

Additional Information

The Bertelsmann Stiftung (Foundation)

Background: The Bertelsmann Stiftung was founded in 1977 based on the conviction of its founder, Reinhard Mohn, that Germany was not doing enough to consider the growing competition between the globe's various social and economic systems. They therefore concentrate on developing solutions capable of addressing challenges in range of societal sectors and, at the same time, ensuring the continuity of Germany's political, economic and social structures. In doing so, they consider what has proven successful in other countries and they strive to balance research findings with experience in the field.

The Bertelsmann Stiftung's activities are exclusively and directly philanthropic in nature. Its objective is to promote research and understanding in the areas of religion, public health, youth and senior affairs, culture and the arts, public education and career training, social welfare, international cultural exchange, democracy and government, and civic engagement.

The Bertelsmann Stiftung is led by Dr. Jörg Dräger, Member of the Executive Board; Brigitte Mohn, Member of the Executive Board; Liz Mohn, Vice-Chairwoman of the Executive Board; and Aart De Geus, Chairman and CEO.

Quote: "The new funding structure will cover the continuity of U-Multirank. The Bertelsmann Stiftung seeks to ensure that young people can make the best decisions for their university careers, and U-Multirank gives them a helpful international overview for making those choices," said Dr. Jörg Dräger, Executive Board Member of the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Germany.

Santander Group

Background: Through its Santander Universities, Banco Santander has collaborated with universities for 20 years on a unique global initiative which distinguishes it from other national and international banks and financial institutions.

The bank tops the 'Global Fortune 500' list as the company that invests the most in Corporate Social Responsibility in connection with education, according to the first global study published by the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO. In 2016, the bank invested 157 million euros.

Santander Universities maintains agreements with 1.182 universities and research institutes from more than 20 countries around the world.

The bank has invested more than €1.5 billion to support higher education since 2002.

Banco Santander has supported more than 3,000 university projects in 2016 to improve education, create opportunities for university students and spur research and innovation and an entrepreneurial culture.

Quote: 'We are very excited to join the U-Multirank board, and contribute to the continuation of such a fantastic web tool that serves students and the diverse higher education community. Ensuring that U-Multirank remains an accessible open source platform for everyone is important to us. We are committed to its success and contribution to broadening transparency and measuring the performance of universities and colleges around the globe,' said Mr. Javier Rogla, Senior Vice President and Global Head of Santander Universities and Universia in Santander Group.

Additional Information

Consortium (CHE/ CHEPS/ CWTS/ FCYD)

Background: U-Multirank originated at a conference of the European Commission during the French presidency in 2008. It is funded by the Bertelsmann Foundation, the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme and Santander Group for the years 2017 through 2019. U-Multirank is developed and implemented by an independent consortium led by the Centre for Higher Education ([CHE](#)) in Germany, the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies ([CHEPS](#)) at the University of Twente and the Centre for Science and Technology Studies ([CWTS](#)) from Leiden University, both in the Netherlands, as well as Fundación Conocimiento y Desarrollo ([FCYD](#)) in Spain. The consortium is headed by Professors Dr. Frans van Vught of CHEPS and Dr. Frank Ziegele of CHE.

U-Multirank is an alternative approach to comparing university performance, and offers a solution to the dangers of traditional league tables. Its multi-dimensional approach compares the performance of some 1,500 universities across a range of different activities grading each of them from 'A' (very good) to 'E' (weak). It allows users to identify a university's strengths and weaknesses, or the aspects that most interest them. The data included in U-Multirank are drawn from a number of sources, providing users with a comprehensive set of information: data supplied by institutions; from international bibliometric and patent databases; national databases; and surveys of more than 100,000 students at participating universities.

FAQs:

1. Why has U-Multirank adopted a new governance structure? What do you hope to achieve?

A new governance model, allows U-Multirank to remain neutral and not be used as a political tool. This new model ensures that U-Multirank runs as a non-profit, creating an open database which serves the needs of its stakeholders – especially students, higher education institutions and policy makers. As the only non-commercial global university ranking we are able to focus on the needs of our users, rather than commercial interests.

The combination of funding from the European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme, along with that of non-profit organizations, the Bertelsmann Stiftung and Santander Group is a perfect marriage, offering stability, security and a brighter future for U-Multirank.

By working with these prestigious, globally known institutions, we are able to strengthen our positions in the realm of higher education. For example, with Santander Group in Spain – where U-Multirank has nearly 100% coverage of universities, U-Multirank aims to strengthen its position in Latin American countries.

2. With the new governance structure, what tangible developments can be expected in the coming years?

With its new governance structure, U-Multirank is able to continue moving forward. What started out as a pilot study and shifted into a new era of university rankings, U-Multirank can continue to expand as the largest global performance database, open to all stakeholders for free. U-Multirank aims to offer more services for stakeholders, expand its coverage of universities (e.g. in South America), and increase its user friendliness.