Determining Positions of Countries’ According to Happy Planet Index Via Multidimensional Scaling

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevda Gürsakal,
Uludag University, Department of Econometrics,
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences,

Asist. Prof. Dr. Dilek Murat,
Uludag University, Department of Econometrics,
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences

Abstract

Happy Planet Index (HPI), which was first used by New Economic Foundation (NEF) in 2006 tells us how successful nations are in supporting their inhabitants to lead good lives while ensuring that next generations can do the same (sustainable well-being for all) in the future HPI is one of the first measures of sustainable well-being used worldwide. It uses global data on experienced well-being, life expectancy, and ecological footprint to produce an index showing which countries are best at offering long and happy lives for their inhabitants while maintaining the same conditions for future generations so that they can do the same. In this study multidimensional scaling analysis was used to examine countries’ similarities and differences using the indicators contained in the 2016 happy planet index database. Additionally, Turkey’s position relative to other countries was determined and interpreted according to their multidimensional position.

Keywords: Happy Planet Index, Multidimensional Scaling, Multivariate Statistics