

Table 7.13: Results of two university rankings (ARWU and THES)

	Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai)						World University Ranking (THES)	
	Number of universities in the top 500			Universities in the top 500 per 100 000 tertiary students	Number of universities		Number of universities	
	2003	2006	2007		2007	Top 200	Top 100	Top 200
				2007		2007	2006	2006
EU-27	197	193	197	1.08	72	29	75	34
Belgium	7	7	7	1.81	4	0	5	2
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	1	1	0.31	0	0	0	0
Denmark	6	5	4	1.84	3	1	3	1
Germany	42	40	41	1.76	14	6	10	3
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	3	3	3	1.60	0	0	0	0
Greece	2	2	2	0.34	0	0	0	0
Spain	13	9	9	0.49	1	0	1	0
France	22	21	23	1.06	7	4	7	5
Italy	22	23	23	1.16	5	0	1	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	:	0	0	0	0
Hungary	2	2	2	0.47	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	12	12	12	2.21	9	2	11	7
Austria	4	7	7	2.94	1	0	3	1
Poland	3	2	2	0.10	0	0	0	0
Portugal	1	0	2	0.51	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	1	0.96	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	6	5	5	1.67	1	1	1	0
Sweden	10	11	11	2.56	4	4	4	0
United Kingdom	42	43	42	1.87	23	11	29	15
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FYR Macedonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	1	0.05	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	:	0	0	0	0
Norway	3	4	4	1.87	1	1	1	0
Japan	36	32	32	0.79	9	6	11	3
USA	161	167	166	0.98	88	54	55	33
China	19	19	25	0.13	2	0	6	0
India	3	2	2	0.02	0	0	3	0
Russia	2	2	2	0.02	1	1	2	1

Data source: <http://www.arwu.org/>, <http://www.thes.co.uk/>.

Additional note : The number of students enrolled refers to 2004, UNESCO, Eurostat.

University rankings apply a wide range of criteria for measuring excellence. There is still no clear consensus about the indicators that should be used to measure the “quality” of HEIs. Quality of teaching is not taken into account in either of the two global rankings and the assessment of research activities focuses exclusively on academic research output. Social sciences and humanities are at a comparative disadvantage as academic research performance is measured bibliometrically. The bibliometric methods used are often not up to state-of-the-art standards in bibliometric practice.²⁴⁵ The weight assigned to each indicator is arbitrary (see Table 7.14).

²⁴⁵ See van Raan, A.J.F. “Challenges in Ranking of Universities”, Invited paper for the First International Conference on World Class Universities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, 16-18 June 2005. See also section 3.3.2 (“Performance”) of the Commission Staff Working Document annexed to the Green Paper “The European Research Area: New Perspectives”, SEC(2007) 412/2 of 4 April 2007.