

Sustainable Society Index

Short Presentation

07.10.2020

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Seite 1

Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln



Sustainable Society Index

Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit

8.10.2020

Get an introduction to the new SSI!

Today's goal:

- Raise awareness for quantitative assessment of international sustainability developments based on SSI

Who we are:

- TH Köln
- Faculty for Business, Economics and Law
- Teaching: International Business in a broad sense
- Research: International business environment

What we ask you to do:

- Active participation during presentation by entering comments on chat.
- Participation after presentation: chat will be discussed

SSI – what is it?

- **Sustainability:** based on Triple Bottom Line Concept (TBL)
- **Society:** holistic view, opens discussion among social and natural sciences
- **Index:** Aggregation of diverse informationen into comparable TBL-data

SSI – what does it show?

- Data from publicly available sources
- 154 covered so far
- Data since 2006
- 21 Indicators, aggregated into 7 categories and 3 final dimensions (TBL)
- First THK-update for 2018 (data until 2016)

SSI Structure

Dimension	Category	Indicator
Human Wellbeing (HUW)	Basic Needs	Sufficient Food
		Sufficient Drinking Water
		Safe Sanitation
	Personal Development & Health	Education
		Healthy Life
		Gender Equality
	Well-balanced Society	Income Distribution
		Population Growth
		Good Governance
Environmental Wellbeing (ENW)	Natural Resources	Biodiversity
		Renewable Water Resources
		Consumption
	Climate & Energy	Energy Use
		Energy Savings
		Greenhouse Gases
		Renewable Energy
Economic Wellbeing (ECW)	Transition	Organic Farming
		Genuine Savings
	Economy	GDP
		Employment
		Public Debt

SSI – origin?

- Developed after MDG and before SDG
- Dutch Foundation Sustainable Society Foundation (SSF) published first SSI in 2006
- Bi-annual update
- Successfully audited by Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in 2012

SSI – advantages vs. Alternative sources

- Scientifically based
- Easy handling
- Clear TBL-oriented structure
- „Competitors“: either too complex (e.g. SDG database) or too focussed (e.g. Happiness Index) or too narrow geographical coverage (e.g. Sustainable City Index).

SSI – who uses it?

- **Science**
globally used in the analysis of TBL-processes and – structures
- **Business application**
Firms worldwide when in their international strategic planning and risk management
- **Education**
High schools and Universities

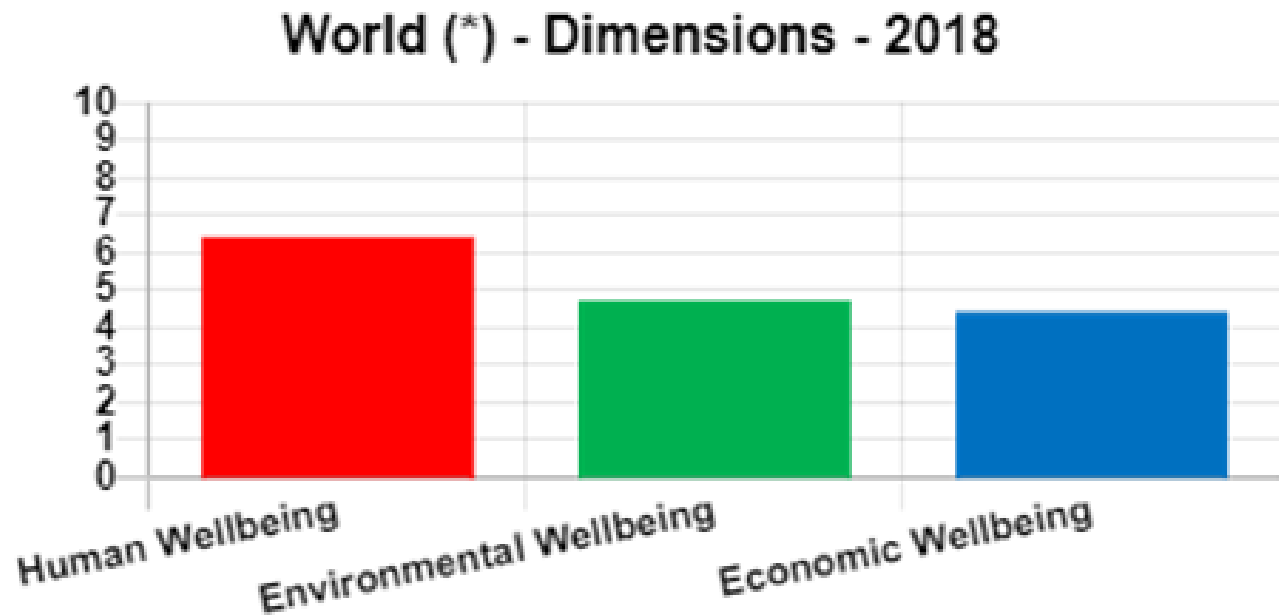
SSI – what is offered?

- **Generally: Website**
 - Data
 - Graphs
 - Calculation methods
 - Literature
 - → Short intro to website use (<https://ssi.wi.th-koeln.de>)
- **Specific: Consulting and Cooperation**
 - Support for social change with respect to sustainability
 - Support for strategic planning in firms, organizations and policymaking
 - Research-Cooperation in thematically related areas

SSI – destination?

- **Internally**
 - Extension to all countries/territories documented by UN
 - Annual update
- **Externally**
 - Involve users stakeholder-oriented SSI-development
 - Modular extension towards a wider range of sustainability dimensions (e.g. social resilience and cultural determinants)
 - Management consulting: ESG, (e.g. German „Lieferkettengesetz“)

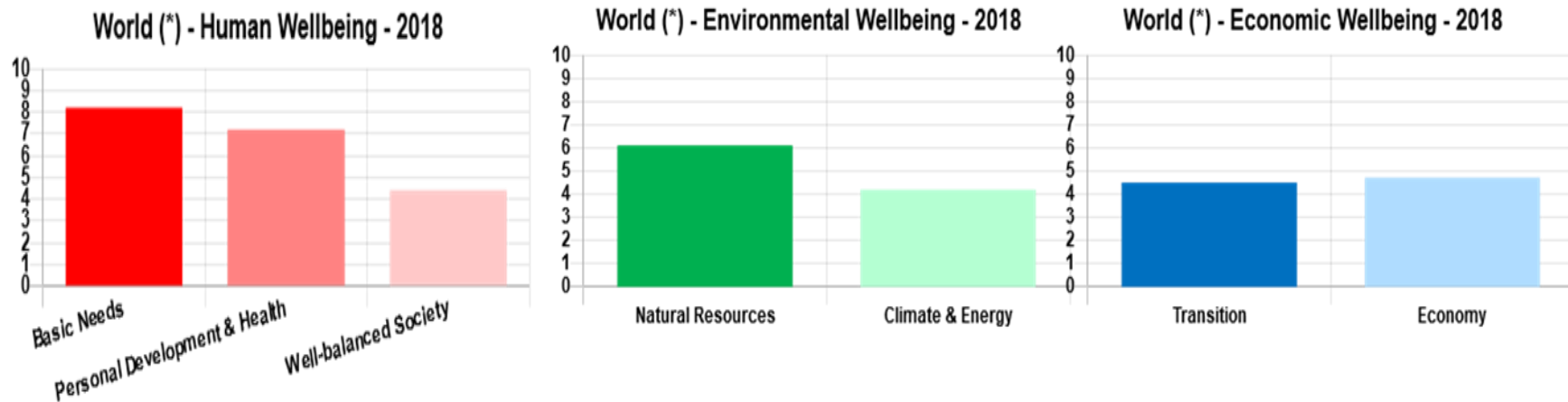
SSI – latest results?



GLOBAL: Dimensions

- Human Wellbeing scores strongest
- Environmental und Economic Wellbeing weaker

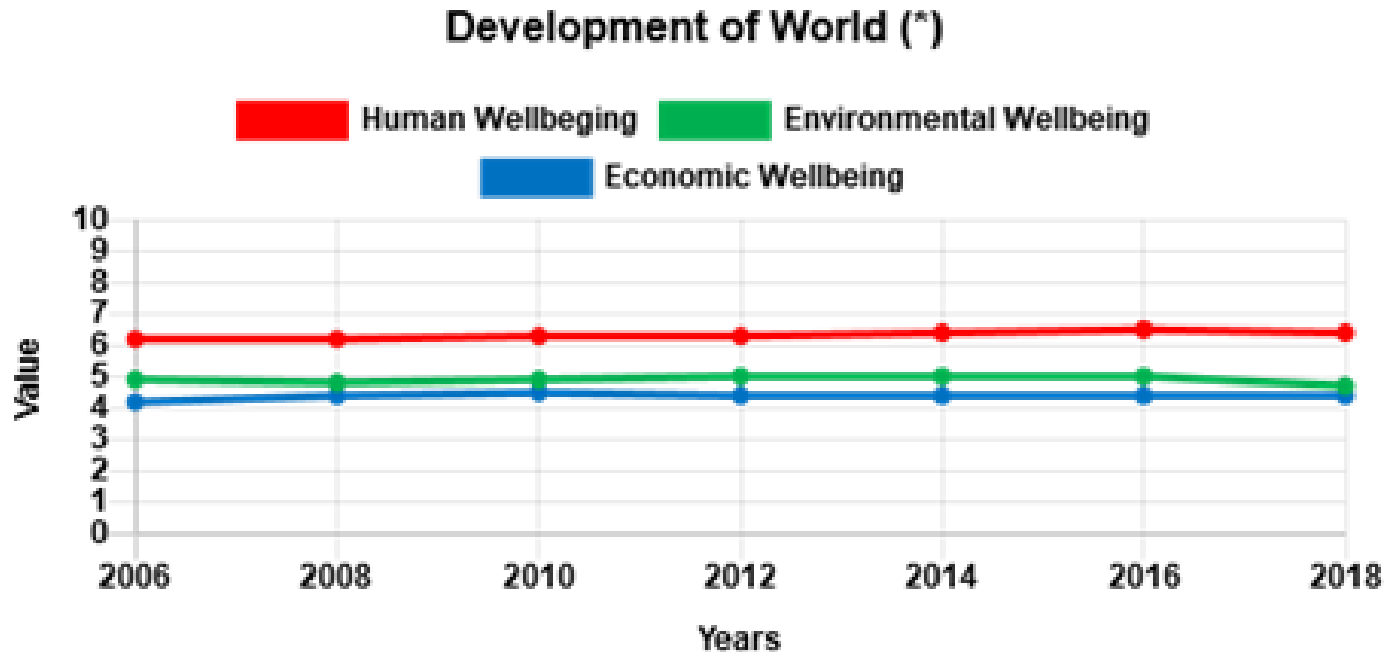
SSI – latest results?



GLOBAL: categories

- Meeting Basic Needs most successful
- Protection of climate and transition to a more sustainable mode of production weaker

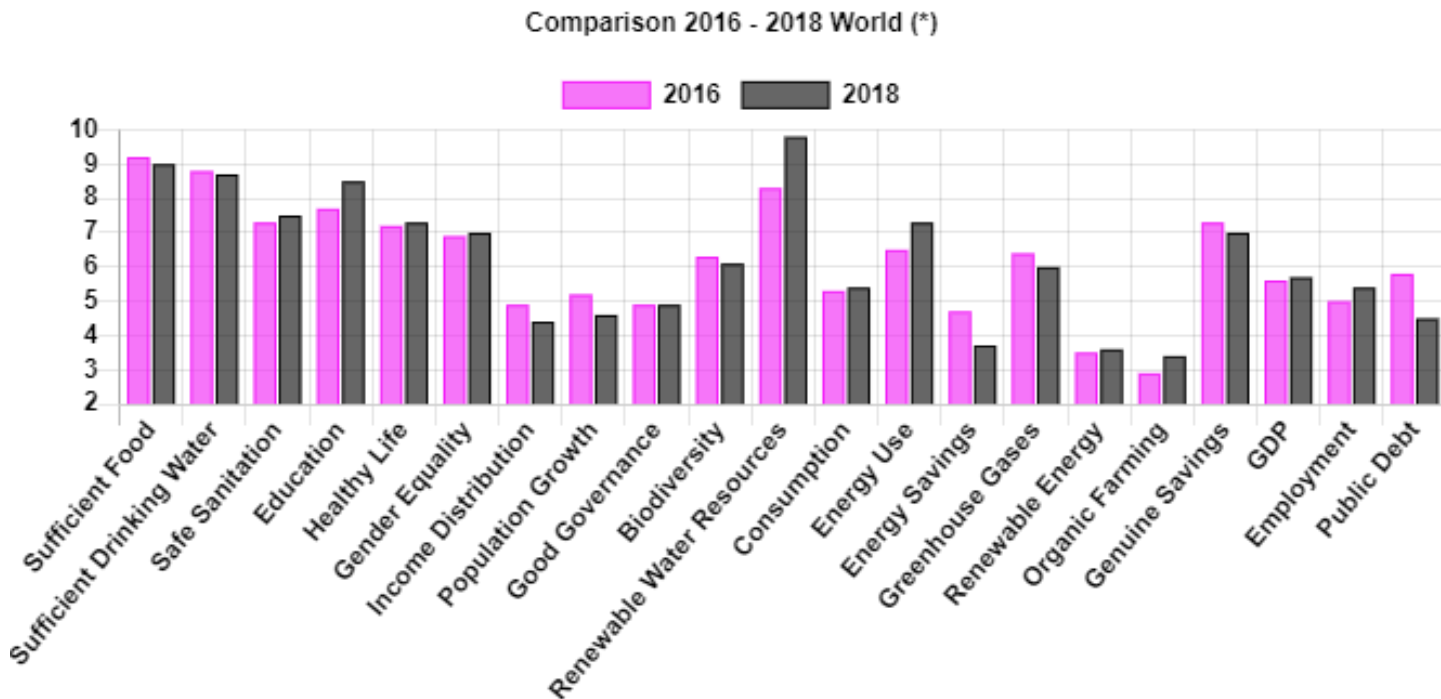
SSI – latest results?



GLOBAL: change of dimensions 2006-2018

- Only Human Wellbeing shows slow but consistent improvement

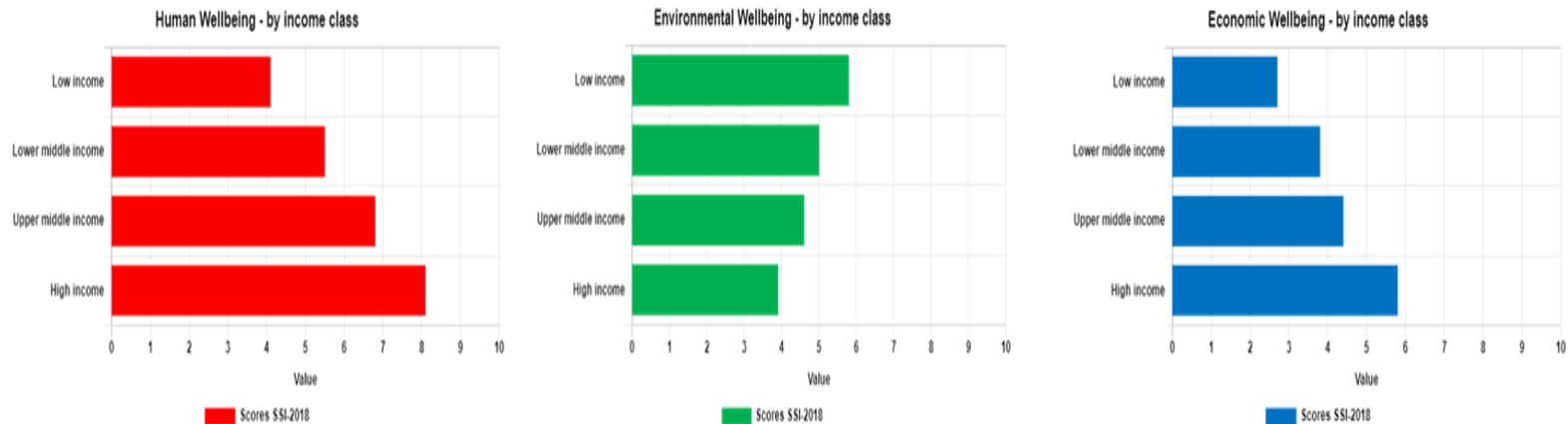
SSI – latest results?



GLOBAL: development since 2016

- Opposing trend of indicators even within the same dimension
- Individual analysis of each single indicator necessary

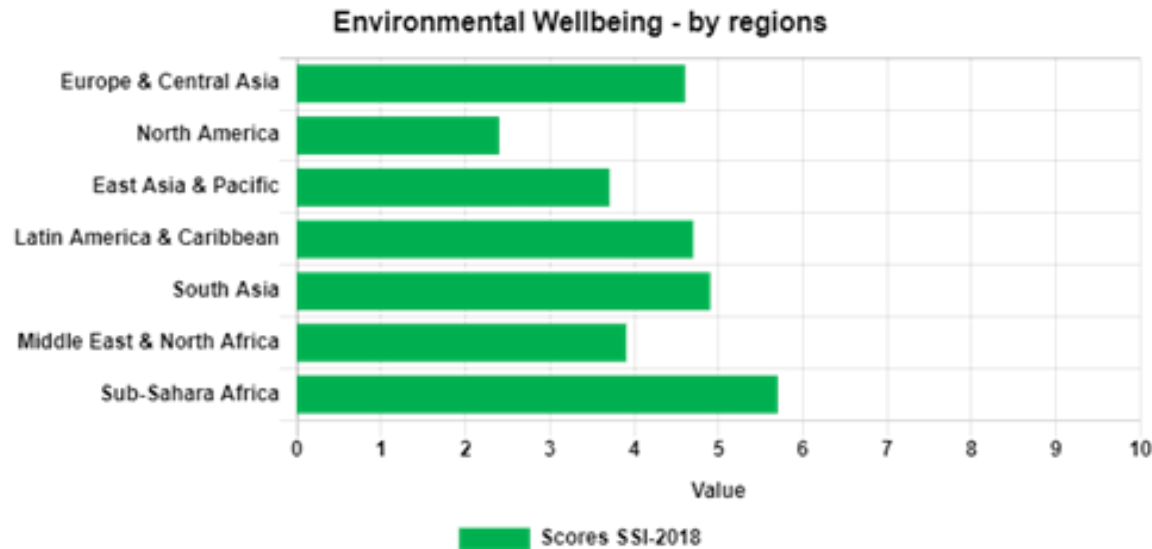
SSI – latest results?



Conclusion: Income as a determinant

- TBL-dimensions hard to reconcile
- Implementation problem: parallel development of social/economic and environmental progress

SSI – latest results?



Conclusion: Region as a determinant

- Negative relationship between income and environment strongest in North America and Sub-Saharan Africa
- Negative relationship between income and environment weakest in Europe/Central Asia

How to get in contact?

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SSI – looking forward to reading/hearing from you again!



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