

Proposal for design and application of the new classification

Generic guidance

The workshop facilitator and participants are invited to note the following generic questions that should inform your discussions:

- How can system diversity be taken into account and different university missions recognized and rewarded?
- How can Thai universities be classified (university classification) to meet with the existing and future situations?
- Is there a need to rationalize the existing arrangements at institutional, regional, or system/national level? If yes, what reconfigurations or organizational changes are required?

Questions for discussion

1. Does the present university classification foster the diversity of the higher education sector or does it reduce flexibility and/or create unsurpassable boundaries for the institution?
2. Is the current university classification interpreted by external parties as a hierarchical classification leading to undesired consequences, for example: stratification and/or ranking of institutions as a basis for political and funding decisions?
3. Does the present university classification allow targeting of focused policy instruments at institutional or national level? Could granting programmes be targeted to specify groups of institutions in the light of their comparative disadvantage?
4. Can the current university classification be used as i) an analytical tool to drive development of institutional profiles; and ii) allow individual institutions to direct themselves; and iii) to express and/or develop their own strategic goals and missions? (Is it multidimensional, flexible, descriptive and not prescriptive, exclusive or rigid?)
5. Does the present university classification stimulate institutions to clarify their missions and to choose appropriate profiles?
6. Do the different KPIs – defined by different bodies – enable benchmarking, target setting and internal planning purposes for the institutions classified? How the different sets of KPIs facilitates monitoring of institutional performance?
7. Is the current set of criteria for university classification appropriate to be used as the basis for positioning universities on the national / international higher education landscape?
8. Is the present typology / classification shared and confirmed by all the stakeholders?
9. What other dimensions would you add to the present university classification description? (based on the presented matrix of the U-MAP project, for example).
10. What measurable criteria would suite best to describe the diversity of Thai system, taking into consideration the condition of parsimony in data collecting?