# Abstract

Sustainable development research makes use of various indicators for environmental monitoring without really focusing on quality and comparability of these indicators. This paper tries to lay down method of assessment of one of these indicators – the relevance. My method will be used for evaluating the indicators of ECI set – European Common Indicators, ten indicators of the Sustainable Urban Development, established by European Commission in cooperation with European cities.

My method of evaluating the indicators is based on searching the keywords. One set of the keywords was specified for each indicator of ECI set and several sets of the keywords were specified for every indicator's theme.

I collected data to establish three types of relevance - public, scientific and political relevance. Data for the public relevance were searched on World Wide Web by search engine Google, data for the scientific relevance were searched in the Google Scholar database and data for Political Relevance were searched in several official documents related to sustainable development.

Public and scientific relevance were determined as a proportion of number of present keywords for the indicators and for their topics together and number of present keywords for the topics alone. Political relevance was determined as a proportion of number of occurrences of indicators' keywords and number of occurrences of topics' keywords in the documents.

The ECI set of indicators was proved to be substantially heterogeneous. The study has shown that relevance of indicators highly correlates with a range that the indicator covers within the involved topic. The method used appears to be efficient and useful for further research.

The possible weakness of the method is rather subjective assigning of the key words.