

## Contribution to Beyond GDP „Virtual Indicator Expo“

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

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

Summary prepared by (name; institution): Pierre le Roy ([www.globeco.fr](http://www.globeco.fr); [pleroy@globeco.fr](mailto:pleroy@globeco.fr))

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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 **Portugal**, but the **under-5 mortality rate is near 200 in Equatorial Guinea and 5 in Portugal...**
- 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 (WHI) 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 enrollment, 9 – 10 - boys and girls’ school enrolment.
    - **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 – Education in underdeveloped countries, 8 – 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: “**L’indice du Bonheur mondial et le classement par pays**””, under the title: « **bonheur mondial, édition 2009-2010** » (*world happiness, 2009-2010 edition*), for the last edition.

### 3 – Country ranking

**The 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), R&D, newspapers, Internet.

This ranking is done over **60 countries** which represent **90 % of worldwide population and near 95 % of global GDP.**

#### 4 – « World happiness, 2009-2010 edition » : the results

- **WORLD HAPPINESS INDEX**

	<b>2005 / 2000 (2000= 100)</b>	<b>2008/2000 (2000 = 100)</b>
Peace and security	87,75	92,98
Freedom, democracy, human rights	103,70	109,94
Quality of life	99,59	96,81
Research, education, information ...	121,13	137,27
<b><u>RESULTS</u></b>	<b><u>103,04</u></b>	<b><u>109,27</u></b>

- **COUNTRY RANKING 2009 – 2010**

<b>1 – SWEDEN</b>	<b>31 – MEXICO</b>
<b>2 – NORWAY</b>	<b>32 – BRASIL</b>
<b>3 – DENMARK</b>	<b>33 – VENEZUELA</b>
<b>4 - NEDERLANDS</b>	<b>34 – UKRAINE</b>
<b>5 – FINLAND</b>	<b>35 – TURKEY</b>
<b>6 – CANADA</b>	<b>36 – TUNISIA</b>

<b>7 – AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>37 – THAILAND</b>
<b>8 – GERMANY</b>	<b>38 – SOUTH AFRICA</b>
<b>9 – SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>39 – PERU</b>
<b>10 – IRLAND</b>	<b>40 – COLOMBIA</b>
<b>11 – FRANCE</b>	<b>41 – MOROCO</b>
<b>12 – GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>42 – SOUTH ARABIA</b>
<b>13 – SPAIN</b>	<b>43 – PHILIPPINES</b>
<b>14 – AUSTRIA</b>	<b>44 – RUSSIA</b>
<b>15 – BELGIUM</b>	<b>45 – CHINA</b>
<b>16 – JAPAN</b>	<b>46 – ALGERIA</b>
<b>17 – ITALY</b>	<b>47 – EGYPT</b>
<b>18 – CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>48 – VIETNAM</b>
<b>19 – GREECE</b>	<b>49 – UZBEKISTAN</b>
<b>20 – SOUTH KOREA</b>	<b>50 – IRAN</b>
<b>21 – PORTUGAL</b>	<b>51 – SENEGAL</b>
<b>22 – USA</b>	<b>52 – INDONESIA</b>
<b>23 – ISRAEL</b>	<b>53 – INDIA</b>
<b>24 – HUNGARY</b>	<b>54 – NIGERIA</b>
<b>25 – POLAND</b>	<b>55 – SRI LANKA</b>
<b>26 – CHILI</b>	<b>56 – ETHIOPIA</b>
<b>27 – ROMANIA</b>	<b>57 – BANGLADESH</b>
<b>28 – MALAYSIA</b>	<b>58 – PAKISTAN</b>
<b>29 – CUBA</b>	<b>59 – DR of CONGO</b>
<b>30 – ARGENTINA</b>	<b>60 – UNION OF MYANMAR</b>

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

Full text of “Bonheur mondial, édition 2009-2010” is online (in French) on [www.globeco.fr](http://www.globeco.fr), section « L'indice du Bonheur mondial et le classement par pays ».