

Options and limits of measurability: the experience from the Excellence Ranking in the light of the global ranking discussion

Uwe Brandenburg

CHE Method and Typical Issues with global rankings

ExcellenceRanking:

Aims and Target Groups

Methodology

Findings

Options and Limits of measurability:

Methodology

Findings

Not everything that can be counted, counts.

Not everything that counts can be counted.

Albert Einstein

What we NOT do!

~~ranking of whole
universities~~

~~overall score from
weighted indicators~~




~~individual ranks in
league tables~~

What we do!

Ranking of
single subjects /
subject areas

Multidimensional
ranking

Rank groups

top  intermediate 
bottom 

Aims of the CHE Excellence Ranking Project

First and foremost: to **provide information for undergraduate students concerning master's and PhD programmes in Europe**

Support for the idea of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

Show the strength of European research

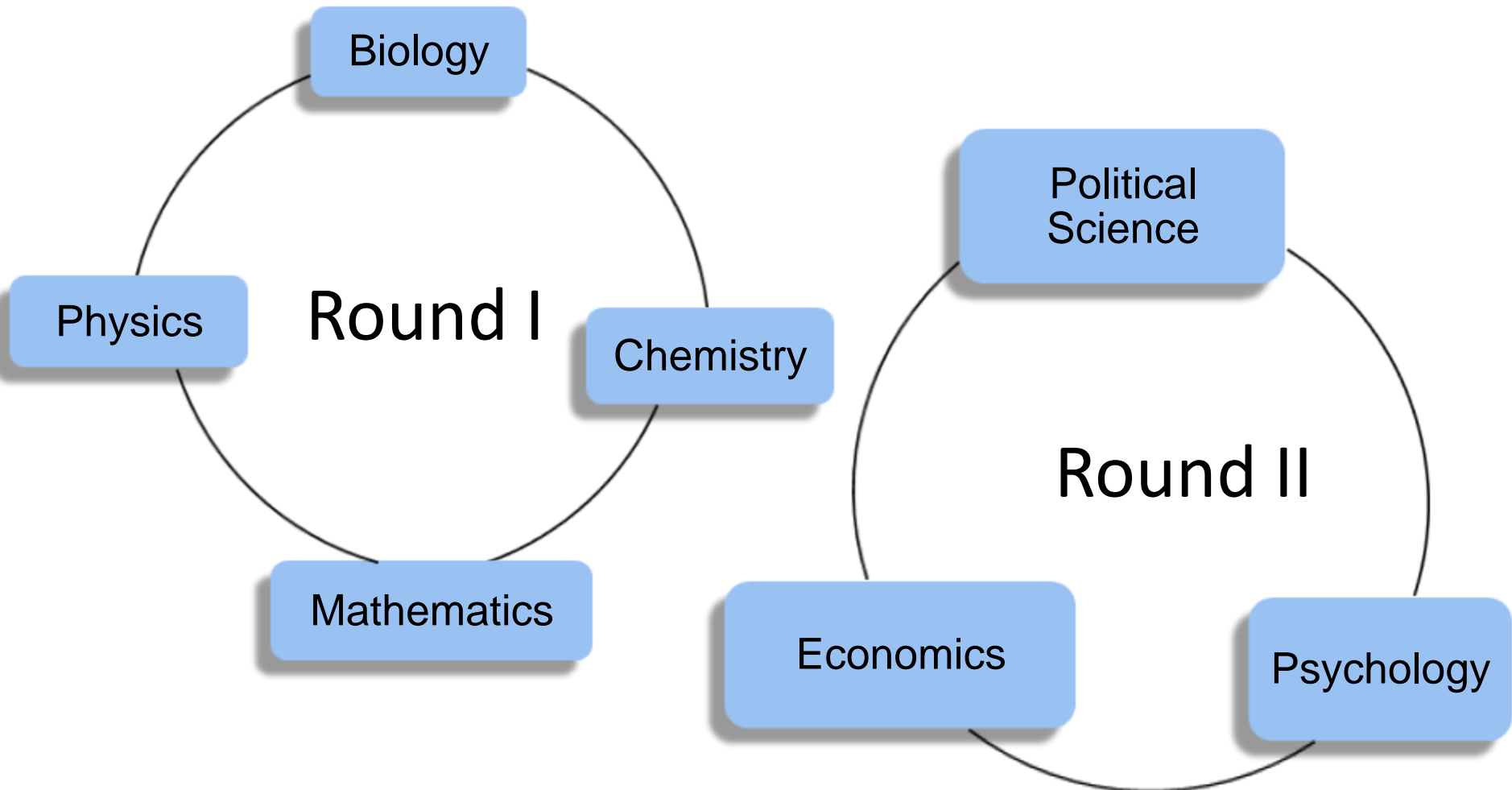
Help participating HEIs to improve upon their programmes or services through comparison

Target Groups

Undergraduates from European and non-European universities

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

Organisations and Society at large



Only universities with the right to award a Ph.D.

Two step process: First step - analysis of all European HEIs based on certain indicators

Natural Sciences 2007

Number of publications in the web of sciences (1997-2004)

Citations (normalised to the international standard)

Highly Cited Authors, Nobel Prize winners, field medalists

Number of projects in the Marie Curie programme

Social Sciences 2009

Number of publications in the web of sciences (1999-2006)

Citations (normalised to the international standard)

Book Citations

Student/ Teaching Staff Mobility

Erasmus Mundus Master

Natural Sciences 2010

Number of publications in the web of sciences (2001-2008)

Citations (normalised to the international standard)

Number of projects in the Marie Curie programme

Student/ Teaching Staff Mobility

Erasmus Mundus Master


Nobel Prize winners, Fields Medalists, Körber European Science Award winners

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Very important: non-ranked data and information

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Considerable amount of supplemental information (on departments, work conditions, stipends etc.)

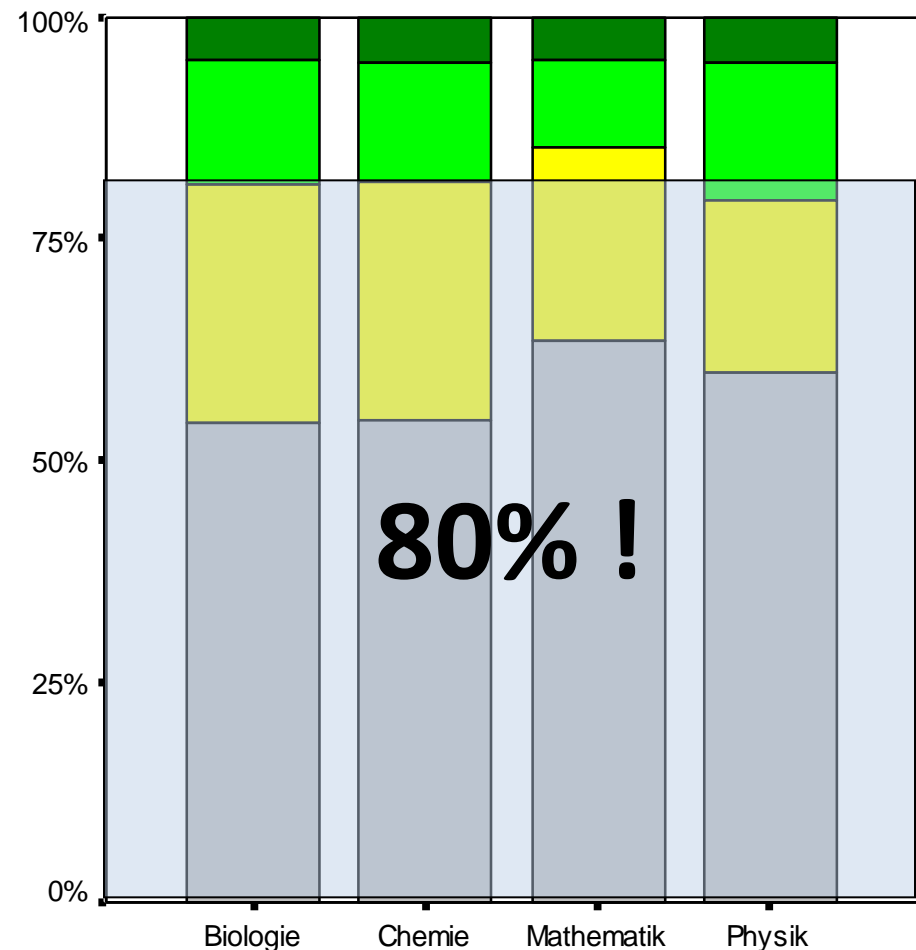
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Central feature of online version: access to more than 2,000 research groups assigned to different research categories

Between 117 (physics) and 129 (mathematics) HEIs with at least one top group (silver or gold) placement in one of the four indicators

Distribution is rather comparable between the subjects; in general only around 5% of the overall group qualify in all four indicators

Decrease in numbers per additional indicator: app. 45-50%



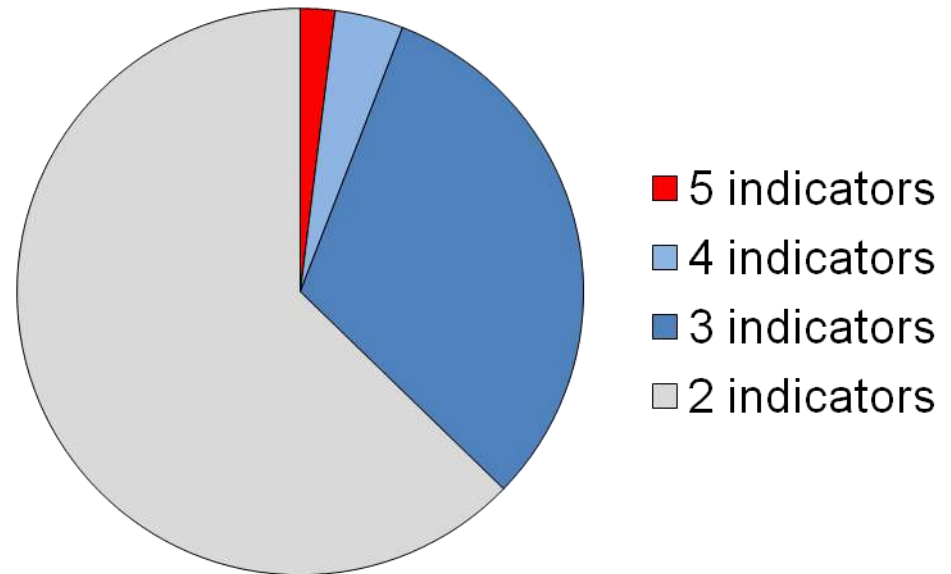
Gold or silver medals:

● four ● three ● two ● one

177 HEIs have at least one top group placement in one of the indicators in the field of Economics, 148 in Psychology and 125 in Politics

69 HEIs are in the excellence group in the field of Economics, 59 in Psychology and 51 in Politics

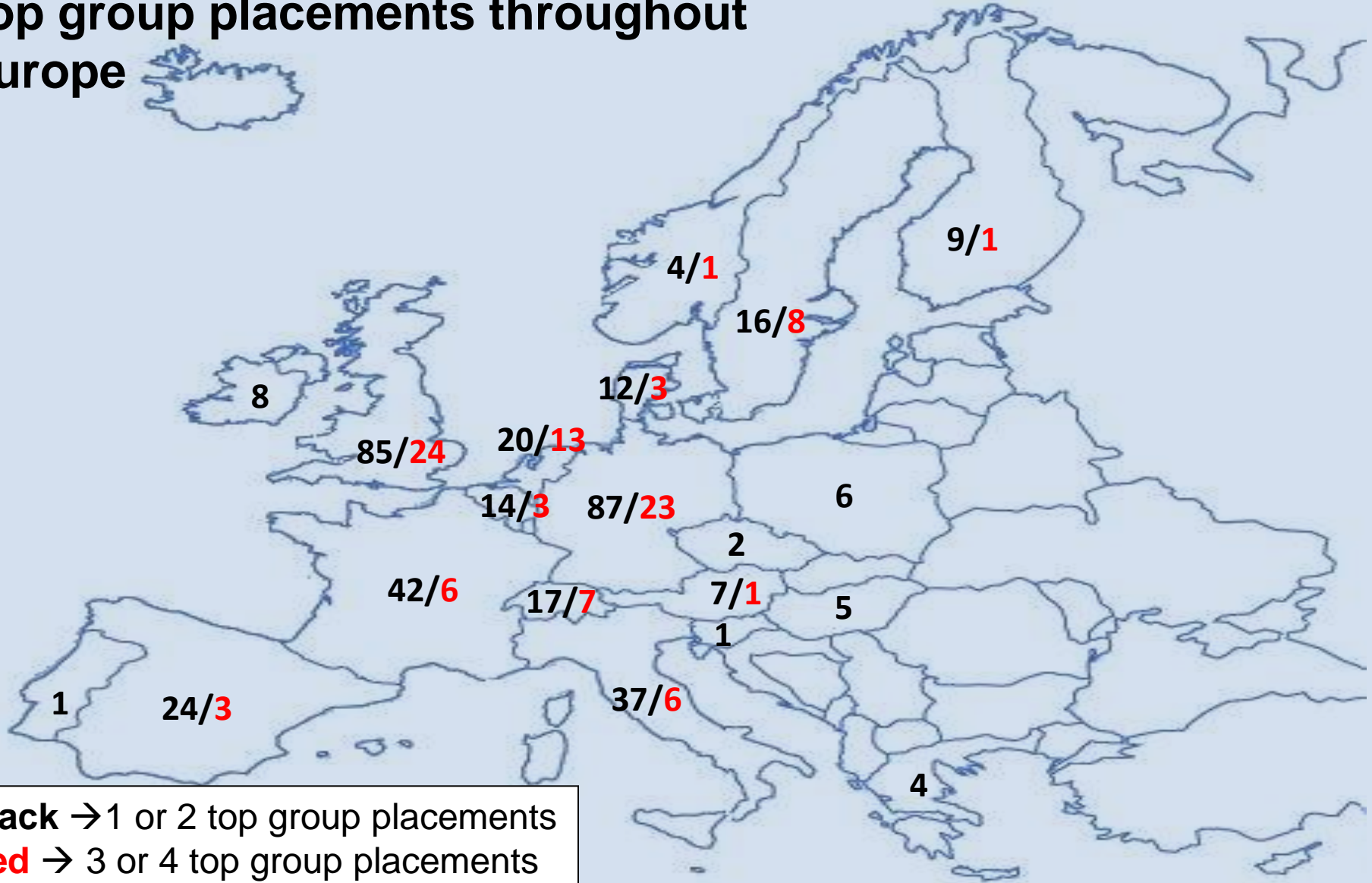
Politics



Example Politics: No HEI has top group placements in all 6 core indicators; just one HEI has top group placements in 5 core indicators, 2 HEIs in 4, 16 HEIs in 3 and 32 HEIs in 2 indicators respectively

ExcellenceRanking: Findings 9 – Natural Sciences 2007 – entire sample

Top group placements throughout Europe



Black → 1 or 2 top group placements
Red → 3 or 4 top group placements

[illegible]

Overall

Less than 60 HEIs in the three and four top group segment

Biology 25, chemistry 25, physics 24, mathematics 19

app. 1.3% of all ERASMUS eligible HEIs in Europe (ca. 4,900)

Most HEIs excel in one subject (33), 15 in two, 4 in three and 4 in all four subject areas

Not all institutions answered the questionnaires (mainly UK universities did not answer)

Overall

Less than 70 HEIs have top group placements in at least 3 core indicators

Economics 27, Politics 19, Psychology 20

app. 1.3% of all ERASMUS eligible HEIs in Europe (ca. 4,900)

Most HEIs excel in one subject (71), 28 in two and 18 in three subjects

Not all institutions answered the questionnaires (mainly UK universities did not answer)

The first round for Natural Sciences was considered tentative; methodology has been adapted and is revised constantly

The findings of the second round for Social Sciences were published in October 2009

Third round (again Natural Sciences) is running; findings will be published in October 2010

Both goals, supporting the EHEA and quenching the thirst for „discovering the best“ remains but always:

Reflection of the methodological stipulations and boundaries of rankings!

Many talks over 2 years with major Engineering Associations

Indicators considered relevant by the Engineers not publicly fully available

Indicators for which data are available are not relevant to the HEIs

Thus engineering ranking was decided not to be made at that stage

New approach in U Multirank

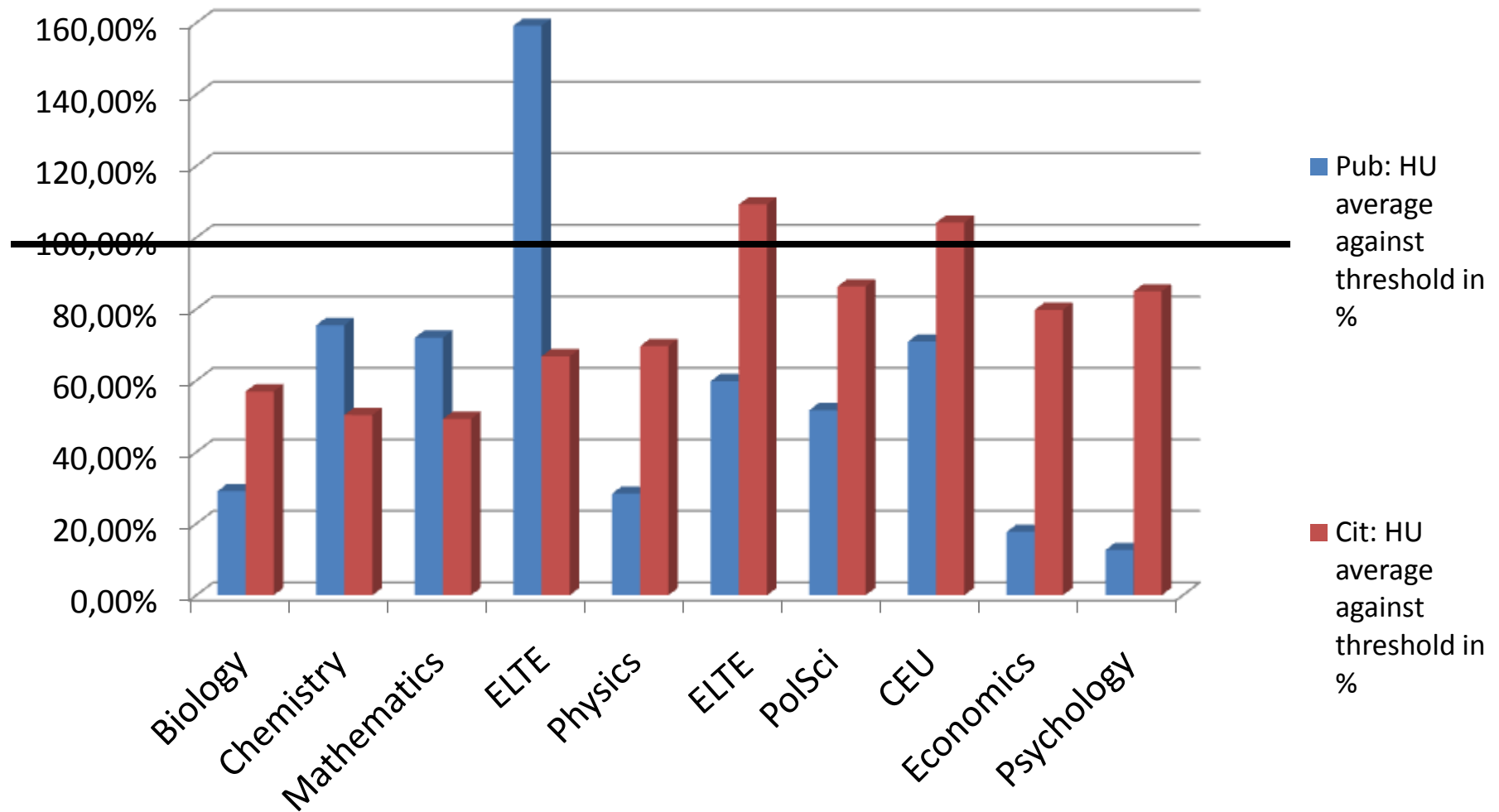
Very few Hungarian HEIs featured in ER I and II

Data for ER III is not public yet but result comparable to former rounds

Greatest weakness: international visibility of research

Strengths: mobility and Erasmus Mundus (Corvinus made it into the Excellence Group in Economics through mobility/int. indicators)

ExcellenceRanking – Hungarian HEIs



But: this does not say ANYTHING about the general quality in Hungarian HEIs as the ER is methodologically focused:

- English focus
- Target group
- Subject areas

Top group placements in the actual ranking 2009

Corvinus Egyetem University:

- TS mobility
- Student mobility
- ERASMUS MUNDUS
- Gender balance doctoral students

Central European University:

- Citations
- ERASMUS MUNDUS
- Memberships in editorial boards
- Scientific prizes won by staff
- Staff teaching in summer schools
- International staff
- International doctorates
- International Master's students
- Student judgements:
 - Advisory
 - Websites
 - rooms

Thank you for your attention!

And if you feel the need for an external partner: we are available!

