



The Sustainable Progress Index 2021

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[#SustainableProgress2021](#) [#SDGs](#)

A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

Overview

- Introduction: Ideology, Interests and Evidence-Based Policy
- Key Indicators for Building a New Social Contract
 - A Vibrant Economy
 - Decent Services and Infrastructure
 - Just Taxation
 - Good Governance
 - Sustainability
- The Sustainable Progress Index 2021
- Conclusions and Policy Considerations

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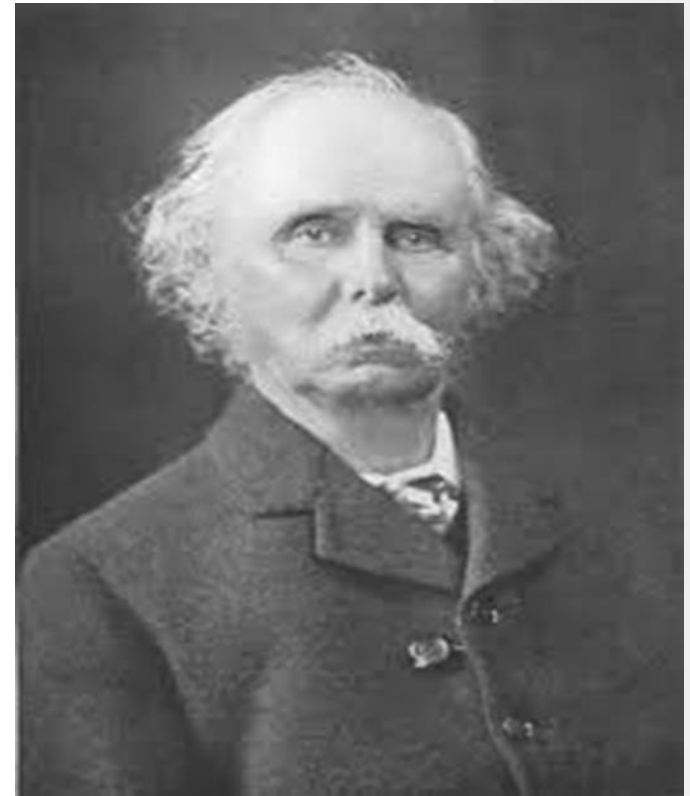
Introduction: Ideology, Interests & Evidence-Based Policy

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The Need for Evidence-Based Policy

“The rapid growth of **collective interests**, and the increasing tendency towards **collective action** in economic affairs make it every day more important that **we should know what quantitative measures of public interests** are most needed and what statistics are required for them, and that we should set ourselves to obtain these statistics.”

Alfred Marshall, 1890



Interests versus Ideology; Interests and Ideology

- The origins of government policy is the power and interests of the sovereign
- When economy becomes the focus of state policy (Mercantilism), it becomes driven by mercantile interests
- The appeal to **Ideology** (science of ideas) was to free policy from interests, leading to policy debates being a conflict of ideologies (left/right; socialism/capitalism)

“The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed the world is ruled by little else. ... it is ideas, not vested interests, which are dangerous for good or evil.”

John Maynard Keynes

“The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas The ruling ideas are nothing more than the ideal expression of the dominant material relationships, the dominant material relationships grasped as ideas.”

Karl Marx

Evidence-Based Policy Analysis

- It is impossible to escape interests and ideology, nor is it desirable
- Individuals and groups should be able to advocate for policies that help them (further their interests)
- Ideas (theories) and ideology are attempts to bring coherence to an array of policies
- But each needs to be grounded in the lived experience of people in the economy and society (objects of policy)
- Interests without evidence is meaningless
- Ideology without evidence is dangerous
- Our goal is to follow Alfred Marshall's advice and bring to light some of the **"quantitative measures of public interests"** that can inform the **"collective action"** of the **"collective interests"**.

Key Indicators for Building a New Social Contract

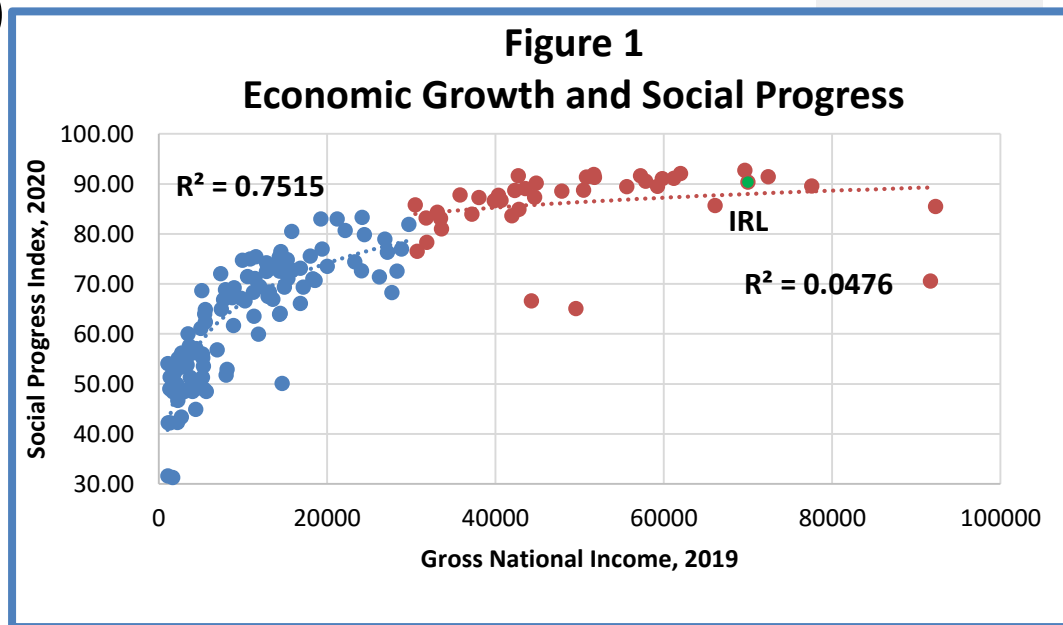


A Vibrant Economy

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A Vibrant Economy

- All discussions of the economy start with Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Beyond GDP movement.
 - GDP measures transactions and not all transactions promote well-being
 - Rising GDP does not always 'trickle-down' to rest of the population
 - For advanced capitalist economies GDP per capita is marginally correlated with well-being



Explosion of Alternative Measures

Table 1
GDP and Alternative Measures of Progress for EU 15, Most Recent Years

Country	GDP per Cap 2019*	Country	Social Progress Index 2020**	Country	World Happiness Index 2017-2019***	Country	Sustainable Development Report 2020****	Country	Human Development Index 2020*****
LUX	102,200	DNK	92.11	FIN	7.809	SWE	84.7	IRL	0.955
IRL	72,260	FIN	91.89	DNK	7.646	DNK	84.6	DEU	0.947
DNK	53,760	SWE	91.62	NLD	7.449	FIN	83.8	SWE	0.945
NLD	46,710	NLD	91.06	SWE	7.353	FRA	81.1	NLD	0.944
SWE	46,160	DEU	90.56	AUT	7.294	DEU	80.8	DNK	0.94
AUT	44,780	IRL	90.35	LUX	7.238	AUT	80.7	FIN	0.938
FIN	43,570	LUX	89.56	GBR	7.165	NLD	80.4	GBR	0.932
DEU	41,510	AUT	89.50	IRL	7.094	BEL	80	BEL	0.931
BEL	41,450	BEL	89.46	DEU	7.076	GBR	79.8	AUT	0.922
GBR	37,830	FRA	88.78	BEL	6.864	IRL	79.4	LUX	0.916
FRA	35,960	ESP	88.71	FRA	6.864	ESP	78.1	ESP	0.904
ITA	29,660	GBR	88.54	ESP	6.401	PRT	77.6	FRA	0.901
ESP	26,430	PRT	87.79	ITA	6.387	ITA	77	ITA	0.892
PRT	20,740	ITA	87.36	PRT	5.911	GRC	74.3	GRC	0.888
GRC	17,100	GRC	85.78	GRC	5.515	LUX	74.3	PRT	0.864

Source: Eurostat*, Social Progress Imperative**, World Happiness Report 2020***, Sustainable Development Report 2020****, UNDP*****

Ireland's Problems with GDP.... Leprechaun Economics

Table 2
Various Measures of Economic Activity in EU 15, 2019

Country	GDP per Cap 2019	% of AVG	Country	GNI per cap 2019	% of AVG	Country	Household Consumption per cap*** 2019	% of AVG
LUX	€102,200	232.2%	LUX	€51,974	142.1%	LUX	€35,298*	149.8%
IRL	€72,260	164.2%	IRL	€47,611	130.1%	DNK	€30,931	131.3%
DNK	€53,760	122.2%	DNK	€42,798	117.0%	SWE	€29,207	124.0%
NLD	€46,710	106.1%	NLD	€41,023	112.1%	FIN	€25,770	109.4%
SWE	€46,160	104.9%	AUS	€40,511	110.7%	GBR	€25,172	106.9%
AUS	€44,780	101.8%	DEU	€39,428	107.8%	NLD	€24,813	105.3%
AVG	€44,008	100%	SWE	€38,762	106.0%	DEU	€24,378	103.5%
FIN	€43,570	99.0%	BEL	€38,063	104.0%	IRL	€24,214	102.8%
DEU	€41,510	94.3%	AVG	€36,583	100%	AUS	€23,926	101.6%
BEL	€41,450	94.2%	FIN	€35,641	97.4%	BEL	€23,895	101.4%
GBR	€37,830	86.0%	FRA	€34,690	94.8%	AVG	€23,558	100.0%
FRA	€35,960	81.7%	GBR	€32,742	89.5%	FRA	€22,844	97.0%
ITA	€29,660	67.4%	ITA	€30,748	84.0%	ITA	€19,129	81.2%
ESP	€26,430	60.1%	ESP	€29,048	79.4%	ESP	€16,452	69.8%
PRT	€20,740	47.1%	PRT	€24,675	67.4%	PRT	€13,720	58.2%
GRC	€17,100	38.9%	GRC	€21,032	57.5%	GRC	€13,619	57.8%
			ILR**	€43,576	119.1%			

Source: Eurostat

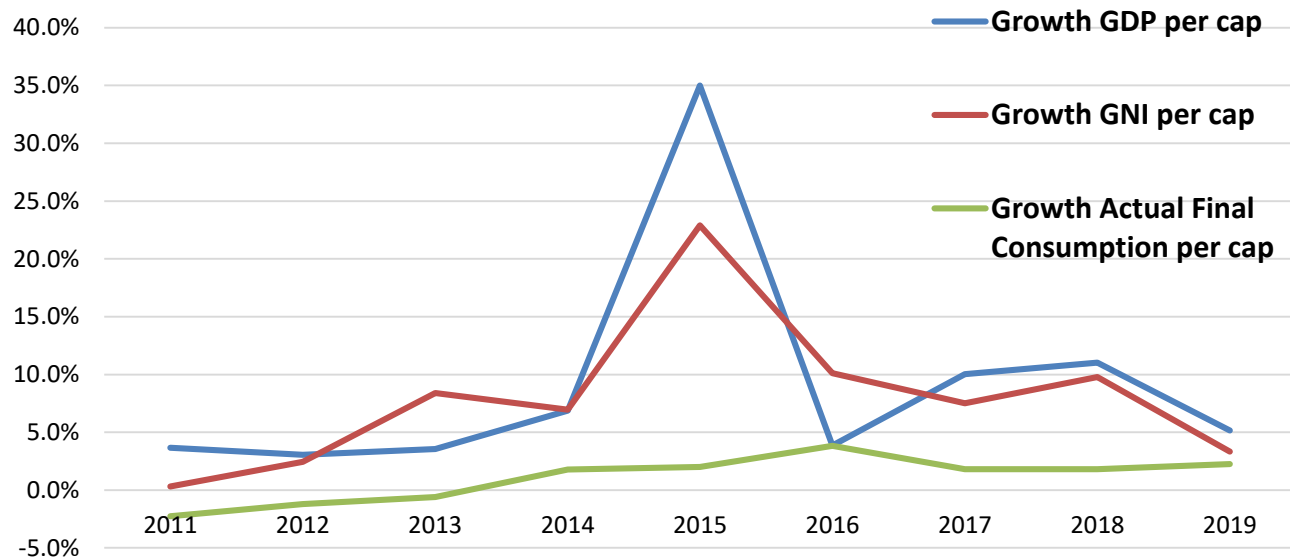
* 2018

** Modified Gross National Income (CSO)

*** Actual Final Consumption per cap

Ireland's Problems with GDP.... Leprechaun Economics

Figure 2
Three Measures of Economic Growth, Ireland, 2011-2019



The Adam Smith Standard

“Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production. ... [This] maxim is so perfectly self-evident, that it would be absurd to attempt to prove it.”

Adam Smith, 1776

Consumption is how many of the benefits of economic activity reach people

However, today this means private goods and services and public goods and services

Ireland's household consumption is 9.3% below EU15 AVG and Ireland's government consumption is 20.5% below

Country	Household Consumption	Government Consumption	Total Consumption
Luxembourg	\$36,646	\$21,244	\$57,890
Denmark	\$28,627	\$14,811	\$43,437
Austria	\$31,233	\$11,749	\$42,983
Belgium	\$28,959	\$12,978	\$41,938
Germany	\$30,153	\$11,757	\$41,910
Netherlands	\$26,813	\$15,008	\$41,821
United Kingdom	\$31,937	\$9,537	\$41,474
Sweden	\$25,700	\$14,676	\$40,377
Finland	\$27,850	\$12,293	\$40,144
EU 15 AVG	\$29,769	\$13,784	\$43,553
France	\$27,236	\$11,708	\$38,944
Ireland	\$26,980	\$10,959	\$37,939
Italy	\$27,481	\$8,554	\$36,034
Spain	\$24,928	\$8,205	\$33,132
Portugal	\$24,187	\$6,391	\$30,577
Greece	\$22,011	\$6,264	\$28,275
Source : OECD			

Consumption... short-run, but investment is a major determined for vibrant economy in the long-run

Table 3

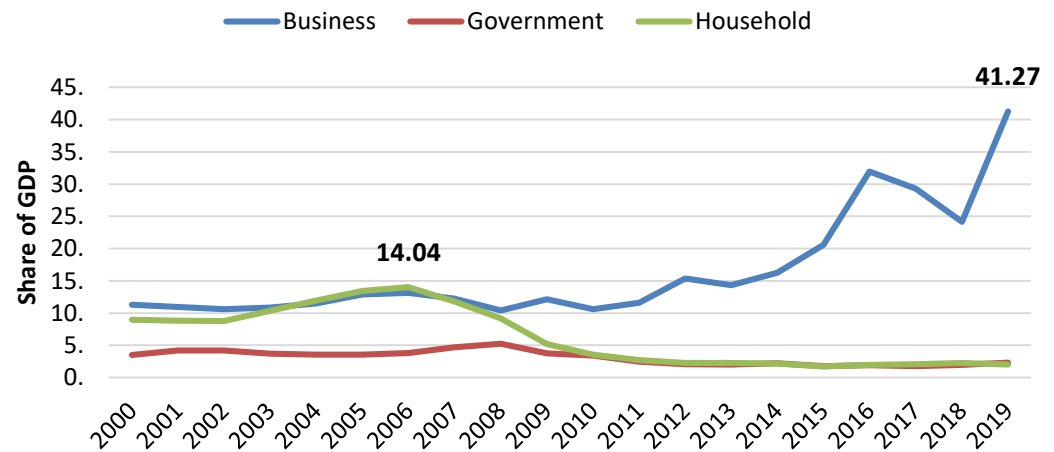
EU 15 Investment as a Share of GDP, 2019

Country	Investment as a % of GDP
Ireland	45.6
Austria	24.7
Sweden	24.4
Belgium	24.2
Finland	23.9
France	23.6
EU15 AVG	22.5
Denmark	22.0
Germany	21.7
Netherlands	21.0
Spain	19.9
Portugal	18.2
Italy	18.1
United Kingdom	18.0
Luxembourg	16.8*
Greece	10.1

Source: Eurostat, * 2018

Figure 3

Investment in Ireland by Sector, 2000-2019



Vibrant Economy: Employment

Table 4

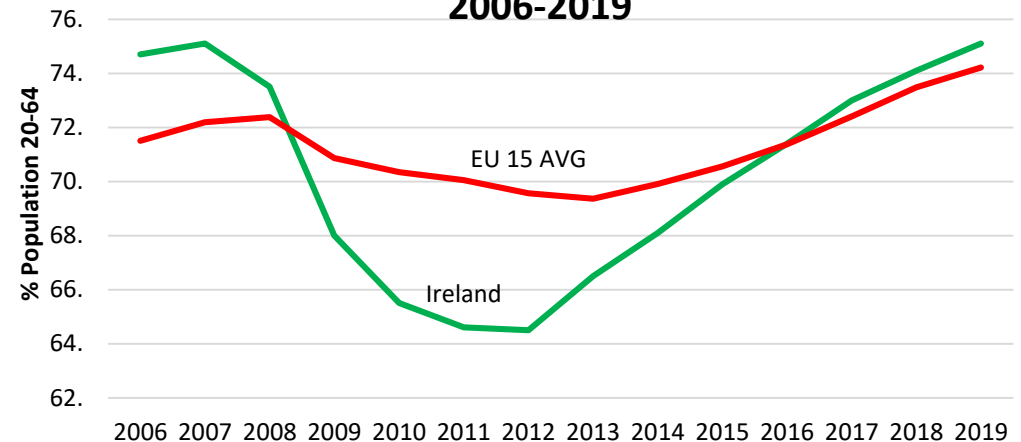
EU 15 Employment Rate 2019

Country	Employment Rate
Sweden	82.1
Germany	80.6
Netherlands	80.1
United Kingdom	79.3
Denmark	78.3
Finland	77.2
Austria	76.8
Portugal	76.1
Ireland	75.1
EU 15 avg	74.2
Luxembourg	72.8
France	71.6
Belgium	70.5
Spain	68.0
Italy	63.5
Greece	61.2

Source: Eurostat

Figure 4

Ireland and EU15 AVG Employment Rate, 2006-2019



Vibrant Economy: Problem of Exclusion

Table 5

EU 15 People at Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion, 2019

Country	Risk of Poverty
Greece	30.0
Italy	27.3
Spain	25.3
United Kingdom	23.1
Portugal	21.6
Ireland	21.1
Luxembourg	20.6
EU 15 AVG	20.5
Belgium	19.5
Sweden	18.8
France	17.9
Germany	17.4
Austria	16.9
Netherlands	16.5
Denmark	16.3
Finland	15.6
Source: Eurostat	

- The central problem of poverty and inequality is exclusion
- Human flourishing requires participation, to be fully part of communities and relationships
- Many innovative ways to measure poverty and inequality
- As with GDP, need to go beyond measuring only income

Vibrant Economy: Youth NEET

Figure 5
NEET for EU15, 2019

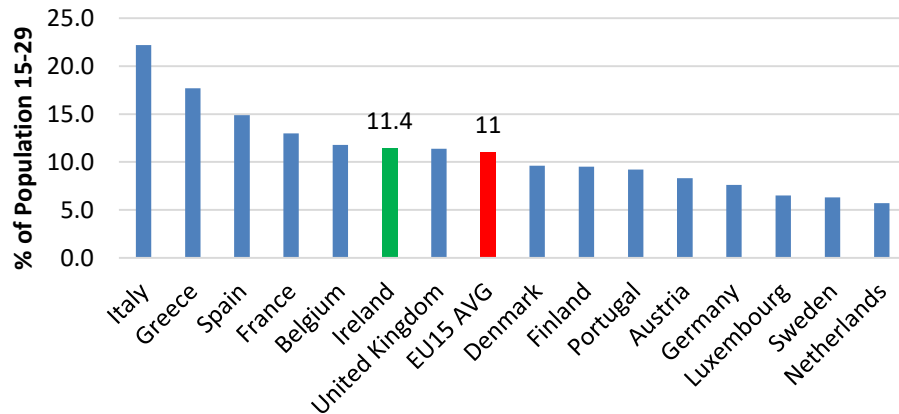
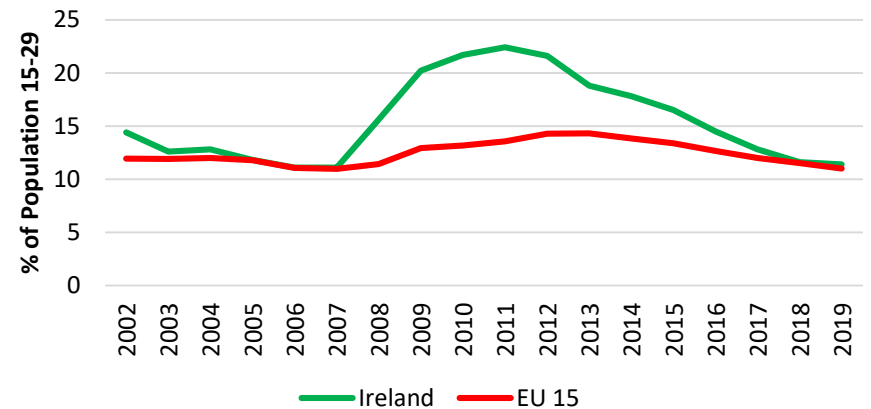


Figure 6
Ireland and EU 15 AVG NEET, 2002-2019

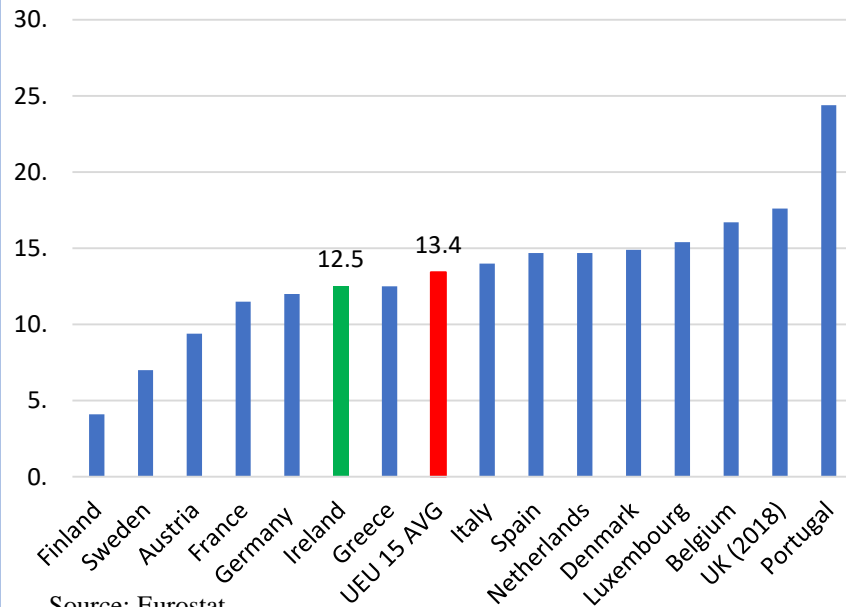


Decent Services & Infrastructure

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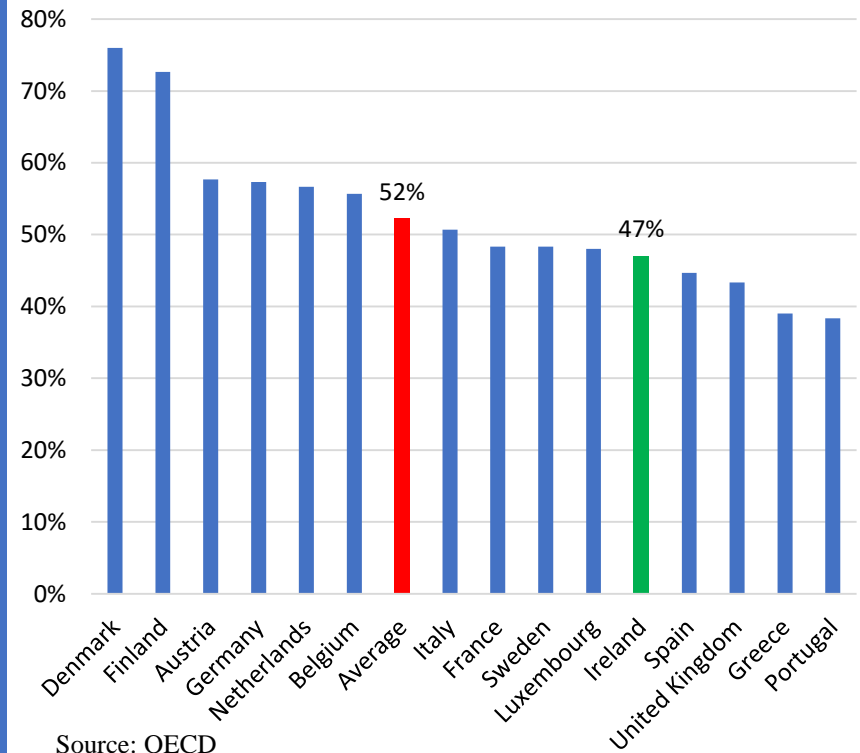
Decent Services: Housing

Figure 7
People with Basic Deficit in Housing in EU 15, 2019



Source: Eurostat

Figure 8
EU 15 Housing Satisfaction, 2017-19



Source: OECD

Rise in Homelessness; Population is increasing; Measuring Homelessness a Problem:

Table 6 Homeless Population Various Years		
Country	Year	Homeless as % of Total Population
Germany	2018	0.41%
Luxembourg	2014	0.37%
Sweden	2017	0.33%
Austria	2017	0.25%
France	2012	0.22%
Greece	2009	0.19%
Netherlands	2016	0.18%
Ireland	2018	0.13%
Denmark	2019	0.11%
Finland	2018	0.10%
Italy	2014	0.08%
Spain	2012	0.05%
Portugal	2017	0.04%
Source: OECD		

Table 7 Recent Change in Homeless	
Country	Change circa 2015 -circa 2018
Portugal	230.9%
Ireland	116.7%
Wales	16.3%
Denmark	10.5%
Scotland	5.0%
Germany	0.6%
Netherlands	-1.6%
Austria	-9.2%
Source: OECD	

Decent Services: Healthcare

Figure 9

Hospital Beds Capacity, Ireland and EU15, 2004-2018

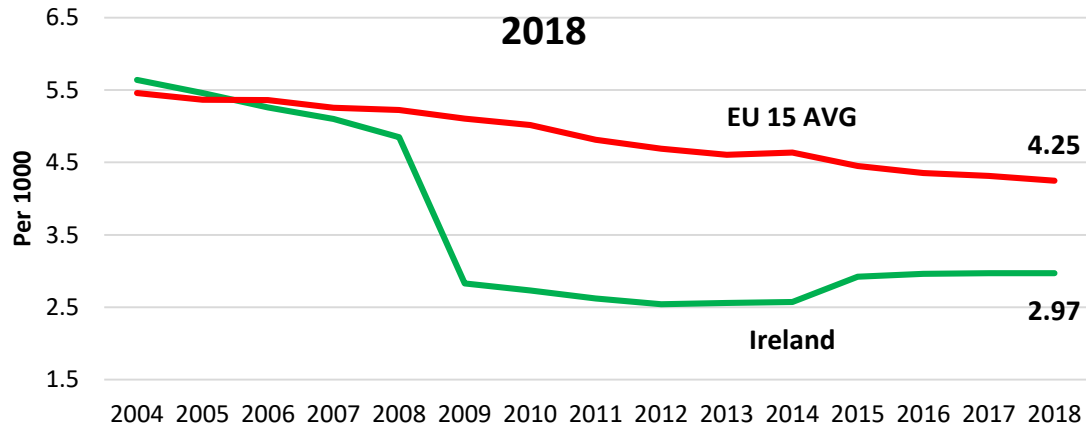
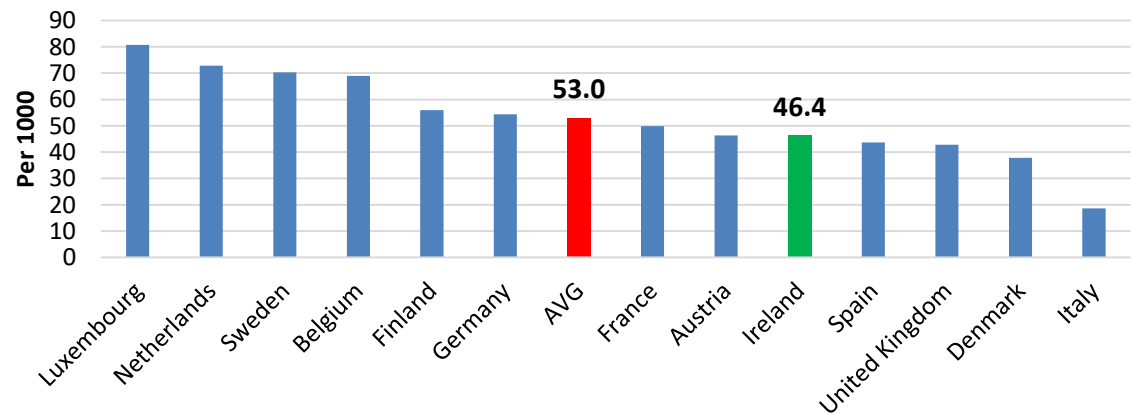


Figure 10

Beds in Residential Long-Term Care (latest year), EU



Just Taxation

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Just Taxation

- **Adam Smith's 4 Maxims of Taxation**
 1. **Equity**
 2. **Certainty**
 3. **Convenience**
 4. **Economy**
- **Maxims for 21st Century**
 1. **Raise sufficient revenue to support necessary government functions**
 2. **Redistribute income and reduce poverty so all citizens benefit**
 3. **Repricing of goods and services so that social costs and benefits are reflected in market prices**
 4. **Taxes are part of 'fiscal contract' connecting citizens to government, should reflect and strengthen public priorities**

Just Taxation: Structure

Table 8 Structure of Taxation in Ireland, 1924	
Type of Tax	% of Revenues
Customs	32%
Excise	37%
Estate duties	4%
Stamp duties	2%
Income tax	20%
Surtax	2%
Excess profit duty	2%
Corporate profits tax	1%
<i>Source: Clarke, 2014</i>	

Table 9 Structure of Taxation Revenue, EU and Ireland, 2019		
Type of Tax	Ireland	EU 15 AVG
Personal Income Taxes	31%	27%
Corporate Income Taxes	14%	8%
SS Employees	6%	10%
SS Employers	11%	15%
Property, Estate and Gift	6%	6%
Goods and Services	31%	30%
Other	2%	5%
<i>Source: OECD</i>		

Just Taxation: Measurement (and GDP...again)

Figure 11

Tax Revenue as Share GDP, EU15, 2019

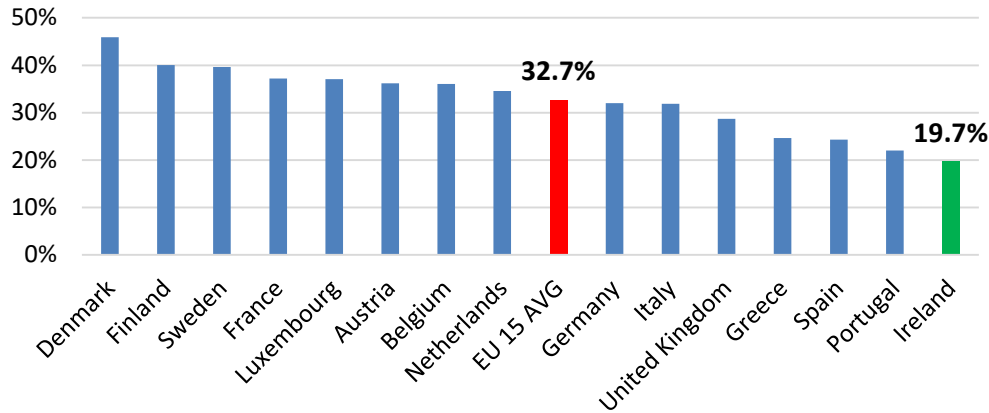
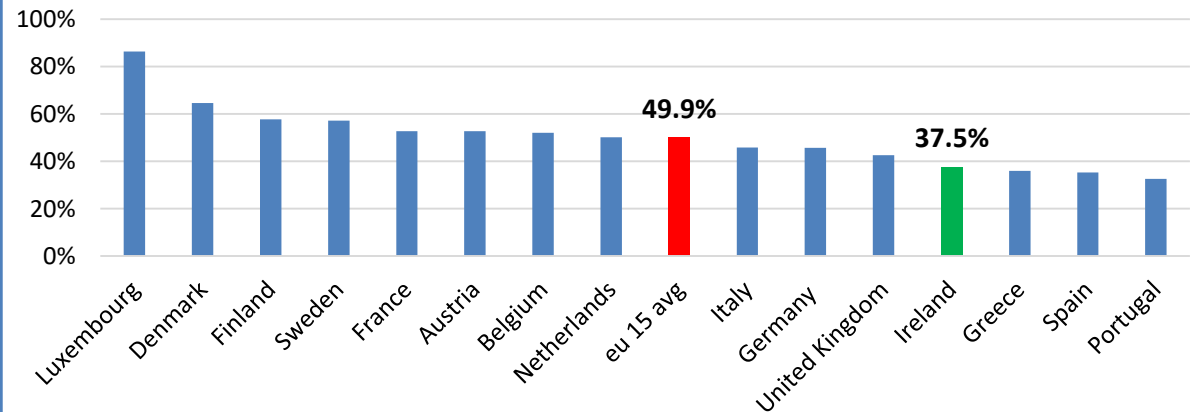


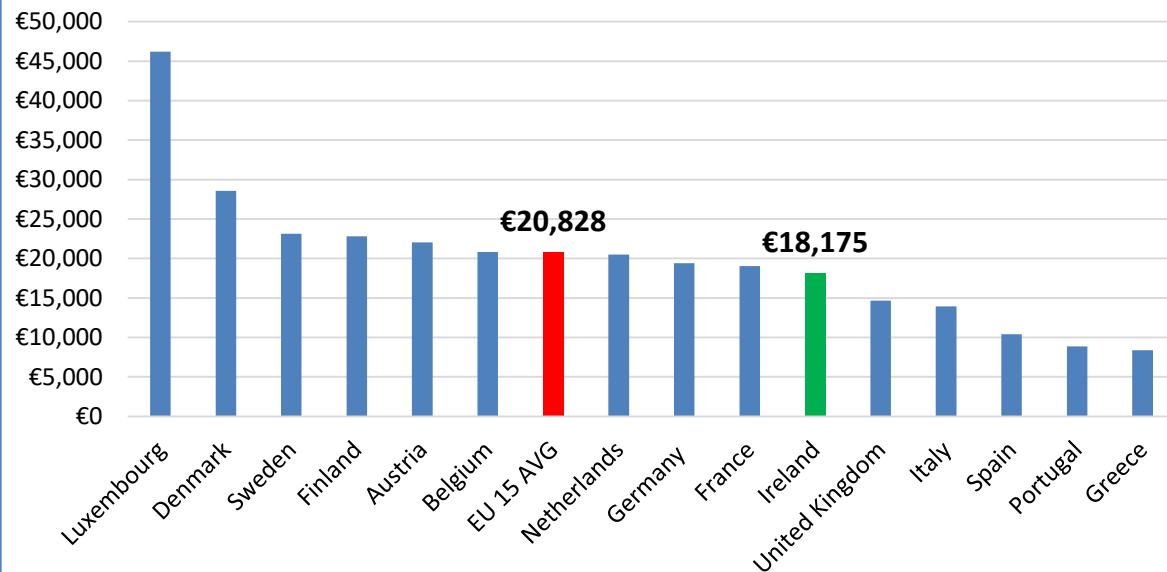
Figure 12

Tax Revenue as a Share GNI, 2019

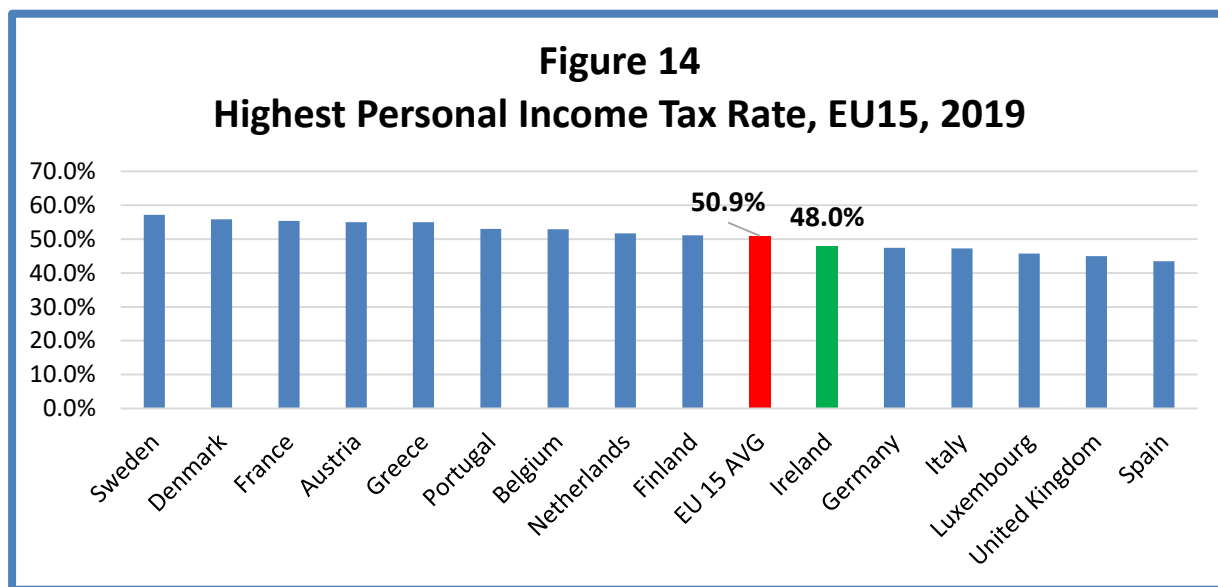


Just Taxation: Sufficient Revenue to fund Necessary Government Functions

Figure 13
Tax Revenue per Capita, Eu15, 2019



Just Taxation: Comparisons



Just Taxation: Progressivity of Taxation

Table 10 EU 15 Progressivity of Income Taxes, 2019		
Country	Number of Tax Brackets	Top Income Tax Rate Threshold
Luxembourg	19	3.5
Austria	7	22.7
Portugal	7	15
Belgium	5	1.1
Germany	5	5.3
Italy	5	2.6
Spain	5	2.4
Finland	4	1.9
France	4	16.3
Greece	4	11
Netherlands	4	1.4
Sweden	3	1.5
United Kingdom	3	3.7
Denmark	2	1.3
Ireland	2	1.4
Source: OECD		

Just Taxation: Consumption Taxes

Figure 15
Value Added Tax Rates, EU15, 2019

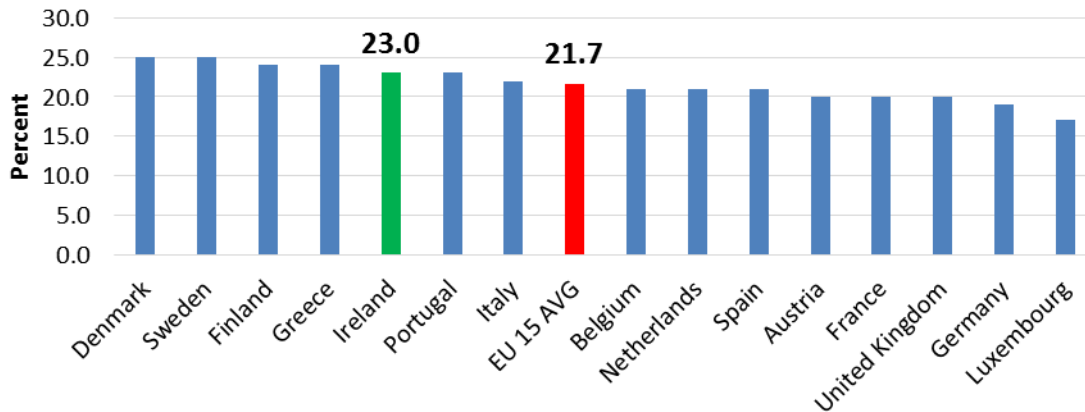
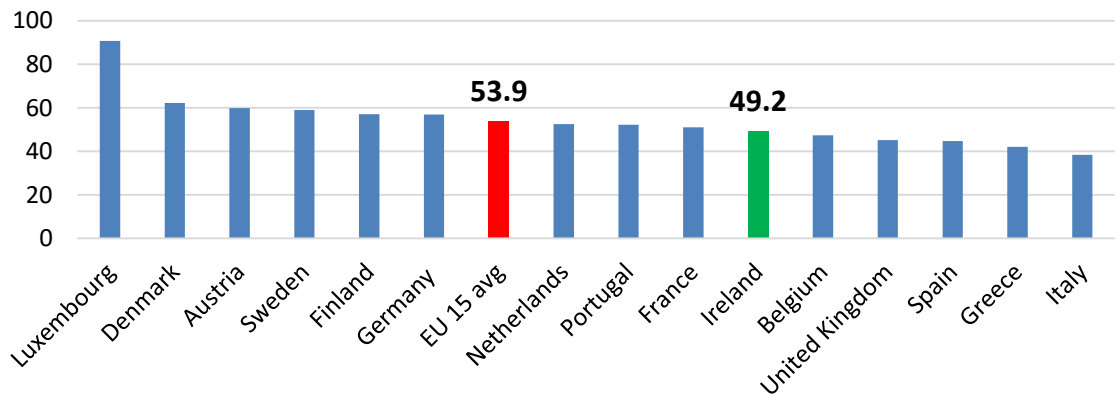


Figure 16
VAT/Sales % Total Consumption, EU15, 2019



Just Taxation: Business Taxes

Figure 17

Highest Corporate Income Tax Rate, 2019

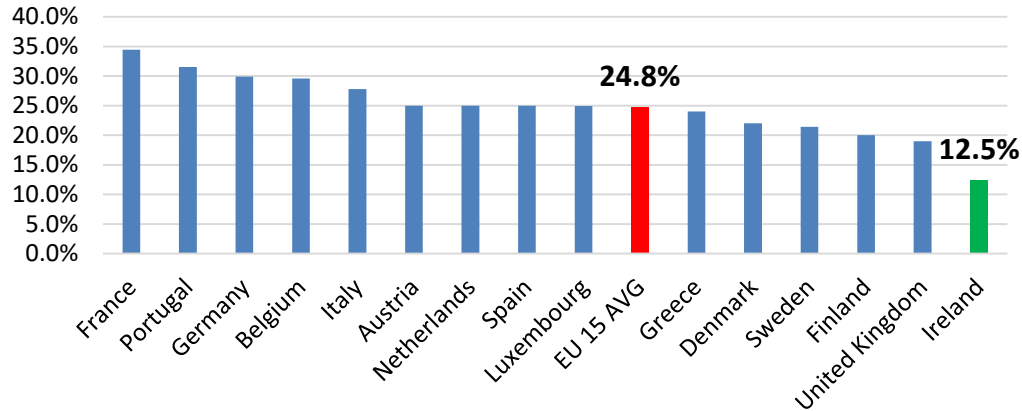
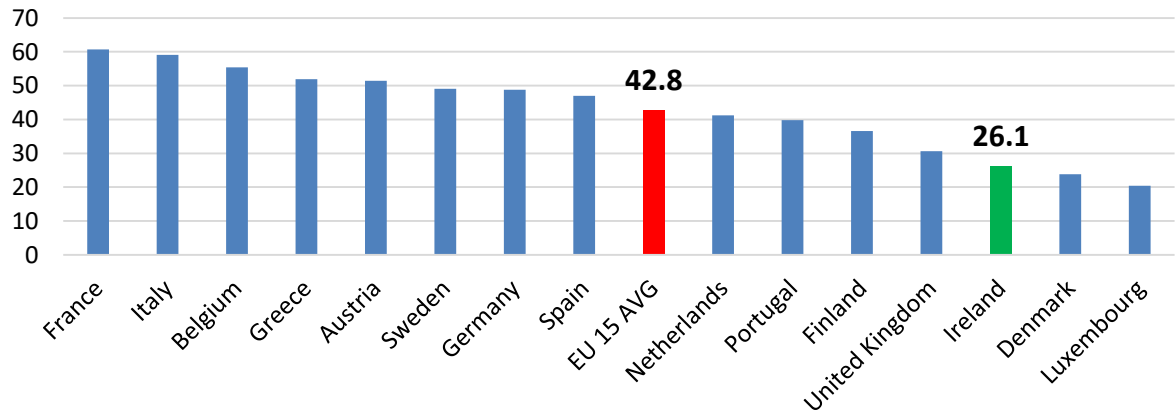


Figure 18

Total Tax and Contribution Rate of Business, 2018



Good Governance

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Good Governance: Homicide Rates

Figure 19
EU 15 Homicide Rate, 2018

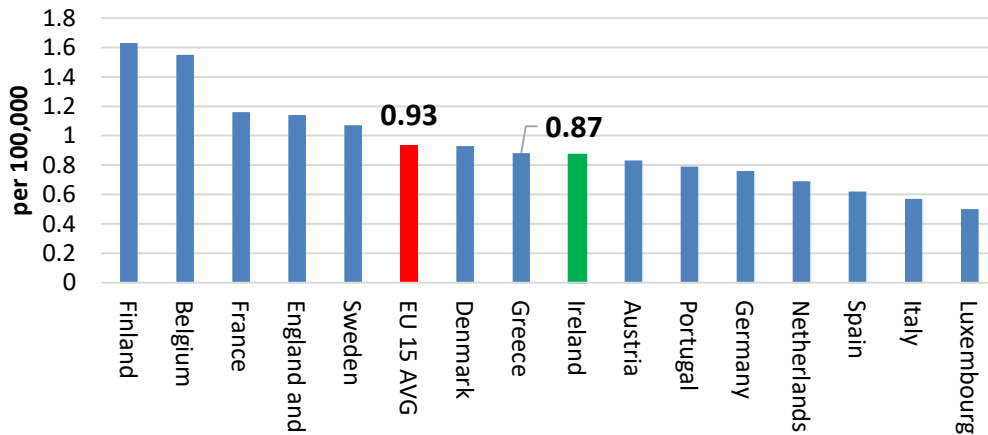


Figure 20
Average Intentional Homicide Rate, EU and Ireland, 2009-2018

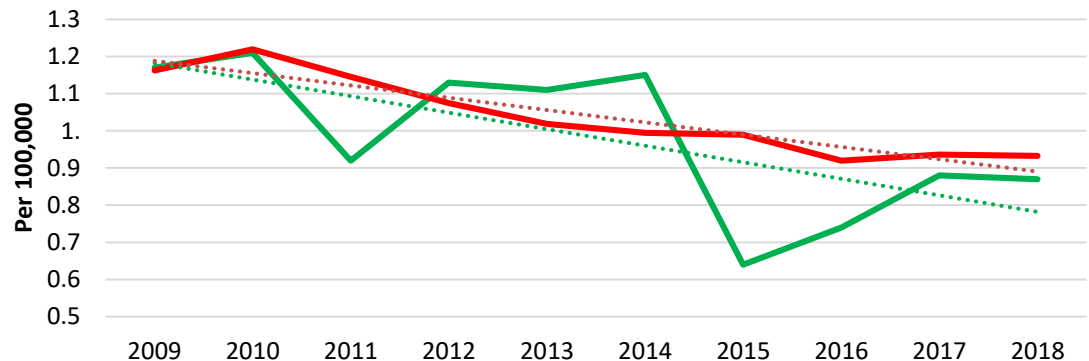


Table 11

Worldwide Governance Indicators, EU15, 2020

CTRY	VA	CTRY	PV	CTRY	GE	CTRY	RQ	CTRY	RL	CTRY	CC
DNK	95.1	LUX	82.4	DNK	92.3	FIN	91.3	FIN	94.2	FIN	95.2
FIN	95.1	PRT	71.4	FIN	92.3	NLD	91.3	AUS	92.3	DNK	94.7
NLD	95.1	SWE	68.6	SWE	90.9	SWE	90.4	DNK	92.3	SWE	94.7
SWE	95.1	DNK	67.6	NLD	89.9	DEU	89.4	SWE	92.3	LUX	93.8
LUX	90.6	AUS	67.1	LUX	87.5	LUX	87.5	NLD	90.4	NLD	92.8
BEL	87.7	IRL	66.7	DEU	85.6	GBR	86.5	LUX	89.9	DEU	91.8
DEU	84.2	FIN	65.7	AUS	83.7	DNK	83.7	DEU	88.0	GBR	89.9
AUS	83.7	NLD	61.9	GBR	81.3	IRL	83.7	GBR	88.0	AUS	88.5
IRL	83.7	DEU	54.8	FRA	79.8	AUS	82.2	FRA	85.1	BEL	88.5
GBR	81.8	GBR	53.8	IRL	78.4	FRA	82.2	BEL	83.7	IRL	83.7
PRT	80.8	BEL	50.5	PRT	75.0	BEL	76.4	IRL	83.7	FRA	82.7
FRA	75.4	ITA	50.0	BEL	73.6	ESP	74.0	PRT	78.8	PRT	68.8
ESP	73.9	FRA	46.2	ESP	73.1	PRT	72.6	ESP	75.0	ESP	66.3
ITA	71.9	ESP	46.2	ITA	55.8	ITA	72.1	ITA	53.8	ITA	55.8
GRC	71.4	GRC	45.7	GRC	53.4	GRC	62.0	GRC	51.0	GRC	45.7
AVG	84.4	AVG	59.9	AVG	79.5	AVG	81.7	AVG	82.6	AVG	82.2

RL = Rule of Law; GE= Govnt Effectiveness

VA = Voice & Accountability

CC = Control of Corruption

RQ = Regulatory Quality

PV = Political Stability and Absence of Violence

Sustainability

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Sustainability: Energy Consumption

Figure 21: Share of Renewable Energy, Ireland and EU 15 Average, 2004-2019

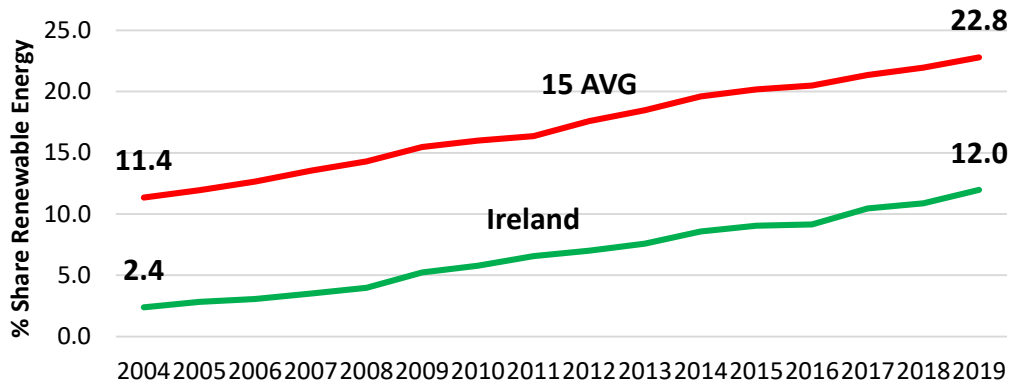
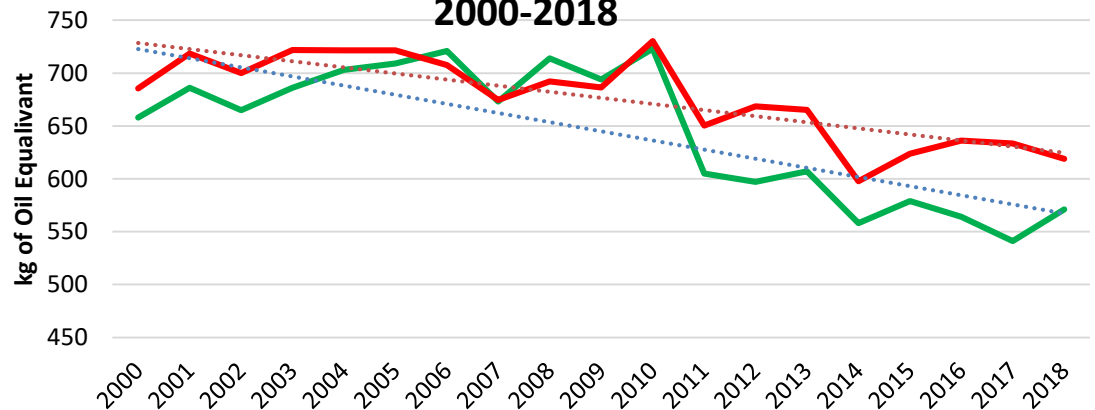


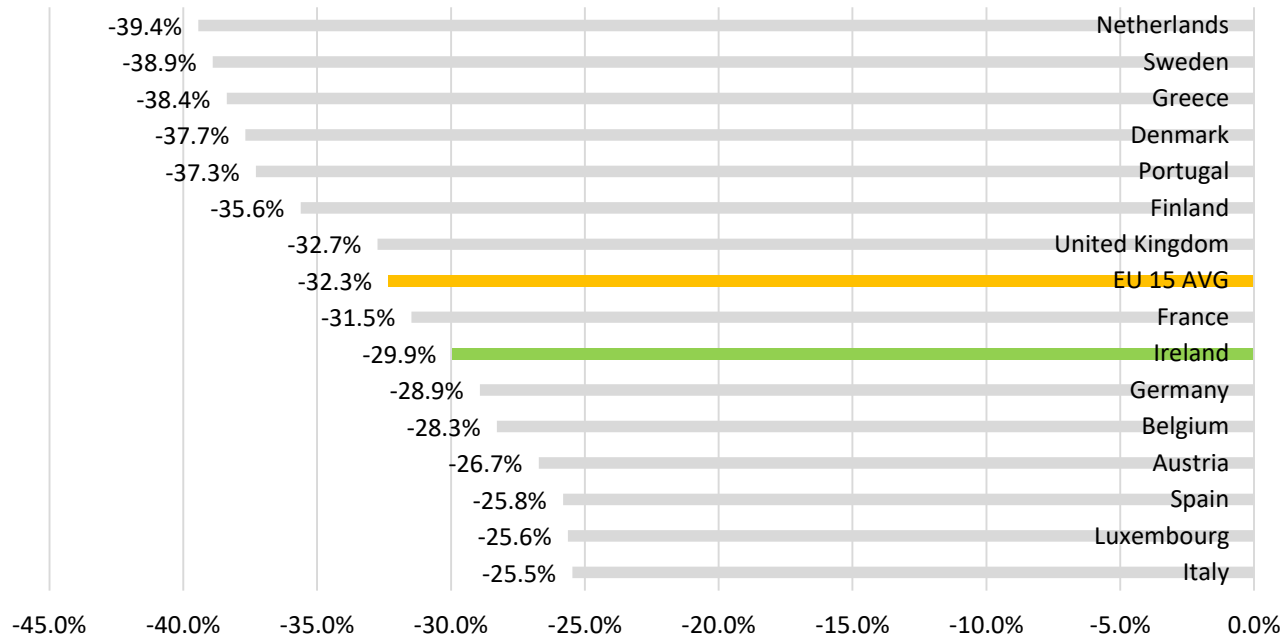
Figure 22

Final Energy Consumption, Ireland and EU 15 AVG, 2000-2018



Sustainability: Using Resources Efficiently

Figure 23
EU 15 Reductions in CO2 from New Passenger Cars, 2000-2018



Sustainability: Using Resources Efficiently

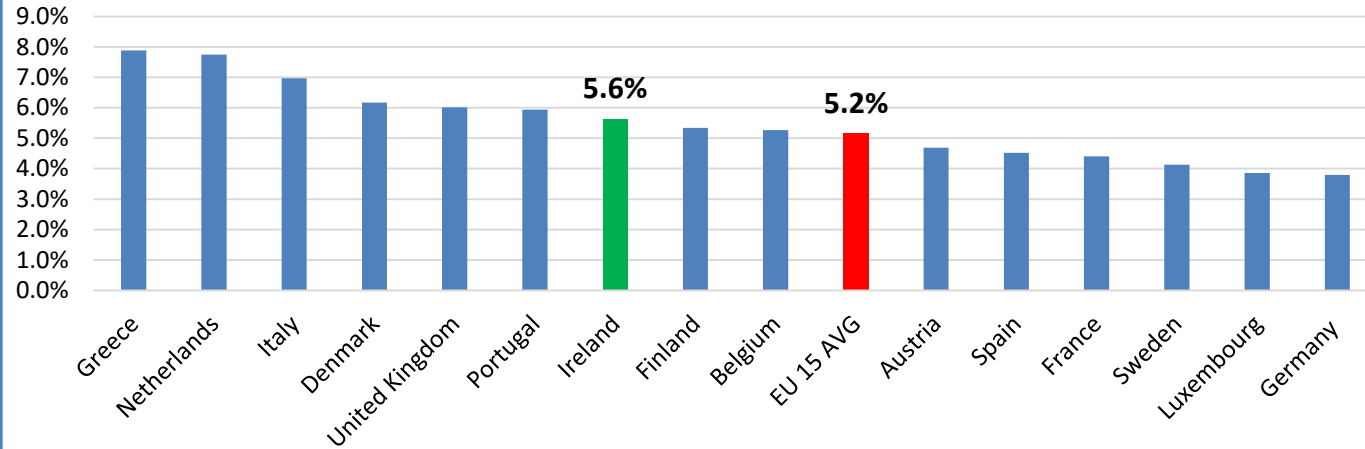
Table 12
Change in Resource Productivity in EU 15, 2004 and 2019

Country	2004		Country	2019
Netherlands	2.799		Netherlands	4.421
Luxembourg	2.759		United Kingdom	3.927
United Kingdom	2.145		Luxembourg	3.883
Italy	2.072		Belgium	3.313
Belgium	2.002		Italy	3.305
France	1.993		France	2.916
EU 15 AVG	1.701		Spain	2.865
Sweden	1.676		EU 15 AVG	2.628
Denmark	1.648		Ireland	2.491
Germany	1.619		Germany	2.435
Austria	1.567		Denmark	2.031
Spain	1.261		Austria	1.971
Greece	1.239		Greece	1.859
Ireland	0.995		Sweden	1.780
Finland	0.904		Finland	1.148
Portugal	0.833		Portugal	1.070

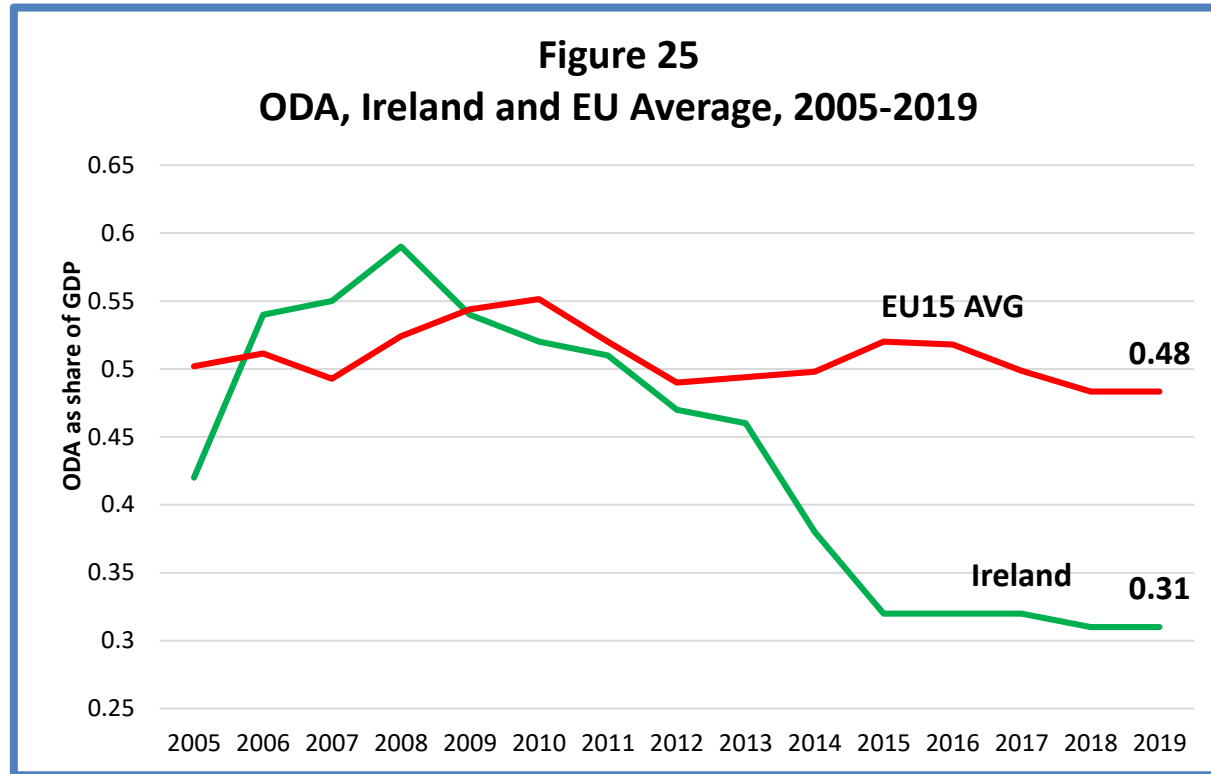
Source: Eurostat

Sustainability: Integrating into the Tax Code

Figure 24
Environmental Taxes as Share of Total Tax Revenue,
EU 15, 2019



Sustainability: Supporting Sustainable Development Globally



The Sustainable Progress Index *2021*

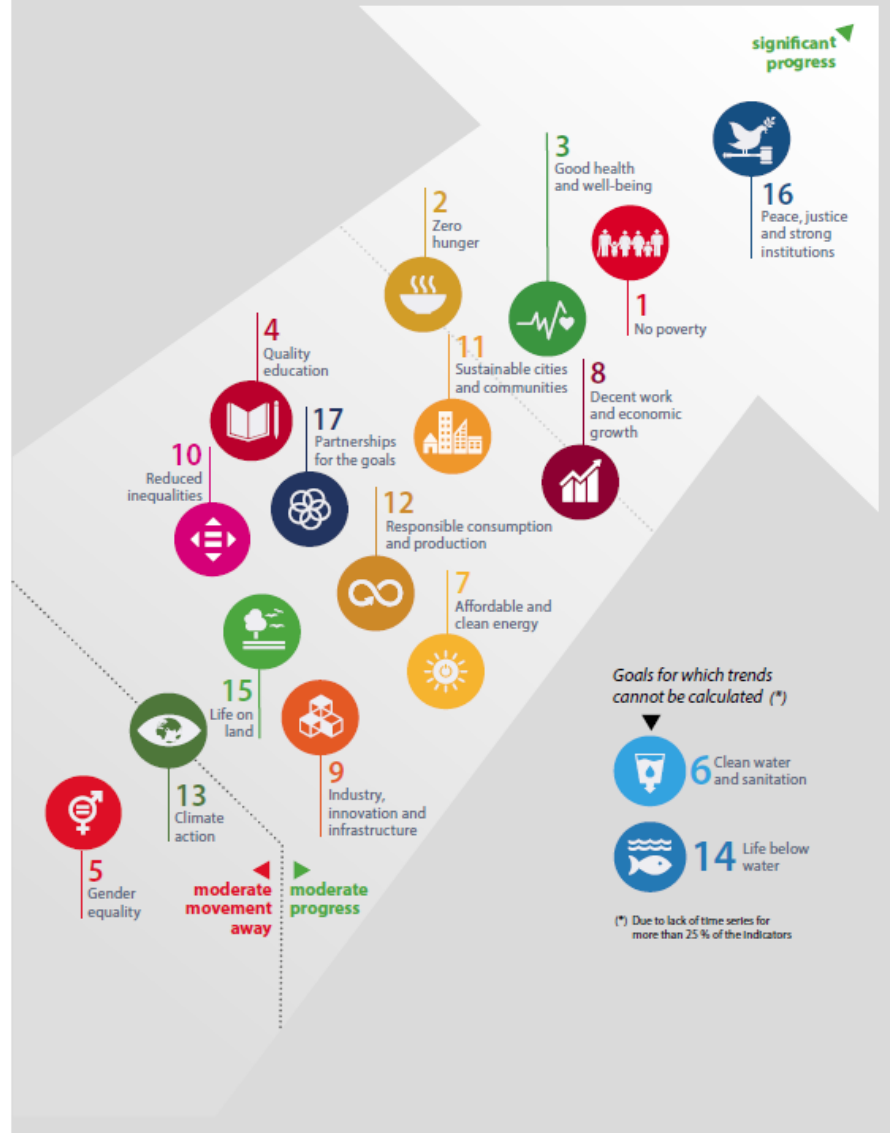
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The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Eurostat 2020: EU Progress Towards the SDGs

Overview of EU-27 progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years, 2020
(Data mainly refer to 2013-2018 or 2014-2019)



Jeffrey Sachs et al, SDSN



Our Starting Point



Data Selection

- UN Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs (2017)
- EU SDG Indicator Set (2020)



The Data

- **Our Focus?**

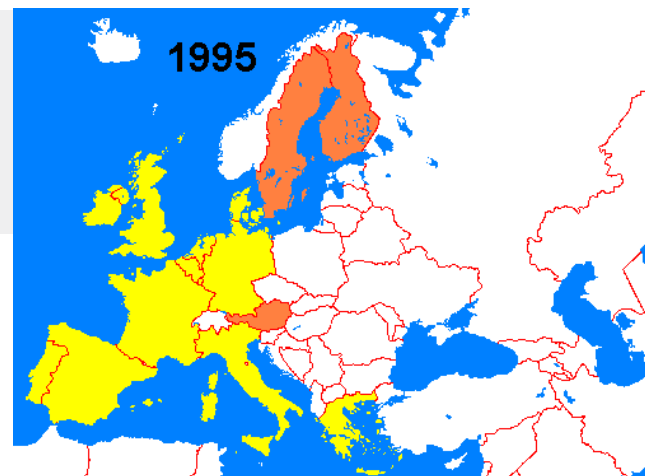
- the **EU15 countries**
- aim to compare Ireland relative to its peers

- **Our Criteria for Data Selection?**

- **Relevance and applicability:** the data must be directly related (e.g. an exact match), similar, or relevant to monitoring of the SDG
- **Quality:** we only use official published data from international sources and non-governmental organisations
- **Coverage:** data must be available for all 15 countries
- **Most recent available:** as far as possible, all data must refer to the most recent year available ., 2019 for many indicators - **PRE COVID**

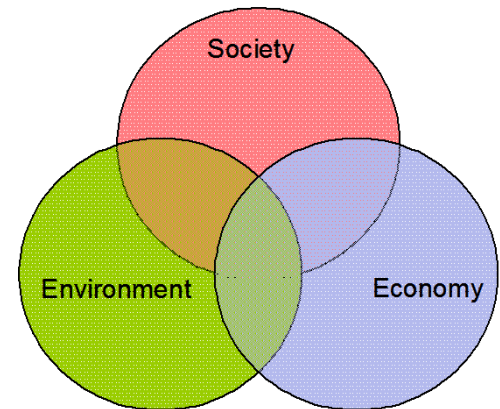
- **Our Final Dataset?**

- **81 indicators across the 17 goals**
- Minimum of 4 or more indicators per SDG
- Exception is SDG 13 (2 indicators) and SDG 11 (3 indicators)



Our Method

- **Method involves assigning percentile rank to each indicator**
 - Normalise the data – 100 is best, 0 is worst
- **Each indicator weighted equally in the SDG (UN, 2015)**
- **First, examine SDGs by three 3 dimensions – 3 Indexes**
 - Economy, Society, Environment
- **Aggregate across all 17 SDGs to arrive at Sustainable Progress Index**
 - all data from latest year available



"These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development". (UN, 2015, paragraph 5)

The Economy Index - Country Ranking

The Economy SDG Index – Ranking by Country

Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Netherlands	0.797	1
Germany	0.777	2
Denmark	0.752	3
Sweden	0.711	4
Austria	0.652	5
Finland	0.639	6
Luxembourg	0.618	7
Belgium	0.556	8
United Kingdom	0.554	9
Ireland	0.407	10
France	0.351	11
Portugal	0.238	12
Italy	0.193	13
Spain	0.176	14
Greece	0.106	15

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The Society Index - Country Ranking

The Society SDG Index – Ranking by Country

Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	0.714	1
Denmark	0.687	2
Finland	0.634	3
Netherlands	0.594	4
Austria	0.538	5
Ireland	0.499	6
Germany	0.492	7
Belgium	0.481	8
Luxembourg	0.477	9
France	0.476	10
United Kingdom	0.443	11
Portugal	0.415	12
Spain	0.384	13
Italy	0.371	14
Greece	0.293	15

The Environment- Country Ranking

The Environment SDG Index – Ranking by Country

Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	0.617	1
Denmark	0.580	2
Netherlands	0.564	3
Finland	0.554	4
United Kingdom	0.545	5
Austria	0.539	6
Germany	0.535	7
France	0.511	8
Greece	0.458	9
Italy	0.455	10
Belgium	0.442	11
Portugal	0.434	12
Luxembourg	0.425	13
Spain	0.422	14
Ireland	0.420	15

Ireland's Rank by Dimension and by SDG

Table 16		
Ireland's Rank by Dimension and by SDG		
Economy		10
SDG 8:	Good Jobs and Economic Growth	9
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	12
Society		6
SDG 1	No Poverty	9
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	12
SDG 3	Good Health and Wellbeing	7
SDG 4	Quality Education	2
SDG 5	Gender Equality	9
SDG 10	Reduced Inequality	8
SDG 16	Peace and Justice	4
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	9
Environment		15
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	12
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	14
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	6
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	14
SDG 13	Climate Action	13
SDG 14	Life Below Water	6
SDG 15	Life on Land	4

The Sustainable Progress Index Country Ranking

The Sustainable Progress Index
Ranking by Country

Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	0.663	1
Denmark	0.651	2
Netherlands	0.606	3
Finland	0.602	4
Austria	0.554	5
Germany	0.544	6
United Kingdom	0.499	7
France	0.477	8
Luxembourg	0.476	9
Belgium	0.474	10
Ireland	0.456	11
Portugal	0.403	12
Italy	0.385	13
Spain	0.376	14
Greece	0.340	15

SO: where do we stand?

Ireland is ranked 11th overall



Comfort Break 5 Minutes Please

[#SustainableProgress2021](#) [#SDGs](#)

Conclusions & Policy Considerations

#SustainableProgress2021 #SDGs

Conclusions and Policy Considerations



- The wellbeing of people, both now and for future generations, is the goal of public policy
- The SDGs are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future
- Examining our performance relative to our peer countries is essential
 - we need to know where we stand in order to identify the most important sustainability challenges





National Level

- Set an ambitious national poverty reduction target.
- Make persistent poverty the primary indicator of poverty measurement.
- Introduce a Basic Income, Refundable Tax Credits and a Living Wage.
- Benchmark all social welfare payments to at least 27.5 per cent of Average Wages as a move towards a Minimum Essential Standard of Living.
- Implement a programme to reduce overall poverty rate to 4 per cent within five years.
- Ensure adequate income through the lifecycle, including adequate payments for children, women, and a Universal State Social Welfare Pension.



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Local Level

- Support the development of social and affordable housing on State lands.
- Seek to replace the Local Property Tax with a Site Value Tax and increase the tax-take, while including hardship measures for those who cannot afford to pay it in full.



2 NO HUNGER



National Level

- Fund research on food poverty through stakeholder groups such as the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice, St. Vincent de Paul and MABS.
- Expand the 'hot school meals' programme, particularly for schools and pre-schools in disadvantaged areas and those with a high concentration of homeless children / children living in Direct Provision who do not have own cooking facilities.

Local Level

- Provide funding for research on local initiatives on sustainable food production.
- Support 'farm to fork' and short supply chains in food production.



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National Level

- Fully resource the implementation of Sláintecare, including the €500 million commitment to infrastructure over the next 6 years.
- Increase the number of community beds.
- Increase supports to carers.
- Increase home care package provision and introduce legislation for a right to homecare.
- Recruit and upskill healthcare workers to meet demand.
- Invest in Primary Care Networks and step-down facilities.
- Properly resource mental health services.
- Create additional respite care and long-stay facilities for older people and people with disabilities.
- Ensure medical card coverage for all vulnerable. .



Local Level

- Support the integration of primary care networks and GP led community healthcare services.
- Support the roll-out of 'Smile agus Sláinte' as part of primary care provision.



National Level

- Deliver a long-term, sustainable, appropriately funded education strategy that takes a whole-person, life-cycle approach to learning.
- Make combatting educational disadvantage a priority.
- Commit to increasing investment in Early Childhood Care and Education by 0.1 per cent of GDP annually to meet the OECD average by 2025.
- Develop a framework to deliver sustainable funding revenues for higher education over the next five years with a roadmap to 2028.
- Invest in Lifelong Learning as part of a human capital investment strategy.
- Invest in education, literacy and retraining programmes to address NEETs.
- Adopt and implement a national financial literacy strategy.



Local Level

- Support high-quality community childcare, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
- Enhance community education programmes and life-long learning through the library network.
- Ensure full implementation of the 'Our Public Libraries 2022' strategy and ensure that its implementation is inclusive and supportive of smaller branch libraries as a hub for local communities.



National Level

- Introduce legislation to support flexible and remote working.
- Make all sanitary products exempt from VAT.
- Deliver high-quality community childcare.
- Individualise and equalise social welfare payments.
- Introduce a Universal State Social Welfare Pension.

Local Level

- Actively promote gender equality in Local Authority elections and on Boards and Committees of strategic importance.
- Introduce family-friendly working hours and conditions for councilors and Local Authority staff.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



National Level

- Continue to provide support and advice to farmers to improve water quality under the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme.
- Invest in Ireland's wastewater system.

Local Level

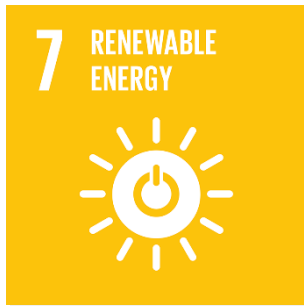
- Develop a Drinking Water Safety Plan, following EPA Guidelines, for each public water supply, identifying all potential risks and detailing mitigation and control measures.



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National Level

- Upgrade the national grid and invest in infrastructure necessary to support a transition to renewable energy.
- Invest in research and development for the use of renewable energy in our public transport systems.

Local Level

- Invest in renewable energy transition programmes for Local Authority offices and community spaces.



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National Level

- Ring-fence the COVID-costs incurred in 2020, 2021 and 2022 and finance these with a very long-term, low-interest loan.
- Move Ireland's total tax-take towards the EU-average by widening the tax base in a fair and just manner.
- Make savings on expenditure, but not through cuts in services or infrastructure budgets.
- Adjust the EU's fiscal rules to cope with the post-COVID reality.
- Increase the minimum wage to the level of the Living Wage.
- Reintroduce the Non-Principal Private Residence Tax at a rate of €500 per annum.
- Provide an Annual Review of Tax Expenditures.
- Establish a Taxation Commission with a clear mandate to set out a pathway towards increasing the total tax-take and broadening the tax base
- Simplify the Tax System

- Integrate a Sustainable Development Framework into economic policy.
- Recognise that, while most additional investment should be on once-off infrastructure, there is also a need to invest in recurring expenditure to generate the structural change and reform required.
- Resource the up-skilling of those who are unemployed or at risk of unemployment.
- Strengthen and enforce legislation to tackle job precarity and low pay.
- Develop flexible working initiatives to support remote working and increased participation for people with disabilities.
- Invest in ancillary community services to remove barriers to employment.

Local Level

- Review the sustainability of jobs created through LEOs and develop plans to ensure the security of decent work.



National Level

- Invest in initiatives that strengthen social infrastructure – schools, primary care centres, social housing and so on.
- Support a minimum corporation tax rate of 6 per cent so that large corporations and MNCs contribute to the sustainability of the community in which they are situated.
- Commit to increasing the total tax take by between €2.5 to €3bn annually.
- Review the use of tax expenditures to promote investment in areas that support society.

Local Level

- Expedite the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan, commencing with those with the largest proportion of premises dependent on it.
- Improve the primary road network across the country to support the increased provision of public transport.

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



SOCIAL
JUSTICE
IRELAND

working to build a just society

National Level

- Fully implement the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 and review the targets set out annually.
- Fully implement the recommendations of the UN CERD.
- Expedite legislation on hate crime and hate speech.
- Reform the High-Income Individuals' Restriction to include all tax expenditures.
- Introduce a Financial Transactions Tax.

Local Level

- Utilise the full allocation for Traveller specific accommodation and support the development of sites for this purpose.
- Fully implement the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.



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National Level

- Aim to make 20 per cent of all housing social housing, in line with other European countries, within the next 10 years.
- Shift investment from Family Hubs to Housing First as a long-term strategy to eliminating homelessness.
- Support community programmes such as sports initiatives, playgrounds, recreational centres, and libraries, to sustain communities.
- Off-balance-sheet investment in affordable housing and rental.
- Ensure that investment is balanced between the regions, with due regard to sub-regional areas.
- Ensure rural development policy is underpinned by social, economic and environmental wellbeing and develop an Integrated Rural Development Policy Structure.
- Appeal the Eurostat decision in respect of Tier 3 Approved Housing Bodies.
- Close tax loopholes for property investment vehicles.



- Invest in integrated, accessible, sustainable and environmentally friendly public transport networks.
- Invest in hard infrastructure for cycle lanes.
- Develop passive housing construction processes to ensure environmental sustainability in housing.

Local Level

- Invest in a deep retrofitting programme for community spaces.
- Ringfence continued funding to encourage sports participation and active lifestyle programmes.
- Invest in the provision and maintenance of community spaces, playgrounds, and youth centres.



National Level

- Introduce a circular economy package for Ireland across all areas of economic activity.
- Research cradle-to-cradle development.
- Place a levy on single-use plastics.
- Invest in the development of short supply chains.
- Clarify and enforce the Vacant Site Levy legislation to ensure it achieves its original purpose.
- Introduce an aviation fuel tax.
- Reintroduce the Windfall Gains Tax at 80per cent.
- Explore new initiatives to promote behavioural change through the tax system

Local Level

- Eliminate all single-use plastics from Local Authority buildings and public spaces.
- Develop open consultation on ambitious waste management plans beyond 2021.
- Adopt the principles of a circular economy, particularly for construction and demolition waste.





National Level

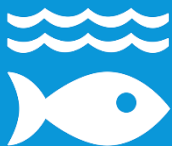
- Establish a Just Transition and Adaptation Dialogue to ensure rural areas are not disproportionately impacted by low carbon policies and are supported to meet the challenges posed by the future of work.
- Develop a comprehensive mitigation and transition programme to transition to a low carbon economy.
- Increase carbon taxes in line with IPCC recommendations.
- Ensure that all people are treated fairly in the creation of policies and projects that address climate change as well as in the systems that create climate change.

- Develop a comprehensive mitigation and transition programme to support communities and people in the transition to a low carbon society.
- Set ambitious emissions reduction targets for 2030 and ensure sufficient resources to support implementation of these targets.

Local Level

- Develop Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in each Local Authority area, with the collaborative input of local communities and Public Participation Networks, supported by dedicated sustainable funding in the medium to long-term.

14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



SOCIAL
JUSTICE
IRELAND

working to build a just society

National Level

- Fully implement the National Integrated Maritime Plan.
- Regulate harvesting and end over-fishing.
- Implement policies to restore fishing stocks to sustainable levels.

Local Level

- Put a plan in place to tackle pesticides in drinking water.
- Implement the 'Nature' programmes set out in the Climate Action Plan published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.



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15 LIFE
ON LAND



SOCIAL
JUSTICE
IRELAND

working to build a just society

National Level

- Increase afforestation of native trees and reduce planting of Sitka spruce.
- Ensure that sustainable agriculture policy, sustainable land management, and short supply chains for farmers and consumers form the basis of future agricultural policy.

Local Level

- Invest in programmes to rewet the boglands.
- Implement the 'Nature' programmes set out in the Climate Action Plan published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.



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National Level

- National Economic and Social Dialogue / Partnership to include all five pillars.
- Ensure that all voices are heard and include all stakeholders.
- Restore funding to the Community and Voluntary Sector.
- Broaden discussion beyond pay and taxation
- Review planning legislation to ensure that its terms are consistent with the objectives of the Goals and democratic engagement.
- Introduce impact assessment and poverty proofing on all Government initiatives.
- Ensure that Budgetary allocations are valid, realistic and transparent, and take account of existing levels of service.
- Legislate for enforcement mechanisms where Local Authorities do not use their full allocation for Traveller Specific Accommodation
- Greater transparency of lobbying activities
- Ensure adequate funding for civil legal aid.
- Establish a Dialogue Forum in every Local Authority involving Local Authorities and the Public Participation Networks (PPNs). Fully implement recommendations of the Commission for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination within a reasonable timeframe.
- Introduce an ex-ante social impact assessment of all policy proposals to be discussed at Oireachtas Committees.
- Review building regulations to ensure good ventilation, heating and fire safety standards across all building.

Local Level

- Develop a sustainable strategy for public participation, to include medium and long-term objectives and associated budget commitments.
- Move from an annual funding model for PPNs to a 3 to 5-year renewable commitment.



National Level

- Increase ODA as percentage of GNI, with a move towards the UN Target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2025.
- Adopt targets and a reporting system for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Tag all Government policies and policy proposals with the relevant Goal(s).
- Adopt targets and a reporting system for each of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Implement the Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy.
- Develop a new National Index of Progress, ensuring social and environmental issues are incorporated into our national accounts.

Local Level

- Develop strategic partnerships with Local Authorities and local government organisations, in Europe and Internationally, to support the implementation of the Goals.
- Ensure coherence between national and local government policies.

Q&A Session

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Thank You

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