Accreditations & Rankings

The experience of Técnico Lisboa
Organization

• Introduction
• Accreditation
• Rankings
• Bringing two worlds together
• Conclusions
Introduction

This presentation aims at:

• providing an overall picture of the institution

• learning about internal models and their contribution to the quest for quality

• demonstrating how Accreditation and Rankings can be brought together internally
## Introduction

### Facts and figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Foundation as Instituto Superior Técnico</td>
<td>86% of grads get a job within 6 months after graduation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Merger with the University of Lisbon; adopts the name Técnico Lisboa</td>
<td>77% of grads employed in their field of study</td>
<td>11,412 students, among which 42% get a job before graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All programmes accredited by the Portuguese Accreditation Agency (A3ES)</td>
<td>6th E, 28th World, Civil E. 10th E, 40th World, Mech E. 15th E, 52nd World, Math in NTU Ranking</td>
<td>10646 publications, 74 highly cited in field between 2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53 spin-off companies created since 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1:** Facts and Figures  
**Source:** [http://ep.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/cienciometria/](http://ep.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/cienciometria/)
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Portuguese Accreditation System

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All HEIs must

• adopt quality assurance policies and procedures
• develop a quality culture
• promote and implement a strategy for continuous improvement of quality
The Portuguese Accreditation System

PRIORITIES

Quality Assurance should

• extend the scope of evaluation
• clarify the consequences of evaluation
• internationalize the evaluation process
• require tangible results
SIQuIST

(IST Integrated Quality Management System)

The SIQuIST aims at:

– constant improvement of quality within the institution
– evaluation of the level of accomplishment of the mission of Técnico Lisboa

through

Criteria and indicators
SIQuIST

(IST Integrated Quality Management System)

The SIQuIST consists of two components:
- Self evaluation
- External evaluation

SIQuIST Accredited in 2012

✓ Cyclical review of institutional results
✓ Overall evaluation of the mission and strategic objectives defined by Técnico Lisboa
SIQuIST
(IST Integrated Quality Management System)

The SIQuIST comprises:
• Progress and
• Quality indicators

that apply to all 11 strategic areas defined in the Strategic Plan of Tecnico Lisboa
Challenges of SIQuIIST

The SIQuIIST should

• ensure updated information

• make quality enhancement processes have tangible effects over time
Advantages of SIQuIST

The systems contributes to

- Constant monitoring/evaluation
- Transparency and communication
- Accreditation (external process)
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The importance of rankings to Técnico Lisboa

• Are part of its Strategic Options:
  – Academic Rankings Observatory

• Critical tool to help:
  – Create a world class environment
  – Attract faculty, researchers and students from all over the world
  – Make Técnico a reference institution nationally and internationally
  – Drive institutional policy towards quality
The Approaches of Técnico Lisboa to Rankings

• Monitoring of key university rankings, in particular their Sector Rankings in ST&E

• The Concept of ´Reverse Engineering´:
  – reports by Ranking
  – analysis of indicators and scores
  – hypothetical scenarios against peers
  – recommendations to the governing bodies
### Técnico Lisboa Model: An example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University of Lisbon</th>
<th>RWTH Aachen Univ</th>
<th>Eindhoven University of Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>82.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>64.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>78.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>79.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2:** Scores by indicator obtained by ULisboa and those of the institutions ranked 10 and 25 in Europe  
**Source:** QS Ranking, latest update: 2017
## Técnico Lisboa Model: Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Reputation</td>
<td>Improve institutional communication</td>
<td>Governing bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adopt measures to increase reputation</td>
<td>Faculty; researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adopt a single and normalized signature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Reputation</td>
<td>Work closely with companies/stakeholders/ to get them involved</td>
<td>Former faculty, researchers and alumni with business activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adopt measures to increase reputation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3:** Recommendations  
**Source:** QS Report, 2017, published by Técnico Lisboa, Academic Rankings Observatory
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Bringing two worlds together

- definition of lines of action
- improved standing in rankings
- continued focus on improving quality

while

- optimizing resources and
- lining up institutions’ strategies

Common indicators
Organization

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Conclusions: Difficulties

• Different objectives of Quality Assurance and Academic Rankings
• Academic Communities vs Institutional autonomy
Conclusions: Challenges

• Rankings as a complementary tool for governments, accreditation authorities and independent review agencies
• Involvement of entire institution
• Long process of communication to create consolidated management models
Conclusions: Evidence

• Quality Assurance systems can learn from Academic Ranking indicators

• Definition of objective targets based on “Reverse Engineering” through the analysis of indicators in rankings
THANK YOU!


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