A typology
of higher education institutions?

Jeroen Bartelse

Netherlands Association of Universities (VSNU)

Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS)

The European higher education landscape

- Many institutions

- Highly diversified

- Not transparent

- An exploration into the possibilities of classifying institutions: Socrates Project

Classifying HE institutions

=

To group higher education institutions into recognisable categories according to their similarities and differences

Why classifying
Europe's HE institutions?

Multiple purposes:

- – Creating transparency for mobile students
- – Identifying partner institutions for education and research
  - for HE institutions
  - for public and private organisations
- – Information for the labour market
- – Identifying target groups for (public) policies
- – Analytical purposes

The concept of classifying HE institutions

- Heuristic tool for grouping institutions into meaningful categories

- Catering different (analytical) purposes and target groups

- Based on multiple dimensions that characterise similarities and differences

- Based on objective data about behaviour of institutions

- Institution can influence its classification by adapting its policies

The pitfalls of classifying HE institutions

- Highly simplifying

- Should not be based on quality assessment

- Should not be used as ranking

- Should not be used for resource allocation

- Should not be rigid

- Independent?

A well-known classification scheme: Carnegie Classification

- History

- Characteristics

- Revision

Designing dimensions
options

- Type of degrees offered
- Comprehensiveness
- Student profile
- Engagement in research and development
- Public/private funding base
- Size and setting

Modes of implementation

- Independent clearing house to assess and categorise

- Voluntary or mandatory

- Interaction with users: web based

- Towards world wide taxonomies?