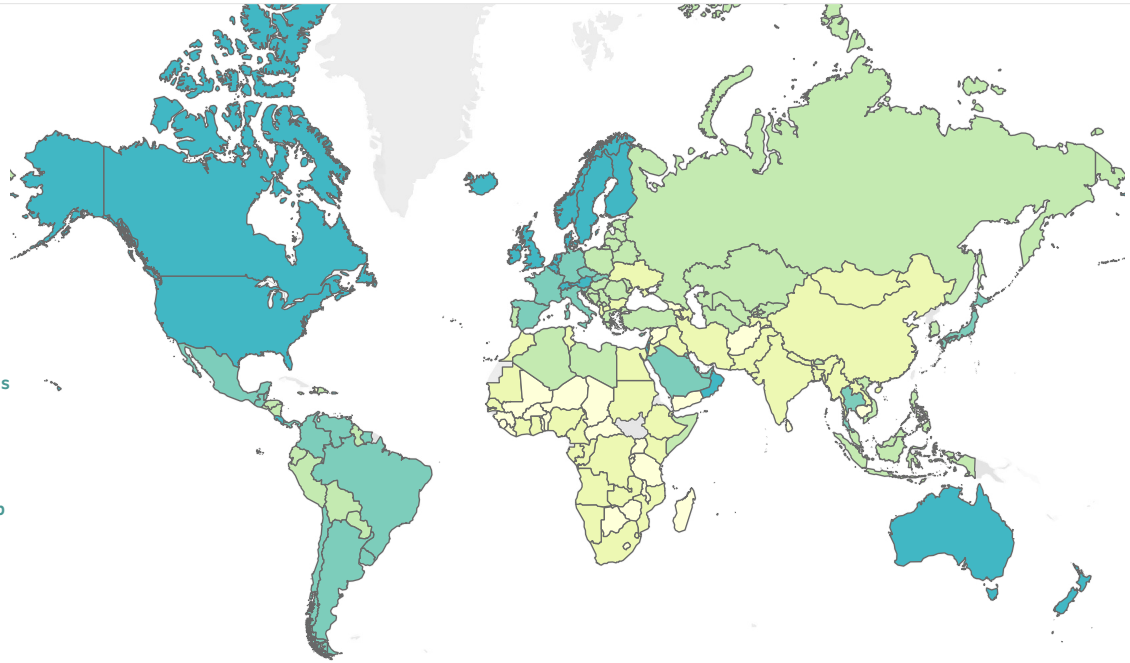
Life Ladder (☺ Happiness) Scores by Country (average for 2017-2021)



Year

Life Ladder (avg)
3.515 7.681

☺ United Nations run a global initiative named, Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Every year since 2012 they publish the World Happiness Index Report, calculating the scores of each country.

☺ World Happiness Report rankings based largely on life evaluations from the Gallup World Poll. George Gallup (1901–1984) founded the American Institute of Public Opinion, the precursor of the Gallup Organization, in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1935.

☺ Governments across the world increasingly use happiness indicators to inform their policy-making decisions.

☺ Happiness is affected by a number of different factors. In this quick analysis, i attempt to look into which factor(s) have the largest affect on Happiness Scores.

Most developped countries fall into the Happiest quintile, while the least Happy countries are mostly in Africa.

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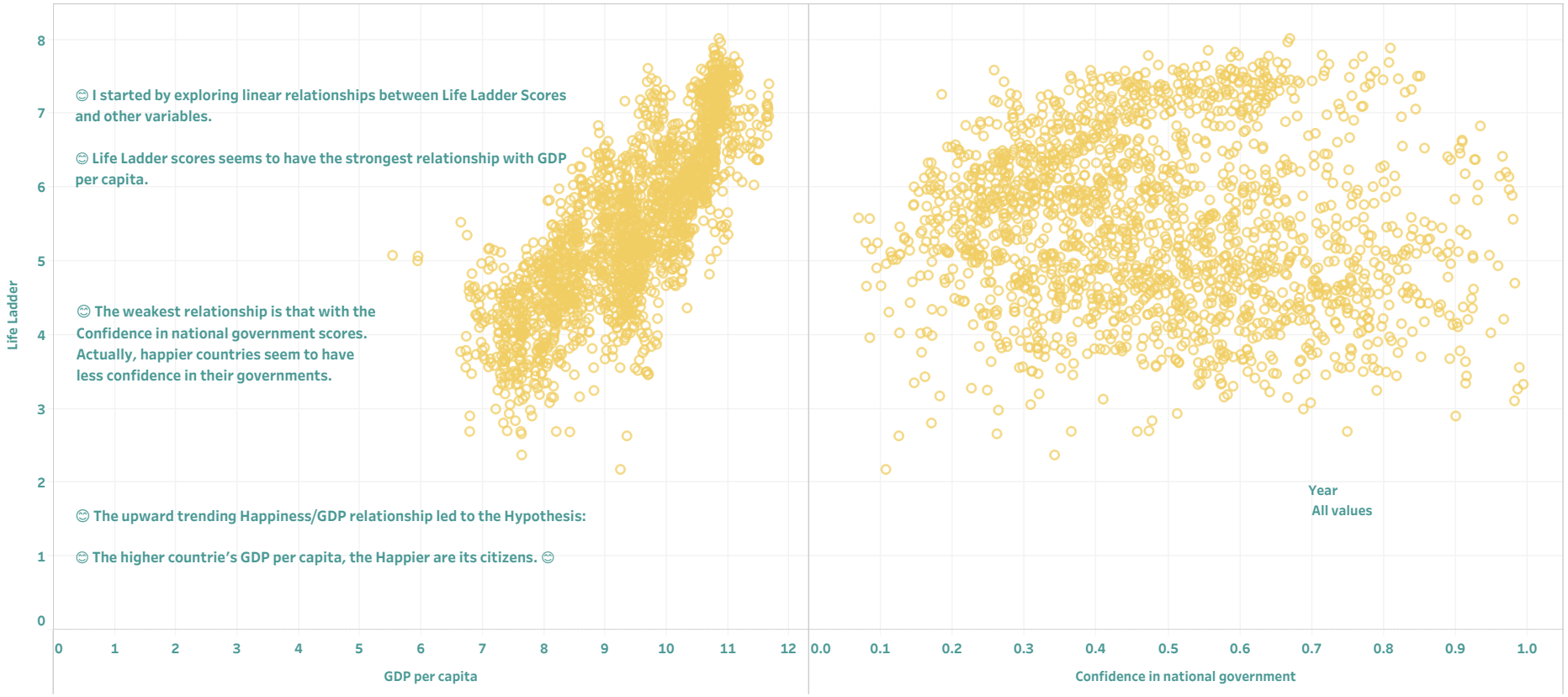
Life Ladder Score Relationship with GDP and Confidence in National Government Score



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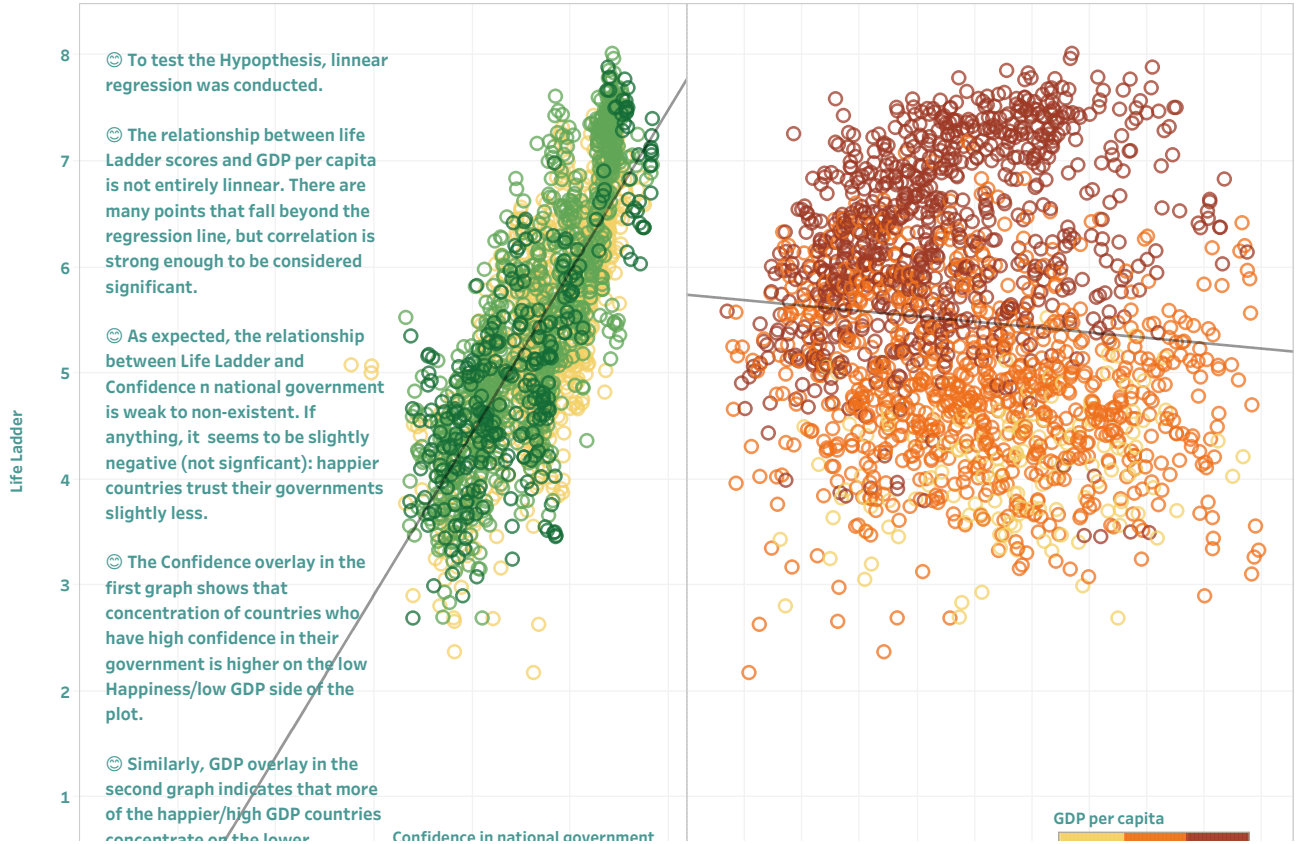


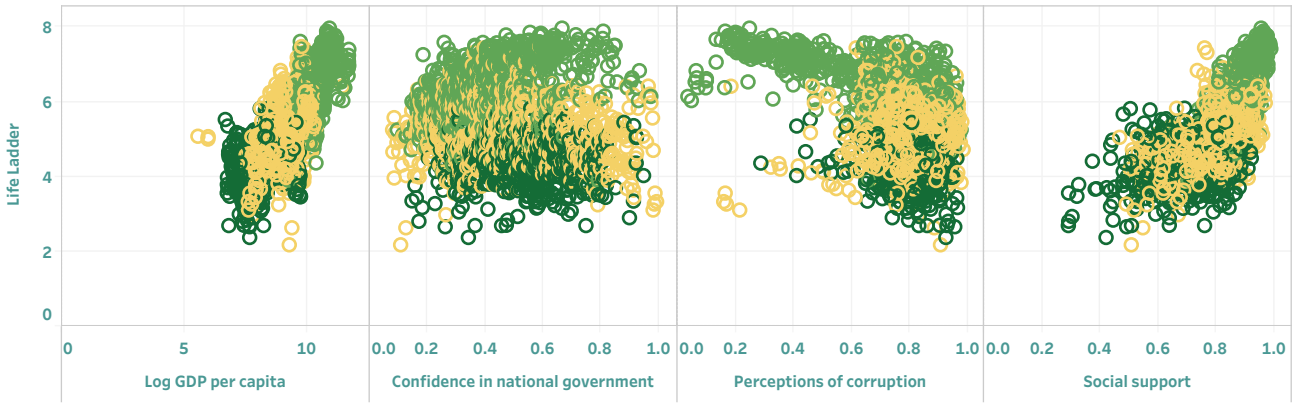
😊 To test the Hypopthesis, linnear regression was conducted.

😊 The relationship between life Ladder scores and GDP per capita is not entirely linnear. There are many points that fall beyond the regression line, but correlation is strong enough to be considered significant.

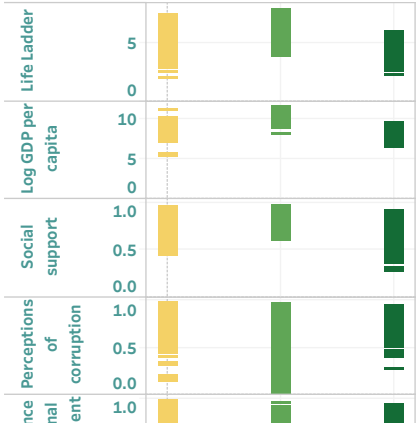
😊 As expected, the relationship between Life Ladder and Confidence n national government is weak to non-existent. If anything, it seems to be slightly negative (not signficant): happier countries trust their governments slightly less.

😊 The Confidence overlay in the first graph shows that concentration of countries who have high confidence in their government is higher on the low Happiness/low GDP side of the plot.

😊 Similarly, GDP overlay in the second graph indicates that more of the happier/high GDP countries concentrate on the lower



Summary



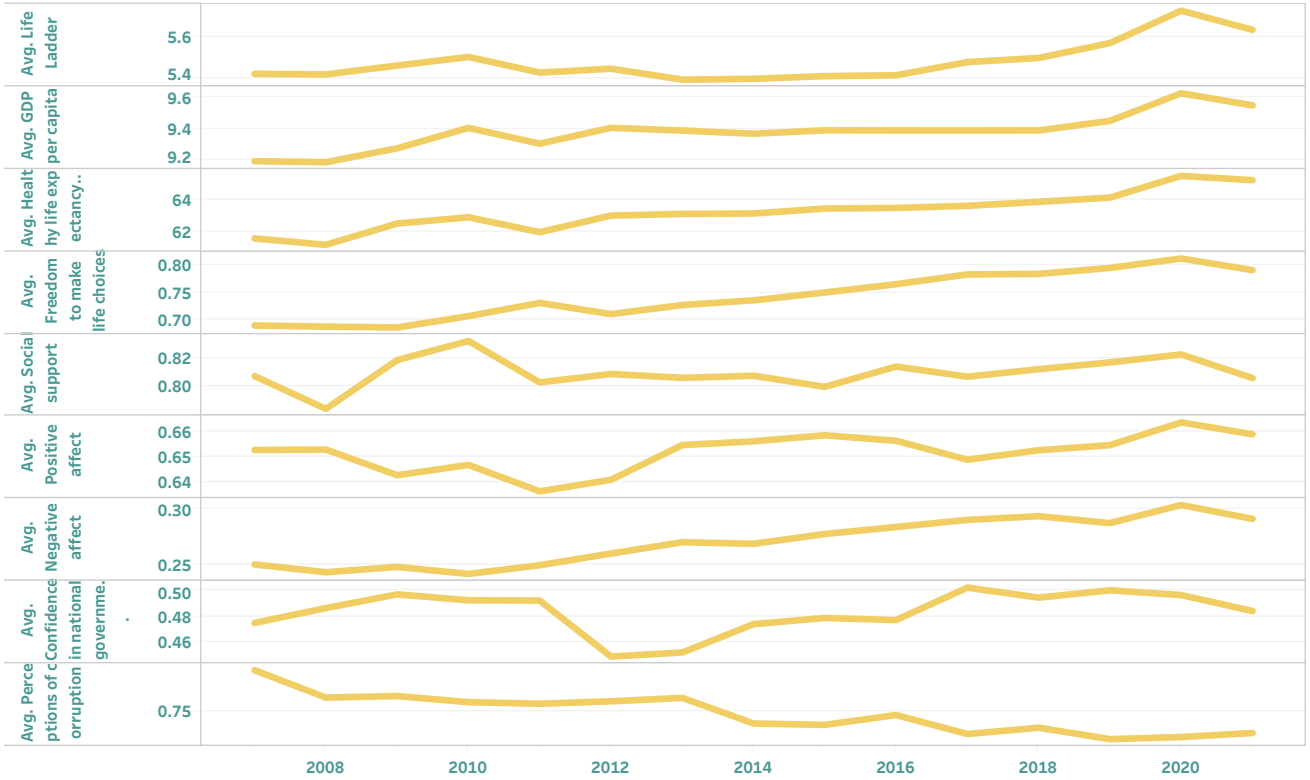
☺ In order to also try non-linear approach, cluster analysis was conducted.

☺ It grouped the data into clusters to help in seach for further insights.

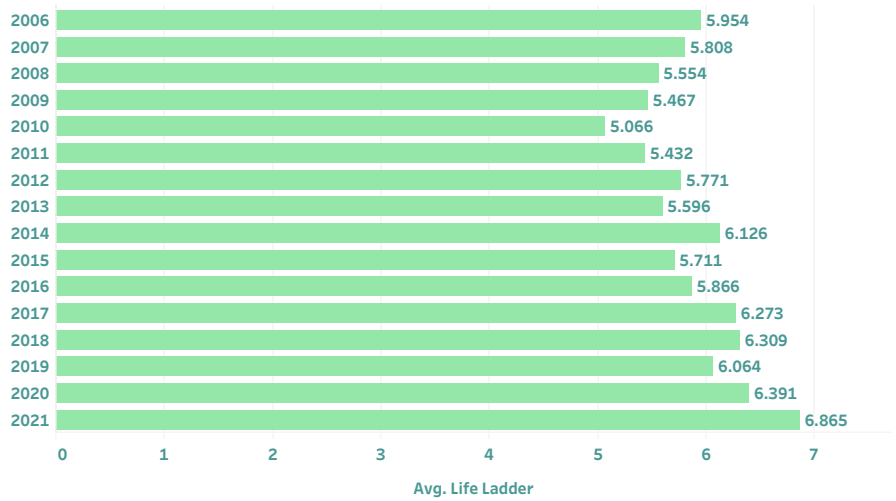
☺ Observations that fell into light green cluster seems to be the best: Life Ladder scores are highest, GDP per capita higher, as are social support scores. Having said that, perceptio of corruption and confidence in national government seem to be all over the place for this cluster.

☺ On the opposite side (the worst) is dark green cluster. Life Ladder, GDP and social support scores are lower, perception of

Trend over the years



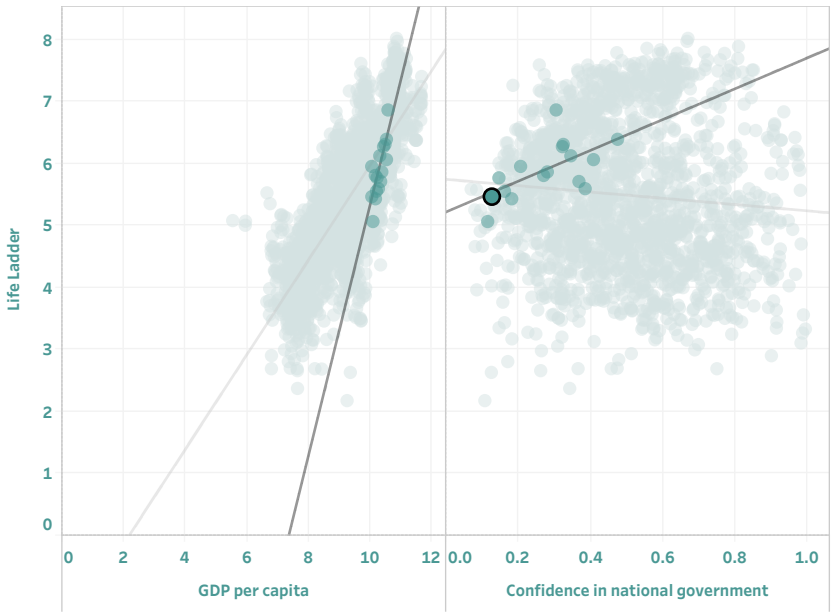
😊 Worldwide, scores for most factors have been trending up over the years (or down, where it is expected, like perception of corruption).



Bars Country name
All

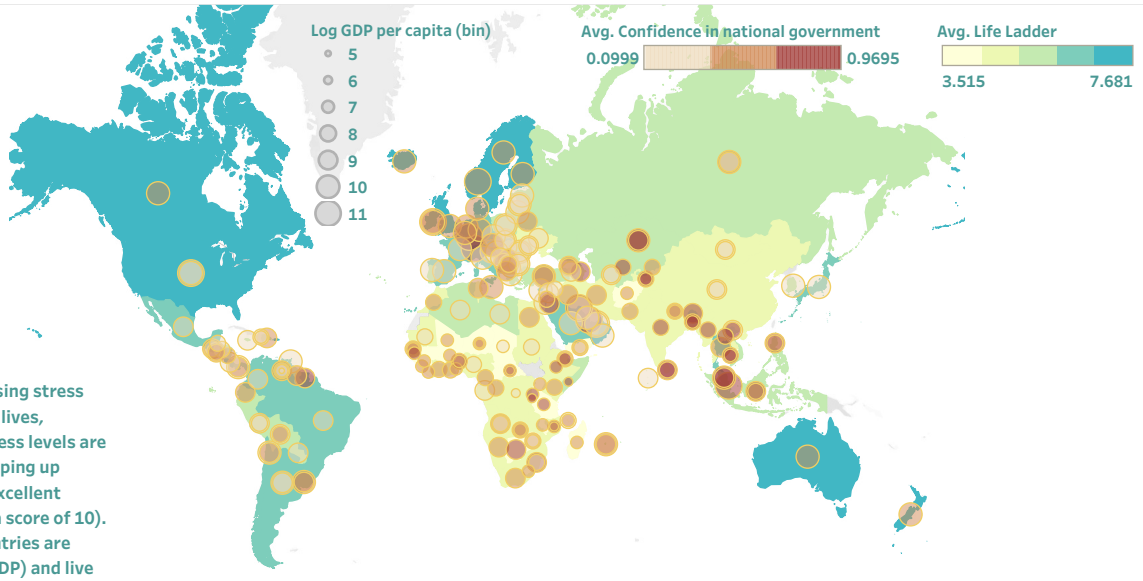
Plots Country name
All

Action (Country name)
Lithuania



😊 While Happiness score is positively correlated with GDP and Confidence in national government for most countries, some relationships are a mixed bag and requires further digging (see Canada, India, Iran, Mongolia).
😊 Annual numbers by country indicate that more countries around the world see incresing Happiness scores!
😊 Those scores also tell unique stories: Greese's Happiness decline between 2008-2014 reflect sovereign debt crisis they fell into after 2008, Ukraine's scores dipped in 2014 after Russia's invasion of Crimea, Lebanon's crippling crisis drove already low Happines scores to the grownd...

Life Ladder, GDP and Confidence in National Government Scores Arround the World



Conclusions:

😊 Despite increasing stress levels in our daily lives, perceived Happiness levels are continuously creaping up towards a most excellent conceivable life (a score of 10).
😊 Wealthier countries are happier (higher GDP) and live longer (both factors closely linked, but the relationship goes most likely both ways: happier people live longer, but also, those who live longer are happier).
😊 Many wealthy countries score very low on the Confidence in national government, while many poor seem to trust their g..

Limitations:

The dataset is not complete: not all countries were surveyed each year, some data from surveyed countries is missing. The list of things affecting happiness is obviously not extensive and could include a number of other factors.

Next steps:

😊 Look closer at additional factors.
😊 Dig deeper into Happiness correlation with Confidence in national governments. Is it regional? Driven by culture? Political system?
😊 Develop a prediction model.