

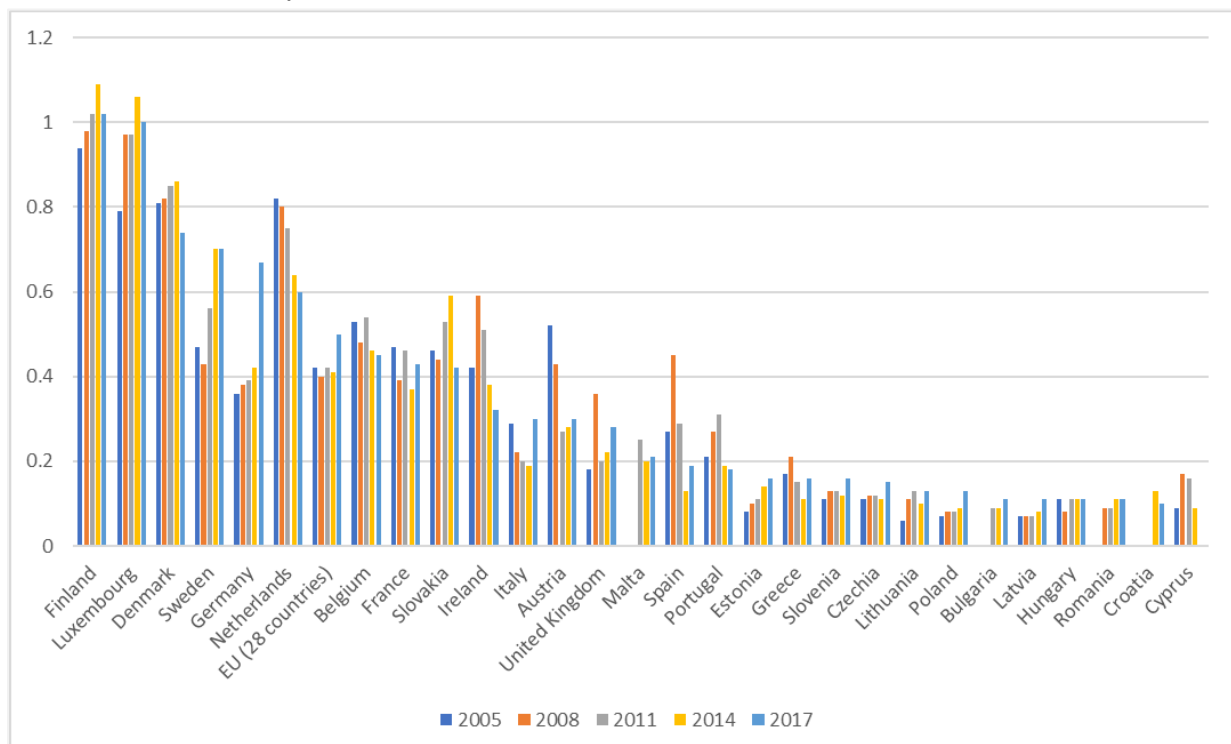
Global Issues

Table 10.1: Sustainable Progress Index, EU-15 2019

Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	71.45	1
Denmark	66.60	2
Finland	62.11	3
Netherlands	57.37	4
Austria	57.14	5
Germany	53.42	6
United Kingdom	50.71	7
Belgium	49.39	8
France	48.32	9
Luxembourg	46.06	10
Ireland	45.91	11
Portugal	38.38	12
Italy	37.66	13
Spain	37.15	14
Greece	28.12	15

Source: Clark, C and Kavanagh, C (2019): Measuring Ireland’s Progress, Sustainable Progress Index 2019, *Social Justice Ireland*

Chart 10.1: Overseas Development Assistance as % GDP, EU-28 2008-2017



Source: Eurostat, [sdg_17_10]

Global Issues

Progress towards the SDGs



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an ambitious, comprehensive plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. The goal of the SDGs is to change the perspective of public policy. The composite Sustainable Progress Index (SPI), presented in Table 10.1 and taken from *Social Justice Ireland's* Sustainable Progress Index 2019 publication, provides a simple report card to track Ireland's overall performance on the SDGs compared to its EU-15 peers: countries that have experienced similar levels of development. Sweden, Finland and Denmark top the rankings. Ireland's overall ranking is 11.

Directly focusing on social and environmental goals, rather than waiting for economic growth to trickle down and produce desirable outcomes, is what underpins the SDGs. It is also what makes them revolutionary. The SDGs are a rejection of the paradigm of one way causality of economic growth leading to everything else being dealt with. Clearly the economy and economic growth are important, but they exist in a context, and economic growth is as much an effect of social progress as a potential contributor to social progress.

We are also at a stage in human history where promoting an economic growth model based on private profits and ignoring the environmental costs of human actions can no longer be accepted. A disposable society that uses up and discards people and resources with the single goal of ensuring the continuation of the process of capital accumulation is not sustainable, socially or environmentally.

Overseas Development Assistance

In the provision of Overseas Development Assistance, Finland has consistently been best in class providing close to or more than 1% of

its Gross National Income (GNI) while the EU-28 average was between 0.4% and 0.5% (Chart 10.1). While below the EU-28 average, Ireland has been making progress in this regard in recent years, reaching 0.32% of GNI in 2017. In our Budget 2019 Analysis, *Social Justice Ireland* welcomed a further increase in ODA spending to 0.39% of projected GNI* as a firm step in the right direction. We were also pleased to welcome the publication of 'A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development', which outlines the Government's commitment to reaching the UN target of allocating 0.7% of our GNI to official development assistance by 2030. The reiteration of the commitment to Ireland's ODA target is welcome, and Government is to be commended for setting a date by which it will meet this target.

However, in order to maximise the impact of our Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) programme and to assist developing countries in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals we urge Government to be ambitious and frontload investment between now and 2025. This would bring our ODA commitment in line with Global Ireland, the strategy for doubling the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint and influence by 2025.

Policy Priorities

- Develop key performance indicators for each of the Sustainable Development Goal as part of a review of the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs.
- Provide funding to the CSO to collate comprehensive datasets on Ireland's progress on each of the SDGs.
- Frontload ODA investment between now and 2025 to bring our commitment in line with the Global Ireland strategy.