**HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD (SUICIDE AS THE OPPOSITE CONCEPT OF HAPPINESS)**

**Happiness** is that feeling that comes over you when you know life is good and you can't help but smile. It's the opposite of sadness. Happiness is a sense of well-being, joy, or contentment. When people are successful, or safe, or lucky, they feel happiness. This is just the definition.

Leading experts around the world across fields – economics, psychology, survey analysis, national statistics, health, public policy and more – describe how measurements of well-being can be used effectively to assess the progress of nations. The reports review the state of happiness in the world today and show how the new science of happiness explains personal and national variations in happiness.

In this project we try to investigate the difference in happiness between twenty the most developed countries in the world and the dynamics of happiness change during some years (2012 – 2017) in the same countries.

One of the branches of our research was analysis of the **suicides** in the same twenty countries. Why not? After all, suicide can apparently be regarded as the opposite concept of happiness.

**Sources:**

1. World Happiness Report 2012, World Happiness Report 2013, World Happiness Report 2015, World Happiness Report 2016, World Happiness Report 2017, World Happiness Report 2018
2. World Population Review, 2015; World Population, 2016; Review World Population Review, 2019
3. List of countries by suicide rate – Wikipedia, 2016
4. ["Suicide rates, age standardized - Data by WHO Region"](http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.MHSUICIDEASDRREGv?lang=en). [WHO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WHO) (archived on 17 Jan 2018). 2015. [Archived](https://web.archive.org/web/20180117104117/http:/apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.MHSUICIDEASDRREGv?lang=en) from the original on 17 January 2018. Retrieved 13 April 2017.

**Results and conclusions** (surveys asking people about happiness do measure subjective well-being with reasonable accuracy)**:**

There is not too big difference in happiness index across twenty the most developed countries in the world. According to fig.1 Nordic countries have the top ranking: Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, the Norway and Denmark have the highest scores (all with average above 7).

Richer countries tend to have higher average happiness levels; and across time, most countries that have experienced sustained economic growth have seen increasing happiness level (fig.2).

Suicide rates between countries can result in statistically unsound conclusions about [suicidal behavior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicidal_behavior) in different countries. In much of the world, suicide is condemned for religious or cultural reasons. In some countries, suicidal behavior is a criminal offence punishable by law. Suicide is therefore often a secretive act surrounded by taboo, and may be unrecognized, misclassified or deliberately hidden in official records of death. That is why it was really interesting to see suicide level in the same twenty rich countries with high level of happiness index. The results do not demonstrate clear relationship between happiness and suicide. At the same time we can see that most countries listed below report a higher male suicide rate, there are about 3 male suicides out of 4, or a factor of 3:1 (for example, in the United States was 3.36 in 2015, and 3.53 in 2016). It is illustrated very well in fig.3.

Per the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 2.5 million deaths are caused by alcohol every year. ... As of 2014, the global average of alcohol consumption is approximately 6.2 liters per person per year. Each of the top twenty countries for per capita alcohol consumption surpass the global average. Our results do not establish any relationship between happiness and alcohol consumption among twenty developed countries. At the same time we can make a clear conclusion that alcohol consumption is a cause of increasing number of suicide in men (coefficient of determination (r-squared) equals 0.863732829587204), fig.4.