



**Youth**Partnership

# FACTSHEET

## ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

### IN IRELAND



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



  
Education and Culture DG



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## Table of contents

1) Risk of poverty .....	3
2) Social Subsistence/Protection.....	3
3) Equal opportunities .....	3
ANNEX 5.....	4
ANNEX 6.....	5

## 1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006	Less than 18	22,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>work income</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		33,40
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Unemployment benefit</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		11,20
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Family allowance</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		37,10
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		50,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		21,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		25,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		9,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Single parent with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		47,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household without dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		18,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		19,00

## 2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	<b>Annex 5</b>
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## 3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	<b>Annex 6</b>
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## ANNEX 5

### SOCIAL SUBSISTANCE/PROTECTION

#### Social welfare system in Ireland

The social welfare system is complicated and has four main types of income support:

- Social insurance payments (social insurance contributions financed)
- Social assistance payments (means tested and tax financed)
- Universal benefits (tax financed)
- Extra benefits/supplements.

Department of Social and Family Affairs is the Government department that controls and administers most income supports. Some income supports are administered by Health Service Executive through local health centres. (<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf>.) The Health services are to all persons resident in Ireland. A person may be required to pay a subsidised fee for health care. All child health and maternity services is free. The Medical Card holders have free health services. The Medical card is available e.g. those receiving welfare payments, low earners, all person aged 70 or over, disabled or illness people. (<http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>)

#### The social insurance payments

Most employers and employees (over 16 years of age) in Ireland pay social insurance contributions (PRSI) into Irelands Social Insurance Fund which finances social insurance payments. Most Irish also pay Health contributions to Department of Health and Children which finances health services in Ireland. For the young people , aged 16-34 years, social insurance system includes e.g. illness benefit, jobseekers benefit and invalidity pension, bereavement grant and widows/widowers pension, guardians payment and maternity /adoptive benefit. (<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf> ; <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>.)

#### The social assistance payments

The ones not satisfying the conditions for an insurance payment may get an assistance payment. This payment is means tested. A means test is a set of rules that are used to assess the weekly value of any income savings, assets or cash a person may have. The social assistance payments for the youth are e.g. carers allowance, one-parent family payment, widows / widowers pension, orphans pension, jobseekers allowance, farm assist, blind pension, disability allowance (<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf> ; <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>.)

#### Universal benefits

The two most common universal benefits are: Child Benefit and Free Travel. Child benefit is paid monthly to persons with a 'qualified child' under 16 years (for 16-18 years old it is paid if they are in full-education, attending a FÁS YOUTHREACH course or disabled and dependent on parent). In addition an extra grant is paid for child birth and 4 years and 12 years. ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do?lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do?lang=en) , <http://www.welfare.ie/>) The Free Travel Scheme allows you to travel for free on most CIE public transport services if you are e.g. disabled person. (<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf> ; <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>.)

#### Extra income supports/ Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)

These are supports that are provided in addition to your main social welfare payment. These supports are not available to everyone on a social welfare payment. They are often means tested.

Extra income supports are e.g.: Assistance with electricity/gas, telephone and TV licence, Assistance with the cost of fuel, Living Alone Allowance. Supplementary Welfare Allowance help with e.g. the cost of Rent/Mortgage, school clothing and footwear (Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance). (<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf>.)

#### Other benefits

Early childcare supplement is for all children under 6 years of age. It is intended to help parents of children under the age of six to meet their childcare needs. Early childcare supplement came into effect on April 1st 2006. It is a direct, non-taxable payment, to be paid at the end of each quarter (that is, every three months) for each child under 6 years of

age who receives Child Benefit. (<http://www.welfare.ie/>.) Unemployed person may seek either Job seeker's benefit or job seeker's allowance. (<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf> ; <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>.) Persons unemployed, getting a One-Parent Family Payment or with a disability, may be able to pursue approved second-or third-level education courses through the Back to Education Allowance scheme. Participants in the scheme receive a standard rate of payment that is not means tested. Any maintenance does not affect the payment. The allowance is payable for the duration of the course (<http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories>.)

Tax-financed health care for all inhabitants (based on residency).  
([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do?lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do?lang=en).)

#### Sources:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do?lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do?lang=en) MISSOC  
<http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories> Public Service Information  
<http://www.welfare.ie/> Department of Social and Family Affairs  
<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/swsguide.pdf> A short Guide to the Irish Welfare System

## ANNEX 6

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Human Rights Commission will work to ensure the protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in recognition of the universal, indivisible, interdependent and inter-related nature of all human rights. There should be equality between genders; women, men, transgender people should not be treated unfairly. (<http://www.ihr.org/home/default.asp>.) The study of The Experience of Discrimination in Ireland reported high levels of work-related discrimination people with disability, non-Irish nationals and unemployed. Service-related discrimination is high levels people with disability, non-Irish nationals and minority ethnic groups. Women are more likely to reported discrimination on gender, marital and family status grounds, while age and nationality were more commonly cited by men. (<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=105&docID=723>.)

#### Equality and Employment

Employment rate of women is 59% and men 78% aged 15-64 ([http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF).) The study *Gender Inequalities in Time Use* reported that women's committed time is 39 minutes higher than on an average day than men's. In addition to the paid work women do great part of homework and childcare. Women's employment rate has risen nowadays in Ireland. In spite of the fact that state supports for combining work and family life are relatively undeveloped compared to many other EU countries. (<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?docID=725>) Unemployment is considerably higher among non-Irish nationals. In general non-Irish nationals are somewhat less likely than Irish-nationals to secure the more privileged jobs in the occupational structure. ([http://www.esri.ie/UserFiles/publications/20080827121345/BKMNEXT119\\_ES.pdf](http://www.esri.ie/UserFiles/publications/20080827121345/BKMNEXT119_ES.pdf).)

#### Equality and Social inclusion

People with disability or illness are more than twice as likely to be at risk of poverty, and more than twice as likely to be poor. Poverty among this group is closely associated with social welfare dependence and with having no-one in the household at work. Among ill or disabled people at risk of poverty, only 10% of household income came from paid work. (<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=105&docID=624>.)

#### Equality and lifestyle

Ireland has the 5th highest rate of youth suicide in the EU for 14 – 24 year olds. The highest frequency is found among young men in the 20-29 year old age group. Mental health problems and disorders such as depression and substance

misuse are associated with 90% of all cases of suicide.( [http://www.youth.ie/issues/health\\_\\_1](http://www.youth.ie/issues/health__1).) Only 45% of those severely hampered have had an evening out in the last fortnight compared with 85% of those with no disability. Severely hampering disability reduces membership of clubs by 20 percentage points relative to non-disabled people; reduces the rate of meeting people regularly, by 7 percentage points; and reduces the incidence of talking to the neighbours by 15 percentage points. (<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=105&docID=624>.)

### **Equality and Standard of living**

Education in Ireland is free of charge at all levels, including college (university). 9% of women 18-21 years and 15% of the same age men are educated lower than the upper secondary education or no education at all. Moreover, the rate for the women at 22-24 years old is 10% and for the man 16 %. ([http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF)). People with disability or illness have substantially lower levels of educational qualifications than the others in their own age group. These disparities are stronger among younger people, and are stronger where disability restricts daily life. (<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=105&docID=624>.)The cost and availability of housing has been one of the biggest social and political issues in Ireland over the past decade. Last year a survey found that 24% of those between 20-29 years old were finding it difficult to cope with their current incomes. Unless action is taken soon the numbers in such a situation is likely to grow significantly if both house prices and interest rates continue to rise. ([http://www.youth.ie/issues/housing\\_\\_1](http://www.youth.ie/issues/housing__1).)

### **Sources:**

<http://www.ihrc.ie/home/default.asp>  
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[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF)  
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<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=105&docID=624>  
<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?docID=725>