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WEEK 3 – MEASURABLE CRITERIA OF LIVABILITY

Livability

A livable city is a city where people like to and can afford to live. Criteria for livability include: safety, income possibilities, living options, climate, culture, private and public transportation, equality and inclusion, medical care, and city governance. Persons of different age and different background place varying weighting factors on each of those criteria. In the related surveys (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World's_most_livable_cities), cities in Europe, Canada and Oceania have occupied top positions for many years.

More information about Livability can also be found in the following source:

- Giap, T. K., Woo, W. T., Tan, K. Y., Low, L. and Ee, L. G. A. (2012) *Ranking the Livability of the World's Major Cities*. Singapore: World Scientific Pub.
- Wikipedia. *World's most livable cities*. [online]
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World's_most_liveable_cities> [accessed at 1 July 2015]

Intergovernmental organizations

An intergovernmental organization (or international governmental organization; IGO) is an organization composed primarily of sovereign states (referred to as *member states*), or of other intergovernmental organizations. Intergovernmental organizations are often called international organizations, although that term may also include international such as international nonprofit organizations or multinational corporations.

Intergovernmental organizations are an important aspect of public international law. IGOs are established by treaty that acts as a charter creating the group. Treaties are formed when lawful representatives (governments) of several states go through a ratification process, providing the IGO with an international legal personality.

Intergovernmental organizations in a legal sense should be distinguished from simple groupings or coalitions of states, such as the G8 or the Quartet. Such groups or associations have not been founded by a constituent document and exist only as task groups.

Intergovernmental organizations must also be distinguished from treaties. Many treaties (such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade before the establishment of the World Trade Organization) do not establish an organization and instead rely purely on the parties for their administration becoming legally recognized as an *ad hoc* commission. Other treaties have established an administrative apparatus which was not deemed to have been granted international legal personality.

Wikipedia. *Intergovernmental organization*. [online]
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intergovernmental_organization> [accessed at 7 July 2015]

Quality of Life Survey (Mercer)

The Quality of Life Survey of Mercer is one of the best-known contemporary livability rankings. The survey exists out of 39 criteria, among others: safety, education, hygiene, health care, culture, environment, recreation, political-economic stability and public transportation. The audience of the 'Quality of Life Survey' are expatriate business elite (S. Cairns, 2015).

Most Livable City Index (Monocle)

The Most Livable City Index of Monocle is one of the best-known contemporary livability rankings. Criteria in this survey are safety/crime, international connectivity, climate/sunshine, quality of architecture, public transportation, tolerance, environmental issues and access to nature, urban design, business conditions, pro-active policy developments and medical care. The audience of the 'Most Livable City Index' are the global creative middle class (S. Cairns, 2015).

Global Livability Survey (EIU)

The 'Global Livability Survey' of the Economist Intelligence Unit is one of the best-known contemporary livability rankings. Criteria in this survey include: availability of goods and services, low personal risk, and an effective infrastructure. The ranking provides scores for lifestyle challenges in 140 cities worldwide. The audience of the 'Global Livability Survey' are policy and business communities (S. Cairns, 2015).

Critics: EIU does not take into account the cost of living as a factor in 'livability'.

Better Life Index (OECD)

The 'Better Life Index' of OECD is one of the best-known contemporary livability rankings. The OECD states that there is more to life than the cold numbers of GDP and economic statistics. This Index allows to compare well-being across over 30 countries worldwide, based on 11 topics the OECD has identified as essential, spanning material living conditions and quality of life. The audience of the 'Better Life Index' are the government, business and civil society (S. Cairns, 2015).

Human Development Index (OECD)

The 'Human Development Index' of OECD is one of the best-known contemporary livability rankings. A criteria of this index is among others the life expectancy at birth. The HDI als measures the education index (mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling) and the standard of living (GNI per capita). The audience of the 'Human Development Index' are the government, business and civil society (S. Cairns, 2015).