

Human Development Index – HDI	Slovenian Economic Mirror	IMAD
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Values of the HDI in its components for selected countries, 2002 ¹					
	Slovenia	Norway	Finland	Portugal	Czech Rep.
Life expectancy (years)	76.2	78.9	77.9	76.1	75.3
Index ²	0.85	0.90	0.88	0.85	0.84
Rank in the world (acc. to index)	33	5	23	32	37
Gross enrolment ratio³, in %	90	98	106	93	78
Education index ²	0.96	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.92
Rank in the world (acc. to index)	21	1	7	15	36
GDP per capita (ppp, USD)	18,540	36,600	26,190	18,280	15,780
Index ²	0.87	0.99	0.93	0.87	0.84
Rank in the world (acc. to index)	30	2	17	29	39
HDI	0.895	0.956	0.935	0.897	0.868
Rank in the world	27	1	13	26	32

Source of data: (2004) *Human Development Report 2004*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, UNDP.
Notes: ¹figures are published with a two-year delay; ²HDI sub-indexes can be used as separate indexes; ³the share of people enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary education relative to the population in official school age for enrolment.

The fifteenth edition of the **Human Development Report** was presented in Brussels in July this year. The central topics of this Report are cultural freedom and diversity in the globalised world, the issues of inclusion and exclusion, integrations, the respect of diversity and difference, and the promotion of cultural freedom. In addition to these central topics, the Report includes an extensive statistical appendix, which presents various development indicators for individual countries.

The calculations of the **human development index (HDI)** for 2002 do not bring about any major changes on the global scale. The calculations for the first time include Timor-Leste, while about 30 countries are still excluded because data are lacking or inadequate. Out of 177 countries included in the calculations for 2002, 31% record an HDI value of over 0.80 (the maximum value is 1.00). The number of countries with a value of over 0.90 has risen slightly to 25, while 35 countries still record an index value of less than 0.50. Sierra Leone has the lowest value (0.273), while Timor-Leste, recording a value of 0.436 and occupying 158th place, is the only non-African country ranked among the last twenty countries.

Slovenia achieved a higher value of the index as well as a higher place in 2002 (see table). As the index rose markedly from 0.881 to 0.895, Slovenia climbed from 29th to **27th place** on the scale of 177 countries. This improvement, however, should be interpreted with caution. The input data change from year to year because of corrections to estimates, so trend-related analyses cannot be made on the basis of data from different annual reports. To facilitate trend analyses across countries, the HDI has been calculated at 5-year intervals since 1975. The latest calculations, for example, show that the value of Slovenia's HDI for 2000 climbed from 0.879 to 0.883.

Bearing in mind these methodological limitations, we can have a look at changes in the HDI **underlying indicators for Slovenia for 2002**. While all indicators rose, the biggest change was seen in the education index, which is at the same time the most disputable, rising by 0.02 of a point from 2001. A higher GDP per capita in purchasing power parities (USD terms) was not reflected in a proportional rise in the index (up by just 0.01 of a point) because of the modified methodology of calculation (see SEM 8/1999:17). Out of all indicators, Slovenia continued to be ranked lowest in the life expectancy index, recording a value of 0.85 and occupying 33rd place.

Notable changes are also seen in the values of indexes of highest-ranking countries. Norway is still ranked first, followed by Sweden (0.946), Australia (0.946), Canada (0.943), and the Netherlands (0.942). Finland is in 13th place. Greece, an EU member that is comparable to Slovenia, is placed 24th with an index value of 0.901, while Portugal, recording an index of 0.897, is ranked one place ahead of Slovenia. Slovenia is still the highest ranking among new EU members, followed by Cyprus in 30th place (0.883), Malta in 31st place (0.875) and the Czech Republic (0.868), retaining its 32nd place. Other new EU members are steadily improving the values of their indexes, however, these rises are too slow to allow notable rises in ranking.

The HDI is composed of indicators that reflect achievements in different areas and levels of development, however, the indicators used currently yield small differences among the top HDI countries. The human poverty index (HPI) can better reflect the measures necessary to improve the quality of living in these countries, but this index is only calculated for 17 OECD countries. The education index is attracting growing criticism (see SEM 8-9/2002:20) because it does not reflect the incomparability of different education systems and does not offer insight into the actual (il)lteracy of the population (methodology limitations in measuring literacy in countries with a high degree of human development and differences in the definition of illiteracy). Literacy is an important development factor so the UNDP is developing a new methodology through UNESCO (LAMP – Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme), which will try to cover different profiles of literacy (skill levels in reading, writing and numeracy) that can provide more detailed information about literacy in countries recording both low and high human development.