On 17 April 2013, a second Senior Officials' Meeting was hosted by India's Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. **Ashok Thakur**, Secretary in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, and Mr. **Jan Truszczyński**, Director-General of the DG Education and Culture, European Commission.

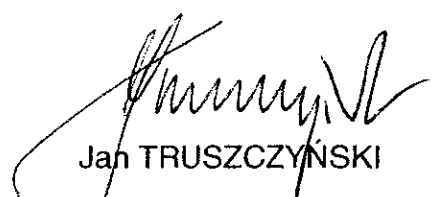
Discussions concluded that:

- (1) the sectorial policy dialogue on multilingualism should continue on a regular basis
- (2) each dialogue should include presentation of policies and reflection on successes and remaining challenges in linguistic diversity, languages for intercultural and multi-cultural dialogue and languages for employability and for competitiveness, including the use of new technologies and methods for the acquisition and assessment of multilingual skills

Agreement was reached on the follow-up activities identified in the annexed Work Plan.

The next SOM is provisionally planned to be held in Brussels in 2014 as per mutual convenience. The timing will depend on progress with the work plan as well as policy developments on both sides.

  
Ashok THAKUR

  
Jan TRUSZCZYŃSKI

## **Annex: Work Plans**

The following Work Plans were agreed:

### **A) Education and Skills Development**

- (1) A Quality Assurance conference will be held in Brussels, 25-26/06/2013, to which Indian experts will be invited. One aim of this will be to exchange views and information on the quality assurance framework in India and to compare this with practices developed through the Erasmus Mundus programme, notably the Quality Assurance Handbook – the expected date for this activity will be in the month of December 2013
- (2) the European Commission will launch a 'tuning' study in the second half of 2013, with a target date for reporting in May 2014. 'Tuning' is a methodology to support recognition and promote higher levels of relevance and quality in higher education. Inter alia, this requires reviewing curricula and making them comparable in terms of general academic and subject-specific competencies and enhancing quality through focus on the internal institutional quality culture
- (3) the European Commission and India will gather information from EU-Indian consortia organising Joint Degrees in the framework of Erasmus Mundus and of consortia of the EU India Study Centres Programme. This should identify successful practices and obstacles to promote mobility. The target date for this exercise will be July 2014. Following this, further work in the field of EU-India mutual recognition, quality assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher learning or other disciplines will be considered in the framework of the next policy dialogue
- (4) India will encourage its universities to participate in the 'U-Multirank' university ranking system
- (5) As a complement to on-going India-EU cooperation on skills development, further discussions should be held at the next policy dialogue. If appropriate, a workshop on exchange of best practices in matching skills could be organised towards the end of 2013.

### **B) Multilingualism**

- (1) The European Commission and India will map activities being undertaken to promote linguistic skills for employability, including preparation for mobility. The expected date for this is May 2014. This information gathered will be the basis for further discussions and review of joint actions at the next policy dialogue.

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The U-Multirank project team is attempting to reduce the amount of self-reported data by obtaining more of this information from national data sources.

Your institution will need to:

- Complete an institutional questionnaire concerning your activity profile and your performance in terms of the thirty indicators we use to cover the five performance dimensions
- Complete a similar questionnaire for each of the disciplinary fields in which you would like to participate
- Invite a selection of your students in each disciplinary field to complete an on-line survey

In the data collection phase, you will receive extensive support from the U-Multirank team via glossaries, our FAQ sections and by email. In the feasibility study, the 150 participating institutions did not find the work involved in data provision to be excessive.

Higher education institutions will not be charged any fee for participation. (Access to the webtool will also be free of charge to all users.)

### **What is the time schedule?**

The recruitment of institutions started in February 2013.

The first data collection will take place from June to December 2013.

The first ranking will be published on the webtool in early 2014. It will include a minimum of 500 institutions from Europe and beyond and will comprise multi-dimensional institutional rankings and the first four field-based rankings in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, business and physics.

In the following years U-Multirank will be extended progressively in terms of both the number of institutions and the range of disciplinary fields. We plan to include sociology, psychology, social work, computer science and music in the second ranking in 2015. 3

### **How to participate in U-Multirank?**

Please visit our website: [www.u-multirank.eu](http://www.u-multirank.eu)

On the contacts page, you will find a simple *contact form* to register your institution's interest in participating in U-Multirank

### **Who is running U-Multirank?**

The U-Multirank implementation project is funded by the European Commission for an initial period of two years with the option of an extension for a further two years.

The project is run by a consortium of 15 organisations in which CHE Centre for Higher Education (Germany; [www.che.de/en](http://www.che.de/en)) and the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (the Netherlands; [www.utwente.nl/mb/cheps/](http://www.utwente.nl/mb/cheps/)) are the lead partners. Partners include research institutes, web designers, national ranking organisations as well as stakeholder organisations.

A full list of partners is provided on the U-Multirank website: [www.u-multirank.eu](http://www.u-multirank.eu) 4

## **Annex 2: 'U-Multirank' - Key information for Universities**

U-Multirank is a new university ranking for higher education institutions of all types, from all parts of Europe and the world. It is user-driven, and examines institutions' performance across a wide range of higher education missions. First results, for 500 institutions, will be published in 2014.

### **Why another ranking?**

- U-Multirank is a very different form of ranking. It compares the performance of universities and colleges not only in research, but also in teaching, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement; it is a multi-dimensional ranking.
- It presents performance profiles for universities across the five dimensions using a broad range of performance indicators. It provides these performance profiles at two levels: for the institution as a whole; and at the level of different disciplinary fields (initially mechanical and electrical engineering, business and physics).
- U-Multirank was designed in very close consultation with stakeholders to ensure that it meets the diverse information needs of different stakeholders. This information is provided through a user-friendly interactive webtool that can be used flexibly by students, academic staff, higher education institutions, policy makers, business and other users.
- A key feature of the U-Multirank webtool is that it enables users to specify the type of institutions they wish to compare (in terms of the activities they are engaged in). This ensures that institutional comparisons are "like with like" and not "apples and oranges". Users can then decide which areas of performance to include in the comparison of the selected group of universities; in this way U-Multirank produces personalised rankings.

### **Why participate in U-Multirank?**

Participation in U-Multirank provides significant benefits to higher education institutions.

- It provides visibility in an international ranking that shows your own specific performance profile for your institution as a whole and in the disciplinary fields in which you are active (the coverage of fields will increase each year).
- Your performance profile is accessible via the interactive webtool to a wide range of stakeholders: internationally mobile students (and their parents); academic staff and other higher education institutions seeking partners; business and industry with particular R&D or professional education needs etc.
- You can compare and benchmark your performance profile on a wide range of indicators with other institutions with similar institutional profiles within the European Higher Education Area and beyond, and can identify potential partners for cooperation.

### **What does participation entail?**

U-Multirank is based on publicly available data from different sources (for example, bibliometric and patent data) as well as self-reported data provided by institutions.