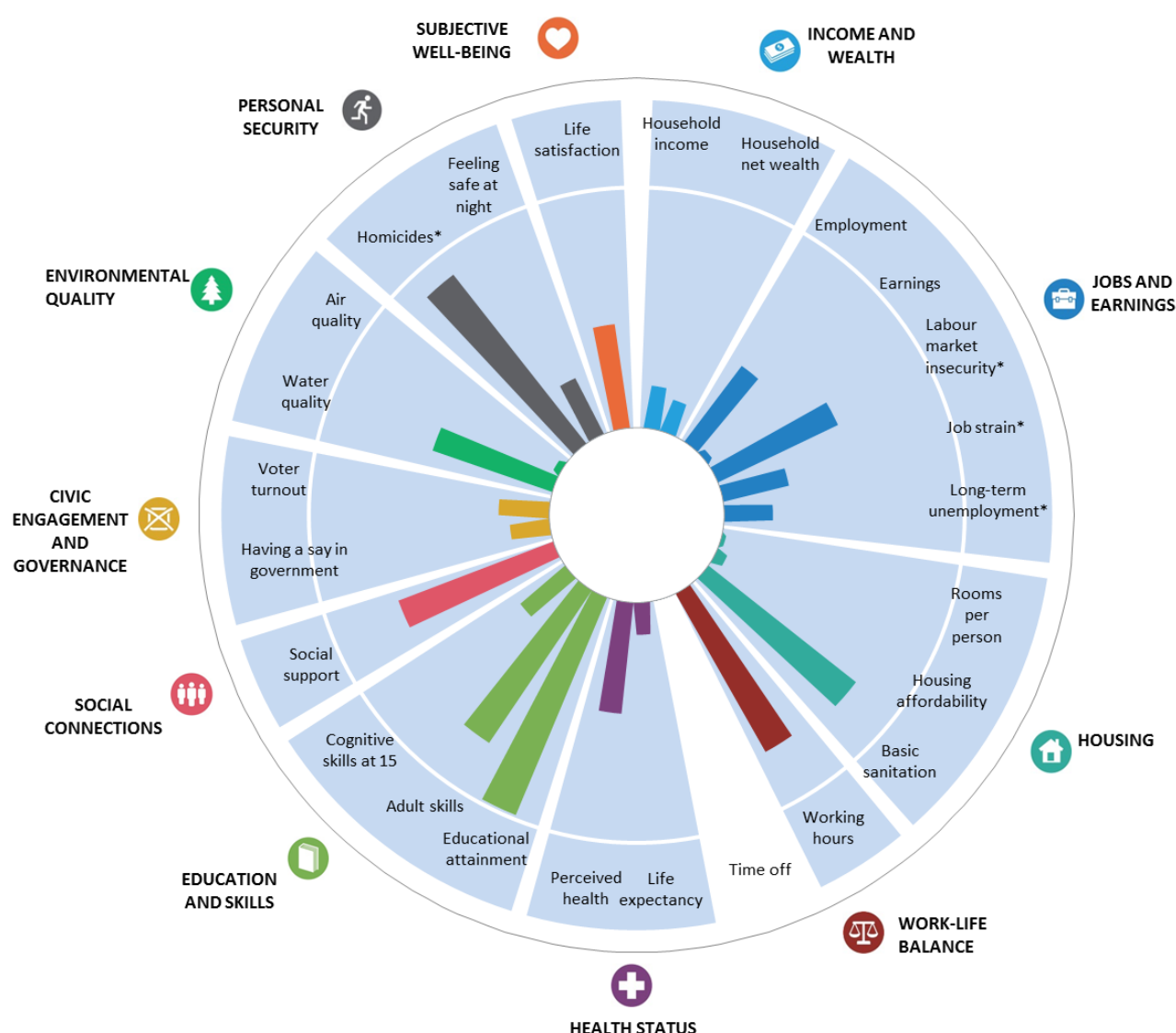


How's Life in the Slovak Republic?

Relative to other OECD countries, the average performance of the Slovak Republic across the different well-being dimensions is very mixed. Material conditions, environmental quality, and civic engagement and governance are all areas of comparative weakness. The average **household net adjusted disposable income** was about two-thirds of the OECD average level in 2015, while the **long-term unemployment** rate, at 5.5% in 2016, was almost triple the OECD average. **Life expectancy** at birth (77 years in 2015) is among the lowest in the OECD, and only 66% of Slovaks **perceive their health** as “good” or “very good”, below the OECD average of 69%. However, the Slovak Republic has the second-highest level of educational attainment in the OECD: 92% of the adult working-age population have completed at least an upper secondary education, and **adult skills** are also above the OECD average. Regarding personal security, despite a low **homicide** rate, only 60% of Slovaks report feeling **safe walking alone at night**, compared to the OECD average of 69%.

The Slovak Republic's average level of current well-being: Comparative strengths and weaknesses














Note: This chart shows the Slovak Republic's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being when compared with other OECD countries. For both positive and negative indicators (such as homicides, marked with an “*”), longer bars always indicate better outcomes (i.e. higher well-being), whereas shorter bars always indicate worse outcomes (i.e. lower well-being). If data are missing for any given indicator, the relevant segment of the circle is shaded in white.

Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found at:


www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2017-country-notes-data.xlsx


Change in the Slovak Republic's average well-being over the past 10 years

Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	Over the past decade, the Slovak Republic has experienced one of the highest levels of growth in household net adjusted disposable income in the OECD, with a cumulative increase of 31% since 2005. Household net wealth recorded a cumulative decrease of 4% between 2010 and 2014 (in real terms).	↗ ↘
 Jobs and earnings	At 65%, the employment rate in 2016 was 7 percentage points higher than in 2005. Real earnings improved consistently over the past decade, with a cumulative growth rate of 28%, while labour market insecurity increased sharply during the crisis and is yet to recover. The long-term unemployment rate is now just half its 2005 level, and the proportion of employees experiencing job strain has decreased by over 10 percentage points.	↗ ↗ ↘ ↗ ↗
 Housing conditions	The number of rooms per person has risen slightly since 2005-2010, but remains below the OECD average. Housing affordability has also improved in the last decade: the proportion of income spent on housing costs has fallen from 26.1% in 2005 to 23.6% in 2015. Meanwhile, the percentage of people living in dwellings without basic sanitary facilities has seen little change in the past 10 years.	↗ ↗ ↔
 Work-life balance	At just 5% in 2016, the share of employees working 50 hours or more per week is slightly below the 6.3% level reported in 2005.	↗
 Health status	Despite falling slightly between 2014 and 2015, life expectancy at birth has increased by almost 3 years overall since 2005. The proportion of Slovaks reporting that their health is “good” or “very good” has also gone up, from 52% to 66% over the decade.	↗ ↗
 Education and skills	The 10-year change in upper secondary educational attainment cannot be assessed, due to a recent break in the data. However, between 2014 and 2016, attainment rates increased by just under 1 percent.	↗
 Social connections	The percentage of people who have relatives or friends whom they can count on for help in case of need has seen little change over the past decade, but remains above the OECD average.	↔
 Civic engagement	Voter turnout in the Slovak Republic has increased by 5.2 percentage points since 2006, reaching 59.8% in the 2016 parliamentary elections.	↗
 Environmental quality	Satisfaction with local water quality in recent years has improved compared to the levels seen in the first part of the decade. Annual exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution improved by 8% overall between 2005 and 2013, despite a sharp increase from 2008 to 2010.	↗ ↗
 Personal security	There have been clear signs of progress in personal security since 2005: the homicide rate has halved, and the proportion of people declaring that they feel safe when walking alone at night has increased by 13 percentage points.	↗ ↗
 Subjective well-being	Average levels of life satisfaction have increased from 5.3 (on a 0 to 10 scale) to 6.1 over the past decade.	↗


Note: For each indicator in every dimension: ↗ refers to an improvement; ↔ indicates little or no change; and ↘ signals deterioration. This is based on a comparison of the starting year (2005 in most cases) and the latest available year (usually 2015 or 2016). The order of the arrows shown in column three corresponds to that of the indicators mentioned in column two.


The Slovak Republic's resources and risks for future well-being: Illustrative indicators

 Natural capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	1	↗ 2005-2015
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	1	↗ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	3	↗ 2005-2013
Forest area	2	↔ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	1	.. Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	1	.. 2015
Threatened birds	3	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	3	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	2	.. Latest available

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Gross fixed capital formation	3	↘ 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	3	↘ 2005-2015
Investment in R&D	3	↔ 2005-2014
Household debt	1	↘ 2005-2015
Household net wealth	3	↘ 2010-2014
Financial net worth of government	2	↘ 2005-2015
Banking sector leverage	3	↗ 2005-2015
No data available on produced fixed assets and intellectual property assets.		

1	Top-performing OECD tier, latest available year
2	Middle-performing OECD tier, latest available year
3	Bottom-performing OECD tier, latest available year

 Human capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	1	↗ 2014-2016
Educational expectancy	3	.. 2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	3	.. 2015
Adult skills	2	.. 2011/2012
Long-term unemployment	3	↗ 2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	3	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	3	↘ 2009-2014
Obesity prevalence	2	.. 2008

 Social capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Trust in others	2	.. 2013
Trust in the police	3	.. 2013
Trust in the national government	2	↗ 2006-2016
Voter turnout	3	↗ 2006-2016
Government stakeholder engagement	1	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	3	.. 2011/2012

↗	Improving over time
↘	Worsening over time
↔	No change
..	No data available

HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC?

What is inequality and how is it measured? Measuring inequality means trying to describe **how unevenly distributed** outcomes are in society. *How's Life? 2017* adopts several different approaches:

- Measures of “**vertical**” inequalities address how unequally outcomes are spread across all people in society – for example, by looking at the size of the gap between people at the bottom of the distribution and people at the top
- Measures of “**horizontal**” inequalities focus on the gap between population groups defined by specific characteristics (such as men and women, young and old, people with higher and lower levels of education).
- Measures of “**deprivation**” report the share of people who live below a certain level of well-being (such as those who face income poverty or live in an overcrowded household).

The Slovak Republic has mixed outcomes in terms of **vertical inequalities**. While the distributions of household income and net wealth are relatively more equal than in the OECD on average, large gaps are found between the top and bottom achievers in adult skills, cognitive skills at age 15, having a say in government, and life satisfaction.

Across OECD countries, **women** typically fare worse than **men** on low pay, earnings and employment. In the Slovak Republic, the gender gaps in the latter two outcomes are larger than in most OECD countries. However, the gender divide in low pay is comparatively small. The gender gap in working hours favours women in the Slovak Republic. Moreover, on outcomes such as adult skills and voter turnout, men and women are comparatively more equal than in OECD countries on average.

The Slovak Republic shows mixed outcomes regarding the divide between **young** and **middle-aged** adults. For instance, in all OECD countries, younger adults have lower levels of earnings and wealth – but in the Slovak Republic these gaps are narrower than for the OECD on average. By contrast, younger adults in the Slovak Republic face comparatively large disadvantages in terms of income, employment and voter turnout.

Adults with only a secondary level of **education** tend to have lower well-being across a range of indicators, compared to tertiary-educated adults. In the Slovak Republic, these gaps are often larger than for the OECD on average – for example, in unemployment, perceived health, social support and voter turnout. Nevertheless, the country has a comparatively small education-related divide in earnings.

Levels of **deprivation** in the Slovak Republic are comparatively high for 10 out of the 20 available indicators. It has the third highest asset poverty rate (68%) in the OECD, and a high share of overcrowded households (28%). By contrast, deprivations are comparatively low for indicators such as income poverty and educational attainment.

Well-being inequalities in the Slovak Republic

	Vertical inequality	Horizontal inequality by			Deprivation
		Gender	Age	Education	
		Women relative to men	Young relative to middle-aged	Secondary relative to tertiary	
Household income	●		●		●
Household net wealth	●		●	●	●
Earnings	●	●	●	●	
Low pay		●			●
Employment		●	●	●	
Unemployment		●	●	●	●
Housing affordability					●
Rooms per person					●
Life expectancy	●				
Perceived health		●	●	●	●
Working hours	●	●	●	●	●
Time off		○	○		
Educational attainment		●	●		●
Cognitive skills at 15	●	●		●	●
Adult skills	●	●	●	●	●
Time spent socialising		○	○		
Social support		●	●	●	●
Voter turnout		●	●	●	●
Having a say in government	●	●	●	●	●
Air quality					●
Water quality		●	●	●	●
Homicides		●			●
Feeling safe at night		●	●	●	●
Life satisfaction	●	●	●	●	●
Negative affect balance					●

● top third of OECD countries
 ● middle third of OECD countries
 ● bottom third of OECD countries
 ○ data gaps
 ■ no measures

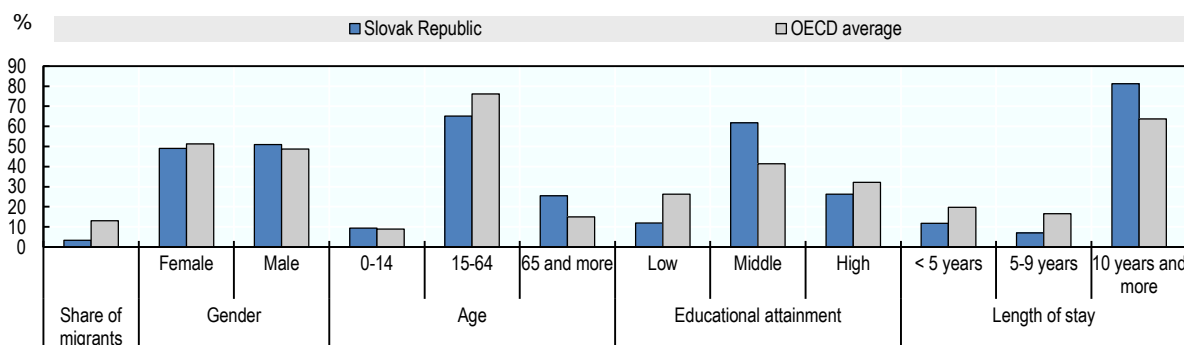
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC?

Migrants (defined as people living in a different country from the one in which they were born) represent an important share of the population in most OECD countries. Capturing information about their well-being is critical for gaining a fuller picture of how life is going, and whether it is going equally well for all members of society.

Who are the migrants in the Slovak Republic and OECD?

Only 3% of people living in the Slovak Republic were born elsewhere, far below the OECD average (13%), and 49% of them are women (51% for the OECD average). Migrants in the Slovak Republic are less likely to be of working age than in the OECD on average (65% of them are aged 15 to 64, as compared to 76% across the OECD) and are more likely to have a middle educational attainment than a low or a high level. More than 80% migrants arrived in the Slovak Republic ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics



How is migrants' well-being in the Slovak Republic?

Compared with the migrant populations of other OECD countries, migrants living in the Slovak Republic have a relatively good situation regarding over-qualification, social support and feeling depressed. Moreover, migrants settled in the Slovak Republic rank in the middle third of OECD-country migrants for atypical working hours and educational attainment. They are in the bottom third for employment rate, unemployment rate, perceived health, feeling of safety, and life satisfaction.

As in many other OECD countries, migrants in the Slovak Republic tend to experience lower well-being outcomes than the native-born population: in the Slovak Republic, this is the case for 3 out of 6 selected well-being indicators. However, migrants in the Slovak Republic are just as likely as the native-born to work atypical working hours and experience similar levels of social support and feeling depressed.

Comparing well-being outcomes for migrants in the Slovak Republic with the migrant populations of other OECD countries

Top third Middle third Bottom third Slovak Republic



Comparison of migrants' and native-born well-being in the Slovak Republic

	Migrants have a worse situation	Same situation	Migrants have a better situation
Atypical working hours		▲	
Perceived health	▲		
Social support		▲	
Perceived safety	▲		
Life satisfaction	▲		
Feeling depressed		▲	

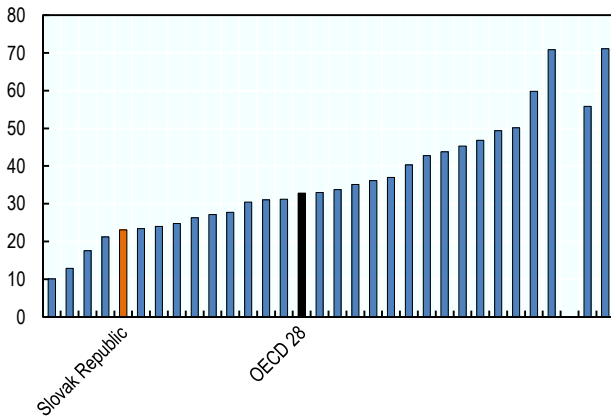
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Public institutions play an important role in well-being, both by guaranteeing that people’s fundamental rights are protected, and by ensuring the provision of goods and services necessary for people to thrive and prosper. How people experience and engage with public institutions also matters: people’s political voice, agency and representation are outcomes of value in their own right.

In the Slovak Republic, 23% of the population feel that they have a say in what their government does, compared to an OECD average of 33%. In recent years, voter turnout in the Slovak Republic has increased, with almost 60% of registered voters casting a ballot in 2016, compared to almost 55% ten years prior. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 77% of Slovaks answered "yes", as compared to an OECD average of 56%. Since around 2006, the share of people in the OECD who report that they have confidence in their national government has fallen from 42% to 38%.

Having a say in what the government does

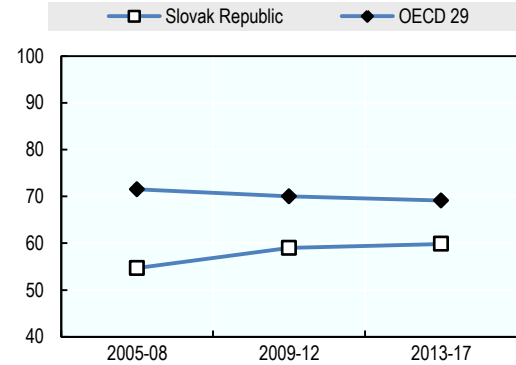
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



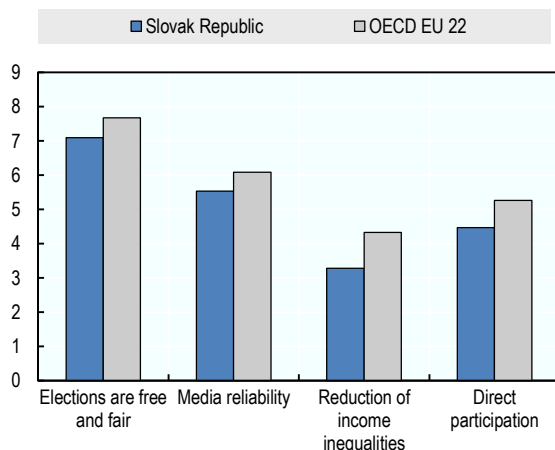
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

Overall, Slovaks’ satisfaction with the way democracy works in their country is consistently below the OECD European average. People in the Slovak Republic tend to be relatively satisfied with the freedom and fairness of elections (7.1 on a 0-10 scale), while they are much less satisfied with policies to reduce income inequalities (3.3) or the existence of direct participation mechanisms at the local level (4.5). Meanwhile, satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year: people with direct recent experience of using health and education services tend to be satisfied than those without. In the Slovak Republic, satisfaction with both health and education services is lower than the OECD European average level.

People’s satisfaction with different elements of democracy

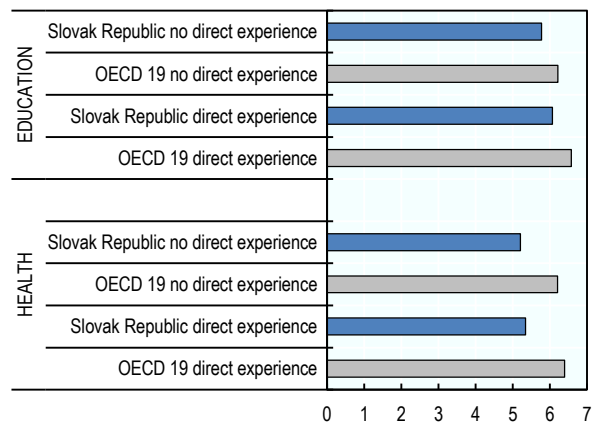
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



Source: OECD calculations based on wave 6 of the European Social Survey (ESS), special rotating module on citizens’ valuations of different elements of democracy.

Satisfaction with public services by direct experience

Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction, 2013



Source: OECD calculations based on the EU Quality of Government (QoG) for 19 European OECD countries.

BETTER LIFE INDEX

The **Better Life Index** is an interactive web application that allows users to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators used in *How's Life?*. Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and then see how countries perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.

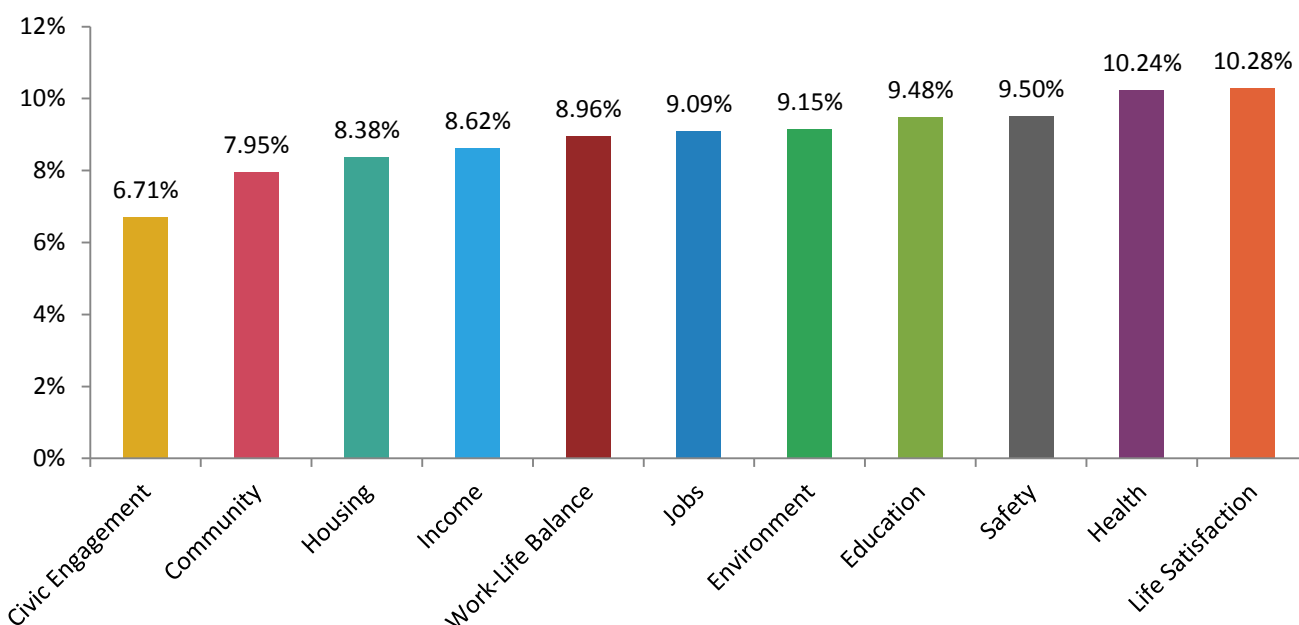


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over ten million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **22 million page views**. To date, over 28,000 people in the Slovak Republic have visited the website making the Slovak Republic the 50th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Bratislava (55% of visits), Kosice, Zilina, Banska Bystrica and Trnava.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 307 website visitors in the Slovak Republic. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Slovak users of the Better Life Index, life satisfaction, health and safety are the three most important topics** (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#SVK.



¹ User information for the Slovak Republic is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and September 2017.

The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's Life?* report. It also includes an interactive web application, the *Better Life Index*, and a number of *methodological and research projects* to improve the information base available to understand well-being levels, trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

- Helps to inform policy making to improve quality of life.
- Connects policies to people's lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own *Better Life Index* and share their preferences about what matters most for well-being
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This note presents **selected findings for the Slovak Republic from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Slovak users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 7).

HOW'S LIFE?



How's Life?, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD and selected partner countries by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It considers eleven dimensions of current well-being including: income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing; health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security; and subjective well-being. It also looks at four types of resources that help to sustain well-being over time: natural, human, economic and social capital.

The *How's Life? 2017* report presents the latest data on well-being in OECD and partner countries, including how lives have changed since 2005. It includes a special focus on inequalities, the well-being of migrants in OECD countries, and the issue of governance – particularly how people experience and engage with public institutions. To read more, visit: www.oecd.org/howslife.

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