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How to analyse sustainability in the globalised Europe?

Topic 7 – Better statistics for a globalised world

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Introduction

Sustainable development is very complex strategy, therefore it is necessary to identify indicators that will enable its monitoring in EU countries and find an appropriate statistical method for that.

In this research, indicators are chosen according to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy from Eurostat and analysis included only the headline indicators from the following areas: socio-economic development, sustainable consumption and production, social inclusion, demographic changes, public health, climate change and energy, sustainable transport, global partnership.

Sustainable Development Strategy contains a large number of indicators, so one of the statistical methods that can be used for this complex problem is I-distance method. The advantage of this method is its ability to synthesize a large number of indicators into one numerical value, which will further define the entity's rank. I-distance method in this paper is used for the ranking of 18 countries of the EU based on chosen indicators.

Analyzing the initial set of indicators and their correlation coefficients with the found I-distance values, were also found to the most important indicators. The I-distance method has pointed out that the EU countries, such as Sweden, Luxemburg, and Finland, have achieved better results in the implementation of the sustainable development strategy, than countries that have recently joined the EU as Croatia, Poland, and Slovenia.