



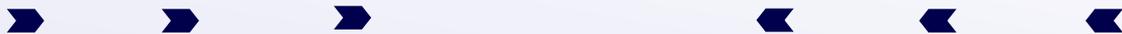
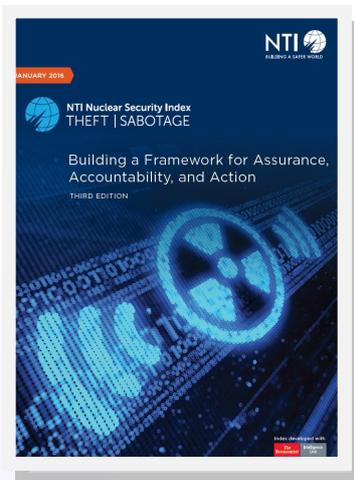
BELARUS.

INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

March 2016

According to the **NTI Nuclear Security Index**, Belarus is among the safest countries of the world. The country holds **8th** position of the rating. Only Australia, Switzerland, Canada, Poland, Belgium, Germany and Norway outrank Belarus. Russia and Kazakhstan rank 18th and 17th respectively.

The NTI Index assesses the nuclear security conditions of states with respect to the protection of nuclear facilities against nuclear materials thefts and sabotage.



The Armed Forces of Belarus ranked **49th** out of 126 countries featured in the world ranking of the armed forces created by **Global Firepower**.

The USA, Russia and China are the leaders of the ranking. Ukraine takes 30th place, Uzbekistan – 48th, Kazakhstan – 53rd, Azerbaijan – 60th, Georgia – 80th, Turkmenistan – 86th, Armenia – 94th, Kyrgyzstan – 110th, Tajikistan – 112th.

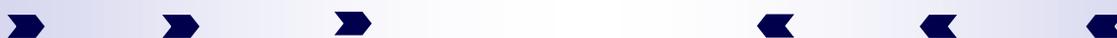
As the authors note, the GFP ranking is as objective as possible. The ranking does not rely only on the total number of weapons available to any one country. Current economic condition, geographical factors, natural resources, local industry also influence the final ranking. Land-locked nations are not penalized for lack of navy. Nuclear stockpiles are not taken into account but nuclear powers receive a bonus.



According to the **European Cities and Regions of the Future 2016-2017 ranking** compiled by **fDi Intelligence** resource (belongs to the Financial Times group), Minsk is inside the top 10 most attractive European cities for foreign investors.

European Cities and Regions of the Future 2016-2017 ranking is an effective analysis of European cities for business and investment development. The ranking was compiled according to the assessment and analysis, made by the leading experts of fDi Magazine, of the following aspects: economic strength, human resources, cost of doing business, quality of life, quality of infrastructure, ease of doing business, FDI strategy. The best city was determined in the overall ranking, as well as each city participated in its category (in terms of the number of people).

The capital of Belarus takes **2nd place** in “**Top 10 Major European Cities of the Future – Cost Effectiveness**” and **10th place** in “**Top 10 Major European Cities of the Future – FDI Strategy**”. Kiev heads the list in the first category. Minsk is followed by Bucharest, St.Petersburg, Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Ankara, Moscow and Athens. In the second category Minsk is the 10th after Barcelona, London, Stockholm, Dublin, Amsterdam, Vienna, Milan, Warsaw and Budapest.



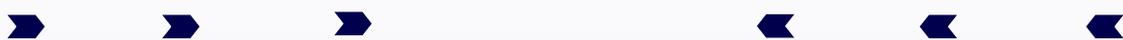
In March 2016 the **Eurasian Development Bank** in its report “**CIS Macromonitor**” published the data on the macroeconomic development of the CIS member states, regarding the results of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016.

Positive trends in the economy of Belarus was observed in the following spheres.

1. By the end of 2015 only Belarus and Uzbekistan enjoyed a budget surplus.
2. Financial status of Belarus in 2015 has improved in comparison with 2014.
3. Inflation in Belarus continued to decline in the 4th quarter of 2015.
4. A high degree of stability of the Belarusian ruble contributed to the slow growth of price at the end of 2015.
5. Gradual price deceleration in Belarus is expected during the 2nd quarter of 2016.
6. It is expected that the annual inflation rate in Belarus will be stabilized by mid-2016.

According to the **SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries 2016**, developed by the **OECD** in partnership with the **European Commission**, the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** and the **European Training Foundation**, quality of the Belarusian state policy in the sphere of support of small and medium-sized business conforms to the average level. However, Belarus established a lead over the Eastern Partnership countries on a number of indicators :

1. entrepreneurial learning in higher education – 3 points (the highest rate);
2. good practice in entrepreneurial learning in higher education – 2,5 points (the highest rate, along with Moldova)
3. innovation – 2,91 points (the highest rate, along with Armenia);
4. government institutional support services for innovative SMEs – 3,61 points (the highest rate);
5. government financial support services for innovative SMEs – 3,51 points (the 2nd place after Azerbaijan (3,87 points);
6. integration of SMEs into global value chains – 1,96 points (the highest rate).



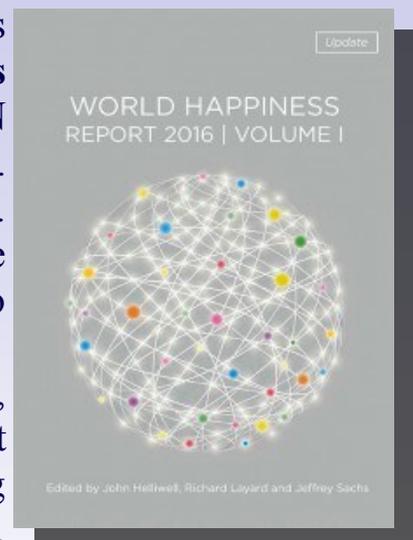
According to the analytical report of the Canadian company **SecDev Corp**, Belarus is inside the top 3 countries with the fastest internet connection speed (1 Gbit/s). Superfast access to the network is also available to internet users of the USA and Sweden. Canada takes 4th place with a speed of 940 Mbit/s.

As noted by the Canadian specialists, in most countries internet users can rely on the classic internet connection speed (100 Mbit/s). In Europe the maximum speed is about 600 Mbit/s (Poland).

Armenia, Slovenia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have the lowest speed of the internet connection (40 Mbit/s, 15 Mbit/s, 1 Mbit/s and 0,5 Mbit/s respectively).

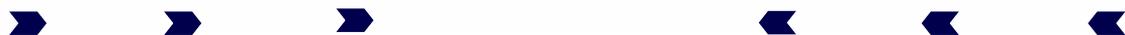
The leadership of Belarus in this field is explained by massive use of Ethernet and xPON technologies.

Belarus takes **61st** place out of 157 countries featured in the ranking of the **World Happiness Report 2016** annually compiled by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**. Denmark is named the world's happiest country. Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden also are in the top 10.



Russia ranks 56th, Kazakhstan takes 54th place, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia hold 85th and 121st positions respectively. Uzbekistan is a leader among the countries of the post-Soviet region (49th place). Benin, Afghanistan, Togo, Syria and Burundi are at the bottom of the ranking.

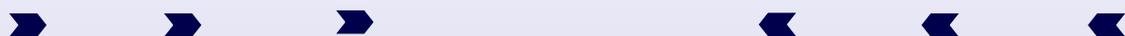
The World Happiness Report, originally released in 2012 ahead of the UN high-level meeting on Happiness and Well-being, compares the states according to the following criteria: GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity, the level of social support, life expectancy at birth, the level of personal freedom, generosity and philanthropy level, perception of corruption, reasons for joy and points of concern.



According to the **2015 Global Hunger Index** published on the web site of the **International Food Policy Research Institute**, Belarus has one of the lowest levels of “hunger index”.



The Global Hunger Index assesses countries on a 100-point scale. Each country receives a score between 0 and 100 (0 is the best and 100 is the worst). The “hunger index” of Belarus is less than 5. In Russia, Kazakhstan and Georgia this index equals 6.6, 8.0 and 8.5 respectively.

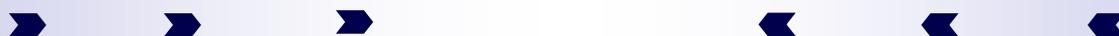


As noted by **Numbeo** (the world's largest database of user contributed data about cities and countries worldwide), in 2015 Minsk took **13th** place in the **Quality of Life Index 2016** in the category “**Cities of Eastern Europe**”, leaving behind Kiev (15th), St. Petersburg (16th) and Moscow (17th). Gdansk (Poland) ranked 1st in the ranking.

Every two years the researchers of **Yale** and **Columbia Universities** create the **Environmental Performance Index**, considering the measures taken by countries to protect the ecosystem and human health. Belarus lies in **35th** place of this ranking with 82.3 points.

Belarus received the highest number of points on the following indicators: “climate and energy” (94.87) and “agriculture” (98.18). Russia occupies 32nd place (83.52), Kazakhstan holds 69th position (73.29).

Finland (90.68), Iceland (90.51) and Sweden (90.43) top the list.



According to the ranking of **Trivago** (the world’s largest hotel metasearch), Minsk is in the top 50 cities with the best hotels. Minsk holds **49th** position between Porto (Portugal) and Chicago (the USA). Göreme (Turkey) won the 1st place of the ranking. The 2nd and 3rd places are taken by Matera and San Gimignano (Italy). The top 10 also includes Gramado (Brazil), Hanoi (Vietnam), Lecce (Italy), Siem Reap (Cambodia), Killarney (Ireland), Sorrento (Italy) and Funchal (Portugal).



The results of the ranking are based on more than 200 million comments of tourists from 250 booking sites. Comfort and cleanliness of rooms, friendly staff and quality of food are the core indicators of the ranking .



According to the latest **Ranking Web of World Repositories**, electronic library of the BSU is in the top 100 best university libraries in the world ranking and the 2nd among the libraries of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The authors of the ranking analyzed over 2000 electronic resources.

The ranking methodology includes assessment of the quantity of documents added to the electronic library, external links, file sizes as well as the weight of scientific publications according to Google Scholar data.