



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



European Tertiary Education Register  
[Contract No. 934533-2017 A08-CH]

# Using microdata for benchmarking universities

Prof. Andrea Bonaccorsi  
University of Pisa



Università  
della  
Svizzera  
Italiana



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



NIFU

Nordic Institute for Studies in  
Innovation, Research and Education



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

## Summing up

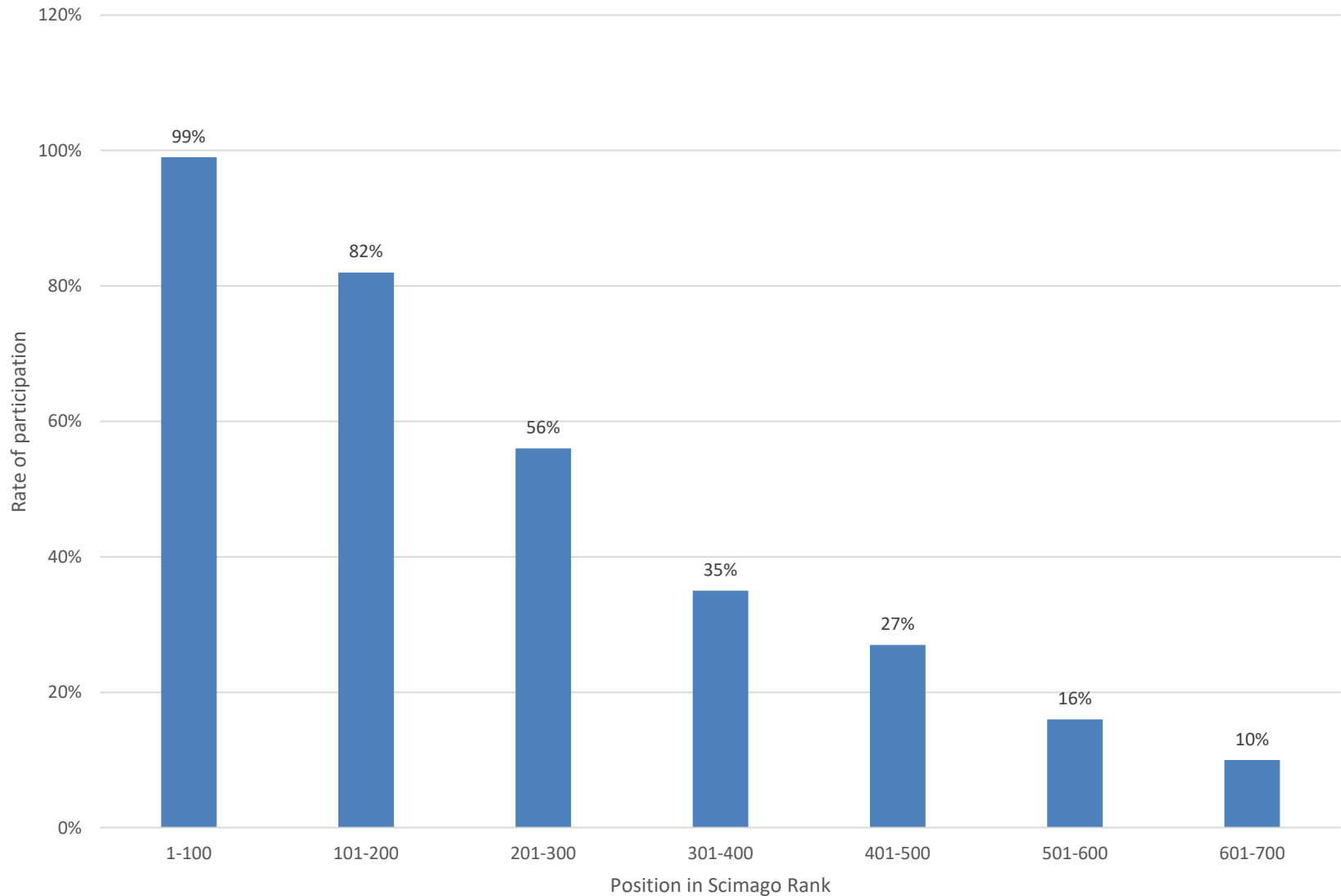
The rate of participation of universities in EU funding is highly differentiated

- concentrated in ERC
- more diffused in H2020 calls
- large accessibility for Erasmus funding

Comparisons at country level tell only part of the story

We need to move towards microdata that allow fine-grained comparisons

## Rate of participation to the ERC by class of ranking Scimago



Source: Bonaccorsi A. (2015) Ex-post Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme. Support paper to the High Level Expert Group. IDEAS Specific Programme Evaluation.

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index.cfm?pg=archive>

## Number of ERC grants per classes of modified ranking Scimago- HEIs only

<b>Rank Scimago</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Number of grants</b>	<b>Average number of grants</b>
<b>1-100</b>	99	2038	20,6
<b>101-200</b>	82	676	8,2
<b>201-300</b>	56	235	4,2
<b>301-400</b>	35	73	2,1
<b>401-500</b>	27	59	2,2
<b>501-600</b>	16	25	1,6
<b>601-700</b>	10	43	4,3

Source: ibidem

Name	Country	Total students	Erasmus incoming
University of Granada	ES	54304	1918
University Complutense, Madrid	ES	72353	1731
University of Valencia	ES	47581	1722
University of Bologna	IT	80318	1678
Charles University Prague	CZ	41038	1353
Politechnic University of Valencia	ES	32500	1293
University of Sevilla	ES	63093	1141
University of Barcelona	ES	52060	1103
KU Leuven	BE	45761	1041
University of Salamanca	ES	26137	1041
University of Rome La Sapienza	IT	112060	1030
University of Vienna	AT	76234	1018

**Table 1. Top HEIs by Erasmus incoming students (2013/2014)**

Source: ETER Policy Brief n. 3 Student mobility

<https://www.eter-project.com/#/analytical-reports>



**ETER is the first comprehensive database on European Higher Education Institutions.**

Sign up to ETER and explore the full variety of the ETER dataset (without restrictions).

**Signup**

**Login**

**HEI Data**

**Access the ETER Database** ▶

**Analytical Reports**

**Have a look at our reports** ▶

**News**

**Read the news** ▶

**Tech-Blog**

**I want to see some technical examples** ▶

# ETER microdata

- EU-28, EEA-EFTA, candidate countries
- Countries joining data collection in 2018/2019:
  - ❖ Slovenia, Romania, Belgium (French)
- Countries for which limited data have been collected by the consortium:
  - ❖ Denmark, Iceland, FYROM, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Turkey

# Coverage

- **Very good coverage of HEIs delivering at least at the bachelor level**
  - Over 90% in most countries as compared with EUROSTAT
  - Exceptions: France, Germany, Switzerland
  - This perimeter is much larger than research HEIs
- **No coverage of ISCED-5 only institutions**
  - Due to number and data availability



# Data

- **Focus on statistical data which are not available from other sources**
  - Students and graduates data (EUROSTAT)
  - Staff
  - Revenues and expenditures
- **ETER as an open system which allows combining with other data sources**
  - Research output
  - Employability
- **Interfacing with other sources/projects more a priority than adding data to ETER**

# Funding

- Remaining methodological issues
    - ❖ Mostly on finances and comparability issues
    - ❖ Advances in some countries through in-depth work with NSAs (Germany, Poland)
  - This work requires stronger cooperation with NSAs in the methodological work
    - ❖ Especially for data that are not core in UOE like staff and finances
- **An on-going task for the future**

# Usage

- Website usage
  - ❖ More than 600 registered users
  - ❖ High interest in the current version and high number of data downloads (220 within the first week)

September	No. of Sessions	No. of new Users	Share of new users (%)	Share of returning users (%)
	956	581	60.77	39.23

- Newsletter
  - ❖ About 1000 subscribers, 35% opening rate (very stable)
- ETER is getting a reference for HE studies
  - ❖ A growing number of papers using it
  - ❖ As well as studies and reports from the EC
- First instances of direct usage of data through APIs
  - **Usage is rapidly developing and will become more or less established**