#### 2nd Meeting of the International Rankings Expert Group "Methodology and Quality Standards of Rankings"



# **Evaluating Education for Sustainable Development**

# Challenges for value-driven and stakeholder-based Rankings

Claude Patrick Siegenthaler & Heiko Spitzeck







## oikos – student organisation for sustainability



Founded: 1987

**Chapters:** 16 local chapters worldwide

**Activities:** Conferences, lectures, case

writing award, award for

student entrepreneurship,

winter school, PhD academy,

PhD fellowships, etc.

**Mission Statement (excerpt):** 

www.oikos-international.org

- "To increase the students' ability to analyse and actively implement solutions to ecological and social challenges"
- "To reach a higher integration of ecological and social issues into teaching and research of the faculties of Management and Economics worldwide"

#### **Does Business Education Contribute to Sustainability?**





Sustainability Rankings are a new type of value-driven evaluation.

Those schemes have an underlying political agenda, adressing specific educational content and social values.

Such rankings are dedicated to generate publicity and competition among business schools as a mean to change curricula & faculty.





#### Challenges to be addressed by value-driven Rankings

#### How to

- define the relevant contents?
- measure the learnings achieved in teaching those topics?
- deal with value-based bias in subjective evaluations?
- secure the acceptance of results by the addressees?



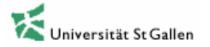


#### **Beyond Grey Pinstripes**

Beyond Grey Pinstripes celebrates the top 30 schools among the 600 full-time MBA programs across six continents invited to participate in the survey.		Student Opportunity measures the number of courses with social and environmental content	Student Exposure indicates the percentage of course time dedicated to considering social and	Course Content reflects the degree to which courses illustrate the value of integrating social and	Faculty Research indicates the number of relevant articles published in leading peer-reviewed
Rankings :	Location	25%	environmental issues	environmental considerations into business decisions 25%	management journals
1 Stanford	USA	****	***	****	***
2 ESADE	Spain	****	****	****	***
3 York (Schulich)	Canada	****	****	***	***
4 ITESM (EGADE)	Mexico	***	****	****	**
5 Notre Dame (Mendoza)	USA	****	***	****	****
6 George Washington	USA	****	***	****	***
7 Michigan (Ross)	USA	****	***	*****	****
8 North Carolina (Kenan-Flagler)	USA	***	***	****	$\star\star\star\star$
9 Cornell (Johnson)	USA	****	**	****	****
10 Wake Forest (Babcock)	USA	****	****	***	***

Based on questionnaires sent out to the administration of business schools, the schemes evaluates four capacity bound categories of criteria. Those criteria are assessed qualitatively by experts.





#### Following the Pioneer – BGP-style Evaluation Schemes



**SECOND ANNUAL GUIDE TO BUSINESS EDUCATION:** 

# **KNIGHT SCHOOLS**

A guide to business schools for students who want to change the world

Since 2004: Capacity Evaluation of 34 Canadian Business Schools



**2005: Benchmarking Australian Business Schools against BGP** 



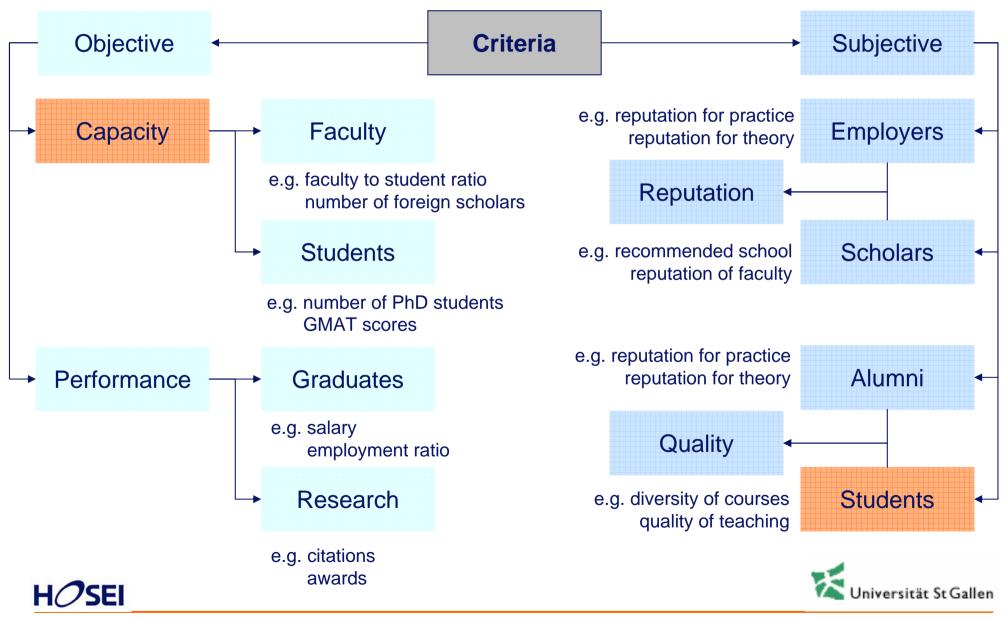


Since 1998:
Inviting 600 MBA
programmes globally.
130 participating
programmes in 2005





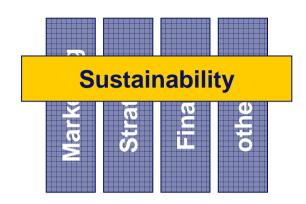
## **Locating the existing BESD Rankings Criteria**



## Ranking BESD Specialisation and Mainstreaming







**Mainstreaming** 

#### Ranking capacities is suitable to monitor specialidation

But there is much difficulty to measure capacities which can not be identified by key words such as "social impacts", "environmental impacts", "sustainability", "CSR" etc. in the syllabus.





## The oikos Approach to BESD Ranking

#### **Evaluating BESD from a students perspective**

#### Mapping the value-bias

By developing a typology of students based on their perceptions and behaviours, the value-bias is explicitly handeled.

#### Asking the appropriate question

By asking representative samples of students on their subjective perception valid response can be secured.

#### Coining the sustainability concept

By involving key stakeholders of BESD (experts from faculty & business) to define the essential learnings, BESD knowledge can be tested.

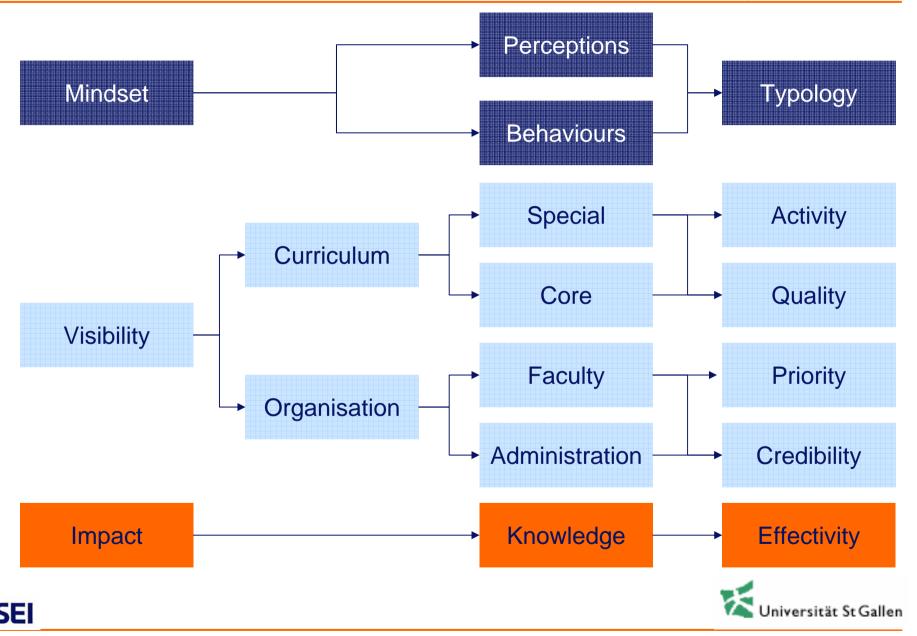
#### **Securing acceptance**

By entering a scientifically based stakeholder dialogue with the addressees of the ranking within the universities

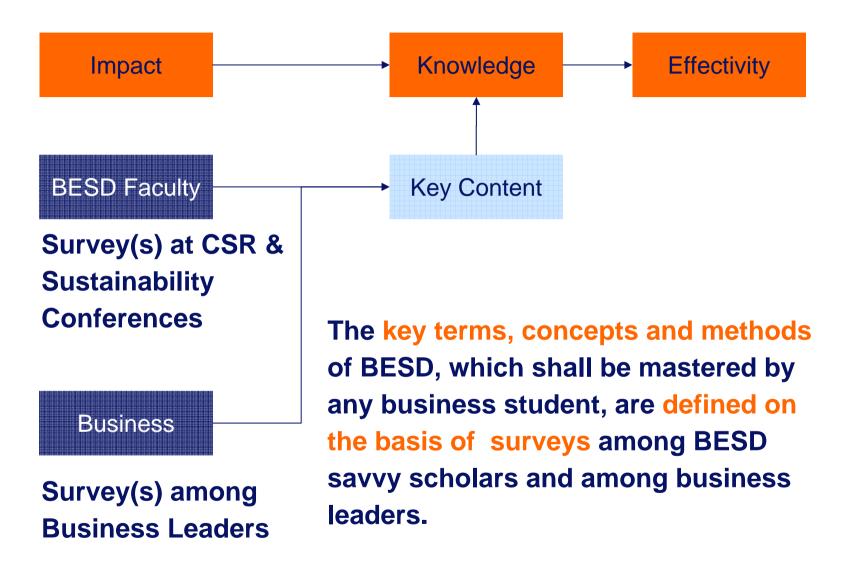


Universität St Gallen

## **Model of BESD Evaluation by students**



#### Coining Sustainability by Stakeholder-Dialogue







## **Secure Acceptance by Stakeholder-Dialogue**

The Ranking shall secure acceptance within universities by

- Involving BESD experts when designing and refining the concept & methodology.
- Involving business leaders advocating BESD as to demonstrate the importance of BESD from an employers perspective.
- Allowing participating universities to review and comment their specific results before publication.
- Involved faculty and deans are invited to a scientific conference on BESD where results are discussed and best practice of BESD is presented





#### **Summary: Value-driven Rankings require Legitimacy**



Rankings offer a leverage for BESD

Current BESD rankings are limited by their methodological scope

A stakeholder-based method shall reveal the perception of students as a mean of evaluation and foster the mainstreaming of BESD