

	<p>O H R I D INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC STRATEGIES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS</p>	
<p>OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs</p>		<p>www.oi.org.mk</p>
<p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</p>		<p>+389 2 3 22 44 57</p>
<p>24 FEBRUARY 2009</p>		<p>info@oi.org.mk</p>

Report: Property rights linked to economic security

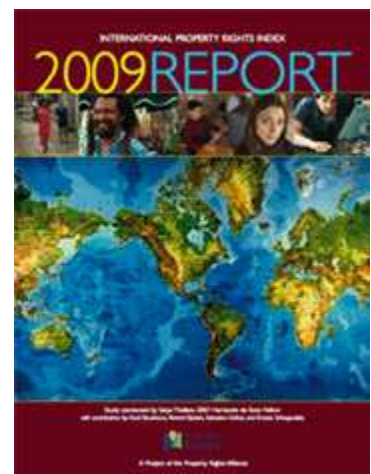
International Property Right Index 2009

Index of 115 countries measures connection between private property rights and wealth

Skopje, 24th of February, the OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs announces the newest global International Property Right Index. In the study released today, data shows that countries that protect the physical and intellectual property of their people enjoy nearly nine times higher GDP per capita than countries ranking lowest in property rights protections. The OHRID Institute as partner organization of the Property Right Alliance has the honor to announce the 2009 International Property Rights Index (IPRI). The International Property Right Index compares the protections of physical and intellectual property to economic stability in 115 countries representing 96 per cent of the world's GDP.

With regard to Republic of Macedonia the protection of property rights continues to be a challenge. Republic of Macedonia in the International Property Right Index takes the 97th place, which is the same as in 2008.

According to the IPRI ranking Republic of Macedonia has 3.8 score which is the same score as in 2008. The 2009 IPRI comprises a total of ten variables, which are divided into the three main components: Legal and Political Environment (LP), Physical Property Rights (PPR), and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Despite a large number of property rights related variables considered by the authors, the final IPRI study focuses only on core factors that directly relate to the strength and protection of private property rights. According to the core components of the International Property Right Index in the ranking of Legal and Political Environment (LP) Republic of Macedonia has 3.8 score which is for one percent bigger of the IPRI 2008 (3.7) and it's on the 83rd place. In terms of the Physical Property Rights (PPR) score Republic of Macedonia has 4.6 which is less than the score (4.9) in 2008, namely it's on the 94th place out from 115. And in the Intellectual Property Rights variable (IPR), Macedonia has 2.9 which is one percent more than in 2008 IPR Index or it is on the 104th place.



	<p>O H R I D I N S T I T U T E FOR ECONOMIC STRATEGIES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS</p>	
<p>OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs</p>		<p>www.oi.org.mk</p>
<p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</p>		<p>+389 2 3 22 44 57</p>
<p>24 FEBRUARY 2009</p>		<p>info@oi.org.mk</p>

From the core components of the Index it can be seen that Republic of Macedonia is neither in the top 10 countries nor in the bottom 10 countries of the 115 listed in the Property Right Index 2009. From the country of the region Republic of Macedonia is ranked before Serbia (100), Albania (104), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (108). Croatia is ranked 60, whether Bulgaria 59th which make them ranked 30 places higher than Macedonia.

The leader country is Finland, is a third year in a row country leader, with an increased score from the previous two years of 8.7 out of the possible 10. Both in 2008 and in 2007 according to the rescaled scoring (although in the original 2007 report, Finland scored 7.9 and was ranked 11) Finland scored 8.6 resulting in a rank of 1. Thus, the Scandinavian country takes the honor of being ranked 1 for the past three consecutive years (taking into consideration the rescaled scoring of the 2007 scoring for Finland). With a score of 8.5, the second position is occupied by Denmark and Netherlands this year. While the second position reflects an improved scoring as compared to 2008 and 2007, these two countries have managed to retain their position from the last two years. This year's top ten countries are rounded up with Australia and Switzerland (both with a score of 8.2), and Austria, Iceland and Singapore (all with a score of 8.1). Of these countries, Australia moved up to rank 8 in 2009 from rank 11 in 2008 followed by Austria and Singapore both ranked 13 in 2008 to 10 in 2009 with an improved score.

At the bottom end of the ladder of the ranking are Albania (3.5), Nigeria (3.5), Paraguay(3.5), Azerbaijan (3.4), Bosnia-Herzegovina (3.3), Chad (3.2), Venezuela (3.2), Guyana (3.2), Burundi (3.2), Zimbabwe (3.2), Angola (2.8) and Bangladesh scoring the lowest of the country set once again with a score of 2.5 which the lowest it has scored in the past three years (2.9 in 2008 and 2.6 in 2007).

The OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs and 53 organizations from six continents joined the Property Rights Alliance in Washington, DC and its Hernando de Soto Fellowship program to disseminate the report.

As market freedom, the freedom of entrepreneurial activity, as well as property rights are fundamental values outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia. The Index seeks to assist underperforming countries, in this case like Macedonia to develop robust economies through an emphasis on sound property law. The OHRID Institute with the International Property Right Index will provide the public, researchers and policymakers, from Republic of Macedonia, with a tool for comparative analysis and future research on property rights.

The Mission of OHRID Institute is to provide the Macedonian public and political institutions with alternative perspectives on economic and foreign policy issues for achieving free and prosperous society. The work of the OHRID Institute is based on the universal ideals of democracy, individual responsibility, free markets and entrepreneurship.