

Sweden tops English-language skills ranking

Written by Johan Nylander

Wednesday, 06 November 2013 04:14 - Last Updated Wednesday, 06 November 2013 04:36



The English-language skills of Sweden's adult population is the best in the world, among non-native English speakers, according to new rankings of 60 countries.

Smaller European countries proved to be the most proficient in English, according to language learning company EF Education First's English Proficiency Index (EF EPI) - the world's most comprehensive ranking of English ability. The analysis showed that better English could help smaller countries to improve their international competitiveness.

"We found that by engaging in a national dialogue about English, stakeholders can help align goals, improve incentives, and focus on teaching English for communication. The economic impact of such a coordinated program is clear", said Dr. Christopher McCormick, Head of EF's Academic Affairs and Research Network.

The annual rankings cover countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North Africa and Latin America where English is not the native language, based on tests taken by 750,000 adults.

EF Education First was established in Sweden in 1965 "with the mission to break down barriers of language, culture, and geography".

Rank Country

- 1 Sweden
- 2 Norway
- 3 Netherlands
- 4 Estonia
- 5 Denmark
- 6 Austria

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- 7 Finland
- 8 Poland
- 9 Hungary
- 10 Slovenia
- 11 Malaysia
- 12 Singapore
- 13 Belgium
- 14 Germany
- 15 Latvia
- 16 Switzerland
- 17 Portugal
- 18 Slovakia
- 19 Argentina
- 20 Czech Republic
- 21 India
- 22 Hong Kong SAR
- 23 Spain
- 24 South Korea
- 25 Indonesia
- 26 Japan
- 27 Ukraine
- 28 Vietnam
- 29 Uruguay
- 30 Sri Lanka
- 31 Russia
- 32 Italy
- 33 Taiwan
- 34 China
- 35 France
- 36 United Arab Emirates
- 37 Costa Rica
- 38 Brazil
- 39 Peru
- 40 Mexico
- 41 Turkey
- 42 Iran
- 43 Egypt
- 44 Chile
- 45 Morocco
- 46 Colombia
- 47 Kuwait
- 48 Ecuador
- 49 Venezuela
- 50 Jordan
- 51 Qatar
- 52 Guatemala

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- 53 El Salvador
- 54 Libya
- 55 Thailand
- 56 Panama
- 57 Kazakhstan
- 58 Algeria
- 59 Saudi Arabia
- 60 Iraq