



THE NEWMAN BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK

The Catholic Benchmarking Framework for Universities' Social Responsibility (USR)

The International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) has just created a unique **Benchmarking Framework** that will enable Catholic universities **to assess their social responsibility performance**.

In recent years, various rankings (Shanghai, Times Higher Education) have emerged to rate universities in an increasingly competitive environment. However, these rankings are based on limited scientific criteria and overlook values that are essential to today's societies.

Echoing a growing number of initiatives around the world to promote USR, the Newman Benchmarking Framework is a viable assessment alternative that brings in a holistic approach to assess higher education institutions. By conveying principles and values that are in line with the humanist and Catholic tradition of the Church, this tool places the notion of responsibility at the heart of university life and of the entire community.

The Framework is the result of a two-year collaborative endeavor and includes some 160 indicators and twenty criteria sorted into 4 main areas:

1

institutional governance

3

university practices as an employer and with regard to the implementation of its "three missions"

2

environmental protection efforts

4

overall consistency with regard to institutional identity

Thanks to a partnership with the Swiss GMAP Center think tank, the **Newman Benchmarking Framework is the first of its kind to rely on the use of artificial intelligence** in order to offer an evaluation system that is both dynamic and respectful of the context diversity of universities. Access to this evaluation and foresight tool will enable universities to take stock of both their current and USR performance and future trends, while obtaining solid data enabling them to redefine their institutional development strategies.

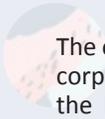
Providing visibility and quantifiability for their USR policies and practices will allow Catholic universities to promote their singular added value in the higher education landscape.

THE NEWMAN BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK IN A FEW WORDS

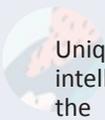
AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH:



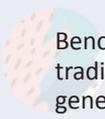
Only evaluation system to propose a holistic approach, through the concept of «responsibility», allowing for articulating the whole of any university's policies, which tend to lack coherence (transparency and reporting, inclusive university, gender balance, commitment with society, responsible research, environmental sustainability...).



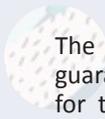
The only assessment framework adapting corporate social responsibility (CSR) to the higher education (HE) environment by taking into account the specificities of universities, their three missions and their institutional identity.



Unique in the world to put artificial intelligence (AI) at the service of the evaluation of higher education institutions (HEI).

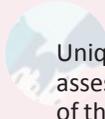


Benchmarking system differing from traditional ones (rankings), which are generally based on limited, biased and, thus, widely contested scientific criteria.

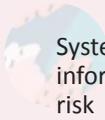


The only international system guaranteeing objectivity and respect for the specificities of the geographic context of the evaluated HEI.

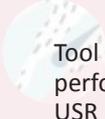
AND UNIQUE BENEFITS:



Unique in the world to offer not only an assessment of the current performance of the evaluated HEI, but also a projection of its future performance, with targeted suggestions for improvement.



System providing solid data to make informed decisions in terms of risk management and institutional development.



Tool that also measures the performance of HEI in communicating USR policies and practices, in order to help them improve their (often poor) communication strategy.



System allowing, thanks to the labels granted, to stand out from the competition in the higher education market by putting forward policies and practices conveying values that are increasingly appreciated by society and by (future) students themselves.



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