

## Contribution to Beyond GDP „Virtual Indicator Expo“

<http://www.beyond-gdp.eu>

Name of the indicator/method: **World Happiness Index**

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### 1 – World Happiness Index: why?

- **Limits of GDP as an indicator** to assess the world or a country situation are widely acknowledged. As an example: **Equatorial Guinea**, thanks to oil production, shows a GDP per capita of **20,000 dollars** (in purchasing power parity), which is equivalent to **Greece**, but the **under-5 mortality rate is 204 in Equatorial Guinea and 5 in Greece...**
- More generally speaking, GDP is not a satisfactory index because **it ignores important things of daily life**: when a tree is cut down, GDP grows; traffic accidents increase GDP, and so do wars potentially! Conclusion by **Robert Kennedy: GDP “measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile”**.
- The only significant progress to go beyond GDP has been the creation, in 1990, of the **human development index (HDI)**, calculated and published yearly by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). For each country and globally, HDI aggregates: **GDP, life expectancy at birth and education level**.

**World Happiness Index (GHI) goes further!**

## 2 – World Happiness Index: how?

- The first question to answer is: **what is a happy world? What is a happy country?**  
Answer: it's a world or a country:
  - **Where people live peacefully and safely ;**
  - **Where people live freely and democratically, and where human rights are respected;**
  - **Where quality of life is good ;**
  - **Where research, education, information, communication and culture are shared by all.**
- As a result the idea is to choose, for each of these **4 chapters, 10 indices from reliable sources and published every year** (UNDP, World Bank, WHO, SIPRI, Amnesty, HCR...); **WHI is, for any given year, the average of these 40 indices.**
- Selected global indices are the followings :
  - **Peace and security** : 1 – number of nuclear warheads, 2 – number of victims of major armed conflicts, 3 – military expenditures, 4 – number of violent deaths, 5 – number of refugees, 6 – number of victims of natural or technological disasters, 7 – corruption, 8 – economical and financial security, 9 and 10 – probability of dying before age 60.
  - **Freedom, democracy, human rights** : 1 – number of people living freely, 2 – level of democracy in the world, 3 - press freedom, 4 – children rights: under-5 mortality rate, 5 – death penalty, 6 – women rights: gender development index, 7 – percentage of female parliamentarians, 8 – women's school enrolment, 9 – boys' and girls' school enrolment, 10 - child labour.
  - **Quality of life** : 1 – GDP per capita, 2 – GDP per capita, disparities, 3 – life expectancy at birth, 4 - human poverty index, 5 – GINI coefficient, 6 – suicides, 7 – CO2 rate, 8 – forest area per capita, 9 – water and hygiene, 10 – clean air.
  - **Research, education, information, communication, culture**: 1 – Research and Development, 2 and 3 – boys and girls education rate, 4 – adults literacy rate, 5 – education disparities, 6 – number of copies of daily newspapers per capita, 7 – number of television receivers per capita, 8 – ICT: phones, PC, Internet, 9 – number of movies, 10 – international tourist trips.
- **We emphasize here the importance given to education in all aspects, disparities and women status.**
- **Initially calculated for the year 2000, which sets the basis 100, WHI evolves every year, increasing or decreasing, depending on the average of these 40 indices.**
- Results are published once a year on [www.globeco.fr](http://www.globeco.fr), section: “**GLOBECO, la revue**”, under the title: « **bonheur mondial, édition 2007** » (**world happiness, 2007 edition**), for the last edition.

### 3 – Country ranking

- **Country ranking** is calculated on the same basis as the world happiness index, from the **20 following indices**:
  - **Peace and security** : war and peace, violent deaths, corruption, economical security, human security ;
  - **Freedom, democracy, human rights** : democracy, press freedom, women rights, children rights, death penalty;
  - **Quality of life** : GDP per capita, GINI coefficient, life expectancy at birth, suicides, clean air ;
  - **Education, information, communication** : education (coefficient 2), newspapers, TV, Internet.
- This ranking is done over **60 countries** which represent **85% of worldwide population and over 90% of global GDP.**

### 4 – « World happiness, 2007 edition » : the results

- **WORLD HAPPINESS INDEX**

	2006 / 2005 (2005 = 100)	2006/2000 (2000 = 100)
Peace and security	100,95	90,50
Freedom, democracy, human rights	101,09	105,08
Quality of life	101,97	99,11
Research, education, information, communication, culture	101,80	114,44
<b><u>RESULTS</u></b>	<b><u>101,45</u></b>	<b><u>102,28</u></b>

- **COUNTRY RANKING 2007**

<b>1 – NORWAY</b>	<b>31 – MALAYSIA</b>
<b>2 – SWEDEN</b>	<b>32 – ARGENTINA</b>
<b>3 – NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>33 – VENEZUELA</b>
<b>4 - DENMARK</b>	<b>34 – BRAZIL</b>
<b>5 – AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>35 – COLOMBIA</b>
<b>6 – CANADA</b>	<b>36 – UKRAINE</b>

7 – FINLAND	37 – TURKEY
8 – GREAT BRITAIN	38 – TUNISIA
9 - IRELAND	- THAILAND
10 – SWITZERLAND	40 – SOUTH AFRICA
11 – GERMANY	41 – PHILIPPINES
12 – AUSTRIA	42 – MOROCCO
13 – SPAIN	43 – ALGERIA
14 – BELGIUM	44 – EGYPT
15 – FRANCE	45 – CHINA
16 – JAPAN	46 – SAUDI ARABIA
17 – ITALY	47 – RUSSIA
18 – GREECE	48 – VIETNAM
19 – PORTUGAL	49 – PERU
20 – UNITED STATES	50 – INDONESIA
21 – CZECH REPUBLIC	51 – SRI LANKA
22 – SOUTH KOREA	52 – IRAN
23 – HUNGARY	53 – UZBEKISTAN
24 – BALTIC COUNTRIES	54 – INDIA
25 – ISRAEL	55 – PAKISTAN
26 – POLAND	56 – BANGLADESH
27 – CHILI	57 – NIGERIA
28 – ROMANIA	58 – DR OF THE CONGO
29 – BULGARIA	59 – ETHIOPIA
30 – MEXICO	60 – UNION OF MYANMAR

For further information: [www.globeco.fr](http://www.globeco.fr) ; Contact: [pleroy@globeco.fr](mailto:pleroy@globeco.fr)

Full text of “**Bonheur mondial, édition 2007**” will be online (in French) on [www.globeco.fr](http://www.globeco.fr) by november 14, 2007, section « **Globeco : la revue** ». In the same section, you’ll find another article on the issue, entitled « **Mesurer le bonheur, à quoi bon ? La réponse de GLOBECO et de quelques autres** » (*Measuring happiness, what for? Answers from GLOBECO and a few others*).