



General Comments from the Student WG with regard to the U-Multirank Proposal

- In general terms, the Students WG consider U-Multirank is not a tool that students would use to decide on their study destinations; but it could be a supportive source. They consider most of the students base their choices in their interest in specific teachers, not in survey results or comparisons.
- The students commented on the lack of South/East European representation in the WG. According to them, it was very clear that the proposal was developed from a North European perspective. They highlighted that if the system attempts to compare European Higher Music Institutions, **the group of experts revising the indicators should be geographically balanced.**
- The students fear that more than a tool for students, the U-Multirank will be used as a tool to create competition among institutions. They consider that only the best institutions will be interested in participating. This competition may have a negative effect on the sector as a whole, as 'weak' conservatoires will have even less students as a consequence.

Specific Feedback:

Student 1 - Saara Lindahl, Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland

General Comments

When it comes to the viability of multirank, the very key question to us is the function and aims of multirank. Once u-multirank has the appearance of a helping tool for students, its purpose must be consistent with its appearance. It would hardly do service to dress wolf in sheep's clothing. Yet we sense a danger that helping students is not the sole purpose of the U-multirank system, but it could be used by conservatories themselves for competition. Rankings for institutions and rankings for students are different things and should thus be developed separately.

When mapping the potential effects of u-multirank when implemented, **geographical equality** is no doubt a matter the u-multirank committee has been committed to achieve. But before I was aware of the members of the committee, I was able to guess the national leaning to western and northern Europe simply from the content of the questionnaire. U-multirank can't rank European conservatories using north-western values.

My comments are ***bolded and in italics.***

In general, the questions are very administrative and from the student point of view, the most important ones are hidden among the others. Most of all, a student is interested in the quality of teaching staff, the content of the curriculum, stylistic leaning of the faculty, atmosphere and opportunities. Still, the



emphases of the study are in the administration (the structure of administration, the size of administration, its ability to react, special services, e.g. student exchange advise services...).

I will mention this again later, but a question is missing concerning fellow students of a conservatory. A suggestion: "How easy it is to create professional contacts (students with whom to work and collaborate)?"

Page 1: Please indicate the genre of your study programme: **Why folk/world music is not an option?**

Page 2: Please give your opinion about the services at your institution

Guidance in choice of study field: **is this service for students already enrolled in a programme or for prospective future students?**

Page 2: How satisfied are you with the following:

Quality of individual teaching/ supervision: **Super important aspect, but a hugely board question. At least would be good to divide into two questions, where the second would be: "how even is the quality of private teachers?" or "how wide is the distribution of quality among your private teachers?"**

Page 3: How would you evaluate the course delivery / teaching in your programme?

Commitment of teaching staff: **Same additional question could be added as above.**

Page 3: How would you evaluate the feasibility if your study programme?

Opportunities to choose an individual focus of studies: **is this question intended to measure quality or alignment of the study programme?**

Page 3: All in all, how would you evaluate your entire learning experience at your institution?: **I doubt the fairness of the result of this question.**

Page 4: How would you evaluate the research orientation of your programme? **Research orientation is not the main point in majority of studying programmes. Yet there are no similar questions about the main areas of study, like students' development of the craftsmanship in their field of study.**

Page 5: How would you evaluate the quality of counselling by teaching staff in your programme? **Where is a question about how much support students get from each other? Or: how easy they have found to find working partners? From alumnae: how much have the contacts you created as a student in your conservatory helped you in your professional life?**

Page 6: are there sufficient mechanisms of support against unwanted sexual attention:

I know who I could to talk to if I were to experience unwanted sexual attention: **better formulation: "I know I can easily get help if I were to experience unwanted sexual attention?"**

Student 2 - Sylvain Devaux, CoPeCo (Masters programme in Contemporary Performance and Composition)

Notes on the student questionnaire

- Question page 3 – better formulation may be needed: "How would you evaluate the overall coherence of your study program"
- I would add after each question's section (or just one at the end of the questionnaire) an extra line so that one could add some additional question that he/she could assess. Thus, It might provide extra idea to embed further to the questionnaire.
- I would add a question asking if there are some collaborative projects (interdisciplinary practices, cooperation between departments...) within the institution
- I really think this survey is not the place for asking about sexual issues. It might be sensitive and could be difficult to control and check the validity of the information provided. I think U-Multirank is not the body which should be involved with those issues.

Student 3 Isabel Gonzalez Delgado, Conservatorio Superior de Música de Murcia, Spain

Im totally against this project. Good way to start, I guess...

From institutions perspective:

1. Why to create a multi-rank system project...?; Have all conservatories got equal conditions in order to be compared?
2. Have all Conservatoires got the opportunity to get all the tools they need to develop in order to achieve standards you show in your questionnaires?
3. You must think now all this questions sound too idealist... So, a new question: Why to invest all the energy in a project like this, instead of another one which makes possible to build the necessary bones for all institutions to have a minimum of dignity in the European framework?
4. Why not to wonder about the reasons why many institutions are against this project? Or a better asked question... Why not to wonder with an analytical perspective which countries are not involved in the WG?... countries like Poland...? like Italy?

If you want to bring up a competition to get an enhancement of Conservatories...go for it. Nevertheless, you should keep in mind that many institutions will not be able to improve because they don't have not even the opportunity and conditions to develop... if you want to get closer of a possible breaking between institutions... go for it! But this makes no sense, and it would show an evidence of irresponsibility and low reflection.

From student perspective:

- It's a nice tool to reduce the Conservatories you're thinking about to make an application for... but, subjective aspects can't be count as indicators... social climate... can be totally different according to the student (for example)...
- It's a nice tool to draft an own map of possible interests... but this will not be essential or crucial for a final decision.