



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Reflections on the Well-being Framework for Ireland

Stakeholder seminar

Report of the proceedings



Prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie)

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## Introduction

As policy goals become more complex, there is a need to measure and understand a much larger set of possible impacts (environmental, social and economic) – both positive and negative. There is also growing consideration internationally on how best to provide a comprehensive picture of overall societal progress to supplement traditional macroeconomic indicators, which don't necessarily capture broader living standards, sustainability, distributional outcomes, or people's lived experience in their totality. Many countries are now developing and using a broader set of indicators to measure societal progress.

In response to this, Ireland has developed the Well-being Framework, launched in 2021, on foot of a commitment in the *Programme for Government – Our Shared Future*. The Framework seeks to move beyond using just economic measures in gauging our progress as a country, by looking at economic, environmental, and social issues together, rather than separately or in isolation. The Framework focuses on quality of life, with a particular emphasis on equality and sustainability. It is currently being integrated across Government, including across the Budgetary cycle and in evaluation and expenditure decisions (a more detailed overview of Ireland's Well-being Framework is available at Appendix 1).

In November 2023, the Taoiseach convened a half-day seminar on Ireland's Well-being Framework to reflect on progress to date, identify gaps, and look at possible next steps for implementation.

## Overview of the Seminar

A half-day seminar titled 'Reflections on the Well-being Framework for Ireland' took place on 27 November 2023 in Government Buildings. It was convened to provide a space for reflection on work to date and to discuss next steps for implementation.

The seminar was chaired by Mr. Larry O'Connell (Director of the National Economic and Social Council) and welcomed attendance from approximately 70 stakeholders. Attendees were drawn from academia, business, public sector, community, and voluntary sectors (see full list of invited organisations at Appendix 4). This event provided an opportunity for attendees – many of whom were involved in the development of the Framework – to discuss the evolution of the initiative, and potential future development of a well-being approach in Ireland, its uses in policymaking, how the Irish Framework compares to other international approaches, and to discuss any areas for improvement.



*Taoiseach Leo Varadkar giving his opening address.*

The seminar also coincided with the approximate mid-way point between the launch of the initiative and a formal review which has been committed to take place around 2026.

The Seminar was opened by an address from the Taoiseach. He outlined the importance attached by Government to the Framework to better understand how people live and experience their lives in Ireland. He reiterated the commitment of Government to fulfilling the vision of the Framework highlighting the importance of, and potential for, using the Framework to look at quality of life, sustainability and equality measures in a more joined up manner.

He pointed towards options for the next steps, including the application of well-being analysis at a more local level, all-island approaches, and supporting increased awareness of the initiative among policymakers and the public. He emphasised that, by many measures, Ireland is amongst the best countries to live in the world.



*Ms Carrie Exton making a keynote presentation.*

Following the opening address by the Taoiseach, Ms Carrie Exton, of the OECD Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity Centre (WISE Centre), made a keynote presentation, in which she provided an overview of the international and national approaches to well-being measurement.

In particular she highlighted that:

- More than two-thirds of OECD member-states have a framework for well-being measurement or policy, motivated by a desire for better outcomes, improved policy and decision-making, more long-term thinking, alignment of priorities, continual improvement and stronger democracy;
- There is variation in both the conceptualisation and indicators across countries dependent on local issues and priorities, and data availability;
- Many countries' frameworks are converging towards the OECD approach, including Ireland;
- There are a wide variety of implementation approaches including the use of a well-being approach to budgeting, KPIs, policy appraisals, embedding evidence gathering in coordinating bodies, and incentives to encourage final resource allocation.

Following this presentation there was a short discussion session with attendees. Issues raised included the importance of trust and institutional capital, civil society awareness and ability to promote the initiative, the difference in countries' implementation depending on structures of Government (i.e. centralised or decentralised), and the potential for overlap between Well-being Frameworks and Just Transition indicators, including work ongoing at the OECD in this regard.

The next session of the seminar saw a presentation by Ms. Lena Jacobs of the Department of the Taoiseach who provided an overview of the Irish Well-being Framework and its use across Government to date. This presentation included an overview of the latest analysis of the Framework and its integration into the Budgetary cycle. Ms Jacobs also outlined ongoing work to use the approach through,

for example, budget tagging, policy analysis tools, and sectoral and Departmental approaches to measuring outcomes.

Slides for both Ms. Exton and Ms. Jacobs presentations can be found in Appendix 5.

A panel discussion, facilitated by the Chair, then took place featuring:

Mr. Gabriel Makhlouf, Governor Central Bank of Ireland

Ms. Carrie Exton, OECD

Ms. Niamh Moore Cherry, Professor, University College Dublin

Mr. Liam Delaney, Professor, London School of Economics

Ms. Jennifer Wallace, Carnegie Trust

Opening the panel discussion, the Chair invited the panellists to give their thoughts on the evolution of Ireland's Well-being Framework in the context of their particular expertise and experience.

Governor Makhlouf spoke of the importance of embracing well-being frameworks while not ignoring established economic metrics such as GDP, despite its limitations. Drawing on his experience in New Zealand, as Secretary to the New Zealand Treasury from 2011 to 2019, he noted how the development of the Living Standards Framework – which was a Treasury initiative initially – was fundamental in developing a well-being budget for the new Government in 2017.

Jennifer Wallace of Carnegie UK, drawing on twelve years of experience working on well-being frameworks, commented on how well-being can be used as a vehicle for wider discussions on the relationship between Government and the public and on the kind of society that is desirable. She highlighted the importance of not just reviewing statistics, but to also examine how this relates to people's lived experiences.





*The panel featured (left to right) Ms. Carrie Exton, OECD; Ms. Jennifer Wallace, Carnegie Trust; Mr. Gabriel Makhoul, Governor Central Bank of Ireland; Ms. Niamh Moore Cherry, Professor, University College Dublin; Mr. Liam Delaney, Professor, London School of Economic; and Mr. John Shaw, Department of the Taoiseach.*

Professor Moore Cherry focused on the importance of place-based indicators and the need to consider what is really important to people in their locality. She highlighted the possibility of a Well-being Commissioner (similar to a Future Generations Commissioner) giving examples of use elsewhere, and also noted the potential for linkages with a potential Just Transition Commission.

Professor Delaney rounded off the introductory comments by raising the issue of mental health, reflecting that globally young people are more psychologically stressed than any other time, and that while there are likely a number of contributing factors impacting their well-being (e.g. climate change, social media, technological change), there is no clear, evidence-based explanation.





*Governor Makhlouf and Jennifer Wallace during the Panel discussion*

The discussion then opened to the audience. Themes which arose included:

#### *Data and Communication*

- The importance of 'good' data and the need to improve data availability (in terms of access as well as current limitations in collection). It was agreed that good datasets are available but sometimes not at the scale that is required – for example, many survey datasets are not available at a local level.
- It was noted that these issues occur in most datasets, and there will always be missing aspects. Given the purpose of a well-being framework, it will never perfectly reflect everyone as too many variables may dilute the vision. Well-being is a high-level lens to understand societal challenges. It was also explained that the aim is to keep the Framework 'user friendly', and work with the CSO and other agencies will continue to bridge any specific data gaps.
- A discussion on the difference between the positive headline statistics, and the lived experience of many people in society. How can any discrepancy between these perspectives be articulated to promote the legitimacy of the initiative?

- An issue with data availability for social capital was raised, and the need for better communication tools around environmental and social stocks and flows more generally.

### *Concepts and Definitions*

- Questions regarding what concepts (and therefore, indicators) are included, and how to see important activities within the indicator set if they are not included directly (e.g. volunteering). The panellists highlighted that meaningful activity can be a driver of well-being – including some of the desired outcomes highlighted in the indicator set such as loneliness and subjective well-being. However, the type of meaningful activities may change across the lifecycle, which is why Well-being Frameworks tend to focus on outcomes.
- The importance of ‘place’ and how this relates to opportunity was highlighted throughout the panel discussion.
- The difference between a rights approach and a capabilities approach was explored, including how human rights fit into well-being, with panellists emphasising that human rights can be conceptualised as the floor, and well-being sets a pathway for continuous improvement above that floor. For example, everyone has the right to participate in education but not everyone has the ability, and building capability within communities supports this.
- There was a query on how to better integrate the boundaries of development (e.g. environmental boundaries) into the Framework – for example using the doughnut economics concept.

### *Budgetary and Policy Making Systems*

- There was significant discussion on the need for continuous focus on how the Well-being Framework can be applied to policy. The panel discussed the distinction between the role of the Framework (and of officials in the development of analysis, etc), and its impact on Government and the Budget. For example, in New Zealand the Living Standards Framework was initially developed by officials to improve policy advice. It was emphasized that priorities of successive

Governments can change, but the value of initiatives like the Well-being Framework is as an input to support the decision-making process.

- It was noted that integrating well-being into the policy process can result in a high-level perspective becoming more day to day which helps keep policy makers engaged across the system. Countries have experimented with different implementation pathways and Ireland can learn from these.
- Stakeholders expressed the view that there is a fatigue over the number of similar frameworks (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals, Equality Budgeting) and a need to focus on coherency in how these interact in the Budgetary cycle and policy-making.

In concluding remarks, the panel welcomed the progress that has been made over the last 3 years in the development and utilisation of well-being indicators, while noting that full integration and impact will take time.



*Minister Ryan closing the seminar*

The seminar was closed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications, and Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D. In his address he reflected on the

value of the Well-being Framework to the policy making system, and his desire for it to be used to support sustainability and intergenerational well-being, noting that a lack of long-term thinking can be a challenge in Government. The Minister also noted the possible synergies between the Well-being Framework and the Just Transition initiative.

## Next Steps

Ireland's Well-being Framework will continue to be integrated into Government policy making processes and data development. It will also continue to feature in the annual budgetary cycle (in the Public Service Performance Report, at the National Economic Dialogue, in the Summer Economic Statement, in Budget Day documentation and in the Spending Review).

Alongside the annual Budget cycle, several projects will be progressed in 2024 informed by discussions in the seminar:

- The development of place-based well-being indicators will be explored;
- Further development of communications approaches to embed the approach across the Government system, including through the Spending Review, IGEES and other cross-Departmental structures;
- Sectoral indicator sets will be developed to promote holistic understanding of progress towards Government goals;
- Contribute funding and engage with the new OECD Knowledge Exchange Platform on well-being, to both learn from developments in other countries, and highlight what is being achieved in Ireland.

Collaboration with the CSO and other agencies will also continue to improve quality of life data.

A formal review of the Framework has been committed to take place around 2026. The seminar discussions, along with any future stakeholder engagement, will be fully considered as part of this process. Engagement will also continue with stakeholders and experts to ensure that the Framework remains a live, flexible mechanism through which quality of life in Ireland can be understood and, ultimately, improved. Further feedback on the initiative is welcome and can be sent to [WellbeingFramework@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:WellbeingFramework@taoiseach.gov.ie).

## Appendix 1 - Well-being Framework for Ireland – an overview

Ireland's [Well-being Framework](#) was launched in July 2021. It seeks to move beyond using just economic measures in gauging our progress as a country, by looking at economic, environmental and social issues together, rather than separately or in isolation. It focuses on quality of life, with a particular emphasis on equality and sustainability. The Well-being Framework is currently being integrated across Government, including across the Budgetary cycle. Work to integrate a well-being approach, including into evaluation and expenditure decisions, is also being advanced.

The Framework consists of 11 dimensions which are made up of different aspects of well-being. The [Well-being Information Hub](#), which is hosted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), covers 35 outcome indicators across these 11 dimensions and provides a medium term, holistic view of quality of life in Ireland.

The Government has agreed that analysis of the Framework will be published annually and included as part of the Budget cycle. In 2023 the Framework has featured at the [National Economic Dialogue](#), in the [Summer Economic Statement](#), and in two Budget documents: [Budget 2024: Beyond GDP – Quality of Life Assessment](#) and [Budget 2024 – Enhancing the Well-being of People Living in Ireland](#).

### Implementation

The development of the Framework is led by the Department of Taoiseach and jointly sponsored by the Departments of Finance and Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. This is a whole of Government initiative and an inter-departmental group (which includes representatives from all Departments), chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach, drives implementation of the Well-being Framework across Government.

Departments are progressing work to further embed the approach into policy and decision-making. Examples of this include development of sectoral indicator sets, and analysis of [complex policy issues](#) or [cohorts](#) using a well-being approach. The Department of Public Expenditure, NDP delivery, and Reform is working to embed Ireland's Well-being Framework into [policy analysis](#) and [expenditure](#) decisions.

The well-being indicators, chosen in consultation with the CSO, based on specific criteria should be seen collectively as a high-level indication of the overall progress towards collective well-being in Ireland. The Government has committed to a formal review of the Framework after 4 years, allowing time for the initial dashboard to be used and tested.

## **Analysis**

The annual analysis of the Framework is intended to provide an overall picture of the country's progress, using data that facilitate a longer-term assessment of quality of life dynamics. [The latest annual analysis report](#) was published in June 2023 and provides a medium-term view of Ireland's progress.

Overall, the 2023 report shows that performance is positive across the well-being indicators in ten of the 11 dimensions with only one dimension, the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, showing a negative performance. Mental and Physical Health was the second worst performing dimension.

More detail on the Framework, including the full 2023 analysis report, is available at: [gov.ie/wellbeing-framework](https://gov.ie/wellbeing-framework)



## Appendix 2 – Event Schedule

9:30	Tea and coffee on arrival
10:00	Introduction by Chair (Larry O’Connell, Director, NESC)
10:05	Opening address by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, T.D.
10:15	Comparative International Approaches (Carrie Exton, Acting Senior Counsellor and Deputy Director, OECD WISE Centre)
10:45	Overview of Ireland’s Well-being Framework 2023
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Panel Discussion: Reflections on the evolution of Ireland’s Well-being Framework and Next Steps
	<b>Discussants:</b>
	Gabriel Mahklouf, (Governor of Central Bank of Ireland, former Secretary to New Zealand Treasury)
	Jennifer Wallace (Director of Policy and Evidence, Carnegie UK Trust)
	Liam Delaney (Professor, London School of Economics)
	Niamh Moore-Cherry (Professor, University College Dublin)
	Ms. Carrie Exton (Acting Senior Counsellor and Deputy Director, OECD WISE Centre)
12:15	Q&A and views from attendees
12:50	Closing remarks by Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport
	Eamon Ryan, T.D.
13.00	Light lunch
13:30	End

## Appendix 3 – Chair, speakers, and panellists



**Leo Varadkar**  
Taoiseach



**Minister Eamon Ryan T.D.**  
Minister for Environment, Climate,  
Communications and Transport



**Mr. Larry O'Connell**  
Director, National  
Economic  
and Social



**Ms. Carrie Exton**  
Acting Senior Counsellor  
and Deputy Director,  
OECD WISE



**Governor Gabriel Makhoul**  
Central Bank  
of Ireland



**Ms. Jennifer Wallace**  
Carnegie UK



**Professor Liam Delaney**  
London School  
of Economics



**Professor Niamh  
Moore Cherry**  
University College  
Dublin

## Appendix 4 – List of Invitees

Representatives from the following organisations were invited to attend the 'Reflections on the Well-being Framework for Ireland' Seminar on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Age Action	Arts Council	Belong To LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland
Bird Watch Ireland	Business in the Community Ireland	Central Statistics Office
Centre for Effective Services (NI)	Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations	Chambers Ireland
Children's Rights Alliance	City and County Management Agency	Climate Change Advisory Council
Coillte	Community Platform	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Construction Industry Federation	Construction Workers Health Trust	Cyber Ireland
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science	Department of Health	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform
Department of Rural and Community Development	Department of Social Protection	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
Department of Transport	Disability Federation	Dublin City University
Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly	Economic and Social Research Institute	Economic and Social Research Institute
Education and Training Boards Ireland	Enterprise Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency
European Movement Ireland	Executive Office NI Government	Family Resource Centre
Feasta	Fiscal Council	National Forum
Fórsa	Friends of the Earth Ireland	Foroige
Going For Growth	Health Research Board	Friends Of The Irish Environment
Immigrant Council	Inclusion Ireland	Higher Education Authority
		Industrial Development Agency

Industry Research and Development Group (IRDG)	Innovation Value Institute, Maynooth University	Institute of International and European Affairs
Ireland Strategic Investment Fund	Irish Business and Employers Confederation	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society	Irish Council for Social Housing	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Irish Environmental Network	Irish Farmers' Association	Irish Green Building Council
Irish Human Rights And Equality Commission	Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE)	Irish Research Council
Irish Rural Link	Irish Small and Medium Enterprises	Irish Traveller Movement
Lighthouse Club-Construction Charity	London School of Economics	Low Pay Commission
Macra Na Feirme	Marine Institute	Maynooth University
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland	National Association of Community Enterprise Centres	National Competitiveness and Productivity Council
National Disability Authority	National Economic and Social Council	National Women's Council
National Youth Council of Ireland	Natural Capital Ireland	Nevin Economic Research Institute
Northern Ireland Department of Finance	Northern Ireland Executive Office	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Parliamentary Budget Office	Pobal	Queens University Belfast
Royal College of Surgeons Ireland	Royal Irish Academy	Science Foundation Ireland
Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union	Social Justice Ireland	Society of Saint Vincent dePaul
Southern Assembly	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	Sustainable Finance
Teagasc	Tech Ireland	The HR Suite
The Wheel	Think tank for Action on Social Change)	Threshold
Trinity College Dublin	TU Dublin	Údarás na Gaeltachta
University College Cork	University College Dublin	Volunteer Ireland
Western Development Commission		

## Appendix 5 – Presentations

### 1. Carrie Exton, Deputy Director, OECD WISE CENTRE

**Carrie Exton** | Acting Senior Counsellor and Deputy Director  
**OECD WISE CENTRE** – Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity

## Comparative International Approaches

Reflections on Ireland's Well-being Framework  
Dublin, 27 November 2023

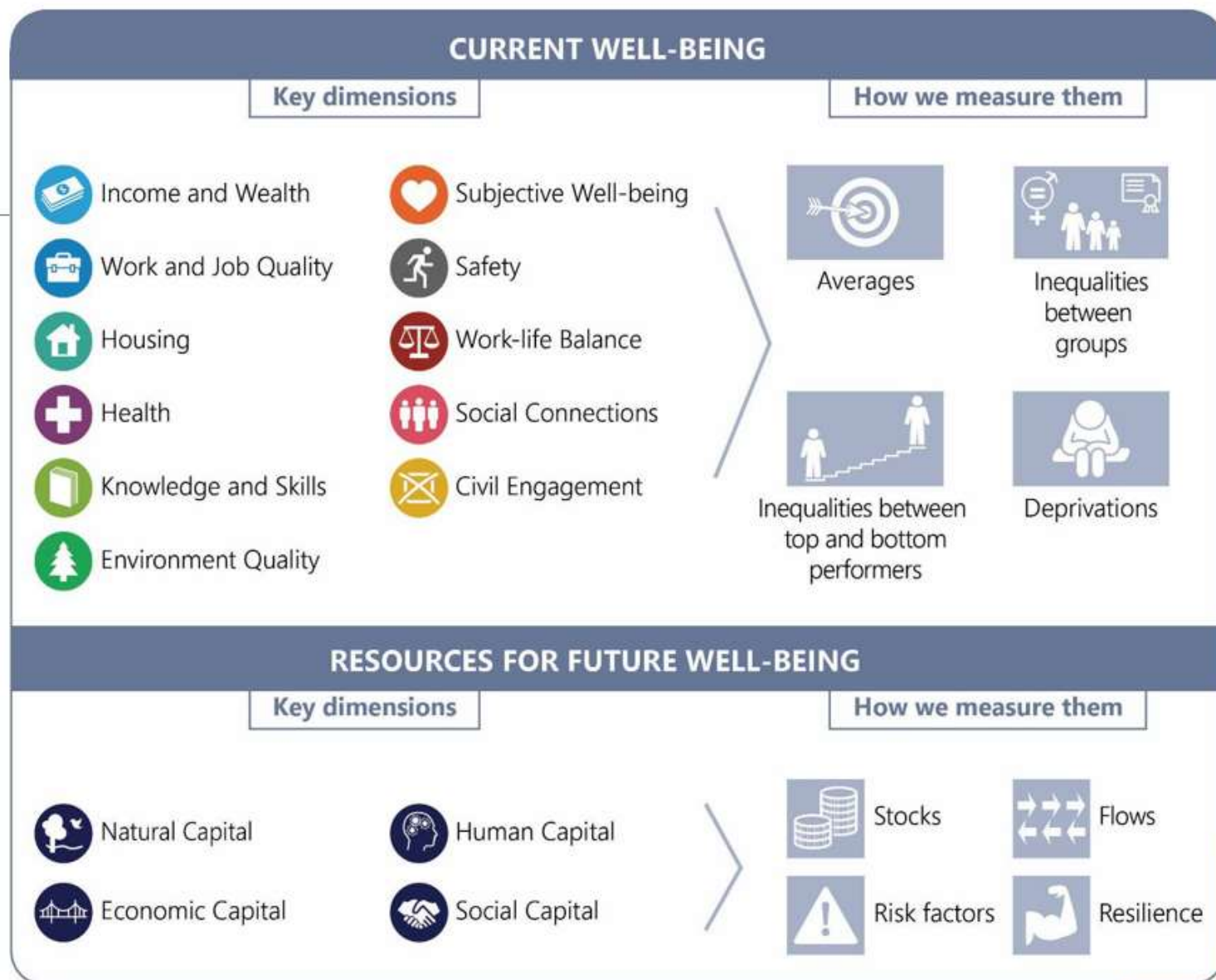


# What is well-being?

OECD Well-being Framework (2011) puts the focus on:

- **people** not (only) the economic system
- both **averages** and **inequalities**
- both **objective** and **subjective** aspects
- well-being **outcomes today**, and resources for **future well-being**

OECD (2020) *How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-being*  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/23089679>  
[www.oecd.org/howslife](http://www.oecd.org/howslife)





# CURRENT WELL-BEING IRELAND (2022)

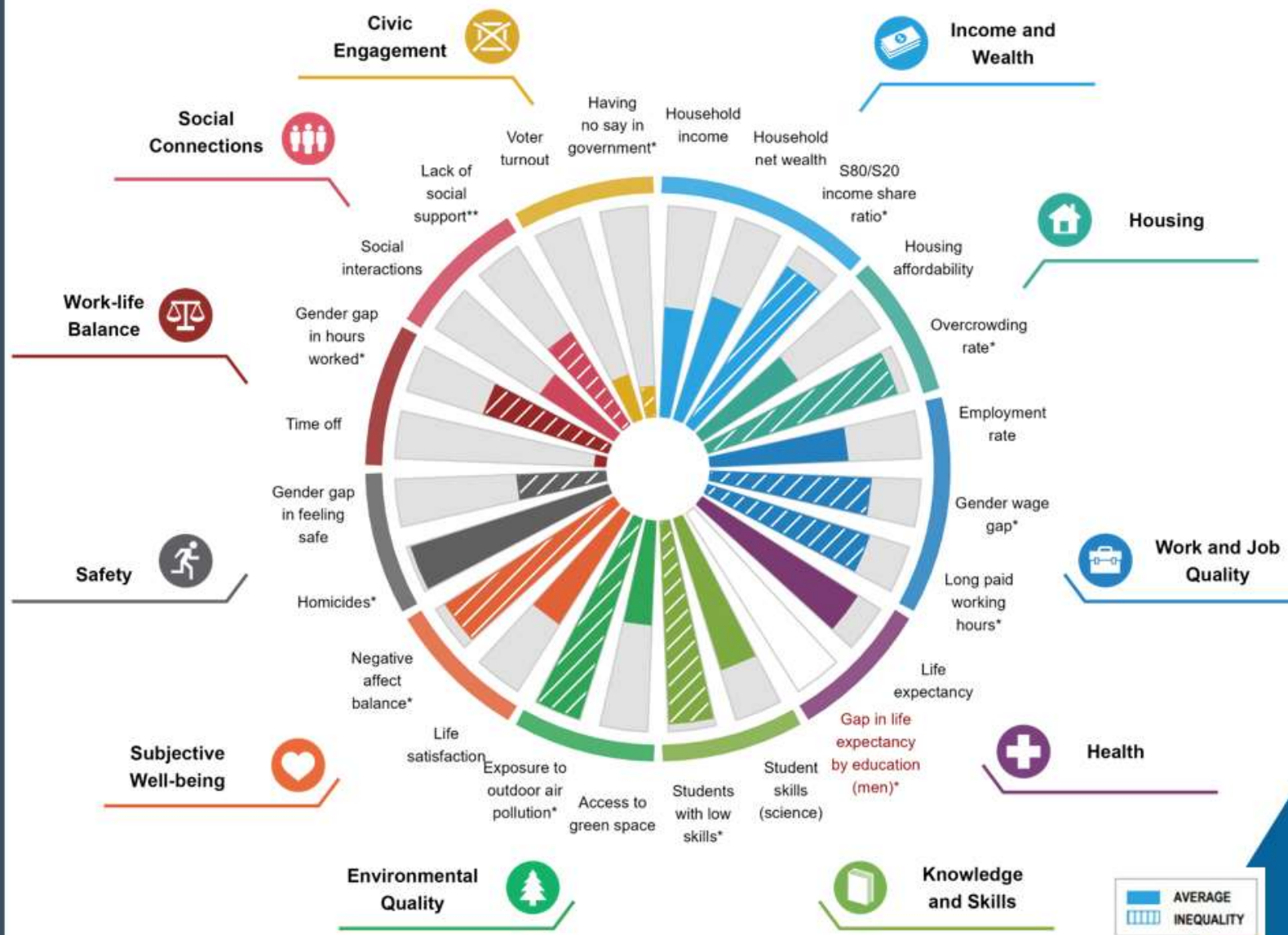
This chart shows Ireland's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being compared to other OECD countries.

No data are available for the "gap in life expectancy by education" indicator

Longer bars indicate better outcomes (higher wellbeing), whereas shorter bars indicate worse outcomes (lower well-being) – including for negative indicators, marked with an \*, which have been reverse-scored.

See *How's Life Country Notes*,  
<https://www.oecd.org/wise/measuring-well-being-and-progress.htm#country-notes>

Based on *How's Life?* Well-being database  
<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=HSL>





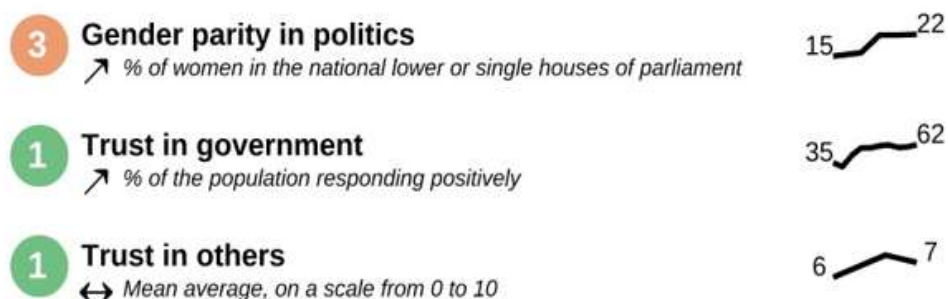
# RESOURCES FOR FUTURE WELL-BEING IRELAND (2010-22)



## Economic Capital



## Social Capital



## Human Capital



## Natural Capital



Note: **1** =top-performing OECD tier, **2** =middle-performing OECD tier, **3** =bottom-performing OECD tier. ↗ indicates consistent improvement; ↔ indicates no clear or consistent trend; ↘ indicates consistent deterioration, and "..." indicates insufficient time series to determine trends since 2010. Data refer to 2022 or latest available year for all indicators except for Red List Index (2023).



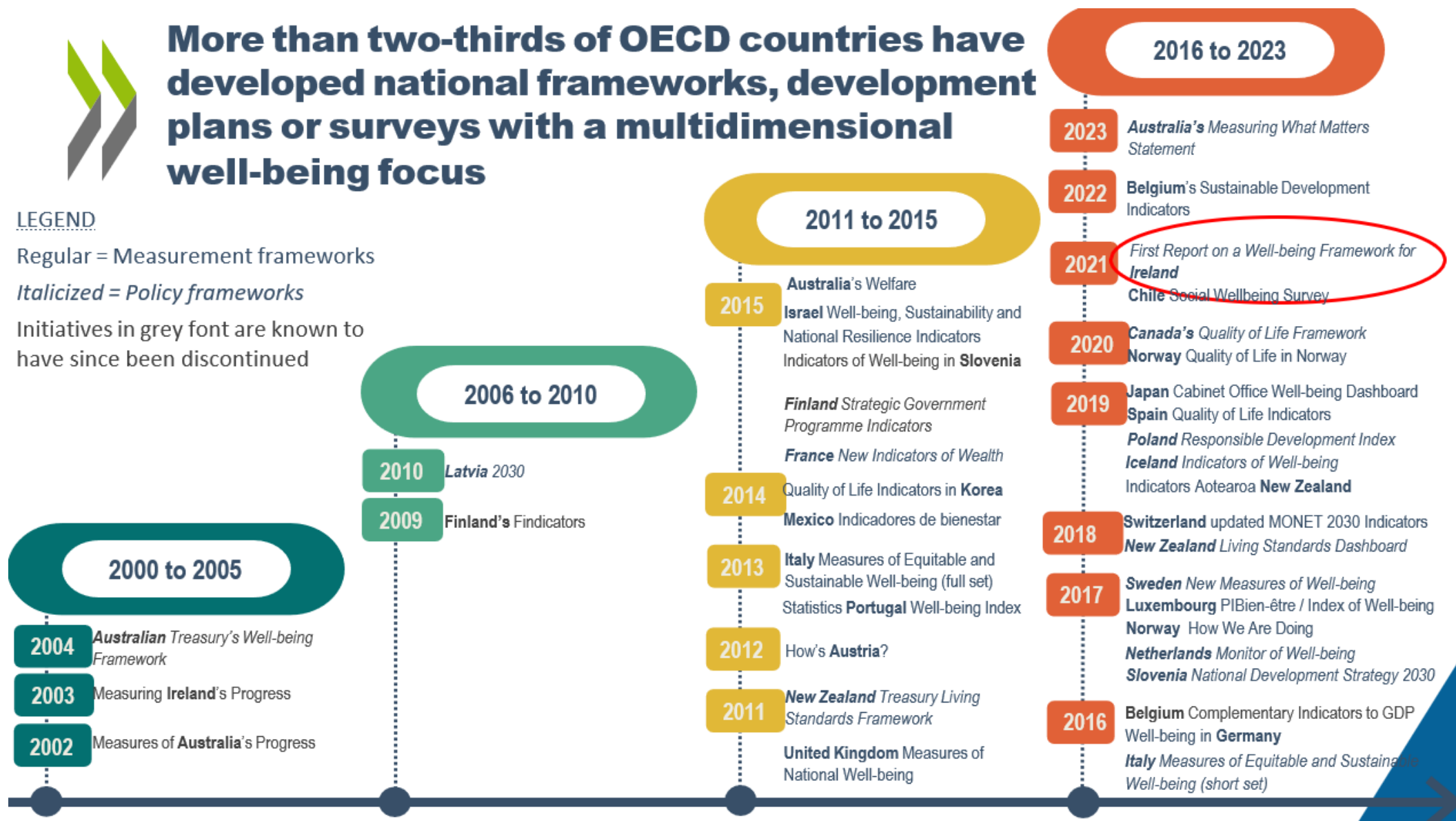
## More than two-thirds of OECD countries have developed national frameworks, development plans or surveys with a multidimensional well-being focus

### LEGEND

Regular = Measurement frameworks

*Italicized* = Policy frameworks

Initiatives in grey font are known to have since been discontinued



# International interest in sustainable, inclusive well-being

## UN Statistics Division

- Beyond GDP Framework and Sprints, contributing to the *System of National Accounts* update coverage of well-being and sustainability issues

## UNECE/Conference of European Statisticians

- In depth review of measurement of current well-being

## European Commission

- Horizon Europe research on Well-being, inclusion, sustainability and the economy

## G7 Finance Track

- 2023 Communiqué statement on need for multidimensional welfare indicators and operational policy tools



Updating the SNA >> Towards the 2025 SNA  
**Wellbeing and Sustainability Task Team (WSTT)**



## Wellbeing, inclusion, sustainability and the economy

### Economic Commission for Europe

United Nations

### Conference of European Statisticians

Seventy-first plenary session

Geneva, 22–23 June 2023

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians**



### Economic and Social Council



**In-depth review of measurement of current well-being** Finance Track



# **1. The limitations of GDP for measuring economic welfare**

## **2. Recent developments in selected dimensions of economic welfare**

## **3. Integrating well-being dimensions in policy strategies**

[https://www.oecd.org/economy/G7\\_Beyond\\_GDP\\_Economic\\_policy\\_making\\_to\\_pursue\\_economic\\_welfare\\_2023.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/economy/G7_Beyond_GDP_Economic_policy_making_to_pursue_economic_welfare_2023.pdf)



[illegible]

# Multidimensional well-being frameworks' use in policy is motivated by several objectives, including:

## Better Outcomes

Re-focusing policy efforts on what really matters to people's quality of life can lead to better outcomes for citizens

## Better Decisions

Clearly defining and measuring quality of life, along with granular data on the diversity of citizens' experiences, can provide a stronger evidence base to inform government decisions

## Long-term Perspective

Supporting the systematic consideration of sustainability issues to ensure that today's progress is not being achieved at the expense of future generations

## Horizontal Alignment

Facilitating co-ordination across federal agencies and departments towards a common set of strategic objectives, as well as across all sectors of society

## Continual Improvement

Applying across the federal government could improve the quality and consistency of policy development, impact monitoring and evaluation

## Stronger Democracy

Improving transparency and accountability on the government's priorities and results with regular monitoring and reporting



## Inclusion is multidimensional too!

OECD Well-being Framework Dimensions		G7 Countries						Selected OECD Countries						International Efforts			
		CAN	DEU	FRA	GBR	ITA	JPN	IRL	ISL	ISR	KOR	NLD	NZL	EStat	HDI	SDGs	WHR
Current well-being	Income and wealth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Work and job quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Housing	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Knowledge and skills	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Environmental quality	✓			✓											✓	
	Subjective well-being	✓															✓
	Safety	✓										✓	✓			✓	
	Work-life balance									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Social connections							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Civic engagement					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Future well-being	Natural capital	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
	Human capital	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Economic capital	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	Social capital	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

**Inclusion & equal opportunities**





# Countries employ various methods to bring a well-being approach into policy

## BUDGETING

- Italy
- New Zealand
- France
- Canada
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Sweden
- Australia



## PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS/ KPIs & NATIONAL COORDINATION STRATEGIES

- UK (+ Scotland and Wales)
- Iceland
- Japan
- Slovenia
- Colombia
- Latvia



## POLICY APPRAISAL AND EVALUATION TOOLS

- Italy
- United Kingdom
- New Zealand
- Slovenia



## EMBEDDING MECHANISMS

Legislation and accountability structures

- Italy
- NZ
- Wales
- Scotland

Capacity-building and evidence gathering

- UK
- Ireland

Coordinating bodies

- Italy



## There is no single way to use well-being evidence in policy

e.g. examples of applying well-being in a budget context include



Well-being **reporting** (e.g. France, Sweden, Italy and Iceland)



Structured (**parliamentary**) **debates** on well-being evidence and priorities (e.g. France, the Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, Finland)



Built-in requirements or **incentives to encourage inter-ministry collaboration** on budget proposals (e.g. New Zealand, Canada)



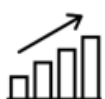
**Ex-ante assessments** on well-being impact of budget initiatives (e.g. New Zealand, Italy, Canada)



Well-being perspective in **final resource allocation decision-making** (e.g. New Zealand, Canada)



**Ex-post assessment** of the impact of budget on well-being (e.g. Italy)



Well-being budget **baseline analysis** (e.g. Italy)

# Building well-being into policy requires a solid **ecosystem of tools, processes, and incentives...**



## TOOLS

- Common (measurement) framework
- Analytical and decision-making tools
- Legislation
- Coordination mechanisms



## PROCESSES

- Cross-government collaboration
- Civil service capacity-building
- Public/ stakeholder engagement
- Parliamentary debate



## INCENTIVES

- Strong leadership from central government
- Accountability mechanisms
- Investment in cross-department programmes
- Better decision-making, improved outcomes

....and all under-pinned by **solid, multidisciplinary evidence on what works**



**TOOLS**



**PROCESSES**



**INCENTIVES**



## EVIDENCE INFRASTRUCTURE



- Monitoring reports
- Programme evaluations (ex ante/ex post)
- Impact Assessments
- Ethnographic studies/lived experience

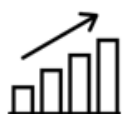
- Research on well-being drivers and impacts
- Experimental approaches
- Systematic reviews of intervention effectiveness

Etc. ..

# New in November 2023!

## OECD Well-being Knowledge Exchange Platform [oe.cd/KEP](https://oe.cd/KEP)

### MEASUREMENT



- Combining **statistical and policy perspectives**
- Communicating **complexity**
- **Decision metrics** beyond dashboards
- **New data sources and methods**

### POLICY ECOSYSTEMS



- Well-being **policy analysis, appraisal, and evaluation**
- **Policy design and implementation**
- **Systems-thinking and integrated analysis**
- **Embedding mechanisms** e.g. (legislation, agency support)

### WELL-BEING LENS



- **More integrated and effective responses** for specific policy issues/sectors (e.g. mental health; child well-being)
- Evidence on **drivers, interlinkages & synergies**
- Effective **policy interventions**

# Thanks for your attention!

<https://www.oecd.org/wise>



2. Lena Jacobs, Department of the Taoiseach



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Ireland's Well-being Framework

Lena Jacobs, Department of the Taoiseach

27 November 2023



# Developing Ireland's Well-being Framework





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## Understanding life in Ireland A Well-being Framework



# CSO Well-being Information Hub



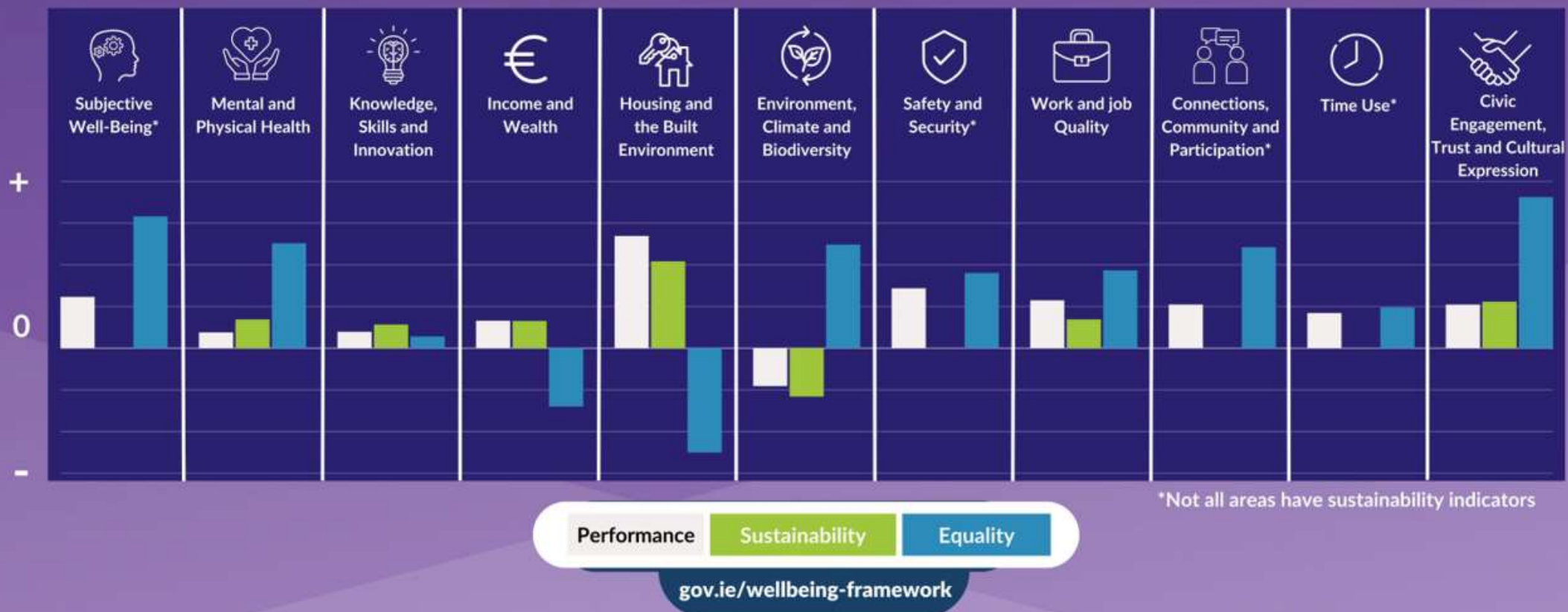
- 35 indicators across 11 dimensions
- 15 tagged for sustainability (economic, environmental, social)
- Equality explored through outcomes of different groups (e.g. age, sex, household)

Subjective Well-being	Mental and Physical Health	Knowledge, Skills and Innovation	Income and Wealth
High overall life satisfaction	Healthy life years	Reading and maths performance in 15 year olds	Median real household disposable income
Population who did not feel downhearted	Population reporting depression	Lifelong learning rate	Median household net wealth
School aged children who are happy with their life	Unmet need for medical attention	Research and development personnel	Difficulty making ends meet
			Net Government wealth
Housing and Built Environment	Environment, Climate and Biodiversity	Safety and Security	
Housing affordability	Pollution, grime or other environmental problems	Murder rate per 100,000 population	
A or B BER	Water body quality 'high' or 'good'	Persons killed or injured on roads	
New dwelling completions	Greenhouse gas emissions	Population who worry they could be a victim of a crime	
Distance to everyday services	Waste		
Work and Job Quality	Time Use	Community, Connections and Participation	Civic Engagement, Trust and Cultural Expression
Labour underutilisation rate	Long working hours	Population who feel lonely	Satisfaction with democracy in Ireland
Employment rate	Long caring hours	Someone to count on in case of serious problem	Discrimination
Mean weekly earnings	Population satisfied with time use		Perceived social inclusion



## Understanding Life in Ireland | A Well-being Perspective 2023

Trend over 5 years - International comparisons - Differences between groups



# Decision-making and Policy



Budget



Cross-Government





# Decision-making and Policy



# Conclusion



- National Well-being approach still relatively new
- 2023 dashboard analysis generally positive
- Implementation in budget and cross-Government

# Questions for Discussion



- How could the Irish Framework be improved?
- What sectors or issues should we focus on next?
- How can we get the best out of this approach in an Irish context?

# Reflections on the Well-being Framework for Ireland



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## Understanding life in Ireland A Well-being Framework



#Understandinglifeinireland

#Ansaolinéirinnathuisint



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# Thank you!

## More information at: [www.gov.ie/wellbeing-framework](http://www.gov.ie/wellbeing-framework)

Other relevant links:

- [Well-being and Public Policy](#)
- [Well-being and Budgetary Process](#)
- [Well-being Information Hub](#) (Central Statistics Office)
- [How the Irish Government is using Well-being](#)

