

Materialism/Post Materialism Index

Dimension - Attitudes

Associated Key Factor:

Attitude to material goods

Data Source:

World Values Survey

Inglehart, R. (1997) Modernization and Post-Modernization: Cultural, Economic and Political Change in 43 Countries. Princeton: University Press.

<http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>
www.worldvaluessurvey.org/

General Availability:

Reporting unit: Individual

Reporting level: National

Reporting period: every 10 years

Data available from 1980 to 2001

Availability by country:

1981 - 1999: Belgium

1981 - 1995: Germany

1981 - 1999: Denmark

1981 - 1999: Spain

1981 - 1999: Finland

1981 - 1999: France

1981 - 1995: Hungary

1981 - 1999: Ireland

1981 - 1999: Italy

1981 - 1999: Netherlands

1981 - 1999: Sweden

1981 - 1999: United Kingdom

1990 - 1999: Austria

1990 - 1999: Bulgaria

1990 - 1995: Switzerland

1990 - 1999: Czech Republic

1990 - 1999: Estonia

1990 - 1999: Lithuania

1990 - 1999: Latvia

1990 - 1999: Portugal

1990 - 1999: Romania

1990 - 1999: Slovenia

1999 - 1999: Greece

The indicator:

The materialism / postmaterialism index taps on the extent to which in a society there is more emphasis granted on material goods as opposed to post-material goods.

Description

Materialism is in this case understood as concern for economic and personal security as measured by economic growth, income, job security, etc. Post-materialism taps on concerns for the quality of life as reflected in increased social and democratic participation and environmental concerns.

How is it measured?

Developed on the basis of a battery of items (attitudinal questions) deriving from the World Values Survey. Relevant questions taken into account include values with regard to the bringing up of children; job-related values / concerns; priorities for one's own country; assessment of democratic institutions; environmental concerns.

The index is constructed on the basis of individual answers to the above questions, confirmatory factor analysis and scores elaborated at the individual level and then aggregated at the country level and/or explored by basic socio-economic categories (like education, socio-economic status, religion, etc.)

What are the advantages of the indicator?

The World Values Survey launched for the first time in 1981 and repeated since in 1990, 1995 and 1999-2001 has in the meantime been extended to over 60 countries. Thus it provides a rich comparative source of information on values and attitudes and how these develop / change over time around the world.

What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

The earlier databases covered only 9 countries of the enlarged European Union.

What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

Trends to post-materialism have been associated with economic growth and prosperity and as leading to greater emphasis for democracy and the environment, hence also for institutional reforms towards deliberative democracy, environmental policy and sustainable development.

The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
Valorization of time and speed and daily mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valorization of time and speed and tourism/business travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
More openness and participation in decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trends regarding renewable energy source (RES) and rational use of energy (RUE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflicts on land-use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>