

CURRENT LEVEL OF NETWORK READINESS OF THE UKRAINIAN ECONOMY

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***Abstract:** The paper analyzes the position and indicators of Ukraine in the international ranking of network readiness. A comparison of network readiness indicators with the leading countries in the rating demonstrated that despite the high digital literacy of the population, Ukraine needs to further strengthen digital reforms, improve government regulation and more actively introduce technologies into the business environment.*

Key words: digital economy, ICT, Network Readiness Index.

In the last decade, information and communication technologies are increasingly being introduced into all spheres of life, which leads to the transformation of society and the formation of a digital economy. In addition to the fact that the digital economy actively absorbs and uses information technologies, it is also the engine of innovation, competitiveness and economic development [1, 17]. The World Bank document states that the digital economy is built on a foundation that ensures economic and social transformations, including increased labor productivity, lower production costs, the creation of new jobs, and the reduction of poverty and social inequality [2].

In general, the digital economy is the basis for the development of countries thanks to the capabilities of information and communication technologies. The most objective information about their condition can be obtained by analyzing international rankings and Ukraine's position in them. Among them, the most authoritative include the Network Readiness Index (NRI). The annual ranking of countries by level of network readiness characterizes the state of information and communication technologies and the readiness of the national economy for their implementation and development. The structure of the index and the assessment of its components are of practical importance.

Table 1 – Top 5 performers in NRI 2024

Country	NRI rank	NRI score	Technology	People	Governance	Impact
United States of America	1	78.96	1	2	9	11
Singapore	2	76.94	6	3	8	5
Finland	3	75.76	11	9	4	1
Sweden	4	74.99	7	15	6	2
Republic of Korea	5	74.85	10	1	22	13

Source: based on data [3, 29].

For the third consecutive year, the United States has maintained its leading position in the Network Readiness Index (NRI), with Singapore consistently ranking second. Finland has retained its third-place standing, while Sweden has advanced to fourth position. Notably, the Republic of Korea has ascended to fifth place, reflecting sustained progress in network readiness and digital transformation (Table 1).

Ukraine in 2024 ranked 43rd among 133 countries with a total score of 55.3, which is significantly lower than the leaders (Table 2).

Table 2 – Ukraine's rank in the Network Readiness ranking, 2024

	Rank (Out of 133)	Score
Network Readiness Index	43	55.32
A. Technology	44	48.96

Access	69	65.49
Content	41	37.69
Future Technologies	40	43.71
B. People	28	51.83
Individuals	4	77.28
Businesses	69	34.67
Governments	57	43.53
C. Governance	56	63.14
Trust	51	62.15
Regulation	78	64.48
Inclusion	61	62.78
D. Impact	51	57.34
Economy	16	52.82
Quality of Life	90	59.28
SDG Contribution	89	59.93

Source: based on data [3, 206].

Data analysis shows that Ukraine demonstrates high digital literacy among the population (4 rank, 77.28 points), which is an important factor in the development of the digital economy. However, there are significant barriers to the integration of digital technologies in business and government, which are holding back overall progress. The weakest in 2024 were the country's positions in the social sphere and achieving sustainable development goals under the influence of the network economy (90 rank and 89 rank, respectively). A comparison of the network readiness indicators of the leading countries in the rating demonstrated that Ukraine needs to further strengthen digital reforms, improve government regulation and more actively introduce technologies into the business environment.

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