

## Is social welfare progressing as much in the Mediterranean countries as in other regions of the world?

### Human Development Index (HDI)

The human development index with its three components enables us to identify the social component of sustainable development.

**The human development index (HDI) has progressed constantly in the Mediterranean countries since 1980. With an average HDI of 0.829 in 2006, the Mediterranean region was above the world average of 0.747.**

However, there are great differences between countries:

- 13 countries have a high HDI, greater than 0.8: France (ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 177 worldwide), Spain, Italy, Greece, Israel, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Croatia, Libya, Serbia-Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina (75<sup>th</sup> worldwide).
- 7 countries have an HDI between 0.7 and 0.8: Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Palestinian Territories and Egypt (116<sup>th</sup> worldwide).
- 1 country alone has an HDI between 0.6 and 0.7: Morocco with 0.646 is 127<sup>rd</sup> worldwide.

The life expectancy at birth that accounts for one third of the HDI shows a gap of 10 years between Spain (80.7) and Morocco (70.7).

The gaps in terms of gross enrolment ratio (primary, secondary, tertiary education) are around 40%. This rate is 60% in Morocco and 66% in Syria, while it is above 90% in the 5 EU-27 Mediterranean countries, as well as in Libya (96%).

#### Definition

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index developed by the UNDP to measure the evolution of a country according to three basic criteria:

- A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.
- Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).
- A decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (PPP US dollars).

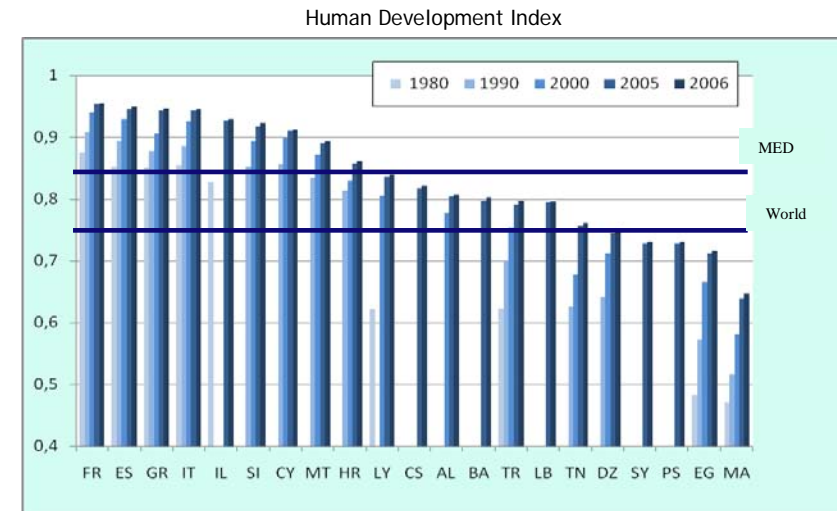
The HDI has been normalised and is able to classify countries in values between 0 and 1. It is, therefore possible to compare the evolution of the rank of the countries in the various classifications.

#### Precautions / Notes

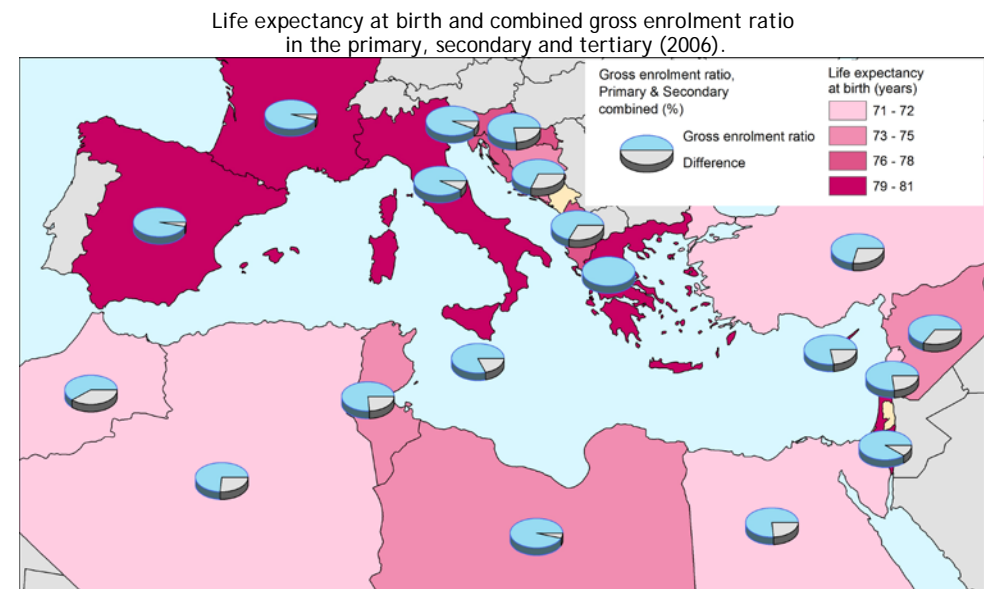
An HDI value greater than 0.8 is generally considered as high. A value below 0.5 is considered as low.

#### Sources / References

Source : UNDP, UNESCO



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