

5th December 2012

Invitation to the Irish Presidency Conference on *Rankings and the Visibility of Quality Outcomes in the European Higher Education Area*

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, it is my great pleasure to invite you to a Conference on **Rankings and the Visibility of Quality Outcomes in the European Higher Education Area**, which will take place in Dublin on 30th – 31st January 2013.

The growing influence of global rankings of higher education institutions and systems has sparked controversy in recent years but their popularity highlights the demand from stakeholders for greater transparency of quality outcomes in higher education. The Conference will bring together higher education stakeholders from across Europe, including students, academics, employers and policy-makers, to explore the information needs of users of university rankings. It will provide a forum for discussion about how best to evaluate and showcase the quality outcomes of higher education institutions, and of the European Higher Education Area in respect of teaching and learning, research, and external engagement. In advance of the public launch of U-Multirank at the end of 2013, the conference will also provide an opportunity for dialogue on the optimal configuration of a user-driven and multi-dimensional ranking and information tool for the higher education sector.

The conference will open at 1pm the afternoon of 30th January at Dublin Castle and close at 4.30 pm on 31st January.

Attached, you will find a copy of the draft Conference Programme and Practical Information for the Conference including information on how to register. Please note that your accommodation costs for two nights, 30th and 31st January 2013, will be covered by the Presidency. **I would be grateful if you can register as soon as possible, but no later than 20th December 2012.**

Please note that the Conference will take place in English and no interpretation will be provided.

For further information on organisation please contact Higheredpres2013@education.gov.ie





Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar
Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh
Irish Presidency of the Council
of the European Union
eu2013.ie

I am looking forward to welcoming you in Dublin.

Yours sincerely

Ruairi Quinn, T.D.
Minister for Education & Skills



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