

Press Release

Social Progress Index: The Czech Republic ranked 22nd as to the quality of life

Prague, 9 April 2015 – According to the latest world chart entitled [the Social Progress Index](#), monitoring social and economic progress and the quality of the environment in 133 world countries, the Czech Republic ranked 22nd. On a year-on-year basis, the Czechs improved their position in the rankings by one place, and in the evaluation they performed better than, eg, Slovakia, Poland and Italy. The results of the up-to-date index were announced by a non-profit organisation the Social Progress Imperative and the company Deloitte as part of the so-called [2015 Skoll World Forum](#), a world forum for social entrepreneurship organised by the Scholl Foundation.

- Inclusive growth, including a higher degree of participation in labour markets, retrieving skills or fighting against poverty, must focus on economic and social growth
- According to experts the World earns “a failing grade” on progress
- Norway topped the list in this year’s Index, Canada ranked highest among G7 countries; Brazil is the top BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) nation

“In this chart, the Czech Republic performs better than when looking at purely economic indicators, which is documented by the development of the Czech society in other areas. For example, low criminality, a high degree of personal security or improvement of the environment contributed to the good ranking. But the level of the school system and a low degree of tolerance towards minorities are some of the weak points. Paying more attention to these issues would move us forward not only in this chart but would mainly improve the state of our society as such,” says Deloitte chief economist David Marek.

According to the global chart compiled by the non-profit organisation Social Progress Imperative, the Nordic countries Norway and Sweden are this year’s top performing countries, followed by Switzerland, Iceland, New Zealand and Canada. The first ten countries also include Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Australia. In turn, countries such as Afghanistan, the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic ended up with the worst results.

According to Michael E. Porter of Harvard Business School, the chairman of the Advisory Board of Social Progress Index, “Inclusive growth requires achieving both economic and social progress. A striking finding is that GDP is far from being the sole determinant of social progress. The pitfalls of focusing on GDP alone are evident in the findings of the 2015 Social Progress Index. If countries want to create the proper foundation for economic growth, they must invest in social progress, not just economic institutions.”

Costa Rica (28th ranking) with a GDP per capita of \$13,431 achieves a much higher level of social progress than both Italy and South Korea, which have more than twice Costa Rica’s GDP per capita (\$34,167 and \$32,708 respectively). On the other hand the US, with a GDP per capita of \$51,340, scores relatively poorly across many of the components measured by the Index, including on ‘**health and wellness**’, finishing behind countries with a lower GDP per capita including Canada (6th) and the UK (11th).

The Index found that the world performs strongest in the areas of '**nutrition**' and '**basic medical care**' but weakest in 'access to advanced education' and '**ecosystem sustainability**'. The findings also show that many aspects of social progress improve with income. Wealthier countries, such as Norway - which achieves the top ranking this year - generally deliver better social outcomes than lower income countries. But researchers say that GDP is far from being the sole determinant of social progress.

About the Social Progress Index

The Social Progress Index 2015 is designed as a complement to GDP and other economic indicators to provide a more holistic understanding of countries' overall performance. It is the world's most comprehensive framework developed for measuring social progress, and the first to measure social progress independently of GDP. It provides detailed insight into whether citizens have access to a wide range of progress measures including basic services, opportunities, healthcare, education, housing, decent policing, rights and freedom from discrimination.

This year's Index ranks 133 countries based on their social and environmental performance and, including countries for which partial data was found, measured the social progress of 99% of the world's population - using 52 separate indicators to arrive at a ranking for the issues that matter most to people.

For more information about the Index see: <http://www.socialprogressimperative.org/data/spi>.

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