



Generation for  
**Change**

**Summary Report**  
on **Young People,**  
the **Sustainable**  
**Development Goals**  
and **Ireland 2018**

## Young People in the World

- At 1.8 billion, today's young generation (10-24 year olds) is the largest the world has ever known.
- In Ireland, one third of the population is under 25 years and particularly those aged 10-24 years represent 18.3 per cent of the total population of 4.59 million people.
- In 2017 nearly 70 million young people were unemployed globally, and many of those who are employed are trapped in working poverty or in precarious conditions.
- Young people were also disproportionately impacted by the 2008 global financial crisis and subsequent national economic crises, and continue to bear the brunt of the consequences of unsustainable policy-making.
- Approximately 462 million young people live on less than \$2 a day, while 238 million young people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day. In 2016, 16.5 per cent of people in Ireland were at risk of poverty, while 8.3 per cent lived in consistent poverty. Young people under the age of 17 are most at risk of living in poverty.
- Close to 90% of the world's young people live in developing countries.



This is a summary report outlining the findings from the "Generation for Change" Spotlight Report which was written by Ireland's UN Youth Delegates. Almost 600 young people provided information through an online survey and others took part in consultations that shaped this report. Thanks to everyone who contributed and supported this project.



## Four main messages from Young People in Ireland to the Government

1

Young people want Government to recognise their potential to be a force for good in Ireland and in the world. Young people are smart, articulate, passionate, and want the opportunity to have their say in all decisions that affect them and their peers. They want Government and the international community to allow them to play an active role in achieving the SDGs.

2

Young people want the Government to tackle poverty (including homelessness) in Ireland and internationally. Young people recognise the injustice of living in poverty and the impact it can have on young people's lives and opportunities around the world.

3

Young people want Ireland to mainstream the SDGs throughout all Government action and policies. Young people want Ireland to be a leader internationally and help other states achieve the SDGs to ensure that no one around the world is left behind, reaching the furthest behind first.

4

The role of education will be central to Ireland and the world achieving the SDGs by 2030. Young People are calling on Government to recognise the importance of SDG4.7 in providing educational opportunities to better understand the world in which we live, our role in society, and support our empowerment to bring about change at personal, local, national, and global level. Global Citizenship Education – Development Education and Education for Sustainable Development can support young people to positively engage and bring about a more just, peaceful, secure and sustainable world for all – people and planet.

### Young people are...

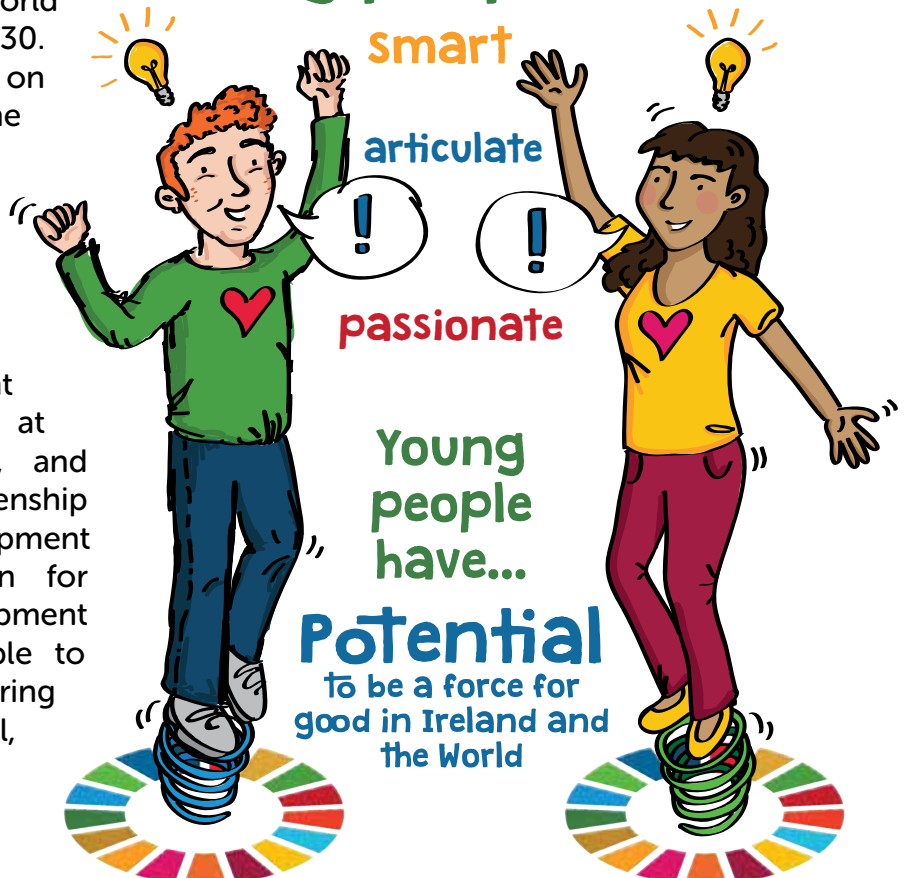
smart

articulate

passionate

Young people have...

**Potential**  
to be a force for good in Ireland and the World



## What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

In September 2015, the member states of the United Nations agreed on and adopted a wide-ranging action plan for inclusive sustainable development. This plan was the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contains five pillars: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. These pillars serve as a guide and a reminder of why states adopted the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda seeks to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom.

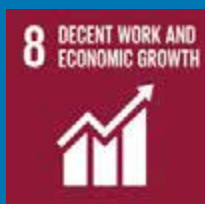
This Agenda contains 17 goals, known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs focus on the most challenging economic, social and environmental issues that we face in today's world. These issues affect us in our personal lives, in our local communities, on a national scale in Ireland, and affect the global community. Because these challenges are so far-reaching and affect so many people to varying degrees, the SDGs exempt no one person, no one community, nor any one state. It is an all-encompassing plan to afford decent and fair opportunities to everyone.

## How will these Goals be implemented?

Each member state of the United Nations recognises and stresses the need to implement this Agenda in its entirety and achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030. However, because each state is different and has a different level of development, the 2030 Agenda highlights that states' respective strategies and plans to implement the Goals is made specific to their national realities, capacities and level of development.

Within the 17 Goals, there are 169 targets, which will allow states to measure their progress. Furthermore, there are also 232 indicators which are largely statistical-based. This will allow states to monitor their own progress through statistical analysis. Of these 232 indicators, 68 provide information that are directly relevant to youth and an additional 19 provide information that is highly relevant to youth. A further 44 indicators are related to children. It is clear that the 2030 Agenda places huge emphasis on the development, wellbeing and opportunities of children and young people.

To ensure that the Goals are kept at the forefront of the UN's work, and that widespread progress is being made, member states are encouraged to prepare and present an update on their implementation of the Goals once every four years. These presentations are known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and they are presented at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) which is held in New York each July. In July 2018 Ireland presented its first Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals.



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



## Ireland's Voluntary National Review & National Implementation Plan

To prepare for its first Voluntary National Review which took place in July 2018, the Government released Ireland's SDGs National Implementation Plan (2018-2020). This Plan details a cross-governmental and whole of society approach to achieving the SDGs. A Stakeholder Forum has been set up to support SDGs engagement between all key players in Irish society so Ireland lives up to its international commitments. Young people have been identified as one of the key stakeholders.



## Spotlight Report on Young People and the Sustainable Development Goals

The Irish Government reported on its work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations for the first time in July 2018. It was with this in mind that Ireland's UN Youth Delegates set about writing a Spotlight Report on Young People and the Sustainable Development Goals to give some insight on:

- 🌍 Young people's understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 🌍 Issues that are affecting young people not only in their personal lives, but also at a local, national and global level.
- 🌍 How these issues relate to the SDGs.
- 🌍 Young people's capacity to contribute positively to Ireland's implementation of the SDGs.



## The Youth Progress Index (YPI)



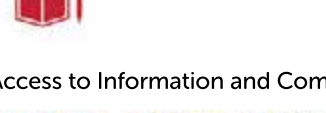






The Youth Progress Index is one of the first ever instruments for measuring the quality of life of young people independently of economic indicators. It has been created by the European Youth Forum.


The framework is structured around 3 “dimensions” – Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing and Opportunity – 12 “components”, and 60 distinct indicators (see below).

The Youth Progress Index measures real factors that matter to and can impact the daily lives of young people: do they have sufficient food to eat? Do they have access to housing? And access to the labour market and quality jobs? Can they read and write? Can they exercise their socio-economic and political rights? Do they live in a community where they feel included and not discriminated against? Is their future and the future of their children protected from the dangers of environmental destruction? Can they influence politics and hold their political representatives to account, and are they represented in parliament?

The YPI offers a framework with potential to support measuring progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs for the youth sub-group, from measuring levels of poverty, access to clean water and air, access to healthcare, employment inequality and the strength and relevance of democratic institutions. Ultimately, by using the Youth Progress Index, public authorities can develop evidence-based policy making for youth, which can promote their social progress overall and to sustainable development.

## The Youth Progress Index & the Sustainable Development Goals

Basic Human Needs	Foundations of Wellbeing	Opportunity
<p>Nutrition &amp; Basic Medical Care</p> <p>2 ZERO HUNGER    3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p>Access to Basic Knowledge</p> <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>Personal Rights</p> <p>1 NO POVERTY    16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 
<p>Water &amp; Sanitation</p> <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION    12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>Access to Information and Communications</p> <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE    16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS    17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>Personal Freedom and Choice</p> <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING    5 GENDER EQUALITY    10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 
<p>Shelter</p> <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING    7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY    11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>Health and Wellness</p> <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p>Inclusion</p> <p>1 NO POVERTY    8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH    10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES    16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 
<p>Personal Safety</p> <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING    16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>Environmental Quality</p> <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE    12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION    13 CLIMATE ACTION    15 LIFE ON LAND    14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> 	<p>Access to Advanced Education</p> <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION    9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 



“The expense of being a young person living in Ireland just keeps growing and the ability to buy a house, a car or even food for during the week is becoming increasingly difficult.”

“It astounds me how there can be so much wealth in such a small percentage of the world’s population, and yet there is still such poverty for the people living in developing countries.”

“I’m afraid I won’t be able to go to university. I’m a good student but my family can’t afford college fees and student loans aren’t enough to live on. My older sister already had to drop out even though she was top of her class.”

“The government should open up 24/7 crisis mental health services, increase the mental health budget, and fund the training of more psychologists and nurses trained in psychiatric care.”

“Corporations need to be regulated and taxed. Clamp down on tax avoidance, a complete overhaul in our tax base and the creation of a more fair and just society.”

“Young people like myself are being forced to emigrate to achieve a standard of living that modern Ireland cannot offer them. To stay in Ireland for young educated people, means living on the poverty line.”

“Ireland is quite dependent on natural resources and restoring ecosystems in a manner that doesn’t affect the economy greatly would be difficult.”

“Homeless numbers are rising to ridiculous levels. We need to care for our homeless and give them the chance to lead fulfilling lives I think that our Government forgets that they are people ... They need assistance, not just a bed. The cycle needs to end.”

“Brexit may have a huge negative impact on our economy and could affect the lives of many young people in the near future.”



# Young Voices



# Development Education involves...

