

## **RANKING OF WORLD COUNTRIES BY DIGITAL QUALITY OF LIFE**

The ranking of countries around the world by digital quality of life is based on the corresponding index. The Digital Quality of Life Index (hereinafter referred to as the DQL Index) is determined annually through an independent study conducted by the cybersecurity company Surfshark since 2019. It reveals information about the factors that affect the digital well-being of a country and the areas that should be prioritized for future improvement [1].

The DQL Index is calculated by studying five main pillars: Internet affordability, Internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security and e-government. These pillars were in turn assessed by 14 indicators [2].

In 2024, the DQL Index was calculated for the sixth time, with 121 countries indexed. The results from 2020 to 2024 are comparable, which makes it possible to accurately track the digital progress of each country over several years.

According to these results of 2024, Germany was in first place in the digital quality of life ranking, with the index value being 0.7790. Finland is in second place with a DQL Index of 0.7687, and France is in third place (0.7390). The last places in the rating were occupied by Mozambique with a value of 0.2142, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (0.1852) and Yemen (0.1494).

However, considering the rating by individual pillars that make up the index, it can be noted that even the leading countries have certain problems. For example, Germany and Finland occupy 51st and 24th places respectively in a separate rating by Internet quality. At the same time, Yemen, although it is in last place in the overall rating, exceeds the indicators of 56 countries in terms of Internet affordability, being in 65th place.

Germany is the absolute leader in Internet affordability. This factor is determined by the working time required to provide the cheapest mobile and fixed Internet. On average, people around the world need to work 5 hours and 6 minutes to allow the Internet.

The quality of the Internet is determined by its speed and stability. The leading positions here are occupied by Qatar, Singapore, France, the USA and the UAE.

The electronic infrastructure is most developed in the USA. This pillar is assessed based on the number of people using the Internet (per 100 inhabitants) and the network readiness index (calculated by the Portulance Institute).

For the fourth year in a row, EU countries have led the electronic security rating, determined using the cybersecurity index developed by the e-Governance Academy Foundation and the assessment of Data Protection Laws. The top 5 are Belgium, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Singapore, the United States and South Korea have the most developed e-government due to their exceptionally high readiness to implement artificial intelligence [3].

The Republic of Belarus took the 73rd place in the ranking in 2024. Compared to the previous year, the country dropped by 3 points. However, there is a noticeable improvement in electronic infrastructure, where there is an increase of 13 positions.

The Russian Federation rose in the ranking compared to the previous year, taking the 50th place (in 2023 – the 47th place) due to the fact that the Internet has become more affordable, the development of electronic infrastructure and e-government.

### **Conclusion**

An analysis of the ranking of countries of the world by digital quality of life shows that the level of digital well-being depends on the comprehensive development of various factors. The leading positions in 2024 were taken by European countries with developed digital infrastructure and a high level of technological integration into everyday life. The findings highlight the importance of further developing digital technologies, improving Internet access and strengthening cybersecurity measures to improve the digital quality of life for citizens around the world.

### **REFERENCES**

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