

Youth Progress Index 2017

Executive Summary



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The Global Voice of Business

Youth Progress Index

The Youth Progress Index is one of the first ever concepts for measuring the quality of life of young people independently of economic indicators. As such, the framework can be a significant contribution to the policy debate, including for advocacy, as well as scholarly research, on measuring performance of societies related to youth matters, and defining progress beyond economic achievements. The framework is structured around 3 dimensions (Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing and Opportunity), 12 components and 60 distinct indicators. It ranks 102 countries fully, and a further 52 countries partially.

The framework should be seen as an initial effort to contribute to measuring the quality of life of youth, despite the limited data available. It can be used as a mapping dashboard of public expenditures, civil society engagement and private sector investment. The framework can serve as a tool to better organize and structure strategic planning, as well as for in-depth explorations into certain societal idiosyncrasies and patterns. It is designed to monitor progress and evaluate success of policy investment.


The Youth Progress Index is a joint initiative of the European Youth Forum, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (Deloitte), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Social Progress Imperative, and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE).

A full report, highlighting key insights from the Youth Progress Index, will be published in 2018. The intention is to publish a new, updated edition of the Youth Progress Index every two years, to enable measurement of individual country progress over time.

Why focus on youth?

A lack of reliable data on young people persists both nationally and internationally, and affects not only young people themselves, but also youth practitioners and others who work to address the development needs of young people. This is particularly noteworthy as today's youth cohort is the largest young generation ever by numbers. In 2017, young people face incredible challenges as they navigate their transition to full citizenship in adulthood, and many face risks of social exclusion, limited economic means or quality job opportunities, uneven or often out-dated educational curricula, and risk of manipulation from political or other actors seeking to disrupt democratic stability in their countries. Unresponsive institutions and other systemic, economic, and political barriers to youth inclusion and influence in society are often cited as major contributors to the observed decline of young people's participation in public structures. This is of particular concern, as it leads to policy-making that does not reflect the interests of youth. Furthermore, some of the current youth-focused literature has found a significant correlation between large, disenfranchised youth cohorts and political instability and violence.





The Youth Progress Index, using Social Progress Index (SPI) methodology, measures real factors that impact young people...

Beyond gross domestic product

Historically, economic measures have been used in academic, practitioner, and political circles as a proxy measure for wellbeing. It is increasingly noted however, that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is insufficient as a measure of societal progress, particularly for young people. In this context, considerations of overall welfare, access to education, healthcare, housing, quality of jobs and environmental sustainability, provide a more comprehensive picture of progress in a given country or community. Likewise, it is essential to consider the level of opportunity for young people to influence political decision-making and public policy. The Youth Progress Index, using the Social Progress Index (SPI) methodology, measures real factors that impact young people, such as sufficient food supply, access to housing, access to the labour market and quality jobs, literacy and numeracy skills, and the right to political expression, among others.

The Social Progress Index model

The Youth Progress Index follows the definitions and framework methodology of the SPI, and applies a set of unique design principles that allow an exclusive analysis of social progress:

- **Social and environmental indicators only:** Measuring social progress exclusively and directly, rather than using economic proxies or combining economic and social variables;
- **Outcomes, not inputs:** Measuring the outcomes, or lived experience, of real people, regardless of effort and resources spent, or the capacity to impart change;
- **Holistic and relevant to all communities:** A multidimensional measure of social progress that encompasses the many inter-related aspects of thriving societies everywhere;
- **Actionable:** A practical tool that helps leaders and decision-makers in government, as well as business, to implement policies and programmes that will drive faster progress, and civil society to better focus and justify their advocacy.

Youth Progress Index



Basic Human Needs

Nutrition and Basic Medical Care

- Undernourishment
- Depth of food deficit
- Maternal mortality rate
- Child mortality rate
- Deaths from infectious diseases

Water and Sanitation

- Access to piped water
- Rural access to improved water source
- Access to improved sanitation and facilities
- Youth satisfaction with water

Shelter

- Youth availability of affordable housing
- Access to electricity
- Quality of electricity supply
- Youth household air pollution deaths

Personal safety

- Homicide rate
- Level of violent crime
- Perceived criminality
- Political terror
- Youth traffic deaths
- Youth safe walking alone



Foundations of Wellbeing

Access to Basic Knowledge

- Youth literacy
- Primary school enrollment
- Gross school enrollment
- Gender parity in secondary enrollment
- Female population with some secondary education
- Male population with some secondary education

Access to Information and Communications

- Youth mobile telephones
- Youth internet users
- Press freedom

Health and Wellness

- Healthy life expectancy at birth
- Youth mortality from non-communicable diseases
- Youth suicide rate
- Death rate from HIV/AIDS

Environmental Quality

- Wastewater management
- Biodiversity and habitat
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Youth air pollution attributable deaths
- Youth satisfaction with air quality



Opportunity

Personal Rights

- Political rights
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of assembly/association
- Private property rights
- Youth confidence in police
- Percent of young members of parliament

Personal Freedom and Choice

- Youth freedom over life choices
- Freedom of religion
- Early marriage
- Satisfied demand for contraception
- Corruption
- Youth perception of corruption

Inclusion

- Youth openness towards immigrants
- Youth openness towards homosexuals
- Youth community safety net
- Discrimination and violence against minorities
- Religious tolerance
- Youth not in employment and not in education
- Youth employment gap

Access to Advanced Education

- Years of tertiary schooling
- Women's average years in school
- Inequality in attainment of education
- Tertiary enrollment rate

2017 Youth Progress Index results

The Youth Progress Index (YPI) countries' scores vary significantly across the globe. Norway is the highest scoring country overall, and highest scores in the respective dimensions are achieved by Switzerland (Basic Human Needs), Denmark (Foundations of Wellbeing), and Finland (Opportunity).

At the other end of the spectrum, of those countries with sufficient available data to be included in the YPI, Mozambique ranks last overall, and the Central African Republic takes last place in Basic Human Needs and Foundations of Wellbeing dimensions, while Guinea scores the lowest in the Opportunity dimension. However, interpreting these results is not as straightforward as the data implies. For example, that these countries have enough publicly available data to include them in the YPI is on its own a significant achievement. However, these results do indicate that out of the countries included in the YPI, these countries do not perform as well as others, implying the quality of young people's lives is more constrained by limitations and challenges.



The Youth Progress Index country scores vary significantly across the globe.

Youth Progress Index scores

Youth Progress Index Rank	Country	Youth Progress Index Score	Youth Progress Index Rank	Country	Youth Progress Index Score	Youth Progress Index Rank	Country	Youth Progress Index Score
1	Norway	88,94	36	Uruguay	73,48	70	Lebanon	58,46
2	Finland	88,59	37	Hungary	73,20	71	Nicaragua	57,32
3	Denmark	88,54	38	Bulgaria	69,38	72	Morocco	57,09
4	Iceland	88,39	39	Serbia	69,05	73	Indonesia	56,92
5	Sweden	87,32	40	Mauritius	68,81	74	El Salvador	56,05
6	Canada	86,55	41	Romania	68,19	75	Mongolia	55,65
7	Netherlands	86,53	42	Argentina	67,98	76	Iran	55,17
8	Switzerland	86,47	43	Panama	66,91	77	Egypt	54,26
9	Ireland	85,16	44	Montenegro	66,53	78	Honduras	54,06
10	New Zealand	85,07	45	Armenia	65,67	79	South Africa	53,56
11	Austria	84,98	46	Georgia	65,25	80	Nepal	53,27
12	Australia	84,97	47	Ecuador	64,85	81	Botswana	53,12
13	Germany	84,41	48	Albania	64,66	82	Guatemala	52,91
14	Belgium	83,34	49	Macedonia	64,40	83	Namibia	49,63
15	United Kingdom	82,62	50	Jamaica	64,07	84	Ghana	49,47
16	Slovenia	81,99	51	Belarus	63,89	85	India	48,61
17	Japan	81,36	52	Malaysia	63,37	86	Bangladesh	47,85
18	United States	81,32	53	Brazil	63,36	87	Cambodia	47,14
19	Czech Republic	80,87	54	Peru	63,28	88	Senegal	46,60
20	Spain	80,85	55	Colombia	63,25	89	Rwanda	44,18
21	Portugal	80,55	56	Tunisia	62,71	90	Malawi	41,27
22	Estonia	80,55	57	Turkey	62,38	91	Zimbabwe	41,03
23	France	78,50	58	Kyrgyzstan	62,37	92	Pakistan	40,09
24	Korea, Republic of	77,40	59	Paraguay	62,29	93	Uganda	39,44
25	Slovakia	76,99	60	Ukraine	62,08	94	Tanzania	37,64
26	Latvia	76,43	61	Mexico	61,94	95	Benin	37,61
27	Poland	76,26	62	Dominican Republic	61,07	96	Cameroon	36,90
28	Cyprus	76,24	63	Kazakhstan	60,88	97	Ethiopia	36,19
29	Croatia	76,05	64	Moldova	60,87	98	Burkina Faso	36,07
30	Italy	75,71	65	Russia	60,84	99	Lesotho	35,38
31	Israel	75,68	66	Thailand	60,66	100	Liberia	34,45
32	Chile	75,66	67	Bolivia	60,52	101	Mali	34,30
33	Costa Rica	74,32	68	Sri Lanka	60,24	102	Mozambique	33,53
34	Greece	74,26	69	Philippines	60,06			
35	Lithuania	73,76						

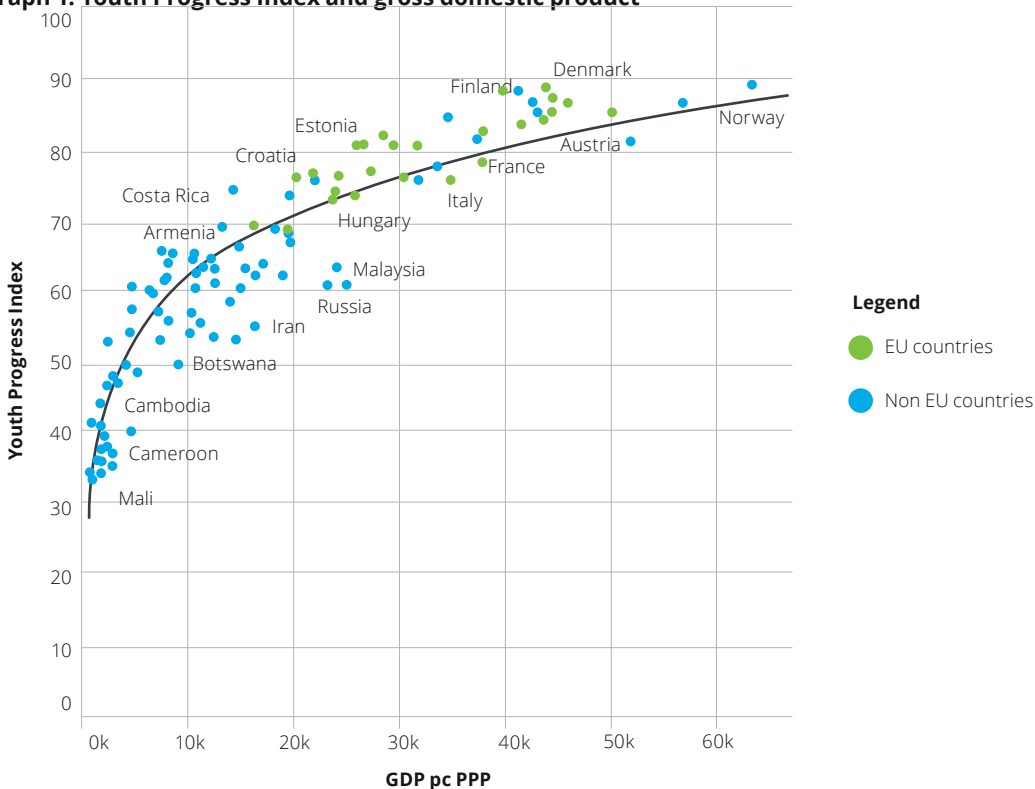


Overall countries seem to be better at providing for young people's basic needs, and giving them access to elements that can improve their wellbeing.

Key findings

Overall, the YPI has a positive relationship with economic performance (measured by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at purchasing power parity). Graph 1 shows that at lower levels of GDP per capita (\$0-\$10,000), a small increase in GDP is associated with a significant increase in the YPI scores. Above \$10,000, however, GDP becomes less of a determining factor of youth progress.

Graph 1: Youth Progress Index and gross domestic product



It is clear that economic performance should not be the ultimate goal, as there are countries with similar levels of GDP, yet hugely different Youth Progress Index scores. The Index shows that countries with the highest levels of GDP are not necessarily the top performers on youth progress, and similarly poorest countries in economic terms are not always last.

Overall, countries seem to be better at providing for young people's basic needs, and giving them access to elements that can improve their wellbeing. Opportunity is the dimension of the YPI where countries perform worst, including among wealthier countries. Opportunity components and measures that would improve young people's opportunity to be educated, influence politics, and be included in the societies in which they live, are clearly areas where further insights, investment, and policy interventions are needed.

There is also a stronger relationship between GDP per capita and **Basic Human Needs** and **Foundations of Well-being** dimensions than there is between GDP and **Opportunity**. This potentially indicates an important influence of economic performance on countries' achievement in the former two dimensions, and lesser within the Opportunity dimension. This suggests policy makers need to look beyond economic growth in order to improve their performances in the latter.

The YPI results indicate that there is a positive relationship between the following components and the Opportunity dimension:

Access to Basic Knowledge: Better scores in Access to Basic Knowledge component indicate better results across the Opportunity dimension. Inclusion however, remains a challenge.

Access to Information and Communications: The better the performance on the Access to Information and Communications component, the better countries score on the Opportunity dimension as a whole.

Additional analysis using external factors associated with certain societal digital developments and civics, suggest there is a relationship between them and the YPI score, and specifically the Opportunity dimension. For example, network coverage (4G), and schools with internet access appear to have positive correlations. Further, there are negative correlations with factors such as fixed broadband latency and average mobile latency, and Access to Basic Knowledge, Access to Information, and Opportunity and YPI scores. The data also showed negative correlations between latency and personal freedom and choice.

Given society is growing in technological capability, this data suggests inclusive internet accessibility, while no shortcut to youth social progress, may be an enabler.





The European Union within the global ranking

To the extent possible, the report also provides a focus on youth progress across the European Union (EU). The YPI fully measures and ranks 26 out of the 28 EU Member States (Luxembourg and Malta being only partially analyzed). The 26 EU countries rank within the first 41 positions, as per the table below:

Youth Progress Index Rank	Country	Youth Progress Index score	Youth Progress Index rank	Country	Youth Progress Index score
1	Norway	88.94	26	Latvia	76.43
2	Finland	88.59	27	Poland	76.26
3	Denmark	88.54	28	Cyprus	76.24
4	Iceland	88.39	29	Croatia	76.05
5	Sweden	87.32	30	Italy	75.71
6	Canada	86.55	31	Israel	75.68
7	Netherlands	86.53	32	Chile	75.66
8	Switzerland	86.47	33	Costa Rica	74.32
9	Ireland	85.16	34	Greece	74.26
10	New Zealand	85.07	35	Lithuania	73.76
11	Austria	84.98	36	Uruguay	73.48
12	Australia	84.97	37	Hungary	73.20
13	Germany	84.41	38	Bulgaria	69.38
14	Belgium	83.34	39	Serbia	69.05
15	United Kingdom	82.62	40	Mauritius	68.81
16	Slovenia	81.99	41	Romania	68.19
17	Japan	81.36	42	Argentina	67.98
18	United States	81.32	43	Panama	66.91
19	Czech Republic	80.87	44	Montenegro	66.53
20	Spain	80.85	45	Armenia	65.67
21	Portugal	80.55	46	Georgia	65.25
22	Estonia	80.55	47	Ecuador	64.85
23	France	78.50	48	Albania	64.66
24	Korea, Republic of	77.40	49	Macedonia	64.40
25	Slovakia	76.99	50	Jamaica	64.07



EU countries perform more uniformly compared to the rest of the world. This is particularly true for the Nutrition and Basic Medical Care component, where the difference between the best and the worst EU performer is minor. On the Personal Freedom and Choice component however, this variation is significantly higher.

For EU countries, where Eurobarometer data is available on young people's participation in various youth organizations, there is a positive relationship between young people's involvement in activities of civil society organizations and performance in the Opportunity dimension. This suggests it is fundamentally important to promote active youth citizenship.

From Index to Action

The YPI can help identify priority areas for policymaking, investment and sustainable development. Policy makers can use high performing countries as role models to find best practice and better invest in policies that improve young people's lives, and thus create better and more resilient societies. By providing country scorecards, the YPI also allows countries to unpack their own scores into different components to identify areas that require most policy focus and further investment.

Finally, with a particular focus on youth, the Index offers a framework for measuring progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The YPI can be a useful tool for not only policy-makers, but also youth organizations, young activists, business leaders, and other community actors, in assessing and deciding on where to focus their advocacy efforts and resources in order to have the most positive impact for young people.

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