

**Question for written answer E-004120/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL), Chrysoula Paliadeli (S&D) and Malika Benarab-Attou (Verts/ALE)

Subject: U-Multirank tool

In June 2009, the Commission awarded CHERPA (the Consortium for Higher Education and Research Performance Assessment) the task of carrying out a feasibility study in two phases on a multi-dimensional and interactive global university ranking system. When the U-Multirank project was drawn up, this Consortium was assisted by four working groups, with the participation of Commission representatives and international organisations, international experts and interested parties, including student representatives.

What selection procedure did the Commission use to carry out this project and the feasibility study before it was entrusted to CHERPA? What procedure was used to select the experts participating in the working groups referred to in the final report adopted in June 2011?

According to the final report, while 158 institutions in 57 countries around the world agreed to participate in the feasibility study, only 109 provided complete results. Is the Commission satisfied with the number of institutions participating in this study? Do these institutions constitute a representative sample of the existing institutions in each country?

Stakeholders were involved in this project. Can the Commission specify which criteria were used to select these stakeholders and whether it is satisfied with the representativeness and the quality of the answers received?

According to the report, 6 770 students participated in the study and 5 901 answers provided were included in the analysis. Does the Commission consider the number of answers received from students satisfactory? How does it intend to ensure student participation in setting up and implementing the U-Multirank ranking system?

In its Communication of 20 September 2011 on 'Supporting growth and jobs — an agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems', the Commission announced the continuation of the project in 2013. What are the next practical steps to be taken for implementing the system and what will the timetable be?