

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ireland is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, comprising 31 county and city councils.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2018, the **SDG National Implementation Plan** was adopted for the period 2018-2020. It will be the first in a series of Implementation Plans, each of which will serve to integrate the SDGs into national policy. This Plan reflects Ireland's recognition of the importance of sustainable development, and the country's commitment to global cooperation and multilateralism. The Plan includes an ambitious '**2030 Vision**' for Ireland to fully achieve the SDGs.

Ireland's current national Sustainable Development Strategy, **Our Sustainable Future**, is an important component of Ireland's framework for implementing the SDGs, as is Ireland's Foreign Policy, **The Global Island**, which reinforces the commitment to contribute to international peace, security, human rights and sustainable development, and Ireland's Policy for International Development, **One World, One Future**, which sets out a vision of a sustainable and just world.

Many of the measures through which Ireland will achieve the SDGs will take place within the context of **Project Ireland 2040**, which is made up of the **National Planning Framework to 2040 (NPF)** and the **National Development Plan 2018-2027 (NDP)**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment** has overall responsibility for promoting the SDGs and for overseeing their coherent implementation across the government. To prepare the SDG National Implementation Plan as well as the VNR, the Minister established the **National Sustainable Development Unit** within his Department in 2017. In addition, a **Senior Officials' Group (SOG)** on the SDGs, made up of assistant secretaries from all government departments, has been established to provide strategic coordination and to report, as required, to Cabinet. It is assisted by an **SDG Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG)**, again composed of representatives from all government departments.

Also, Ireland has established a national **SDG Stakeholder Forum** to inform further development of the national SDG framework and to provide a mechanism for key stakeholders to be engaged on an ongoing basis in national implementation of the Goals. The Forum is convened and chaired by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The Forum is intended to provide a mechanism for all stakeholders to discuss national implementation and reporting processes, share examples of best practice in implementing the SDGs, discuss challenges to achieving the SDGs, and to be informed of SDG relevant events and processes taking place internationally. It comprises representatives from, among others, NGOs, civil society groups, the private sector, the trade union movement, the agricultural sector, youth, academia, the education sector, government departments, and local authorities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment** was responsible for coordinating the 2018 VNR. The **National Sustainable Development Unit** prepared a first draft, and the **Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG)** a second, based on consultations. A statistical annex accompanies this VNR, based on data provided to the National Sustainable Development Unit by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), using the EU SDG indicator set.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19382Ireland_Voluntary_National_Review_2018.pdf (2018)

1.3 MONITORING

The identification and management of national data needed to meet Ireland's SDG reporting requirements will be undertaken by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, in consultation with the SDG Interdepartmental Working Group.

In addition to Ireland's formal periodic SDG reporting, the CSO and Ireland's National Mapping Agency, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi), have launched a website for exploring, downloading and combining publicly available national SDG data using geographic information systems. An innovative feature of the site is the combination of statistics and geography to create a set of 'Map Layers'. These can be used by both users and developers, and allow the public to create their own geospatial SDG visualization.

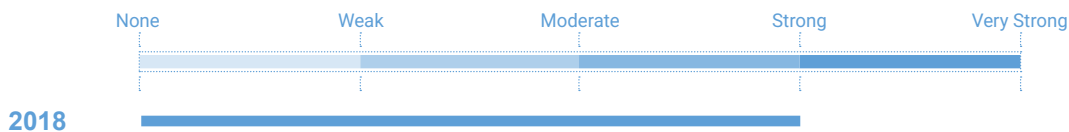
In developing the SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, Ireland has mapped its sectoral policies against the 17 SDGs and all 169 related targets, in order to identify which national policies are most relevant to which SDGs and their associated targets, and the extent of interlinkages between different national policies which can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The resulting **SDG Policy Map**, which is publicly available, is aimed at enhancing the ability of stakeholders to track Ireland's implementation of specific SDGs and associated targets, and to assess Ireland's response to the SDGs for potential policy gaps. The Policy Map is intended to be a living document and will be updated on an ongoing basis. A copy of the latest version was included in the annex of the 2018 VNR.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

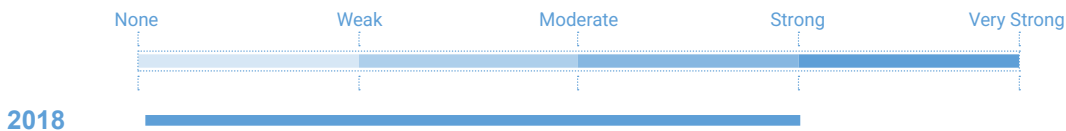
As stated in the 2018 VNR, increasing local government engagement with the SDGs is an important task during the lifetime of the SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020. Local governments' representatives participate in the **SDG Stakeholder Forum**.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2018 VNR contains some references to LRGs, and acknowledges that they have "a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to deliver the SDGs at the local and community level" (see VNR, 2018, p. 17). However, there are no mentions of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2014, Ireland saw particularly dramatic changes through a **territorial reform**, resulting in 114 councils being reorganized into 31 local governments and the country's eight regional authorities being abolished. Local authorities were given an expanded role in economic development (but water was recentralized).³

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| 5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments | | 23.9 (2019) |
| 6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%) | Urban | - |
| | Rural | - |
| 6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%) | Urban | 89 (2020) |
| | Rural | 73 (2020) |
| 11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%) | | - |
| 11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%) | | 88 (2015, Dublin) |
| 11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted) | | 8.0 (2016) |
| 11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%) | | 100 (2017) |

3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

4. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/irl>