# Network Readiness Index 2023

Iceland

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2023 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 134 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 58 variables.
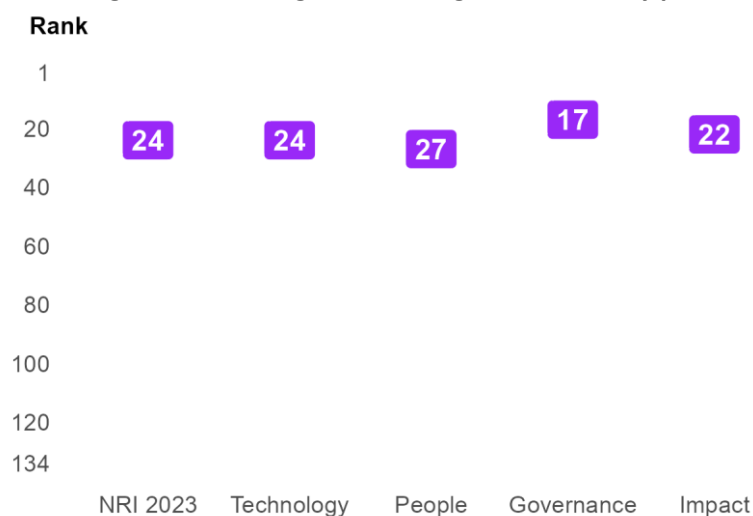
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model
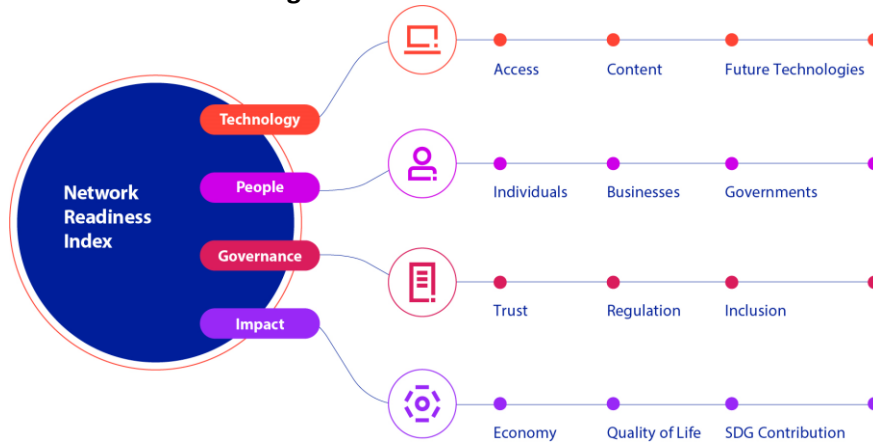
Global NRI position of Iceland

Iceland ranks 24th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns People.

Figure 2: Iceland global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Iceland relate to Quality of Life, Content and Trust, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the SDG Contribution, Access and Individuals sub-pillars.

Table 1: Iceland rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Quality of Life	2	Economy	29
Content	10	Future Technologies	33
Trust	12	Regulation	34
Inclusion	13	SDG Contribution	43
Businesses	20	Access	61
Governments	24	Individuals	73

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Iceland in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Iceland is slightly below the trend line, which suggests that its network readiness is more or less in line with what would be expected given its income level.

Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)
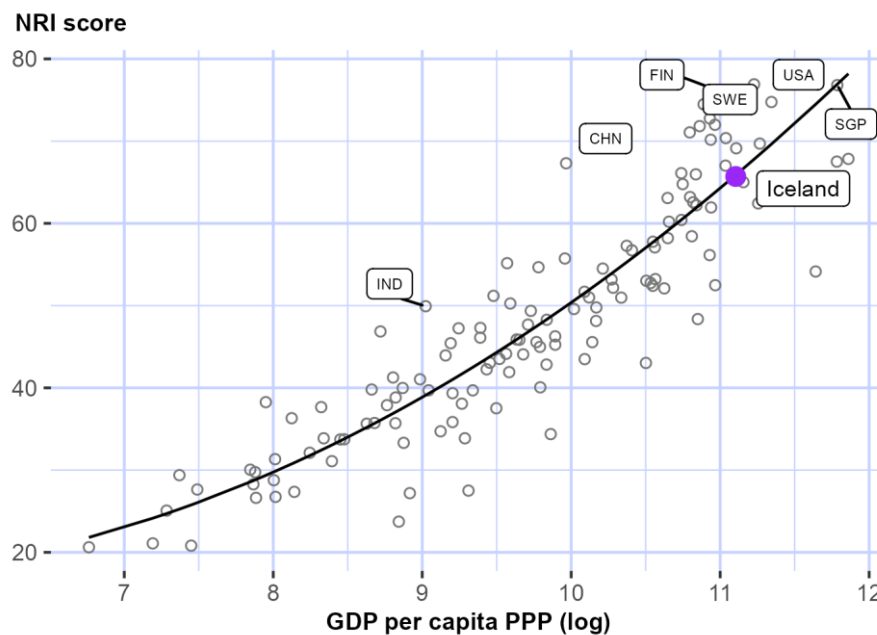
Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Iceland belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is United States of America (USA). The top performer of its region-Europe-is Finland (FIN).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries
Iceland is ranked 23rd in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in three of the four pillars: NRI, Technology, Governance and Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Businesses, Trust, Inclusion and Quality of Life.

Europe
Iceland is ranked 16th within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in eight of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Inclusion, Economy and Quality of Life.

Figure 4: Performance of Iceland against its income group and region, overall and by pillar
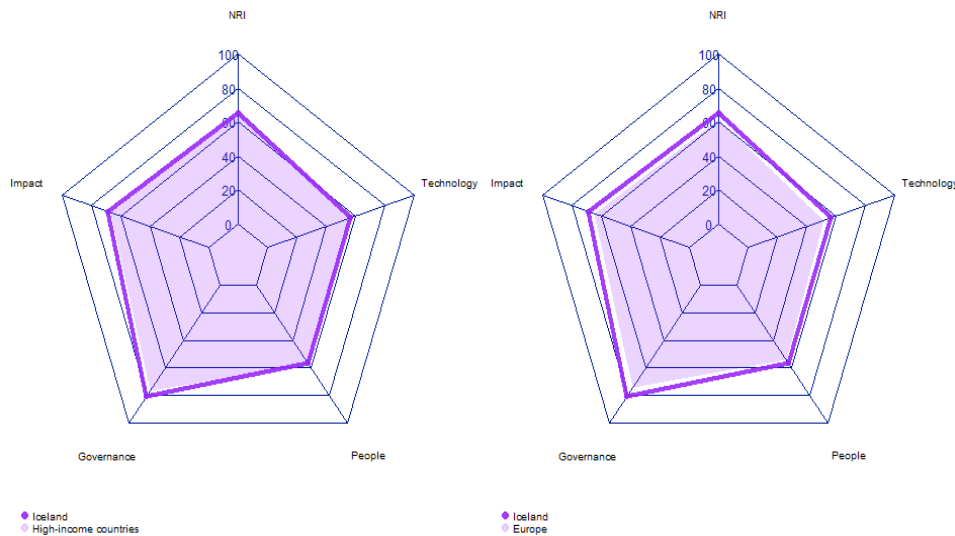

Table 2: Iceland scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Iceland	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	65.70	64.07	61.25
Technology	56.36	55.76	51.90
People	56.62	56.99	54.16
Governance	81.02	76.81	74.33
Impact	68.80	66.73	64.61

Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Iceland performs particularly well include 1.2.2 Internet domain registrations, 4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity, and 4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 4.1.4 Domestic market size, and 1.2.4 AI scientific publications.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Iceland

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	1	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	1	1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	108
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	1	1.2.4 AI scientific publications	115
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	4	4.1.4 Domestic market size	128
4.2.1 Happiness	4	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	133
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	6		
4.1.2 High-tech exports	7		
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	7		
4.2.3 Income inequality	8		
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	9		
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	9		

Note: For the full list of strengths and weaknesses, see At-A-Glance table.

NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Iceland

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 24 (out of 134)   Score: 65.70

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	24	56.36
1st sub-pillar: Access	61	66.69
2nd sub-pillar: Content	10	56.48
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	33	45.92
B. People pillar	27	56.62
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	73	46.24
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	20	67.16
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	24	56.47

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	17	81.02
1st sub-pillar: Trust	12	84.07
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	34	76.63
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	13	82.35
D. Impact pillar	22	68.80
1st sub-pillar: Economy	29	40.51
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	2	93.45
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	43	72.44

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	24	56.36	
1st sub-pillar: Access	61	66.69	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	26	81.24	
1.1.2 Handset prices	16	79.11	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	108	9.93	○
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	25	99.99	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	105	63.17	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	NA	NA	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	10	56.48	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	13	66.41	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	89	59.02	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	115	0.49	○
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	33	45.92	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	16	78.69	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	24	65.75	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	17	81.02	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	12	84.07	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	10	89.63	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	66	79.45	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	NA	NA	
3.1.4 Internet shopping	11	83.12	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	34	76.63	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	16	84.27	
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	45	87.06	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	23	74.03	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87	66.67	○
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	51	71.14	
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	13	82.35	
3.3.1 E-Participation	17	79.08	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	4	99.45	●
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	33	79.33	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.3 Robot density	29	9.43	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	39	29.79	
B. People pillar	27	56.62	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	73	46.24	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	99	2.16	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	11	82.26	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	22	78.01	
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	19	55.04	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	NA	NA	
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	30	13.73	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	20	67.16	
2.2.1 Firms with website	15	84.42	
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	43	47.76	
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	6	80.54	●
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	106	71.65	
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	12	51.42	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	24	56.47	
2.3.1 Government online services	16	87.48	
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	38	41.18	
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	46	46.93	
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	13	50.30	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	26	71.55	
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	NA	NA	
D. Impact pillar	22	68.80	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	29	40.51	
4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	78	15.97	
4.1.2 High-tech exports	7	60.50	●
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	18	42.44	
4.1.4 Domestic market size	128	29.56	○
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	29	62.21	
4.1.6 ICT services exports	27	32.36	
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	2	93.45	
4.2.1 Happiness	4	94.79	●
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	9	93.39	●
4.2.3 Income inequality	8	92.71	●
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	9	92.92	●
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	43	72.44	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	7	95.84	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	30	60.14	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	1	100.00	●
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	133	6.21	○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	1	100.00	●

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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