



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

PARTICIPATING IN THE 'THE UNIVERSITY IMPACT RANKINGS'

MAGNUS MACHALE-GUNNARSSON

What kind of ranking is this?

- Times Higher Education is a British (weekly?) journal covering higher education. They have several rankings, one of them is called "THE University Impact Rankings"
- The ranking claims to measure how well universities work to reach the UN's global sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030).
- First published in April 2019.
- Methodologically it is at least as bad as other international university rankings.

How does this ranking work?

- One subranking for each SDG.
- SDG 17 is compulsory, and on top of that one has to report data for three more SDGs, to be included in the overall ranking.
- Three types of indicators
 - a) bibliometrics (Scopus)
 - keyword search
 - Different measures for each SDG: Proportion of research papers that are viewed or downloaded, Proportion of research papers that are cited in clinical guidance, Number of publications, Proportion of research papers in the top 10 per cent of journals as defined by Citescore, osv.
 - b) Quantitative data reported by the universities (number of students etc).
 - c) Other evidence of how the universities work with the SDGs (reported by the universities).

Whaddya mean 'other evidence'?

- Does your university as a body have a policy of non-discrimination against women? When was it reviewed?
- Does your university as a body have direct involvement in, or input into, national government SDG policy development - including identifying problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures with and without interventions, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management?
- Does your university as a body provide students access to free sexual and reproductive health-care services including information and education services?
- Weird questions, vague criteria => room for interpretation.
- Very little is known about how these answers are converted to numerical scores.

How does University of Gothenburg handle this?

- Reporting for an SDG takes considerable time. We do not report for SDG's that we do not think we can get a good result for.
- 'Other evidence' is the hard part. It requires deep knowledge about the university.
- We have a group of six people working together. On top of that we send questions to other parts of the university.

Last year's top 10

Rank	University	Country
1	University of Auckland	New Zealand
2	McMaster University	Canada
3	University of British Columbia	Canada
3	University of Manchester	United Kingdom
5	King's College London	United Kingdom
6	University of Gothenburg	Sweden
7	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Sweden
7	University of Montreal	Canada
9	University of Bologna	Italy
10	University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong



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www.gu.se/analys
magnus.machale-gunnarsson@gu.se