Towards a University Ranking System in Algeria:

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

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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.