



Audit JRC

EU's Joint Research Centre audits SSI

Recently the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, JRC, in Ispra (Italy) audited the structure and methodology of the Sustainable Society Index, SSI (www.ssfindex.com).

Dr Michaela Saisana, senior researcher of JRC, has given the preliminary findings of the audit. The main conclusions and recommendations are:

- JRC's statistical analysis supports the conceptual structure of the SSI-2010.
- The aggregation method can be improved by using a geometric average, rather than the arithmetical average, since the geometric average better accounts for low scores.
- The aggregation should be limited to the level of wellbeing dimensions. Further aggregation into one single score for the overall index will cause serious losses of information, since it enables compensation of one wellbeing dimension by another one.
- In order to determine the ranking of the 151 countries included in the SSI, the Copeland rule can be applied. It doesn't give a single value for the final score of each country, but just the ranking, i.e. it calculates how many countries score better and worse respectively than each assessed country.
- The calculation methodology of the indicator Organic Farming should be improved.
- Some more comments on various indicators may very well be sufficiently addressed by following JRC's recommendations for improved aggregation.

The full report will be published this summer.

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