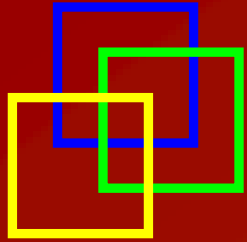


# **Classifying European Institutions of Higher Education**

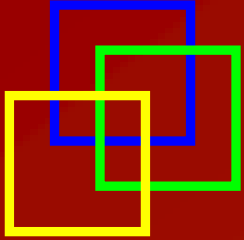
Ideas, Concepts, Goals

Prof.dr. F. van Vught



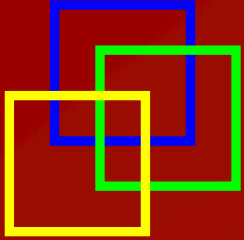
# European Higher Education

- Diversity is a strength
- But what do we know about it?
- Classification to increase transparency



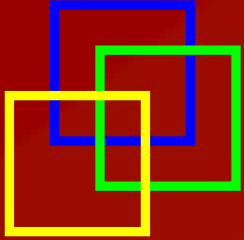
## Classifications are International Phenomena

- Carnegie Classification (USA): 1973, 1976, 1994, 2000, 2006
- Chinese higher education classification: 2007



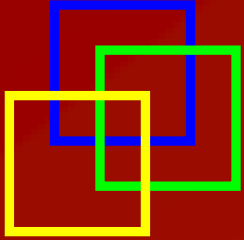
## Functions of Higher Education Classifications

- tool for research
- transparency instrument (various stakeholders)
- base for governmental policies
- instrument for institutional strategies (profile, mission)
- instrument for better ranking



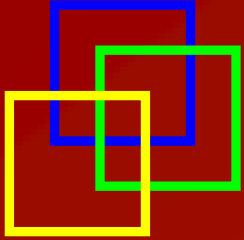
## Classification and Rankings

- the methodologies of ranking are judged to be ‘simplistic and lacking transparency’. (Hazelkorn, 2007)
- ‘with increasing competition between institutions, ... it is likely that rankings will continue to grow in importance ... Further consideration and acknowledgement of wider factors (than in a single league table only) should be considered so that the diversity of institutional mission and focus is taken into account’. (HEFCE, 2008)



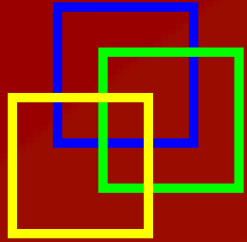
## Stakeholders' Interests

- transparency for students
- transparency for business & industry and other organisations
- transparency for policy makers
- transparency for researchers
- profiling instrument for higher education institutions



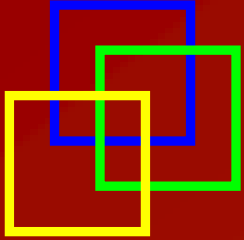
## The Classification Project

- stakeholders approach: exploration and discussions
- first phase: basic design principles
- first phase: first set of schemes and indicators
- second phase: second adapted set of schemes and indicators



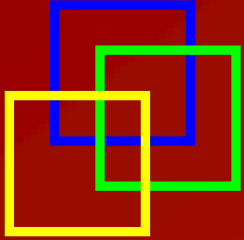
## The Classification Project: design principles

- inclusive for all European HEIs
- a posteriori information
- multi-dimensional
- non-hierarchical
- focus on 'objective' data



## The Classification Project: design principles

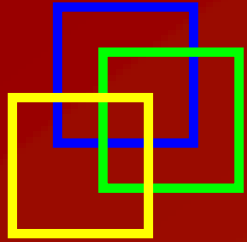
- non-prescriptive
- flexible
- parsimonious regarding extra data-needs
- related to European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies



## The Classification Project: first set of schemes

### *Education*

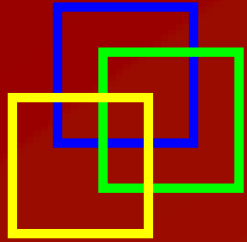
- Types of degrees offered
- Range of subjects offered
- Orientation of degrees
- European educational profile



## The Classification Project: first set of schemes

### *Research and Innovation*

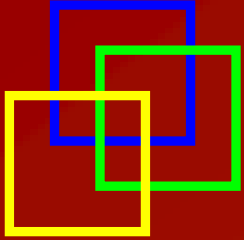
- Research intensiveness
- Innovation intensiveness
- European research profile



## The Classification Project: first set of schemes

### *Student and Staff Profile*

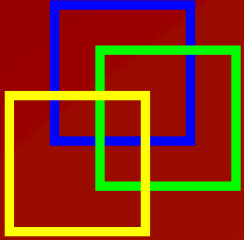
- International orientation
- Involvement in life long learning



# The Classification Project: first set of schemes

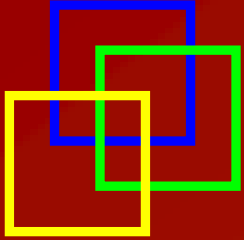
## *Institutional Characteristics*

- Size
- Mode of delivery
- Community services
- Public/private character
- Legal status



## The Classification Project: The second phase

- analysis of existing data sources
- in-depth case studies
- survey; to assess relevance, validity, reliability and feasibility



# The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

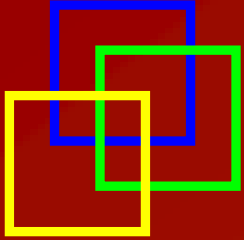
**Education**

**Research and  
innovation**

**International  
orientation**

**Size and  
setting**

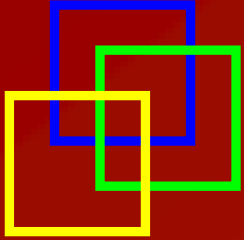
**Community  
engagement**



## The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

### Education

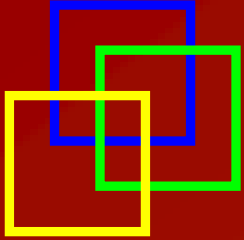
- ❖ Highest degree offered (degree level)
  - ❖ *degrees/diplomas granted per level*
- ❖ Subject mix
- ❖ Orientation of programmes
  - ❖ *number of programmes offered for licensed professions*
- ❖ Involvement in LLL
  - ❖ *number of mature (> 30 years) students as % of total enrollment*



## The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

### Research and innovation

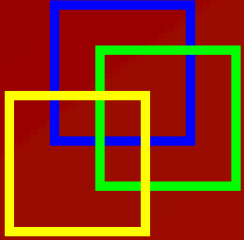
- ❖ Research intensiveness
  - ❖ peer reviewed publications per academic staff
  - ❖ scientometric 'crown' indicator
- ❖ Innovation intensiveness
  - ❖ Financial volume privately funded research as % of total financial volume
  - ❖ Number of start-ups
  - ❖ Number of filed patents
  - ❖ Income from licensing



## The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

### International orientation

- ❖ Teaching and staff
  - ❖ international degree seeking students as % of total number of students
  - ❖ incoming international/European exchange students as % of total number of students
  - ❖ outgoing international/European exchange students as % of total number of students
  - ❖ joint international programmes as % of total number of programmes offered
  - ❖ programmes offered abroad
  - ❖ fte international academic staff as % of total academic staff

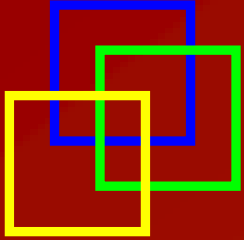


## The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

**International orientation**

### ❖ Research

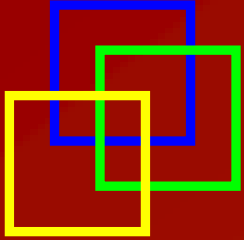
- ❖ Financial turnover in EU research programmes as % of total financial research volume



## The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

### size and settings

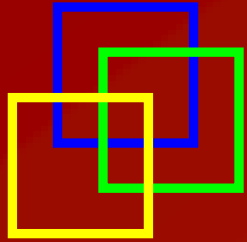
- ❖ Size
  - ❖ Total number of students (per degree level)
  - ❖ Total number of fte's academic staff
  - ❖ Total financial turn over per year
  
- ❖ Mode of delivery
  - ❖ distance learning programmes as %
  - ❖ Part-time programmes as %
  
- ❖ Public/private character
  - ❖ Income from government sources as % of total income
  
- ❖ Legal status



## The Classification Project: 2nd set of schemes & indicators

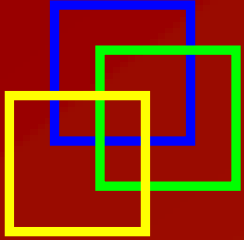
### Community engagement

- ❖ Cultural engagement
  - ❖ *Number of concerts*
  - ❖ *Number of exhibitions*
  
- ❖ Regional engagement
  - ❖ Graduates in the region
  - ❖ Turnover in EU structural funds
  - ❖ Extra-curricula courses for region
  - ❖ Importance of regional income



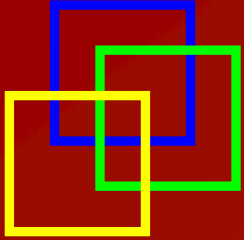
## The Classification Project: Next steps

- work in progress
- further statistical analyses
- reduce number of schemes
- develop on-line tool
- communication process with stakeholders and preview
- ‘communities’ for special schemes
- institutionalisation and ownership

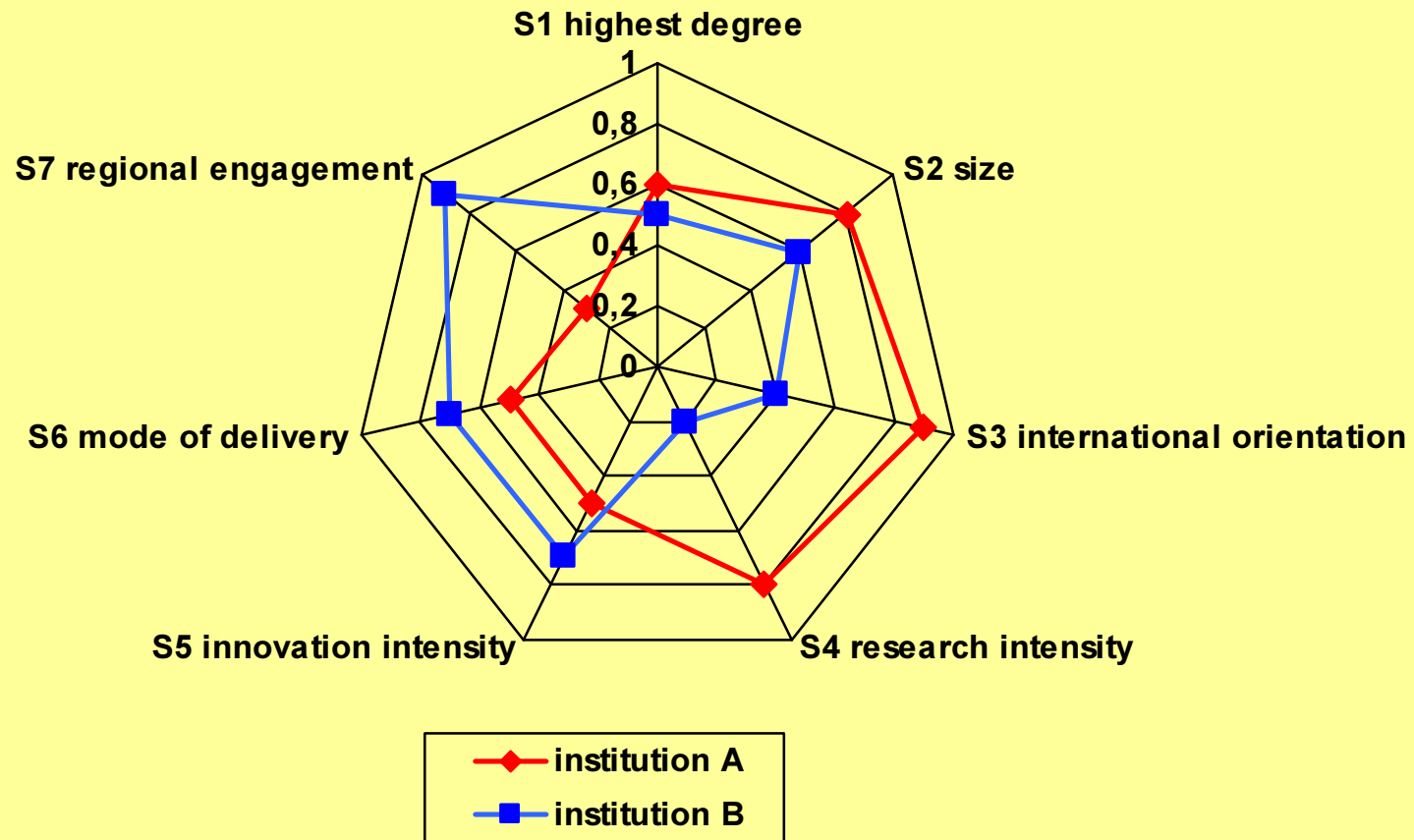


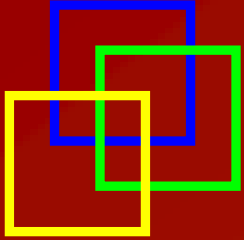
## Future use of the Classification: examples

- providing information to stakeholders and clients about characteristics of a higher education institution



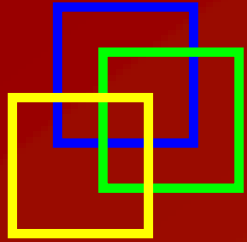
# Future use of the Classification: examples





## Future use of the Classification: examples

- providing assistance to institutional strategies and inter-institutional partnerships, benchmarking, and networking



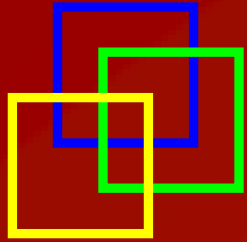
# Future use of the Classification: examples

## Selecting schemes and classes

highest degree	<input type="text" value="doctorate, master dominated"/>
international orientation research	<input type="text" value="low"/>
international orientation; students	<input type="text" value="medium"/>
research intensity	<input type="text" value="low"/>
mode of delivery	<input type="text" value="high part-time"/>
size category	<input type="text" value="medium sized"/>

Preview selected  
institutions





# Classifying European Institutions of Higher Education

Thank you for your attention!



*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.  
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