

# TAXONOMY.GLOBAL

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GLOBAL CITIZEN HAS DEVELOPED THE WORLD'S FIRST TAXONOMY ON GLOBALISATION. AS SUCH, THE TAXONOMY IS "NEUTRAL" AND CAN BE USED IN MANY DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. THE LOGIC BEHIND THE STRUCTURE OF THE TAXONOMY IS BASED ON A NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL INSIGHTS THAT ARE NOT ONLY SIGNIFICANT FOR SUSTAINABILITY.

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So far, the taxonomy entails approx. 2,300 topics that are structured under the headlines:

- Globalisation
- Actors
- Tools

Within these three broad categories, the taxonomy provides an overview of the most important elements and processes of contemporary globalization.

Under Globalisation the four main categories are:

- Economy
- Social
- Environment
- Demography
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Globalization is not a thing. It is something we do. We globalize our economy. Thereby we also globalize Social and Environmental issues. And we have already globalized ourselves: There are homo sapiens across the globe. This has been the case since our ancestors left the Great Rift Valley in Africa 80,000 years ago.

The Economic, Social, Environmental and Demographic globalization happens for good or bad. We cannot ignore it, but we can try to give the many globalizing processes a direction.

It is certain that we as "Actors" (whether it is in our capacity as workers, academics, grassroots politicians or "citizens"), react to the globalization that is going on. In

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different ways, we wish to influence a globalized world in a certain direction. It can happen consciously or unconsciously.

In any case, the fact is that we, as actors, only affect a globalized world if we - individually and collectively - make use of Tools. With our bare hands we won't go anywhere - of importance. Since the dawn of time, we humans have used tools that over time have become increasingly sophisticated.

The tools we use can be of formal nature, such as legislating via the EU. The tools we use can also be of an informal nature, in the form of specific methods or disciplines, including academic subjects like math and chemistry, as well as occupations such as "engineering".

Global Citizen puts - to trouble the reader with a comment, which is perhaps most relevant for those who are interested in science theory and philosophy - emphasis on a process-interest-process approach, which stands in opposition to the quite widespread (but in our opinion wrong) interest-process-interest approach.

This means that we, at Global Citizen, acknowledge that we find globalization of a number of essential processes that lie *ahead* of the political interests. And that political actions as such are always afterthoughts or "after-actions". Therefore, the political world always starts one step behind.

Consequently, it is also clear that we at Global Citizen do not see the realization of a sustainable world as something that can be achieved through a political "off switch" for the globalized world. Therefore, it is not about globalization *or* sustainability, but about globalization *and* sustainability.

The taxonomy on Globalization as such is "just" a structuring of the many topics and processes that are relevant in order to understand the characteristics of contemporary globalization. However, that is still something, especially if one takes into account the extreme complexity of the topic.

The taxonomy can be used to create an overview, to discover connections and topics you were not aware of. Therefore the taxonomy is also very useful in the effort to maintain a sense of proportion. The issues that take up a lot of space in our consciousness, and in the daily headlines, aren't necessarily very important on a global scale.

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Last but not least, the taxonomy can form the basis for the development of tomorrow's Massive Online Collaboration Platform (MOCP). Here, we will attempt to create a more sustainable world through the three points mentioned earlier: Sharing Knowledge, Building Networks, Generating Solutions.

A lot of people have tried to establish open innovation platforms or what Luis van Ahn calls Massive Open Online Collaboration Platforms. However, the well-functioning platforms remain to be seen. At Global Citizen we are certain that the reason is the absence of a taxonomy.

Without a taxonomy, what often happens is that the more successful the open innovation platforms are, the worse they function. The reason is that a lot of input from a lot of users is forced into too few categories. Without a taxonomy, it is not possible to carry out the preliminary sorting, that is necessary to maintain control.