Factsheet: Ireland

Last update: 28 July 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Ireland’s youth policy framework 2014–2020 defines a young person as “any person between the ages of 15 and 24 years”, and a child as anyone under the age of 18.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower House</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper House</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opposite Sex</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Without parental consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same Sex</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>With parental consent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOTING AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAJORITY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

Minimum Age: Between 10-12 years, children may only be charged with murder, manslaughter, rape or aggravated sexual assault. Source: Criminal Justice Act (2006), Children Act (2001)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.74
25 out of 170 countries.

LITERACY RATES

Both sexes (15-24) %

Net enrolment rate

Secondary School

99.15%

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment

Source: World Bank

PREVALENCE OF HIV

Male (15-24) %
Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: WHO

Tobacco Use

Consumed any smokable or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

Male (13-15) %
Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: WHO

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The youth policy framework 2014–2020 states:

Our vision is for Ireland to be one of the best small countries in the world in which to grow up and raise a family, and where the rights of all children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled, where their voices are heard and where they are supported to realise their maximum potential now and in the future.

The policy has five national outcomes in relation to young people:
1. Active and healthy, with positive physical and mental well-being.
2. Achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and development.
3. Realising the value of all young people.
4. Honours the unique characteristics and challenges of young people.
5. Ensures young people are given the opportunity to make informed decisions.

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or...
Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

449.0 MILLION USD 617.7 MILLION

According to the 15th October 2013 press release, the 2014 budget for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs was EUR 449.0 million (USD 617.7 million). The press release notes that this “represents an increase of almost €15 million over its 2013 allocation and consists of €414 million in current expenditure and €35 million in capital expenditure.” According to the World Bank, Ireland spent 9.80% of its government expenditure and 6.41% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

A new Child and Family Agency established in 2014 is responsible for the implementation of the national youth policy framework.

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The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) was established in 1967, and is an umbrella organisation for 45 voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. Its mission is to use “its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.” Its advocacy work focuses topics including child protection, youth unemployment, participation, youth work and education. Additionally, it supports volunteering opportunities, youth work quality standards, funding, and youth work development. The NYCI is “recognised in legislation through the Youth Work Act 2001.”

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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