



PRESS RELEASE

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**Index of Globalization
Republic of Macedonia
Rank: 65 of 156 countries**

Once again, Belgium comes first in the globalization stakes. Austria, which was in 3rd place last year, now ranks 2nd. This year's fast climber is Luxembourg, which advanced from 21st place to 14th place. Switzerland still comes 4th on the globalization index. While economic and political globalization is advancing, social globalization is stagnating.

The KOF Globalization Index measures the economic, social and political dimensions of globalization. The current analysis refers to the year 2007. Consequently, the developments triggered by the financial and economic crisis are not yet included. Globalization in the economic, social and political fields has been on the rise since the 1970s, receiving a particular boost after the end of the Cold War.

The emerging markets in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are recording the biggest jump on the KOF Globalization Index. Although the degree of globalization is highest in the industrialized nations and Western Europe, it has stagnated for quite some time. The top three positions on the KOF Index of Globalization are still held by Belgium, Austria (previous year: 3rd place) and the Netherlands (previous year: 2nd place). Macedonia made the biggest jump, advancing 25 places to rank 65. Lebanon and Algeria suffered the biggest setback. Among the industrialised countries, Norway, which slipped down 4 places to rank 20, recorded the least favourable change. Myanmar, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands are at the bottom of the league.

From the neighboring countries Slovenia is on the 28 (78, 78), Croatia 29 (76, 85), Greece 31 (75, 83), Bulgaria 32 (75, 41), Romania 39 (71, 51), Serbia 51 (65, 97), Bosnia and Herzegovina 58 (64,68), Macedonia 65 (62,18), Albania 94 (55,64). In accordance to the economic globalization Macedonia is on the 62 place, in regards to the social globalization is on the 52 place, and in the list of political globalization is on the 141 place.

Singapore still ranks top of the list in terms of economic globalization, followed by Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Malta - all smaller open economies that have just recently advanced to the top ranks. Switzerland comes in at place 22, down one place from the previous year.

As before, the lowest level of economic globalization was recorded in Iran, Niger and Rwanda, as well as other African states such as Burundi and Ethiopia. The position table referring to social globalization is still topped by Switzerland, Austria and Canada. At the bottom of the table are Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger. European countries still get the highest scores in the field of economic globalization. France is again top of the league, followed by Italy, Belgium, Austria and Sweden, with territories, microstates and islands such as the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Worldwide, the average degree of social globalization has been stagnant for some years now, while economic and political integration is advancing steadily.