



RAEX Rating Consortium

RAEX Rating Consortium  
TRANSPARENCY REPORT 2023

Moscow  
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## 1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Transparency Report (hereinafter referred to as the Report) has been developed as a pilot review of the compliance with the “Principles of the BRICS countries in the implementation of activities for Public Ranking/Rating Systems and Other Assessments of Higher Education Institutions (Universities)” (hereinafter, the Principles; please see the Annex for details).

The draft Principles were presented and discussed at the Congress of the Russian Union of Rectors on 4 July 2024, which recommended submitting them for adoption to the BRICS University Rectors' Forum, scheduled to take place in October 2024. Please see the Annex for the suggested Principles description.

The RAEX Consortium (hereinafter, RAEX or the Consortium) Rating Consortium Transparency Report provides information on the activities of the Consortium within the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

This Transparency Report highlights the specific activities and outcomes achieved by the Consortium in compliance with the BRICS Ranking Principles in the framework of the *Three Missions of the University* family of rankings development.

The Transparency Report is published on the RAEX official website at: [www.raex-rr.com](http://www.raex-rr.com). It is updated on a regular basis at least once a year.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE RAEX RATING CONSORTIUM

- 2.1. *The RAEX Rating Consortium Regulations*, in effect from July 1, 2014, is the basic guiding document setting forth the Consortium's scope of activities, goals, objectives, and terms of cooperation between its members/participants.
- 2.2 The Consortium is a centre of expertise and analysis that combines the efforts and resources of its members to carry out joint projects and achieve set goals aimed at promoting the development of higher education.
- 2.3 The Consortium is not a business entity. Participation in the Consortium shall not impose any proprietary and/or financial obligations on its members, nor shall it impose any restrictions on their independence and autonomy in the implementation of activities in line with their articles of association.
- 2.4 The distribution of roles among the members of the Consortium is guided by best international practice in the organization of ranking businesses. Conflicts of interest are prevented by means of the 'Chinese wall' principle.
- 2.5 In carrying out its activities, RAEX works closely with the academic, scientific and educational communities, federal executive authorities, professional organisations, and independent experts.

### 2.6 Goals and Objectives of the Consortium

One of the main goals of the Consortium is to implement a large-scale project — the "Three University Missions" family of rankings (hereinafter referred to as the Project), with an integrated approach to the efficient assessment of higher education activities in light of global trends in higher education; national needs and demands; and regional specifics of the universities.

- ✓ **The Project is being implemented in accordance with the assignments of the President of Russia, and under the guidance and oversight of the Russian Union of Rectors.**
- ✓ **The Project is supervised by the Joint Working Group of the Russian Union of Rectors, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Academy of Education.**

To achieve these goals, the strategic objectives of the joint activities of the Consortium members are set as follows:

- Increase the importance of the Project for society, business, and the government;
- Increase the quality of the Project so as it becomes an important event/development in the field of analytical research;
- Ensure that the Project is large-scale and well-recognised for its leading role in the rating industry;
- Ensure reliable, independent, and comprehensive performance evaluations of all assessed Universities in light with their missions, historical and geographic/regional features.

## 2.7 On the structure of the RAEX Rating Consortium

According to *the RAEX Rating Consortium Regulations*, the Consortium involves the following participants (as of December 31, 2023):



### RAEX-Analytics ("RAEX-Analytics Ltd.):

An analytical rating agency that produces rankings, assigns non-credit ratings and scores, conducts industry and market research, and organises events with a focus on particular research topics of interest. It is the main acting unit of the Consortium.



### Association of Rating Makers, producers of rankings and other performance assessments (ARM)

An independent methodological centre launching new/pilot projects and operating the "Three University Missions" family of rankings.



### RAEX ("RAEX Ltd.")

A service company that provides services in data processing; database maintenance and updates for universities and schools involved in the "Three University Missions" family of rankings; as well as IT development, public relations, and pre-press services.



### RAEX International Group, Ltd.

This organization is responsible for the overall strategic vision and intellectual property issues.



### Rating-Agentur Expert RA GmbH (RAEX-Europe)

An international rating agency that provides information support in the context of consultations, discussions, talks and recommendations on methodological issues and developments. Its roles also involve product positioning and representing Consortium's interests in the international sphere.

## 2.8. Governing bodies of the RAEX Rating Consortium

2.8.1. The RAEX-Analytics ("RAEX-Analytika") Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the **Consortium Coordinator**) acts as the permanent operational coordinating body of the Consortium.

The Consortium Coordinator's responsibilities are as follows:

- Manages and coordinates activities of the Consortium members;
- Approves short-term and long-term work plans of the Consortium;
- Oversees the implementation of the goals and objectives which the Consortium was set up to achieve;
- Establishes the organisational structure of the Consortium so as to ensure that it achieves its goals and objectives;
- Establishes internal regulatory documents of the Consortium;
- Performs other actions as required for the efficient functioning of the Consortium.

2.8.2. The **Chairperson of the Consortium** is the supreme governing body of the Consortium. Mr. Dmitry E. Grishankov was the Chair of the Consortium during the reporting period.

Responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Consortium involve the following:

- Represents the Consortium (on behalf of all its members) and acts in the interests of the Consortium in its interactions with third parties;

- Approves internal regulatory documents of the Consortium;
- Endorses the Consortium’s organizational structure so as to make sure it facilitates the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Consortium;
- Convenes and chairs the meetings of the Consortium;
- Endorses the minutes of the Consortium meetings, as well as letters, addresses, appeals, and other documents produced on behalf of the Consortium in line with its meeting resolutions.

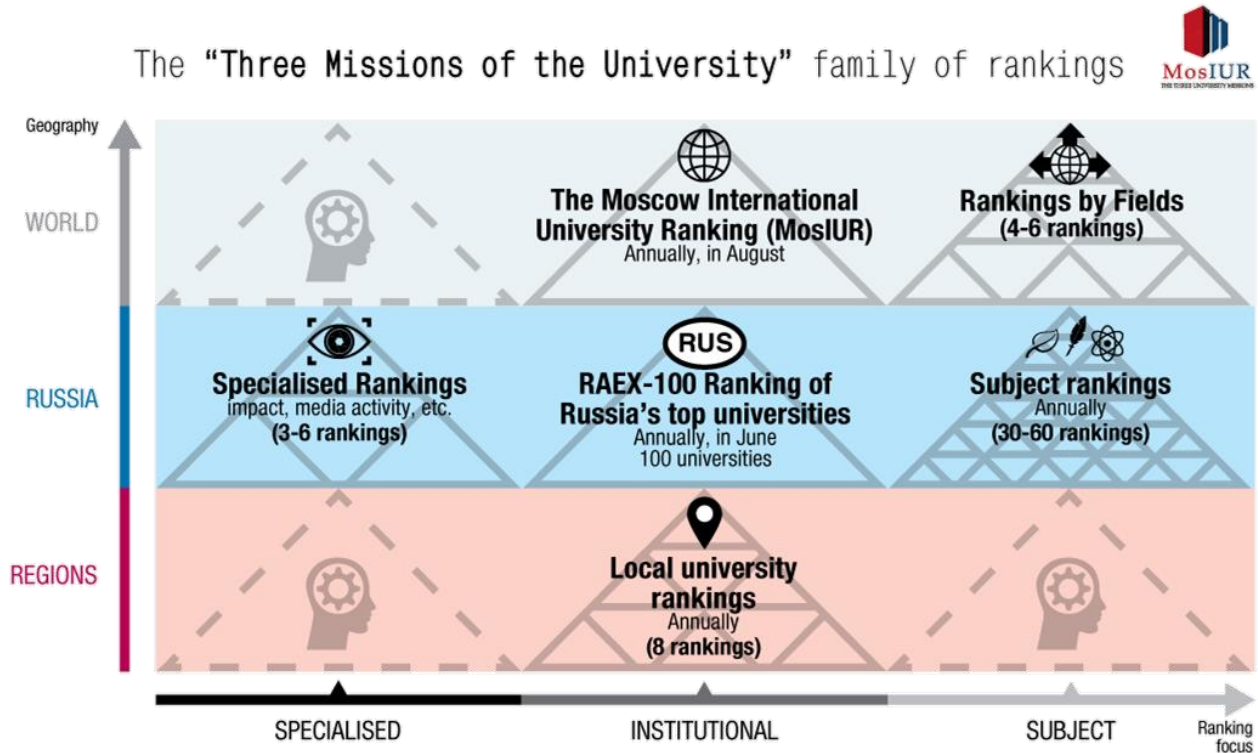
**2.8.3.** In the course of the Consortium's activities, all Consortium members/participants shall be governed by good intentions and the principle of goodwill. In case of any disagreements, they shall be settled by negotiations.

### 3. “THREE UNIVERSITY MISSIONS” FAMILY OF RANKINGS

The Three University Missions family of rankings is a unified national tool that helps to identify the current situation of the Universities and to assess how they continue to develop.

Using its unified methodology, the RAEX system of university assessments makes it possible to evaluate Universities at the international, national, and regional levels, whether in a complex framework and/or with a focus on particular subject areas and fields, and regardless of the political context.

All of the family rankings are tailored to assess three core missions of the University in the following domains: education, science, and community impact.



✓ **The Moscow International University Ranking "Three Missions of the University"**

The Moscow International Ranking "Three University Missions" provides an unbiased assessment of the strongest Russian universities against the backdrop of the international higher education system. This rating is built on objective data obtained from independent, distantly accessible sources, which helps to ensure that its further development is not affected by the current context and political constraints. It also provides for an adequate assessment of the global trends in the higher education development.

**Source data:** the Ranking is produced using only distantly collected, objective data (according to 16 criteria).

**Geographic coverage:** Worldwide.

**Number of Universities in the ranking:** 2000.

✓ **The RAEX-100 Ranking of Russia’s top Universities**

The RAEX-100 Ranking of Russian universities makes it possible to elaborate more accurate rating scores of Russia’s leading universities. Being produced within the same methodological framework, this ranking draws on some additional data that is available only in Russia.

**Source data:** University questionnaires; bibliometrics and bibliography sources; online surveys of students and graduates/alumni, members of academic and scientific communities, and corporate employers/companies.

**Geographic coverage:** Russia.

**Number of Universities in the ranking:** 100.

### ✓ Local university rankings

Local university rankings make it possible to extend the assessment to encompass all higher education institutions within the country, irrespective of their position in the global competitive market. Local university rankings are based on the same family ranking methodological approaches as the national ones, but use criteria that are targeted to assess regional and niche universities.

**Source data:** Rankings are produced using only distantly collected, objective data (with 32 criteria as of 2023).

**Geographic coverage:** Federal Districts of Russia.

**Number of Universities in the ranking:** A total of 304 Universities were included in the rankings, which were compiled on an individual basis for each Federal District of the Russian Federation.

### ✓ Rankings of Russian universities by Subject areas

In addition to the indicators of teaching and research, subject university rankings also take into account the importance of the University for its community/society, country, and region. To date, this is the only tool available to assess the performance and accomplishments of Russian universities in 35 subject areas (the number of subject areas will be increased in the future).

**Source data:** Rankings are produced using only objective data that has been collected remotely (the 2023 data set includes up to 28 criteria, depending on the subject area).

**Geographic coverage:** Russia.

**Number of Universities in the ranking:** 164 Universities from 42 regions of Russia were included in the 35 published subject rankings.



## 4. INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM

4.1. An internal control system has been established and put in place in the RAEX rating consortium.

4.2. The Internal Control System is represented by a special working group involving key governing bodies, structural units — members of the Consortium, as well as their executives who perform internal control functions within the System (hereinafter referred to as Internal Control Bodies). The Internal Control System also involves organisational efforts, methods, and procedures that are developed and used for the effective implementation of the process aimed at achieving the goals of the Consortium.

4.3. Internal Control Bodies are duly authorised and have appropriate responsibilities and functional roles in the internal control area to fulfil assigned tasks. Assignments are made by order of the Chairperson of the Consortium and are subject to the Consortium's internal regulatory documents, which govern the procedures for the establishment of Internal Control Bodies and their operation.

4.4. The Internal Control Bodies of the RAEX Rating Consortium involve:

- Consortium Coordinator,
- Chairperson of the Consortium,
- Internal Control service,
- Methodology Committee,
- Rankings Committee,
- Information Security service,
- Heads of structural units.

### 4.5. Tasks and objectives of the Internal Control System

The Internal Control Bodies implement the following assigned tasks:

- 4.5.1. Oversee the implementation of the Consortium's activities in strict compliance with the BRICS Principles (please see Annex).
- 4.5.2. Ensure the reliability of the published ratings, and the transparency and independence of the Consortium's operations.
- 4.5.3. Ensure compliance with the Consortium's internal policies on records management.
- 4.5.4. Continuously improve the performance of the Internal Control System.
- 4.5.5. Ensure the efficiency of the Consortium and its activities.

### 4.6. Roles/functions of the Internal Control Bodies

#### Consortium Coordinator

The Consortium Coordinator provides organisational support for the Internal Control system.

The following functions within the Internal Control system are assigned to the Consortium Coordinator, who:

- Monitors the effectiveness of rating methodology reviews;
- Conducts ongoing performance evaluations of the policies and procedures established to prevent, detect, manage, and disclose conflicts of interest;
- Develops regulatory documents that stipulate the internal control principles and policies in the Consortium;
- Supervises the performance of the Internal Control service;
- Approves work plans of the Internal Control service;
- Reviews Internal Control reports;
- Ensures that prompt action is taken to address any deficiencies in the Internal Control system and breaches of the Consortium's internal regulations, as well as any other gaps identified during the monitoring of the Internal Control system;
- Takes initiatives in relation to the activities of the Consortium;

- Addresses other issues relating to the organisation and functioning of the Internal Control system at RAEX.

### **Chairperson of the Consortium**

The Consortium Chairperson is the person who directs the day-to-day running of RAEX.

The following functions within the Internal Control system are assigned to the Consortium Chairperson, who:

- Approves the organisational structure of the Internal Control system of the Consortium;
- Establishes the rules of procedure; approves policies, guidelines and internal control policies in the Consortium;
- Issues orders and directives that are binding on all structural units and departments of the Consortium;
- Approves regulatory documents that stipulate the internal control principles and policies in the Consortium;
- Provides organisational support for operating an effective internal control system and implementing control procedures;
- Oversees the functional performance of the Internal Control system and the Information Security service;
- Reviews reported information on the results of inspections provided by the Internal Control service and approves action plans to address identified gaps and deficiencies;
- Ensures the control of the procedures aimed at the prevention and elimination of conflicts of interest in the internal control bodies;
- Ensures the development of efficient information transfer and exchange systems to ensure that users who need data are provided with the information they require within the operational framework of the internal control system;
- Provides comprehensive, ongoing support to help monitor and improve the performance of the Internal Control system.

### **Internal Control service**

At the organisational level, the Internal Control service is accountable to the Chairman of the Consortium. Functionally, it is accountable to the Joint Working Group for its day-to-day activities.

The following functions within the internal control system are assigned to the Internal Control service:

- Oversees the implementation of the Consortium's activities in strict compliance with the BRICS Principles;
- Provides regular reports to the Consortium Coordinator on the compliance or non-compliance of the Consortium's activities with the BRICS Principles;
- Participates in the development of internal regulatory documents of the Consortium;
- Ensures compliance with the internal regulatory documents of the Consortium on an ongoing basis through continuous monitoring, and scheduled and off-schedule inspections;
- Makes recommendations to the Consortium Coordinator for improvements to the internal controls and internal regulatory documents of the Consortium;
- Identifies, prevents and manages conflicts of interest, and evaluates the efficiency of policies and procedures to prevent conflicts of interest;
- Participates in the review and processing of complaints/inquiries/applications received by the Consortium;
- Provides regular reports to the Consortium Coordinator on the performance of the Internal Control service.

### **Methodology Committee**

The Methodology Committee is a special working group of the Consortium that performs the following functions within the Internal Control system:

- Develops ranking methodology and methods;
- Carries out revisions and updates of the ranking methodologies;
- Monitors compliance with ranking methodologies;
- Monitors instances of non-compliance with approved ranking methodologies when performing rating analysis, and analyses the reasons for such non-compliance.
- Monitors the compliance of ranking methodologies with the Consortium's internal regulatory documents.

The Methodology Committee carries out its activities under the direct supervision of the Consortium Coordinator and provides its regular performance reports to the Coordinator.

### **Ranking Committee**

The Ranking Committee is a group of ranking analysts who are authorized to perform ranking activities.

The following functions within the Internal Control system are assigned to the Ranking Committee, who:

- Monitors compliance with the requirements of the Consortium's regulatory documents regarding the collection, analysis and processing of statistical and reputational indicators in the preparation of the rankings;
- Oversees compliance with the requirements and procedures for the rating analysts in accordance with the established Consortium regulations;
- Monitors the correct application of approved ranking methodologies;
- Monitors the timely preparation of ratings in accordance with approved plans and within appropriate time frames;
- Ensures that there is no actual or potential conflict of interest on the part of the Ranking Committee members;
- Oversees compliance with ranking analyst rotation requirements;
- Informs the Head of Internal Control of any failure to comply with the requirements of the Consortium's regulatory documents laying down the rules and procedures for the work of the Rating Committee.

### **Information Security service**

The Information Security Service is a part of the internal control system that performs functions related to ensuring the security and protection of information, including confidential information, obtained in the course of the Consortium's rating activities.

The Head of Information Security acts under the direct supervision of the Chairperson of the Consortium.

### **Heads of structural units**

Heads of structural units (divisions) of the Consortium members, who have specific functions and powers within the scope of their competence, participate in the implementation of internal control in various areas as required by the nature of their work, in accordance with the internal regulatory documents of the Consortium.

## 5. INDEPENDENT CONTROL

Independent control over the ranking activities of the RAEX Consortium is exercised by the Joint Working Group on Strategic Academic Leadership of the Russian Union of Rectors (RSR), the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), and the Russian Academy of Education (RAO).

The Joint Working Group of the RSR, RAS and RAO on Strategic Academic Leadership (hereinafter — the Joint Group) was established at a joint meeting of the Council of the Russian Union of Rectors and the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences held on November 25, 2006. The key task of the Joint Group is to define the main directions of further development of the Moscow International Ranking "Three Missions of the University" and the "Three Missions of the University" family of rankings on the basis of the consolidated opinion of the rectors and the academic communities. The Joint Group also develops recommendations for improving the methodology of the rankings and the compliance procedures to guide the decision-making processes of the relevant executive authorities.

The Joint Group is separate from the RAEX Consortium structures and acts as an independent oversight entity. The Joint Group receives reports from all Internal Control units, verifies reported facts as required, and approves the annual Transparency Report. In case of unsatisfactory results of the reviews (e.g. if it turns out that the reports contain statements that do not correspond to reality, or there are violations of the Principles and/or local regulations and/or decisions of the Joint Working Group), the Joint Working Group will not approve the Transparency Report, and it will inform the Russian Union of Rectors that measures need to be taken to organise the work of the Consortium in order to ensure the implementation of the Project.

## 6. THE RESULTS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSORTIUM'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE BRICS PRINCIPLES

According to the results of the audits conducted in 2023, the implementation of the activities of the RAEX Rating Consortium is in line with the BRICS Principles.

### 6.1. Ownership of the Assessment

The RAEX Rating Consortium acts in compliance with the principle of 'Ownership of the Assessment' in the implementation of the 'Three Missions of the University' family of rankings.

The ranking activities of the RAEX Consortium and its participants are public. All rankings of the Project are published on the official website of the RAEX Consortium: [www.raex-rr.com](http://www.raex-rr.com), section [Ratings, Rankings](#), where the author of the rating and their jurisdiction are clearly identified.

Any questions, suggestions and/or complaints can be sent to the following address:

3 Veskovsky Lane street, floor 3, Moscow, 127006, Russia.

Tel.: +7 (495) 617-07-77

e-mail: [info@raex-rr.com](mailto:info@raex-rr.com)

### 6.2. Clear Goal-setting

RAEX clearly and unambiguously articulates the purpose of a particular assessment so that users of that assessment can tailor it to their own needs and purposes.

RAEX provides a clear view of the target audience and clearly specifies the types of assessments to avoid ambiguous interpretations and overly detailed language and descriptions. The assessment may be useful for other audiences, but it does not distort the understanding of who the real stakeholder audiences are.

#### **The Moscow International University Ranking "Three Missions of the University"**

**Goal:** To assess the ability of Universities to fulfil the three key missions - educational, scientific, and societal - in a well-balanced manner. This ranking provides an unbiased assessment of the strongest Russian universities against the backdrop of the international higher education system.

This ranking is built on objective data obtained from independent, distantly accessible sources, which helps to ensure that its further development is not affected by the current context and political constraints. Among other things, it allows for an adequate assessment of trends in the development of higher education.

**Target audience(s):** World universities, employers, prospective students.

#### **The RAEX-100 Ranking of Russia's top Universities**

**Goal:** To assess the ability of Universities to provide high quality knowledge, skills and competences to their graduates, with due regard to the eligibility conditions and practical outcomes. The ranking makes it possible to elaborate more accurate rating scores of Russia's leading universities. Being produced within the same methodological framework, this ranking draws on some additional data that is available only in Russia.

**Target audience(s):** Russian universities, employers, prospective students.

#### **Local University rankings**

**Goal:** To evaluate a wide range of regional and highly specialised Universities in terms of the realisation of the educational and scientific potential of the University, and its impact on the social environment. These rankings make it possible to extend the assessment to encompass all higher education institutions within the country, irrespective of their position in the global competitive market. Local university rankings are based on the same

family ranking methodological approaches as the national ones, but use criteria that are targeted to assess niche universities.

**Target audience(s):** Regional universities, employers, prospective students.

### Rankings of Russian universities by Subject areas

**Goal:** To assess the performance of higher education institutions in selected fields of study. The assessment is based on teaching and research indicators and takes into account the importance of the University to society, the country, and the region.

**Target audience(s):** Russian universities, employers, prospective students.

### Rankings by Fields

**Goal:** To promote best practice in facilitating the training of highly qualified personnel in the fields of natural science and mathematics, engineering and technical specialities. The ratings are based on the views of business representatives who are strongly interested in high-quality, independent assessments of Universities' potential.

**Target audience(s):** Russian technical universities, employers, prospective students.

## 6.3. Mitigating the conflicts of interest

The RAEX Rating Consortium conducts an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the rules and procedures it applies for the prevention, detection, disclosure, and management of conflicts of interest (hereinafter referred to as the Effectiveness assessment).

The assessment of effectiveness is the responsibility of the Internal Control service. The results of the assessment are included in an annual report and submitted to the Consortium Coordinator for review.

No potential or existing conflicts of interest were identified in the course of the Consortium's rating activities. All requirements and rules stipulated in the internal regulatory documents that govern the control procedures and responsibilities relating to the detection, prevention, disclosure and management of conflicts of interest have been complied with, and the procedures have been duly followed. No complaints have been received regarding the actions of the RAEX Consortium and its structural units. There is no need for corrective action.

In particular, the following measures were taken during the reporting year to prevent conflicts of interest within the Consortium:

- RAEX has no affiliation with any of the participants involved in the ratings, rankings or other assessments;
- All activities of analysts are bundled in the main production unit, RAEX-Analytics Ltd., as well as in the Association of Rating Makers (particularly when it comes to launching and testing new projects). Persons dealing with commercial and client relations issues are attached to RAEX Ltd. Analysts and commercial units are organisationally separate. Commercial units have no influence over the analysts and/or the data they use;
- Rating activities are performed through an automated system with separate functions for methodology setting, data processing and storage, and calculations. Rating analysts cannot arbitrarily influence (manipulate) methodologies and/or input data;
- The remuneration of the analysts is in no way linked to the results of the ratings, rankings and other assessments they produce;
- The analysts have no employment or other relationships with the participants in the ratings, rankings and other assessments, nor do they receive any material compensation from them and/or have any obligations to them;
- All decisions on the approval of ratings, rankings and other assessments are taken collectively by the Ranking Committee; persons performing commercial functions are not entitled to attend meetings of the Ranking Committee;

- The ‘Three Missions of the University’ ranking is free of charge for its participants. According to the ranking methodology, participation in the ranking depends only on the results achieved;
- Activities related to the production of ratings, rankings and other assessments are financed by funds received by the Consortium from the provision of information services; designated grant funds from non-profit, non-university organisations; advertising; and sponsorship of events. RAEX had no other sources of income in 2023;
- Payment for RAEX services is in no way dependent on the results of ratings, rankings and other assessments produced by the Consortium. Likewise, the results of ratings, rankings and other assessments are in no way dependent on the payment received by the Consortium for its services;
- All services provided by the Consortium are to be paid for according to the established price list;
- None of the clients paying for the Consortium's services will pay more than 5% of the total revenue of the Consortium (less than 3% in 2023);
- The Consortium operates a hotline (accessible via its website: [www.raex-rr.com](http://www.raex-rr.com)) through which any breach or violation can be reported directly to the Internal Control service, bypassing any other structure and/or management of the Consortium.

As of 2023, the Internal Control service confirmed that the system of controls and procedures for the prevention, detection, management and disclosure of conflicts of interest was operating satisfactorily.

#### 6.4. Organisation of the assessment processes

The RAEX assessment methodologies are in line with the goal-setting principle and are sensitive to the national specifics of the education systems being assessed.

The assessment methodologies are made public and available for review by all potential users of the assessment:

[Methodology of the Moscow International University Ranking "Three Missions of the University", 2023](#)

[Methodology of the Top 100 Russian Universities Ranking RAEX-100 in the year of 2023](#)

Including:

[Methodology for the ranking of top universities by conditions for quality education, 2023](#)

[Methodology for the ranking of top universities by the employability of graduates by employers, 2023](#)

[Methodology for the ranking of top universities by the level of research and development activities, 2023](#)

[Methodology for the ranking of local universities, 2023](#)

[Methodology for the ranking of universities by Subjects, 2023](#)

[Methodology for the ranking of universities in natural sciences and mathematics, 2023](#)

[Methodology for the ranking of engineering and technology universities, 2023](#)

The ranking methodologies are clearly defined, including the following:

- A list of the information that has been reviewed or analysed to support the assessment and the sources of that information;
- The analytical framework used for the assessment, including, where applicable, models, indicators, assumptions, criteria or other quantitative and qualitative factors used to make the assessment;
- Algorithm for calculating the score.

The information used to produce the ratings is up-to-date and verifiable, and its sources are reliable. Other things being equal, data from remotely accessible and independent sources are given priority, thereby enhancing the credibility of the ratings.

RAEX holds regular consultations to discuss methodologies with key stakeholders, including the Rectors' community, the International Supervisory Board (composed of 25 prominent experts from 16 countries), employers, federal and regional authorities, independent observers and auditors.

These discussions highlight the characteristics and peculiarities of the methodologies in use and develop recommendations for their improvement. New or substantially revised methodologies are publicly discussed.

In 2023, the following events were held to discuss the methodologies of the 'Three Missions of the University' family of ratings:

### **Webinar "The ecosystem of the 'Three University Missions' — Local university rankings: 2023"**

**Date: March 1, 2023**

The second issue of the local university rankings of the "Three Missions of the University" rating family was presented during the webinar, with a focus on the features of the methodology in use. Local university rankings evaluate a wide range of regional and highly specialised Universities in terms of the realisation of their educational and scientific potential, as well as their impact on the social environment.

During the webinar, the rating makers provided detailed information on the results of the assessment of regional universities, the specifics of the methodology and the main areas for further development of the "Three Missions of the University" family of ratings.

#### **Topics of discussion involved:**

- ✓ The place of local university rankings in the family of rankings "Three Missions of the University";
- ✓ Local University rankings 2023: Methodologies and key results;
- ✓ Areas for further development of the local university rankings: priorities and prospects.

The RAEX Consortium has reviewed all substantiated suggestions for the improvement of the local university ranking methodologies submitted by webinar participants via email ([contact@mosiur.org](mailto:contact@mosiur.org)).

[Go to webinar media materials](#)

[Go to Local University Rankings 2023](#)

### **Webinar "RAEX-100 Rating of Russia's top universities in 2023: specifics of methodology and filling in the questionnaires of participants"**

**Date: April 4, 2023**

During the webinar, RAEX staff experts explained in detail the peculiarities of compiling the RAEX-100 rating of Russia's top universities and the specifics of filling in the questionnaires of participants. They also presented methodological improvements and answered questions from the audience.

#### **Topics of discussion involved:**

- ✓ Russia's top universities through the prism of the RAEX-100 ranking;
- ✓ adjustments to the 2023 rating methodology;
- ✓ Working with the ranking participant's questionnaire: peculiarities of data compilation and typical mistakes.

The RAEX Consortium has reviewed all substantiated suggestions for the improvement of methodologies of the RAEX-100 rating of Russia's top universities, which were submitted by webinar participants via email ([contact@mosiur.org](mailto:contact@mosiur.org)).

[Go to webinar media materials](#)

### **Webinar "Subject Ratings of Higher Education Institutions: Results and Prospects"**

**Date: May 16, 2023**



The webinar presented the results of the second issue of the university rankings by subject area as part of the "Three Missions of the University" ranking family, followed by a discussion of methodological approaches to ranking universities in the areas of science and mathematics, and technology and engineering.

**Topics of discussion involved:**

- ✓ Assessing the quality of technical education: achieved results and plans for the future;
- ✓ University rankings in science, mathematics and engineering: methodology, data requirements and production schedule;
- ✓ Results of the second issue of the Subject Ranking of Universities within the 'Three Missions of the University' family of rankings.

The RAEX Consortium has reviewed all substantiated suggestions for the improvement of methodologies of the university subject rankings, as well as university rankings in science & mathematics and technics & engineering, which were submitted via email at: [contact@mosiur.org](mailto:contact@mosiur.org).

[Go to webinar media materials](#)

[Go to the subject rankings of universities for 2023](#)

**Forum of Leading Higher Education Institutions "The Future of Higher Education"**

**Date: June 7, 2023**

The annual forum of leading universities 'The Future of Higher Education' has been hosted by the Consortium since 2013. This forum has become the largest independent communication platform on the development of higher education in Russia and in the post-Soviet area.

The forum involved over 700 participants, including heads of universities, lecturers and teachers, researchers, as well as representatives of several embassies, national Academies of Sciences, the State Duma, and other institutions and agencies.

The RAEX-100 rating of Russia's top universities was presented during the Forum.

**Topics of discussion involved:**

The plenary discussion "Sovereign Education System: Long-term goals and current challenges":

- ✓ The reform of the education system: what we are going to take with us into the future;
- ✓ System for assessing the scientific and technical level of higher education institutions and research organisations;
- ✓ Human resources for the new economy: changing requirements for young professionals;
- ✓ Priorities for international cooperation in the context of sanctions.

Section 1. Demand for graduates in the employment market: employers' preferences and universities' capabilities:

- ✓ Summary portrait of a sought-after professional: what qualities a university graduate should have;
- ✓ Cooperation between universities and business: successful forms of interaction;
- ✓ Adapting training programmes to the needs of the economy: practical experience;
- ✓ Tracking graduate careers: a fiction or an achievable goal?
- ✓ Reform of the employer-sponsored training system: will it solve the shortage of human resources in socially important areas?

Section 2. The role of universities in the sustainable development of the regions:

- ✓ Universities and Sustainable Development: priorities and implementation tools;
- ✓ How much social responsibility universities are willing to take on;
- ✓ Management training: 'patching up the holes' or a sustainable system?
- ✓ The impact of Universities on the environmental agenda: facts and trends.

[Learn more about the Forum](#)

[Go to the RAEX-100 ranking of Russia's top universities in 2023](#)

### **Webinar “The database of the ‘Three Missions of the University’: presenting a new version”**

**Date: October 24, 2023**

During the webinar, the RAEX Consortium presented an updated database of the world's leading actors in science and education. The number of universities for which detailed information is available has been increased to 2,000 by 2023.

The system of key indicators for the 2023 version was also presented during the webinar. RAEX experts also spoke in detail about analytical functions and options for generating reports and visualising data.

#### **Topics of discussion involved:**

- ✓ Reflecting on the three missions of universities through the lens of the database indicators;
- ✓ Facilities for analysing the competitiveness of universities worldwide and in Russia;
- ✓ How to create unique reports and graphs: useful tips for users.

[Go to webinar media materials](#)

### **Conference “Universities and Sustainable Development: Practice, Prospects, and Performance Criteria”**

**Date: December 7, 2023**

In 2023, a conference on the sustainable development of universities was held for the first time. Conference participants discussed the criteria for ranking universities in this area in the future. University representatives highlighted the ESG education programmes they have in place.

#### **Topics of discussion involved:**

Plenary discussion "Tasks of universities in the sphere of sustainable development: International practice and Russian specifics":

- ✓ Education at the heart of ESG: opportunities for universities and needs of employers;
- ✓ Universities' progress on ESG: what to assess and how to measure?
- ✓ University good practice in sustainable development.

Section 1. ESG-compliant workforce training: the needs of employers:

- ✓ Areas of need and assessment of existing and potential demand for ESG specialists — interaction between universities and businesses;
- ✓ Methodological and research background of the existing and emerging ESG practical training programmes.

Section 2 (special expert session). How to create a sustainable development ranking of universities?

- ✓ Possible criteria for assessing the effective implementation of ESG principles in Russian universities.
- ✓ Best practices of Russian universities in the field of ESG: policies, reports, KPIs, and carbon polygons.

[Learn more about the event](#)

### Discussion of the methodology of the RAEX-100 ranking of Russia's top universities

Date: December 14, 2023

This is an annual discussion with the academic community, organised by the rating agency to update the system of indicators for [the RAEX-100 ranking of Russia's top universities](#).

This working meeting of the expert community on education ratings involved representatives of 15 leading universities from a number of Russian regions, including Moscow State University, St.Petersburg State University, National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Higher School of Economics (HSE), MGIMO University, Peter the Great St.Petersburg Polytechnic University (SPbPU), North Caucasus Federal University, and Lobachevsky Nizhny Novgorod State University.

The agenda of this traditional working meeting included issues such as the inclusion of new criteria in the rating methodology, calculation details and the extension of the coverage of existing criteria, the adjustment of their weights, and the identification of new data sources.

All suggestions, feedback and requests from university representatives will be analysed and taken into account when the ranking methodology is updated in 2024.

## 6.5. Quality assurance

The RAEX Consortium has a complex system of internal controls covering all stages of the rating process, aimed at verifying data, ensuring compliance with methodologies, and identifying and minimising conflicts of interest (as described above).

The Three University Missions ranking is one of the two international rankings audited by PwC, the leading international auditing firm.

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RAEX ratings have been successfully audited by the IREG Observatory, the most respected association in the field of educational ratings.

The rating "Three missions of the University" is part of the implementation of the resolutions of the Government of the Russian Federation, such as Resolution No. 326 dated 05.03.2021, and Resolution No. 518 dated 31.03.2021.

The Three University Missions rankings are approved and recommended for use in practice by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science.

The RAEX operates an ongoing hotline service, independent of the staff involved in the assessment processes, to ensure that any user can report identified errors and discrepancies.

Contact details:

- Enquiry form on the [official RAEX website](#);
- Phone: +7 (495) 617-07-77
- e-mail: [compliance@raex-a.ru](mailto:compliance@raex-a.ru)

Any discrepancies identified are regularly analysed by RAEX and adjustments are made where necessary to improve current assessment methodologies.

## 6.6. Presentation of the assessment results

To avoid technical errors and inconsistencies, the RAEX Consortium ensures that all its assessments are published and fully accessible via its website [www.raex-rr.com](http://www.raex-rr.com), section [Ratings, Rankings](#).

All information published on the website is valid and authorised. Limited liability disclaimers for publication can also be found on the RAEX Consortium website where appropriate, along with the RAEX contact information and other corporate details.

By presenting assessment results, the RAEX provides consumers with a clear understanding of the factors that determine the university rankings, and how the assessment methodology is explained.

For more information on the Moscow International University Ranking 'Three Missions of the University', including its materials, methodology and analysis, please follow the link:

- ✓ [The Moscow International University Ranking "Three Missions of the University", 2023](#)

For more information on the RAEX-100 ranking of Russia's top universities, including its materials, methodology and analysis, please follow the link:

- ✓ [RAEX-100 Rating of Russia's top universities in 2023](#)

including:

- ✓ [Ranking of top universities by conditions for quality education, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Ranking of top universities in terms of the employability of graduates by employers, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Ranking of top universities by the level of Research and Development, 2023](#)

For more information on the local university rankings, including materials, methodology and analysis, please follow the links:

- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Far Eastern Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Siberian Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Ural Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Volga Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the North Caucasian Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Southern Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Northwestern Federal District, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Local university ranking for the Central Federal District, 2023](#)

For more information on the rankings of universities by subject area, including ranking materials, methodology and analysis, please follow the links:

- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Mathematics, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Physics, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Chemistry, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Geography, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Biology, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Information technology, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Building and Construction, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Electronics, Radio engineering and Communication systems, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Energy, Power Engineering and Electrical Engineering, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Nuclear Energy and Technology, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Mechanical Engineering and Robotics, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Chemical Technology, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Biotechnology and Bioengineering, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Ecology, 2023](#)
- ✓ [University rankings by Subject: Oil and Gas Engineering, 2023](#)

- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Geology, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Materials Technology, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Land Transport Engineering and Technology, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Aviation and Rocket and Space Technology, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Shipbuilding and Water Transport, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Light industry technologies, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Medicine, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Pharmacy, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Agriculture, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Veterinary and Animal Science, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Psychology, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Economics, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Management, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Sociology/Social Sciences, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Law, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Political Science and International Relations, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Philology and Journalism, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Teacher Education (Pedagogy), 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: Linguistics and Foreign languages, 2023
- ✓ University rankings by Subject: History and Archaeology, 2023

For more information on the rankings of universities **by domain/field of knowledge**, including ranking materials, methodology and analysis, please follow the links:

- ✓ [Ranking of universities in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, 2023](#)
- ✓ [Ranking of universities in Engineering and Technology, 2023](#)

In order to effectively inform the public about its ranking activities and developments, the RAEX Consortium distributes mass e-mail newsletters and maintains an up-to-date list of listserv subscribers. Subscribers' personal data is processed and stored in accordance with the Russian Federation regulations on the processing and storage of personal data.

A total of 76,356 email addresses subscribed to the regular RAEX newsletter as of 31 December 2008.

To inform a wider audience of new project launches and product releases, RAEX also uses listservs/databases of mass media, media outlets and companies that focus on specific target audiences and areas. Over 50,000 email addresses have subscribed to the Education listserv/database.

Other channels for informing the public about education rankings include:

- ✓ website of the project "Three Missions of the University" (<https://mosiur.org/>);
- ✓ VK public page ([vk.com/rrrating](https://vk.com/rrrating));
- ✓ RAEX's "Education" channel in Telegram ([t.me/raex\\_ed](https://t.me/raex_ed)).

Total monthly resource traffic is approximately 300,000 unique visitors. Most of the audience comes from the official website [www.raex-rr.com](http://www.raex-rr.com).

In 2023 (according to the Scan Interfax database), the number of references to RAEX in officially registered newspapers and media was 10,484. These include Kommersant, Vedomosti, RBC, TASS, RIA Novosti, Lenta.ru, and Komsomolskaya Pravda.

The total reach of media outlets quoting RAEX exceeds 74 million people.

There are 172 mentions of RAEX in the Wikipedia. One of RAEX's flagship educational projects, the Moscow international ranking 'Three Missions of the University', also has its own page in the [Wikipedia](#).

## 6.7. Commitments of evaluation authors

The RAEX Rating Consortium has been carrying out rating activities in the education sector on a continuous and sustainable basis since 2012.

In 2014, as a result of a competitive selection process, the Russian Union of Rectors selected RAEX as the operator of the Moscow international rating 'Three Missions of the University'. RAEX is therefore committed to continuing its work under the leadership of the Russian Union of Rectors.

RAEX acknowledges its responsibility for the quality of the rankings it publishes towards users and the Russian Union of Rectors.

The Consortium publishes an annual Transparency Report outlining how the Consortium adheres to the BRICS Principles and the results achieved in implementing them.

As a result of 2023, no inconsistencies and/or errors were found in the assessments presented by RAEX.

## 7. RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE CONSORTIUM BY THE INTERNAL CONTROL BODIES

Rating-related activities are performed in accordance with the rating methodologies and methodological approaches developed and approved by the Consortium, as well as the Consortium's internal regulatory documents.

The Internal Control service is responsible for the results of the annual audits of the rating activities of the RAEX Consortium.

The rating-related operations of the RAEX Consortium are in compliance with the BRICS Principles. Compliance measures are outlined in Section 5 of this Report, along with the results achieved.

According to the results of the internal audits carried out in 2023, no violations have been identified in the course of the activities of the Consortium members, there was no corruption component, and no conflicts of interest that could potentially affect the rating activities of the Consortium were reported during the reporting period.

## 8. ROTATION OF RATING ANALYSTS

The RAEX Consortium has a rotation procedure in place to ensure that the leading rating analysts involved in the Three University Missions family of ratings are rotated on a regular basis. The Consortium also monitors the involvement of leading rating analysts in the provision of additional services.

The Consortium's internal regulations stipulate measures to prohibit the participation of leading rating analysts in the development of the Three University Missions ecosystem rankings for more than four consecutive years.

Leading rating analysts who have discontinued their involvement in one of the ratings due to rotation may not re-join that rating for two years from the date of rotation.

There was no rotation of leading analysts in the RAEX Consortium in 2023, as none of the Consortium's rating analysts had an expired period of participation in any of the Three University Missions rankings in this reporting period.



## 9. INFORMATION ON RAEX'S INTERNAL POLICY ON RECORD MANAGEMENT

The Consortium shall fully document all rating procedures and keep internal records and documents for five (5) years, ensuring that they are complete, accurate and authentic to enable verification of the correctness of the rating activities.

Internal data and documents are maintained for the purpose of objectivity of the ranking activities, and to maintain internal control procedures and their effectiveness.

**The Consortium shall ensure the security of the following information and data:**

Documents and data that form the basis of the rating analysis, including documents and information provided to the Consortium by third parties through partner relationships;

- Methodologies, reports on the development and validation of methodologies with a record of previous versions, documentation of Methodology Committee meetings;
- Contractual agreements and all materials relating to the cooperation with counterparties under the concluded contracts;
- Information and analytical reports developed by the Consortium as part of the provision of additional services;
- Materials of the governing bodies of the Consortium;
- Materials of the Internal Control service units;
- Internal regulatory documents of the Consortium.

The Information Security service is in place to ensure that an appropriate level of information security is maintained, as well as to protect confidential information. The Head of Information Security is responsible for monitoring and controlling the Service's status and performance.

The Consortium's Information Security service is responsible for the organisational and technical measures to protect the Consortium's information infrastructure, including the security and protection of confidential information.

In the event of deliberate or accidental destruction of information or failure of computer equipment, the Consortium will be able to recover such information. RAEX keeps archives backed up to removable storage media on a regular basis (at least once every seven days).

The security of information assets and the integrity of the Consortium's business processes in the event of an emergency and/or accident are ensured by means of information back-ups, documented protocols for recovery procedures and regular testing of their effectiveness.

## ANNEX

### “Principles of the BRICS countries in the implementation of activities for Public Ranking/Rating Systems and Other Assessments of Higher Education Institutions (Universities)”

Higher education is becoming increasingly important in all aspects of life. Consequently, the demand for higher education assessments is also growing. In particular, assessments are needed for benchmarking and decision making, and for a better understanding of development dynamics. The ratings are used by university applicants and their parents, employers, teachers and researchers, public authorities, analysts, the media, and the universities themselves.

There are currently a large number of systems for evaluating universities (mostly rankings). However, users often express doubts about their value, due to uncertainty about the objectivity of the assessments, the quality of the judgements, possible conflicts of interest among the authors, lack of guarantees about the integrity and sustainability of the assessment process, lack of understanding of the evaluators' objectives and the methodologies they use, and so on.

Finally, while many governments use university evaluations in their operations and in funding development programmes, no country/jurisdiction has yet enacted legislation to regulate university evaluations.

Recognising the importance of evaluations of all kinds, this document places no limits on their form, purpose or methods.

However, a higher level of confidence is needed to make these assessments practical to use. The document does not have the status of a law or a binding standard, nor does it limit the creativity and approaches of the authors, but it does set out a set of practice-oriented principles that will lead to an improvement in the quality of evaluations, the protection of the interests of evaluation users, and an increase in understanding.

Evaluators who support these principles will have the opportunity to publish a regular transparency report, highlighting the specific actions they are taking to comply with these principles and the results they have achieved. The knowledge and experience accumulated by the authors of the evaluations can be used as a basis for further development of this document and for enriching it with concrete practices and rules.

#### Principles

- **Ownership of the Assessment:** the public assessment cannot be anonymous.
- **Goal-setting:** Users of the rankings should be clearly informed about the contents/meaning of the rankings, i.e. what feature of the University is being assessed, what audience perspective is being used, and in what form and under what assumptions the assessment is being made.
- **Mitigating the conflicts of interest:** Users of the assessment should be made aware of the possible influence of stakeholders and how the risk of such influence has been mitigated.
- **Process organisation:** Users should be given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the evaluation methodology, how the evaluation is carried out, what data is used, and to make critical comments and suggestions.
- **Quality assurance:** Users of the evaluation should be informed of the measures taken by the author to ensure internal and, where possible, external control.
- **Presentation of assessment results:** Information about the assessment and its results must be made public and easily accessible, and efforts should be made to inform as many users of the assessment as possible.
- **Commitments of evaluation authors:** Evaluation authors who endorse these Principles shall acknowledge their responsibility to users for the quality of published evaluations and shall ensure the sustainability of their evaluation activities.