

Towards a University Ranking System in Algeria:

rank ordering the notorious, the old and ... the others

Prof.Dr. Mohamed MILIANI

(COMITÉ NATIONAL D'ÉVALUATION / NATIONAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE)

ALGERIA

Introduction

Talking about university rankings systems entails answering a series of legitimate but pressing questions: ▶

Are we obliged to surrender to the university rankings **logic**?

Is there a need to use a **global benchmark** to assess universities' progress?

Is ranking of **any value** to the institutions?

How can a rankings system deal with a **complex structure** of HE like the one in Algeria (**45** universities, **10** university centres, **4** university annexes, not to mention **19** écoles nationales supérieures, **5** écoles normales supérieures **10** écoles préparatoires, **2** écoles préparatoires intégrées)?

So, is there an **alternative** to ranking?

Are we not in a **new education order** that uses dictates its agenda?

IS A RANKING SYSTEM: NECESSARY OR INEVITABLE?

Even within a public service, it is **NECESSARY** because:

- * It will work as a **benchmark** not just for the university's reputation but also the government's and the university's policy and HE practices
- * It will develop **self-evaluation mechanisms**
- * It will install nationally recognized **self-evaluation tools** (reference tools: to support a national reform (LMD reform 2004))

It is **INEVITABLE** because:

one feels that it is high time the country as much as the universities did the housework, that is to say **harmonise** the system for **TRANSPARENCY** and **VISIBILITY** sake. The higher education system seems to be still difficult to lay people **to read** it and comprehend **its ins and outs** mostly after the 2004 LMD Reform.