

Hungary among the 30 most sustainable countries in the world.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Hungary in the 25th place

Competitiveness and Sustainability

Instead of GDP, new indicators are needed

Long-term sustainability is of paramount importance and should therefore be a top priority.

The system of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was unanimously adopted by 193 countries in 2015. By 2020, a system of indicators and methodologies were developed in each sub-area, enabling countries to set their Sustainable Development Goals. The 17 SDGs include 169 areas (targets), which are being monitored by 121 indicators and 92 trends. The targets and indicators of the SDGs provide a benchmark for measuring progress and success for each country.

The 17 key sustainability factors are: No Poverty; Zero Hunger; Good Health and Well-being; Quality Education; Gender Equality; Clean Water and Sanitation; Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Reduced Inequalities; Sustainable Cities and Communities; Responsible Consumption and Production; Climate Action; Life Below Water; Life On Land; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; Partnerships for the Goals.

Out of the 165 countries, Hungary is ranked 25th in terms of meeting the goals.¹ In the top 30 countries, only Japan, New Zealand and South Korea are among the non-European countries, while the first 10 places include Scandinavian, Western European and Baltic states.

¹ Sustainable Development Report (2021): <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>

Hungary has already implemented the actions included in its sustainability target for the protection of land and terrestrial ecosystems. The key challenge for Hungary is to tighten the links between quality education, industry, innovation and infrastructure, climate change and long-term sustainability as much as possible, that is to combine technology and innovation with sustainability. Our country is also making good progress toward the development goals set by the UN in areas such as clean water and sanitation, work and economic growth as well as sustainable cities and communities.

Hungary's position in terms of competitiveness and development indicators:

Taking into account the results of the rankings, Hungary has achieved the following places

- The World Economic Forum Global **Competitiveness** report: **47th place**.²
- **IMD World Competitiveness Ranking: 42nd place** (up five places compared to 2020).³
- **Human Development Index (HDI):** in a very high category, **40th place**.⁴
- **Happiness index** (World Happiness Report ⁵): **53rd place** with 5,99 points. In 2013, Hungary only got 4,78 points.
- **Global Innovation Index: 34th place** ⁶
- Hungary has ranked 27th on the World Index of **Healthcare Innovation**.⁷
- **Digital Quality of Life Index: 32nd place** ⁸

² World Economic Forum (2019): The Global Competitiveness Report 2019 www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf

³ IMD Competitiveness Center (2021): World Competitiveness Ranking <https://www.imd.org/centers/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-competitiveness/>

⁴ UN Development Programme (2020): 2020 Human Development Report <https://hdr.undp.org/en/content/latest-human-development-index-ranking>

⁵ WHR (2021): World Happiness Report, 2021 <https://worldhappiness.report/ed/2021/>

⁶ Dutta, S., Lanvin, B., León, L. R., Wunsch-Vincent, S. (2021): Global Innovation Index wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_gii_2021.pdf

⁷ Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (2021): World Index of Healthcare Innovation <https://freopp.org/wihi2020-505b1b60bce6>

⁸ Surfshark (2021): Digital Quality of Life <https://surfshark.com/dql2021>

Sustainability is of the utmost importance and Hungary is among the best in several rankings:

- **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** ⁹– Hungary is the **33rd** out of 180 countries.
- The **Social Progress Index (SPI)** examines the extent to which a country meets its citizens' social and environmental needs on the basis of 54 indicators in the areas of human needs, welfare and sustainability. **Hungary was ranked 42nd** among the 168 countries in this development index.¹⁰
- Simon Anholt's **The Good Country Index** ¹¹ looks at how much a country contributes to making the planet a more liveable and better place. Hungary was in the **30th place in 2021**, but stands out in Science and Technology, where it made it to the **world's second-best position** after Ireland, and ranked 28th in terms of environmental sustainability factors.
- It is a remarkable achievement that, in the **Economic Complexity Index**, developed by MIT and Harvard University in Boston,¹² **Hungary made it to the 9th and 10th places** in the last decade.

⁹ Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy – CIESIN (2020): Environmental Performance Index <https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/component/epi>

¹⁰ Social Progress Imperative (2021): Social Progress Index https://www.socialprogress.org/static/9e62d6c031f30344f34683259839760d/2021%20Social%20Progress%20Index%20Executive%20Summary-compressed_0.pdf

¹¹ Simon Anholt (2021): The Good Country Index <https://index.goodcountry.org/>

¹² Atlas of Economic Complexity <https://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/rankings>

Sustainability, security, family values, cultural identity, technology, innovation and viability itself will play an increasingly important role over the next decade.

Therefore, it is worth building on sustainability, viability and long-term innovative technological development and putting competitiveness on a sustainable footing.

Because the future will bring a Eurasian era that will build on long-term sustainability.