Role of Research in Driving What Works
Social Progress Conference

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Social Progress Index 2015
Iceland

- Ranked 4th overall
  - Basic Human Needs (6th)
  - Opportunity (11th)
  - Foundation of Wellbeing (4th)
- Ranks highly, but ...
  - "has the most room to improve on Access to Advanced Education under Opportunity"

My talk today

I. Expenditure on higher education
II. University of Iceland – Short profile
III. Research performance and impact
IV. Rankings – THE
V. Summary

I. How much do we spend on higher education?

I. Expenditure on higher education
Total expenditure per student (FTE)

Annual expenditure per student in 2012 related to 2005

Change in expenditure per student between 2005 and 2012 (%)
I. Expenditure on higher education
Iceland vs. Finland – GDP per capita

II. University of Iceland
Overview
- Founded in 1911
- A comprehensive research university
- Has five Schools
  - 25 Faculties
  - Formal Interdisciplinary Programs
- 700+ academic staff
  - Including 8 Highly Cited Researchers as Full Professors (3) and Affiliated Professors (5) (Thompson Reuters 2015)
- 13,000+ students
- Ranked No. 222 by Times Higher World University Rankings in 2015/2016
  - No. 138 in Europe
  - No. 13 in the Nordic Countries
- Ranked by other lists, including
  - National Taiwan University Ranking 2015 (Field and Subject)
  - U.S. News Best Global Universities 2016 (Institution)

II. University of Iceland
30 year development

II. University of Iceland
Previous Policies
Policy 2006-2011 included
- Emphasis on scientific output – double the number of ISI publications
- Enhancing international collaboration with universities and research institutions
- Quintuple the number of PhD degrees awarded
THE ranking in 2011: 275

Policy 2011-2016 included
- Strengthening UI’s infrastructure
- Promoting excellence in research and increasing the number of high quality publications
- Integrating teaching and research with increased quality of undergraduate education
THE ranking in 2016: 222
II. University of Iceland
Policy 2016-2021

- Focus areas
  - A progressive vision for teaching and learning that prepares students to participate in society and industry
  - Strong research infrastructure that supports the creation of knowledge and international collaboration
  - The University aims to have a wide impact and address the challenges of the 21st century
  - A great place to work
  - Quality culture and efficient information technology

III. Research performance and impact

University of Iceland – ISI Publications

III. Research performance and impact
University of Iceland – Relative growth of ISI Publications

III. Research performance and impact
University of Iceland – Impact factor (ISI Publications)

III. Research performance and impact
University of Iceland – International collaboration

125 collaborating countries from 2012

Internationally co-authored ISI Publications

IV. Rankings

University of Iceland – Time Higher World University Rankings

- University of Iceland ranked by Times Higher World University Rankings since 2011
  - Ranked No. 275 in 2011
  - Ranked No. 222 in 2016
- The performance indicators are grouped into five areas
  - Teaching (the learning environment)
  - Research (volume, income and reputation)
  - Citations (research influence)
  - International outlook (staff, students and research)
  - Industry income (knowledge transfer)
- Relative weakness
  - Subjective evaluation (reputation surveys amount to 32% of total score)
- Relative strength
  - Data (publications, citations, etc.)

V. Summary

What Works?

- Iceland ranks highly in the Social Progress Index
- Iceland has the most room to improve on Access to Advanced Education
- Iceland spends much less per student in higher education than other Nordic Countries
- Expenditure per student in higher education has actually decreased in Iceland between 2005 and 2012
- University of Iceland has grown substantially over a period of three decades
  - Publications have increased by over 20-fold
  - Impact factor is well above world average
- University of Iceland has in its Policies since 2006 placed emphasis on high impact research and international collaboration
- University of Iceland has been ranked by Times Higher World University Rankings since 2011
  - Reputation surveys will always be difficult for small countries/ small institutions
  - The highest scores comes from data driven indicators
  - The citation impact of the University of Iceland is very high and ranks no. 58 out of 800 by THE