

Chapter 22

E-Infrastructures for International Cooperation

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ABSTRACT

E-infrastructures are becoming in Europe and in other regions of the world standard platforms to support e-Science and foster virtual research communities. This chapter provides the reader with a comprehensive view of the developments of e-Infrastructures in China, India, Asia-Pacific, Mediterranean, Middle-East, Sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Europe and Latin America and with an outlook on the very important issue of their long term sustainability.

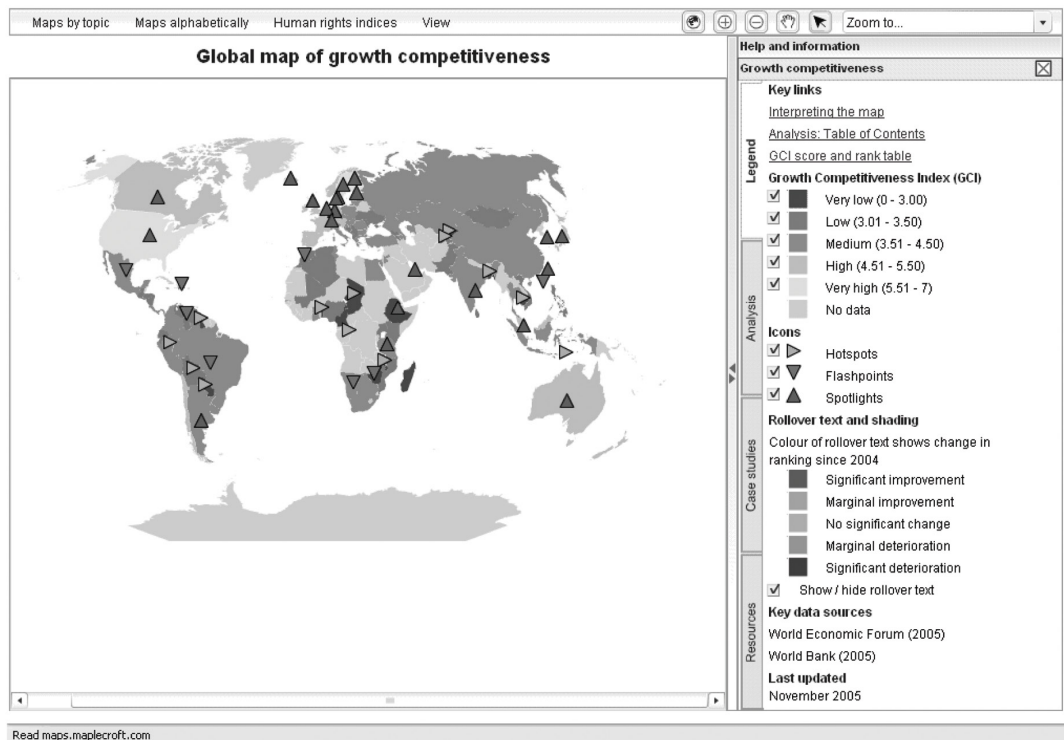
INTRODUCTION: SOME OF THE WORLD “DIVIDES”

Almost 250 years after the publication of the illuministic and equalitarian theories of J. Rousseau, today’s world still suffers from a very uneven distribution of opportunities. Figures 1, 2 and 3 show, respectively, the world maps of growth competitiveness, education attainment, and digital inclusion (Maplecroft, 2008).

Looking at the maps in Figures 1, 2, and 3, two considerations can be highlighted:

First, there is a considerably strong correlation among the three quantities reported: thus several factors contribute in parallel to keep increasing the gap between more advanced and less advanced countries, inducing endemic problems like large-scale immigration, under-development, alienation, and poverty. Along the same reasoning, fighting against more than one problem simultaneously could then help to alleviate the others. As reported by the Education and Training Task Force (ETTF) of the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG ETTF, 2008), country studies carried out both by

Figure 1. Geographical distribution of growth competitiveness in the world



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