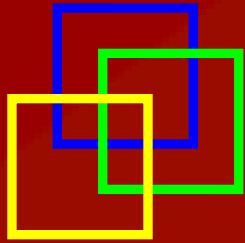


# **Classifying European Institutions of Higher Education**

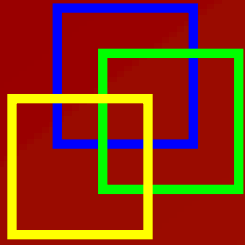
Ideas, Concepts, Goals

Prof.dr. F. van Vught  
University of Twente, The Netherlands



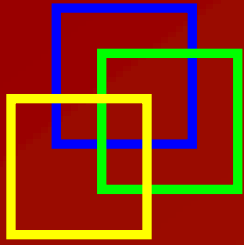
# European Higher Education

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



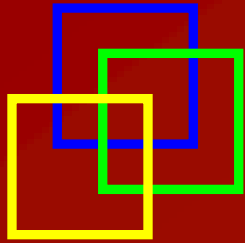
# Classifications are International Phenomena

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



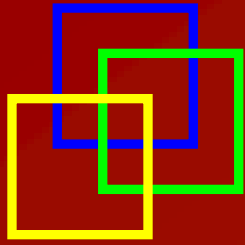
# Functions of Higher Education Classifications

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



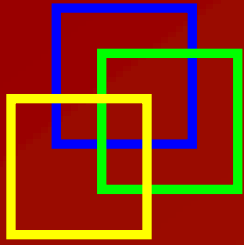
# Classification and Rankings

- 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)



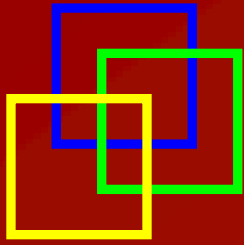
## Stakeholders' Interests

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



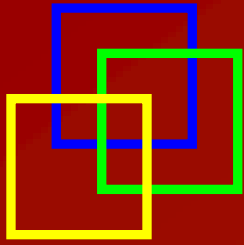
# The Classification Project

- 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



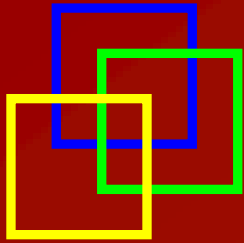
# The Classification Project: design principles

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



# The Classification Project: design principles

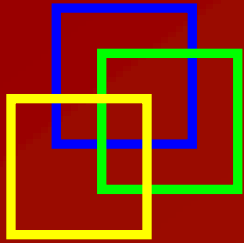
- non-prescriptive
- flexible
- parsimonious regarding extra data-needs
- related to European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies



# The Classification Project: first set of schemes

## *Education*

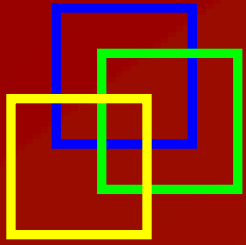
- Types of degrees offered
- Range of subjects offered
- Orientation of degrees
- European educational profile



# The Classification Project: first set of schemes

## *Research and Innovation*

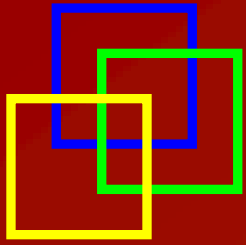
- Research intensiveness
- Innovation intensiveness
- European research profile



# The Classification Project: first set of schemes

## *Student and Staff Profile*

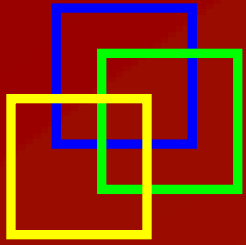
- International orientation
- Involvement in life long learning



# The Classification Project: first set of schemes

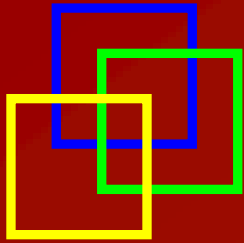
## *Institutional Characteristics*

- 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

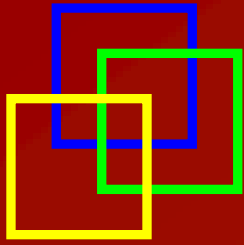
**Education**

**Research and  
innovation**

**Community  
engagement**

**International  
orientation**

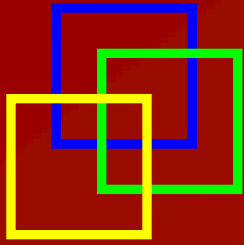
**Size and  
setting**



# 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

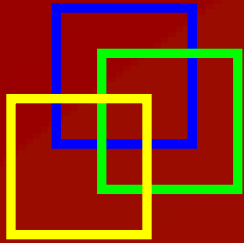
## Research and innovation

### ❖ Research intensiveness

- ❖ peer reviewed publications per academic staff
- ❖ scientometric 'crown' indicator

### ❖ Innovation intensiveness

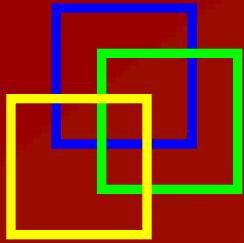
- ❖ Financial volume privately funded research as % of total financial volume
- ❖ Number of start-ups
- ❖ Number of filed patents
- ❖ Income from licensing



# 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

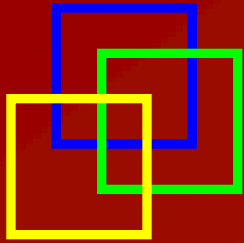
- ❖ Financial turnover in EU research programmes as % of total financial research volume



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

## size and settings

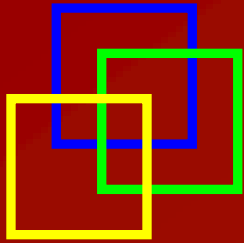
- ❖ Size
  - ❖ Total number of students (per degree level)
  - ❖ Total number of fte's academic staff
  - ❖ Total financial turn over per year
- ❖ Mode of delivery
  - ❖ distance learning programmes as %
  - ❖ Part-time programmes as %
- ❖ Public/private character
  - ❖ Income from government sources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



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

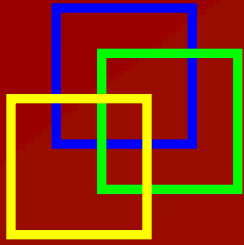
## Community engagement

- ❖ 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

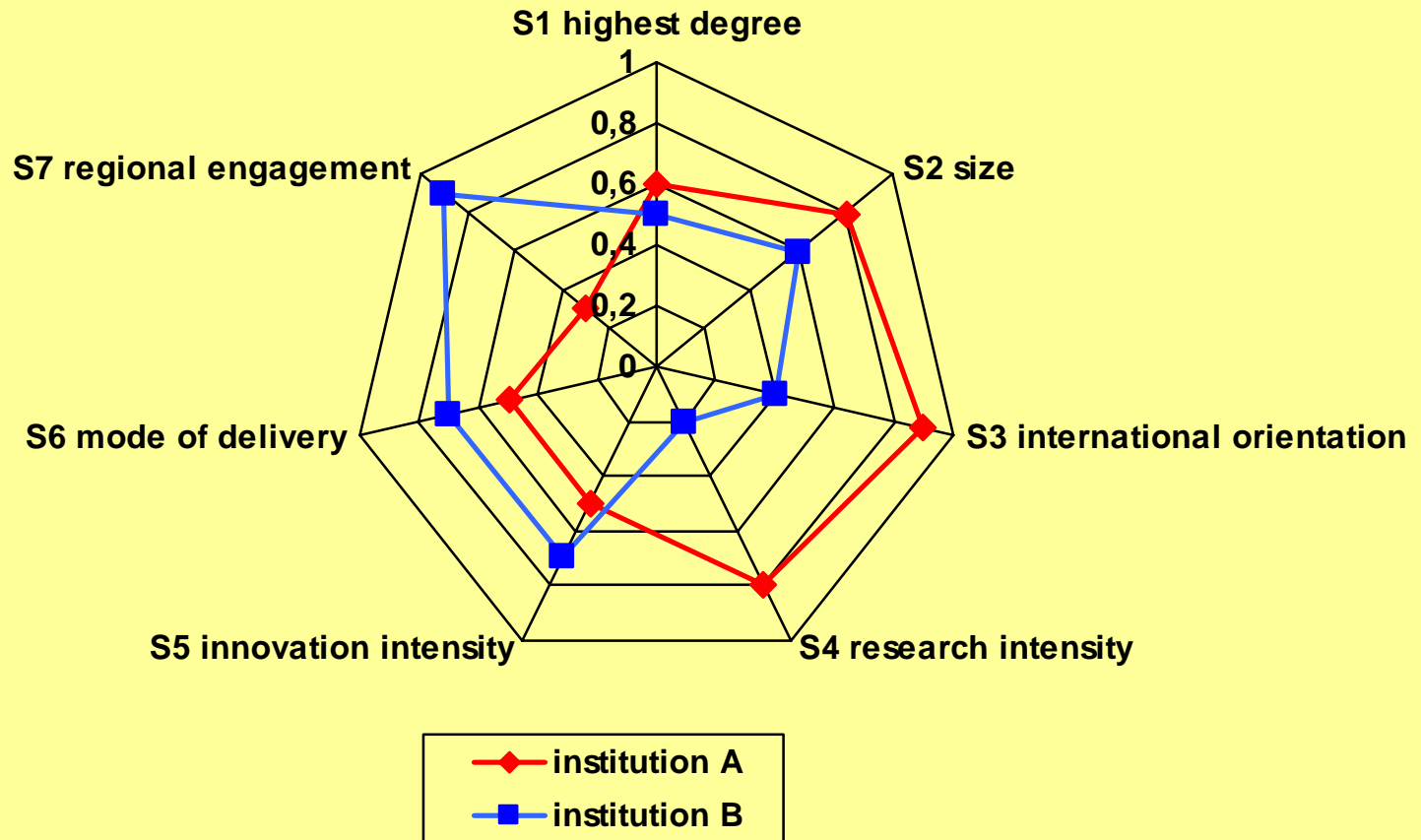
- work in progress
- further statistical analyses
- reduce number of schemes
- develop on-line tool
- communication process with stakeholders and preview
- ‘communities’ for special schemes
- institutionalisation and ownership

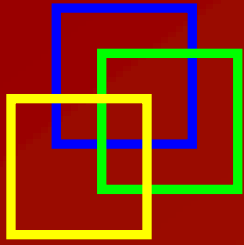


## Future use of the Classification: examples

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

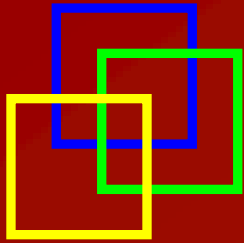
# Future use of the Classification: examples





## 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

doctorate, master dominated

international orientation research

low

international orientation; students

medium

research intensity

low

mode of delivery

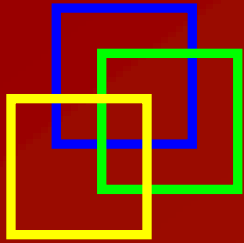
high part-time

size category

medium sized

Preview selected  
institutions





# Classifying European Institutions of Higher Education

Thank you for your attention!



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