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SPORT IRELAND

Sport Ireland

Mapping the Contribution of Irish Sport to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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inFocus Consulting Ltd

Foreword

Thomas Byrne - Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht

As Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht, I am honoured to present this report which maps the contribution of Irish National Sports Policy to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This report highlights the significant role that sports can play in achieving sustainable development, and it is a testament to the commitment of the Irish government to this important agenda.

As we all know, sport has the power to bring people together, build communities, and promote health and well-being. But it is only recently that we have come to fully appreciate the potential of sports as a driver of sustainable development. This report provides a comprehensive overview of how Irish National Sports Policy is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and it offers valuable insights into how sports can be leveraged to achieve a more sustainable future.

The report highlights the many ways in which sports can contribute to the SDGs, from promoting gender equality to fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It also identifies areas where more work needs to be done to fully harness the potential of sports as a tool for sustainable development. The insights provided in this report will be invaluable to policymakers, sports organisations, and other stakeholders as we work together to build a more sustainable and equitable world.

I want to extend my thanks to all those who contributed to this report for their leadership on this important issue. We look forward to continuing our work to promote the contribution of sports to sustainable development, and to building a brighter future for all.

Thomas Byrne, Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht

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Dr Úna May - Chief Executive Officer, Sport Ireland

On behalf of Sport Ireland, it is my pleasure to introduce this research report that maps the contribution of the Irish National Sports Policy to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As the CEO of Sport Ireland, I am delighted to see the recognition of the vital role that sport plays in promoting sustainable development and peace. At Sport Ireland, our mission is to increase participation in sport and physical activity, promote excellence, and develop sport in Ireland. We believe that sport has the power to transform lives, and this report highlights how it can also contribute to broader social, economic, and environmental goals.

The report shows that the Irish National Sports Policy aligns closely with ten of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including promoting good health and well-being, ensuring quality education, achieving gender equality, fostering decent work and economic growth, reducing inequalities, creating sustainable cities and communities, and building partnerships for the goals.

This alignment is no coincidence. The Sport Ireland Strategy recognises the importance of sustainability and places it at the centre of our efforts. Our strategy aims to increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity, promote lifelong participation, and support excellence in sport. At the same time, we strive to ensure that our activities contribute to a sustainable future, with a focus on reducing our environmental impact and promoting social inclusion.

I am proud to see the efforts of Sport Ireland recognized in this report, and I am committed to continuing our work to promote sustainable development through sport. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the report and to encourage all stakeholders to continue working together to maximise the positive impact of sport and society.

Dr Úna May, Sport Ireland CEO

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Introduction

The 2018 – 2027 National Sports Policy (NSP) recognised that although knowledge of the contribution of sport has come a long way, it is worth further exploring the value proposition of sport and its returns.

In 2021, this project was established to map the NSP to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will enable articulation of its activities through an established common global language.

This project fulfils actions from the Governments Sports Action Plan 2021-2023 and the Second SDG National Implementation Plan 2022-2024:

- **Action 7.4** of the Governments 'Sports Action Plan 2021-2023[1] *"will allow Ireland to respond to the Kazan Action Plan[2] that includes a specific objective to"* Develop *common indicators for measuring the contribution of sport, physical activity, and physical education to prioritized SDGs and targets"*.
- **Action 40(a)** from the Second SDG National Implementation Plan 2022-2024[3] which states *"Map the Irish National Sports Policy (2018-2027) to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs to capture and highlight its contribution"*.

Sport Ireland intends to move towards data informed decision making for sport, physical activity, and physical education. Research by Sport Ireland has made an important contribution to the understanding of the dynamics of sport, physical activity and physical education in Ireland which informs the policy agenda, actions of Government and feeds directly into the delivery of effective sport, physical activity, and physical education programmes.

This study was conducted across 2022 to:

1. Review the contribution of sport to the SDGs nationally and internationally.
2. Identify actions of the NSP that contribute to the SDGs.
3. Develop innovative SDG Framework for Sport in Ireland.
4. Use the framework to develop progress indicators for each SDG.

The NSP recognises sports positive contribution to many aspects of Irish life including health and wellbeing, social and community development, economic activity, educational performance, and life-long learning. The NSP has 57 actions across five domains: participation; sports facilities (including the Sport Ireland Campus); high performance; building capacity (including policy coherence and alignment); and governance (including the integrity and financing of Irish sport, and implementation, monitoring and review).

1 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media (2021), 'Sports Action Plan 2021-2023', Dublin, https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/93232-sports-action-plan-2021-2023/

2 The Kazan Action Plan, adopted by the 6th World Conference of Sport and Physical Education Ministers (MINEPS VI, in 2017), remains the global reference for fostering coherence in sport policy development in alignment with the SDGs.

3 Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications (2022) 'National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024', Dublin, https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e950f-national-implementation-plan-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-2022-2024/

The NSP actions were mapped to ten of the SDGs which research has shown sport can meaningfully contribute to. The ten SDGs are:

This report will articulate how sport contributes to each of these SDGs in Ireland, allowing Sport Ireland to understand and begin quantifying the significant impact sport has on the SDGs. The report also provides recommendations for Sport Ireland concerning improving the evidence base and bridging data gaps to monitor Ireland's progress towards the SDG targets. This project establishes a road map for Sport Ireland to begin analysing the contribution of Sport in Ireland to the SDGs.

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals

Figure B1: The Sustainable Development Goals

There are 17 goals, 169 targets, and 237 unique indicators within this 2030 Agenda, forming the framework for global development through to 2030 (UNGA, 2015). Although the SDGs and Agenda 2030 are not a legally binding, 193 member states of the United Nations pledged their commitment to this universal agenda. This agenda for people, planet and prosperity seeks to address all three dimensions of sustainable development; economic, social, and environmental (UNGA, 2015).

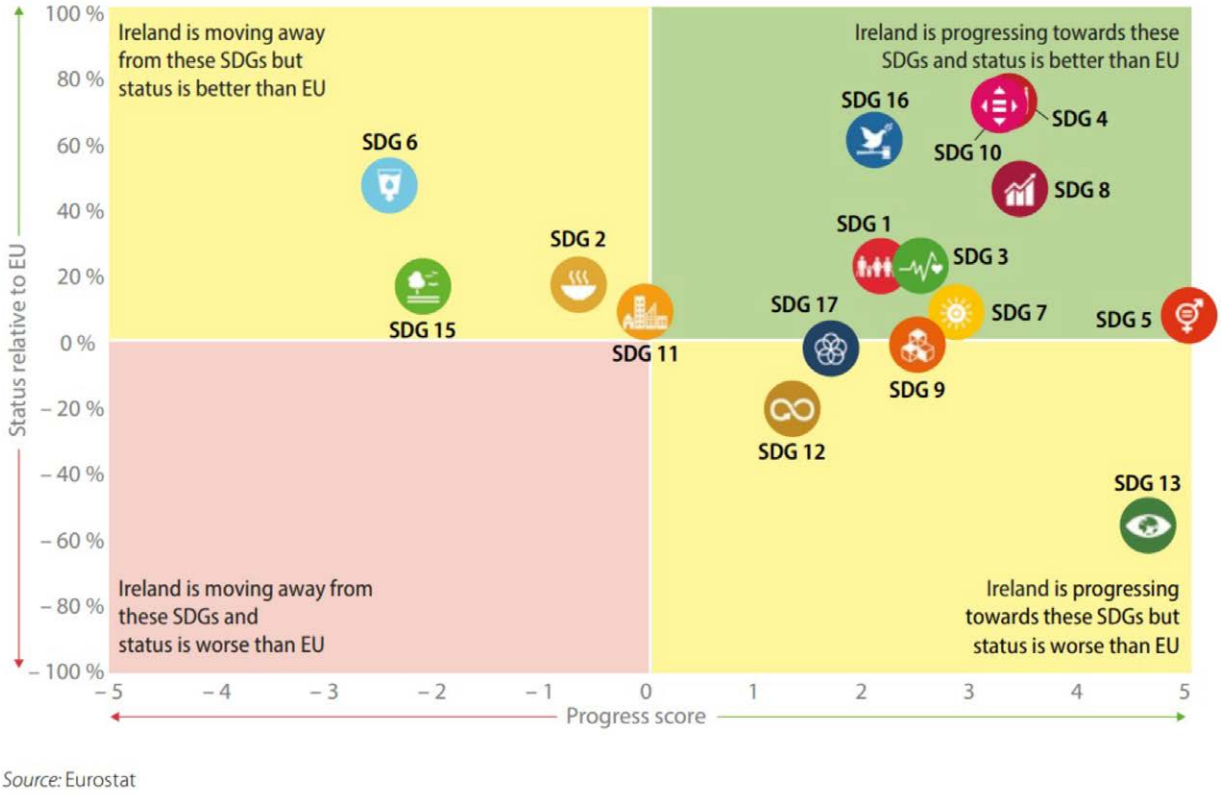
Ireland's Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024[4] provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan sets out the Government's ambitious response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and commits Ireland to fully achieving all 17 of the Goals by 2030. The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has responsibility for officially reporting on Ireland's progress toward meeting the SDG targets and the CSO has a central role in the identification, management, and presentation of the data needed to meet the requirements of the SDG Indicators. While governments have primary responsibility for implementing the SDGs, the Goals do not belong to governments alone. To achieve the SDGs, governments, businesses, communities, and individuals will all have to work together. The SDGs therefore encompass all civil society.

The Sustainable Development in the European Union Report (2022)[5] outlined the progress towards the SDGs in an EU context. It produced a statistical overview of the status and progress towards the 17 SDGs for each member state, based on an EU SDG indicator set. The progress score of the member state is based on the average annual growth rates of all assessed indicators in the SDG over the past five years. The status score for Ireland is a relative measure, showing its position in relation to the EU average. A high status consequently does not mean that a country is close to reaching a specific SDG, but that it has achieved a higher status than many other member states (Eurostat 2022 p326). Figure B2 shows Ireland's progress by the EU indicator set.

4 Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications (2022) 'National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024', Dublin, https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e950f-national-implementation-plan-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-2022-2024/

5 Eurostat (2022) 'Sustainable Development in the European Union', Brussels, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-flagship-publications/-/ks-09-22-019



Source: Eurostat

Figure B2: Ireland's SDG Progress compared to the EU[6]

Contribution of sport policy to sustainable development

The UNGA recognised sport explicitly as an enabler in the realisation of the SDGs[7].

> *'We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals, and communities as well as to health, education, and social inclusion objectives.'*

This marks a significant opportunity for sport to build on previous commitments and inputs made by international, national, and local stakeholders to enhance the potential contributions of sport to sustainable development[8]. The growing recognition of sport as a development tool led to the relatively rapid emergence of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) as a burgeoning field of international development. The field asserts that sport may have more directly attributable benefits when applied intentionally to improve individual health and wellbeing, but sport can also positively contribute to education, peace, community safety, social cohesion, gender equity, and other development indicators beyond the sporting field[9]. As a result, many states and international actors now view sport as a valuable development tool since it is cost- effective, relatively easy to implement and has a unique ability to attract at risk youth in deprived settings[10]. The more recent UN Resolution on sport[11] as a means to promote education, health, development, and peace, prioritises 'evidence of impact and follow-up' as a vital and urgent component needed for sport to show contributions to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

6 Eurostat (2022) 'Sustainable Development in the European Union', Brussels, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-flagship-publications/-/ks-09-22-019
7 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) (2015), Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, p11, available at: https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda
8 Commonwealth Secretariat (2017), Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals, Contributors: Iain Lindsey, Tony Chapman
9 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) (2015), Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available at: https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda
10 International Platform on Sport and Development, (2014). What is Sport and Development? available at: http://www.sportanddev.org/learnmore/what_is_sport_and_development/
11 UN General Assembly (2017) Resolution A/RES/71/160, New York, https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/SDP-A_RES_71_160.pdf

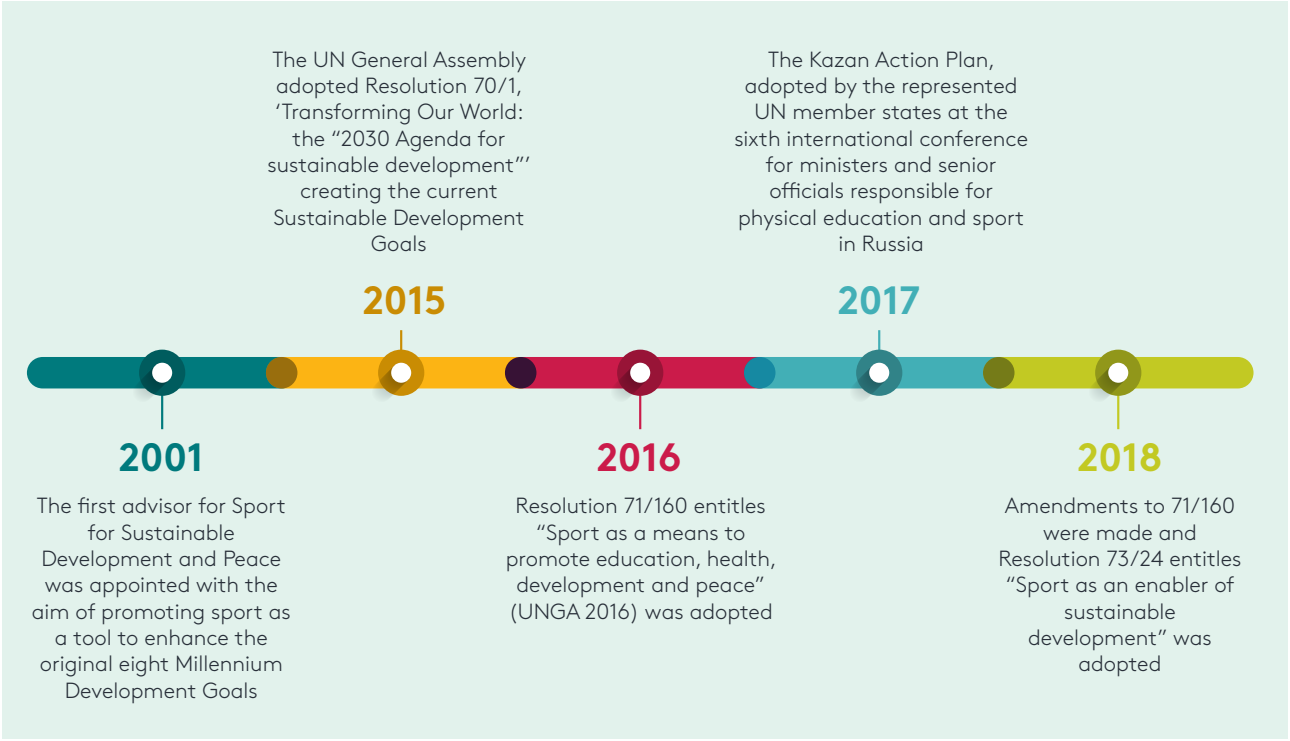


Figure B3: The UN and Sports – A Timeline

Many national and international actors have taken steps to align sports policy to the SDGs, though this has happened in many different ways and has resulted in different levels of alignment. The three main policy areas in the Kazan Action Plan connect to and prioritise the ten SDGs outlined below to which sport can contribute significantly.[12]

The Commonwealth has produced similar policy guidance. Both are centred on specific, sport-relevant targets under these SDGs, with the Kazan Action Plan identifying 36 specific targets for the ten SDGs and prior Commonwealth policy guidance identifying 27 targets related to six SDGS.

Sport in Ireland generally serves several functions including:

- Sport for all provides a range of activities to encourage participation and tackle inactivity
- Sport for development and peace intentionally uses sport for specific social, health and economic outcomes usually working with targeted populations and communities
- Sport for performance and personal growth involves talent identification and progression of individuals within sport in terms of sporting ability and soft skills such as leadership and communication

Sport Ireland has recognised that although knowledge of the contribution of sport has come a long way, it is worth further exploring the value proposition of sport and its returns. Whilst the SDP sector has grown significantly in recent years, the breadth of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs means that they have relevance to stakeholders from all parts of the sport sector, across public, private, and civil society actors[13]. Sport Ireland understands the role it plays in understanding the contribution that sport makes to sustainable development and peace, and it has now joined the many national and international actors to take steps to align national policies to the SDGs.

12 Lindsey (2018), Sport, Youth Development and Peace-Building: Policy Paper for Bangladesh, Durham University: UK
13 Commonwealth Secretariat (2017), Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals, Contributors: Iain Lindsey, Tony Chapman

National Sports Policy and the SDGs

This research has identified seven broad areas where the Irish National Sports Policy (NSP) (2018 – 2027)[16] makes a significant impact on the SDGs, namely:

1 Sport for Health and Wellbeing

Physical inactivity was responsible for the loss of approximately 4,000 Irish lives in 2014 and costs the country around €1.5 billion per year in health care costs. Research has shown that there are lower mortality rates for physically active individuals compared to those less active; over 97,000 cases of physical and mental illness were prevented in Ireland in 2019 by participation in sport and physical activity.[17] Sport's contribution has not only been highlighted in the NSP but also in several other policy documents. In 'Healthy Ireland 2013 – 2025', the national framework to improve Irish health and wellbeing, being active is characterised as one of four fundamental protective lifestyle behaviours that are effective for improvements in population health and wellbeing.[18] Subsequent to its implementation, the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland was devised with the overarching goal to increase the physical activity by 1% a year across each life stage of the population within the time period Healthy Ireland 2013 – 2025[19]. Furthermore, Sport Ireland's Statement of Strategy 2018 to 2022' recognises sport for its potential to improve physical and mental health, fight against non-communicable disease and improve overall quality of life'[20].

16 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media (2018) National Sports Policy (NSP), Dublin, https://assets.gov.ie/15979/04e0f52cee5f47ee9c01003cf559e98d.pdf
17 Sport Ireland (2021), 'Researching the Value of Sport in Ireland'
18 Department of Health (2013), 'Healthy Ireland', a Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
19 Healthy Ireland (2016), 'Get Ireland Active', National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland
20 Sport Ireland 2018 – 2022 (2018), 'Statement of Strategy'

2 Sport and Community Development

Sport is associated with high levels of community engagement; through the use of community facilities, active participation, club membership, volunteering, and community pride in their high-performance athletes. When a part of broader personal development, or alongside community and youth services, it can help overcome issues around anti-social behaviour and help to reduce social isolation. The NSP recognises the importance of sport in building strong, inclusive communities, and it includes a range of measures aimed at promoting social inclusion and community development. By providing opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to participate in sport and physical activity, the policy can help to break down barriers and promote social cohesion. It also prioritises the development of sports programmes and initiatives for disadvantaged communities, which can help to address social inequalities and promote social mobility. By fostering community engagement and participation in sport, the policy can contribute to developing strong, resilient, and inclusive communities.

3 Sport for Education and Life-long Learning

Research has found that children who are physically active and participate regularly in sport are likely to have better academic performance than their inactive peers. Participation in sport is also associated with higher incomes and promotes the development of valuable life skills such as teamworking, communication, leadership, and resilience, which boost employability and productivity. The NSP recognises the role of sport in promoting lifelong learning and personal development. It emphasises the importance of providing opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity, which can help them develop important skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

4 Sport and Economic Activity

Sport and sport-related spending is valued at €3.7bn, or 1.4% of the Irish economy in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), while sport and sport-related activities created over 64,000 jobs, 2.4% of all employment in 2018[21]. Furthermore, sport-related volunteering is estimated to be worth around €1.5bn to Irish society. The NSP recognises the potential of sport to support economic development and job creation, and it includes a number of measures aimed at achieving these goals. By investing in the development of sports infrastructure and programmes, promoting Ireland as a destination for sports tourism, encouraging innovation in the sports sector, the policy can support the growth of the economy.

5 Sport for an Inclusive, Equitable, and Cohesive Society

Sport can reduce social isolation and promote the integration of migrants and ethnic minorities, through active and social participation in sport, thus advancing community development and social cohesion. It can actively promote inclusive, equal, and respectful practices to make sport accessible to everyone regardless of gender, age, ability, or background. The NSP recognises the potential of sport to bring people from diverse backgrounds together and promote social inclusion. It prioritises the development of programmes and initiatives that enable people from disadvantaged communities to participate in sport and physical activity, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all participants. The policy aims to increase the participation of girls and women in sport, and to ensure that they have equal access to opportunities for participation and leadership. This can contribute to the achievement of gender equality goals, by breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes that have traditionally excluded women and girls from sport.

21 Sport Ireland (2021), 'Researching the Value of Sport in Ireland'

6 Sport and Environmentally Friendly Practices

Climate change is a threat to Ireland and the world. The earth provides us with natural resources which we are not utilising effectively and are consuming and wasting at an enormous pace. To adhere to our climate commitments, Irish sport can make the necessary changes to protect the planet. These changes provide huge opportunities to modernise our sporting infrastructure, rethink how we produce and consume products associated with sport and being active, and to set an example to other industries around being innovative and creative in areas such as recycling, reusable products, energy efficiency, etc. The NSP encourages the development of environmentally sustainable practices in sport and physical activity, such as promoting public transport and active travel to sporting events, reducing energy consumption in sports facilities, and using sustainable materials and equipment.

7 Governance and the Integrity of Sport

Embedded across all sport in Ireland is system strengthening work to support sustainable and equitable access to sport and physical activity; and to protect the integrity of Irish sport. The NSP recognises the importance of transparency, accountability, and integrity in sport, and it includes several measures aimed at promoting these values. This includes the establishment of clear governance structures for sports organisations, the development of codes of ethics and conduct for sports participants, and the provision of training and support for sports administrators, coaches, and officials. By promoting good governance and ethical behaviour in sport, the policy can help to build public trust and confidence by promoting good governance and ethical behaviour in the sports sector.

Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global measurement frameworks, this report proposes a framework for Sport Ireland and cross sector stakeholders across the country to measure the contribution of Irish sport to sustainable development. This framework places Ireland in alignment with international policies and commitments surrounding the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace including:

- Kazan Action Plan[23]
- Commonwealth Sport and SDG Indicators[24]
- UNESCO Fit for Life Alliance[25]
- UNESCO Quality Physical Education Guidelines[26]
- WHO Global Action Plan for Physical Activity[27]
- IOC agenda 2020+5[28]

The framework is not simply a new system and set of indicators but is an attempt to integrate existing measures, consolidate and improve efficiency of reporting, and ensure improved coordination, evidence-based decision making, and enhanced investment in Irish sport.

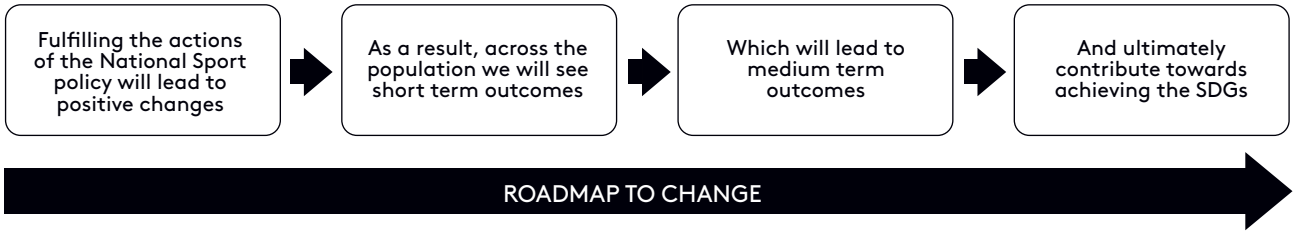
22 https://social.desa.un.org/issues/sport-for-development-and-peace
23 https://www.unesco.org/en/kazan-action-plan
24 Commonwealth Secretariat (2017), Measuring the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals, Contributors: Damian Hatton; Ben Sanders; Kelly Smith; Iain Lindsey, Oliver Dudfield; Mike Armstrong
25 https://www.unesco.org/en/fit4life
26 https://www.unesco.org/en/quality-physical-education
27 https://www.who.int/news-room/initiatives/gappa/action-plan
28 https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-agenda-2020-plus-5

Outlining the approach to measuring the contribution of NSP Actions to the SDGs

The following chapters will outline the seven areas of sustainable development that Sport in Ireland contribute towards:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Development
- Education and Life-long Learning
- Economic Activity
- Environmentally Friendly Practices
- Inclusive, Equitable, and Cohesive Society; and
- Governance and Integrity

The 'NSP to SDG' theory of change is presented as a 'roadmap' that explains how the policy actions will lead to a set of interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures of physical education and sport, and to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population.



Reading from left to right, each roadmap will outline how the related actions of the NSP leads to a range of changes in both the short and medium term, and ultimately contributes towards the achievement of the SDGs and national development goals.

The roadmap will be followed by a 'table' to outline which NSP actions are included within the area and how they have been mapped against the SDG targets. A full table of the NSP actions and their associated SDG targets can be found in Appendix 1.

Table Mapping NSP Action to SDG Target

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
The NSP Action number	A description of the action	SDG the action contributes to	A description of the SDG target(s) the action fulfils

Sport for Good Health and Wellbeing

How does sport contribute to good health and wellbeing outcomes?

The World Health Organization (WHO) produces guidelines for the recommended levels of physical activity for health across all age groups (WHO 2010). Sport, is defined by the Council of Europe as "all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels." There is clear evidence that indicates that regular physical activity, helps to address a variety of non-communicable diseases through contributing to the prevention of obesity, and the reduction of the risks of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some forms of cancer. Regular physical activity is also positively associated with aspects of psychological and social health. Likewise, there is clear evidence that physical inactivity leads to poor health outcomes and therefore, the health agenda has been a leading force in the development of sport related policies as it can contribute to better health outcomes for the population.

The NSP actions invest in interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures surrounding sport, physical activity, and physical education. These, in turn will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population in terms of their health, wellbeing, and the development of communities. These actions will contribute to SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. SDG 3 is people-focused and aims to establish conditions that protect human dignity and assist those who are farthest behind. While SDG 3 is a standalone goal on health, achieving the 2030 Agenda requires an integrated effort. Health issues are interwoven throughout the 2030 Agenda. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to one target (3.4). The headline indicators fall predominantly under the 'Participation' action area within the National Sports Policy with many support indicators within the 'Financing Irish Sport' action area.

Figure 1 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to the SDG 3 in regard to good health and wellbeing.
Table 1 maps the actions that contribute to health and wellbeing.

Figure 1: NSP Roadmap for Health and Wellbeing

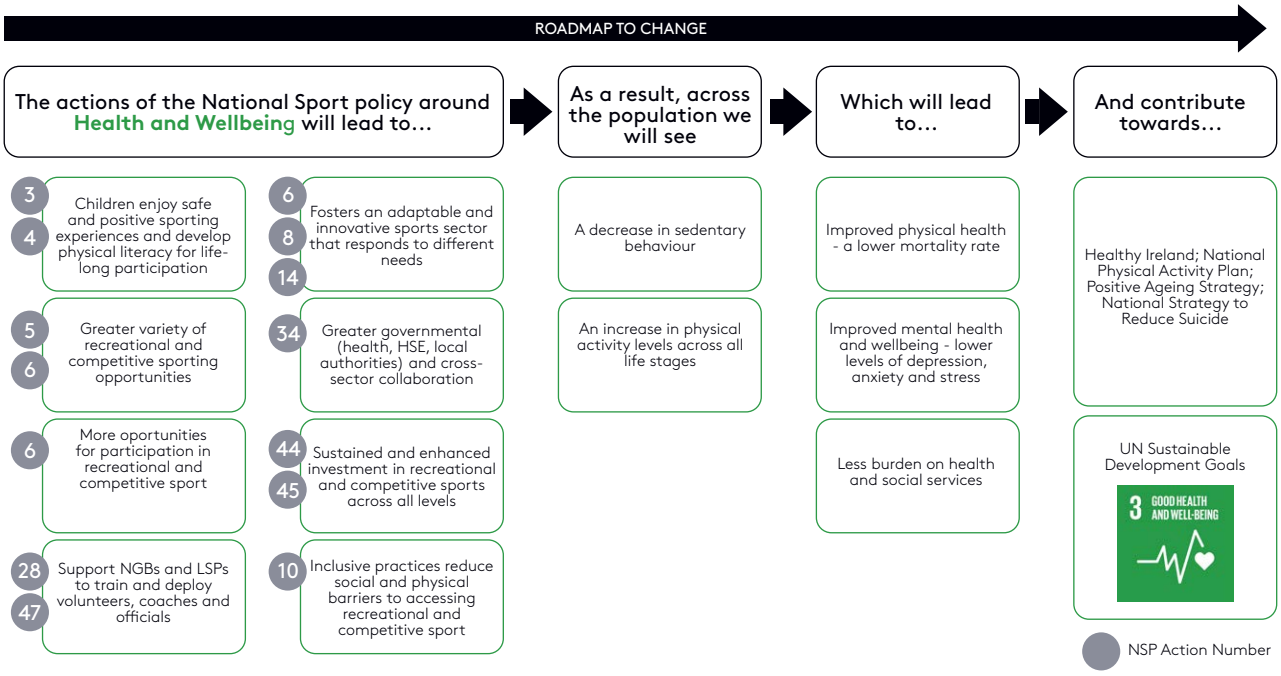


Table 1: Map of NSP actions that contribute to health and wellbeing, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Participation			
Participation in sport takes many forms. Individuals can take part informally or formally, in competition or recreationally, on their own or as part of a group or team, as a beginner or at a top level. Socially, they can volunteer for many different roles, be a member of one or more sports clubs, or attend sporting events as a spectator. There is also an increasing number of people participating in individual sports. All forms of participation confer benefits on the individual, community, and broader society. At the heart of our ambition for this policy we want more people from all areas of society regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport, both actively and socially.			
POLICY ACTION		**MAPPED SDG TARGET**	
3	Sport Ireland will review the financial support to NGBs so that a greater focus is placed on the development of non-sport specific physical literacy programmes for younger children. As part of this arrangement, NGBs would be expected to work with each other and with Sport Ireland Coaching in developing appropriate programmes.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
4	We will work with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, LSPs, NGBs, Health Service Executive (HSE) and others to develop an education or information campaign to help parents/ guardians to engage with their children to develop physical literacy and positive habits around sport and physical activity as part of an overall healthier lifestyle.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
5	We will prioritise sports like swimming, cycling, and running which, we believe have the greatest potential for generating higher levels of active participation across the life course, seeking to ensure that our children have the necessary skills to engage in these activities in a meaningful way while also investing in the development of infrastructure, programmes, and people to help sustain participation throughout adolescence and adulthood.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
6	Sport Ireland will develop initiatives with the NGBs, LSPs, schools, third level institutions, Active Disability Ireland, and other relevant parties to address participation in sport among adolescents and young adults, particularly females, those from lower socio-economic groups, persons with a disability, the LGBTI+ community, the Traveller community, and other ethnic minorities. Team and individual-based NGBs will be encouraged to develop initiatives which promote wider participation across their respective codes. Schools and sports clubs will be encouraged to foster better links to make more efficient use of their facilities, while LSPs will be asked to develop participation interventions making use of these facilities. Active Disability Ireland will advise on the particular needs in respect of individuals with disabilities.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
8	We will establish, through Sport Ireland, an initiative to support Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The Local Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation locally. It will be developed and implemented in cooperation with LSPs, clubs, communities, and partners within and beyond sport.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

10	In prioritising initiatives and programmes to engage groups with lower participation levels we will use behavioural insights and other research to better understand issues around non-participation.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
14	We will use our funding streams to foster social participation in sport by encouraging the development of strong community-based sports organisations (e.g., Community Sports Hubs), supporting and developing those who volunteer for sport and promoting social membership of sports clubs (as well as playing membership).		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
44	We will aim to deliver funding on a multiannual basis for high performance and participation programmes. Funding for high performance programmes will be delivered on a multi-annual basis from 2019 onwards.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
45	We will aim to increase funding to participation programmes for every year of the policy, with the intention to double our annual investment in participation by 2027. We will support Local Authorities in developing and implementing Local Sports Plans, which will aim to work with local stakeholders to increase participation levels.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Sport and Community Development

How does sport contribute to, and foster community development?

Ireland needs modern sustainable communities for people to live in and prosper. Planning these communities will lead to more green and public spaces with parks, biking/walking/running routes, riverside access, seafronts, and facilities open to the public for participation in sport or for recreational use. There is a need to identify barriers to access and put in place measures to remove them and make facilities inclusive and accessible. The NSP actions invest in interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures surrounding sport, physical activity, and physical education. The development of communities with sport and physical activity in mind will lead to increased access to both green and urban areas, facilities which will allow for more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population. This ultimately contributes to SDG 11.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. SDG 11 covers aspects of safe and accessible urban spaces and services such as housing, transport, and green spaces. Green spaces and public paces refer to parks, bike routes, walking/running routes, riversides, seafronts, and sporting facilities open to the public for participation in sport or for recreational use. It is about identifying barriers to access and putting in place measures to remove them and make facilities inclusive and accessible.

The goal aims to protect cultural and natural heritage via specific inclusive and sustainable urban/regional planning as well as the impacts of natural disasters. It pays special attention to vulnerable communities, women, children, persons with disabilities, and those in poverty. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to two targets (11.3, 11.7).

Figure 2 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to the SDG 11 in regard to community development.
Table 2 maps the actions that contribute to community development.

Figure 2: NSP Roadmap for community development

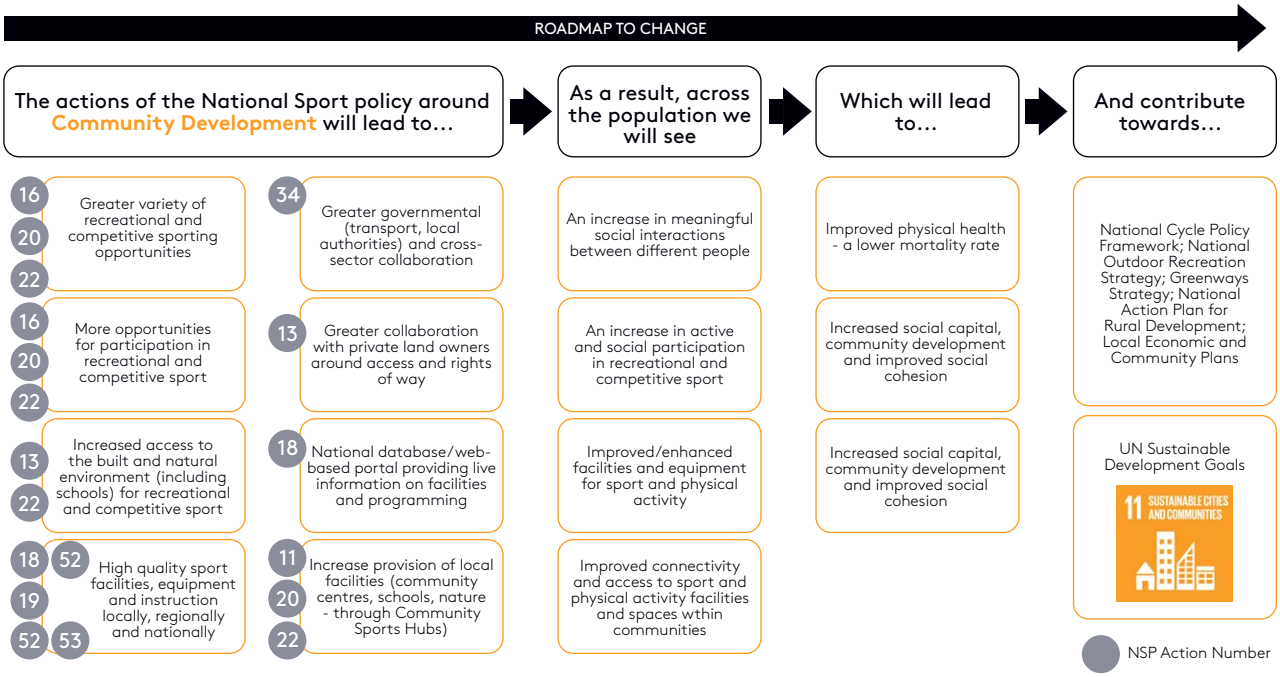


Table 2: Map of NSP actions that contribute to community development, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Participation

Participation in sport takes many forms. Individuals can take part informally or formally, in competition or recreationally, on their own or as part of a group or team, as a beginner or at a top level. Socially, they can volunteer for many different roles, be a member of one or more sports clubs, or attend sporting events as a spectator. There is also an increasing number of people participating in individual sports. All forms of participation confer benefits on the individual, community, and broader society. At the heart of our ambition for this policy we want more people from all areas of society regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport, both actively and socially.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
11	We will use Dormant Accounts and other Exchequer funding to roll out initiatives such as the Community Sports Hubs on a nationwide basis where they have been found to be successful following robust evaluation. We will also seek the support of the private sector for such initiatives.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
13	Apart from investment in traditional sports infrastructure we will examine how the wider natural and built environment can facilitate participation in sport and physical activity. This consideration will also take account of the type of activities towards which adults are increasingly gravitating such as running, cycling, outdoor adventure pursuits, recreational walking, etc.		11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Policy Action Area: Sporting Facilities

Investment in sports facilities is helping to ensure quality sporting experiences for all adults and children regularly participating in sport, as well as assisting Ireland's top sports persons to compete successfully at the highest levels. The investment is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the nation as well as to social and economic development in Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
16	We will commit to run the Sports Capital Programme in each year of this policy, to fund facilities targeting increased participation and improved participation experiences throughout the population. The scoring system and assessment process for the Sports Capital Programme will be reviewed to ensure that the programme is achieving objectives in line with this National Sports Policy.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
18	We will periodically conduct a nationwide audit of sports facilities (whether publicly or privately owned), with the first such audit to be completed within 2 years of the publication of this policy. These audits will guide decisions regarding the sport capital projects to be prioritised for public funding and we will also consult with NGBs in relation to any further actions required. Local Authorities will conduct the audit at a local level, as part of their role in implementing their Local Sports Plans. As part of the audit, we will work with relevant stakeholders to develop and maintain a fully accessible, comprehensive, and up-to-date national database of sports facilities which will also be translated into a web-based portal to serve the needs of the public.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

19	We will establish a new Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund to support projects where the Exchequer investment will exceed the maximum amount available under the Sports Capital Programme.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
20	We will work closely with relevant Government Departments, Local Authorities, sporting bodies and other stakeholders to agree a coherent national strategy for swimming. As part of this, we will review swimming pool provision to identify where gaps exist and how these can be met.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
22	We will encourage Local Authorities to promote and facilitate more sharing of facilities locally, especially where capacity is available at off-peak times during the day, in the evening or during holiday periods in the case of educational establishments. This will involve working closely with clubs and sporting bodies, schools and colleges, leisure facility providers and others. As part of the Local Sport Plans, Local Authorities will also lead on other collaborative initiatives to improve access locally e.g., Local Authorities and LSPs will combine to see how recreational areas can be utilised more fully by local communities for sport and physical activity e.g., for Parkruns.		11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

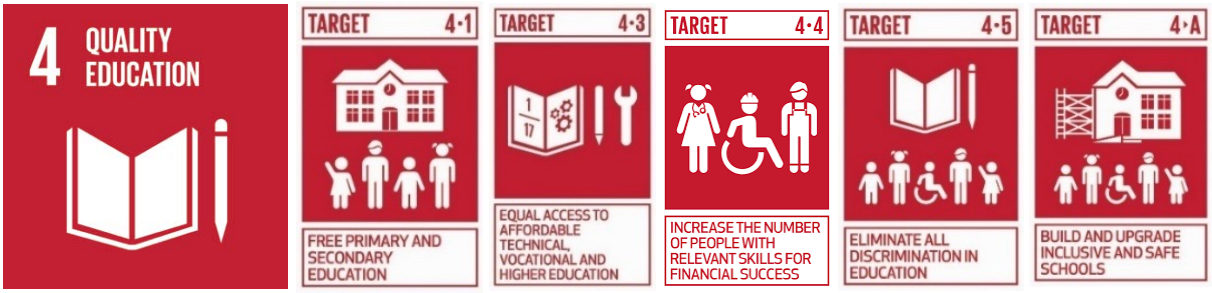
POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
51	We will seek additional capital funding for annual rounds of the Sports Capital Programme.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
52	As set out in Project 2040, the National Development Plan, €100 million will be committed to the establishment of a new Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund for larger sports projects where proposed Government contribution exceeds €500,000. As well as other largescale projects, the Fund will encompass potential new swimming pool projects, thereby superseding the existing Local Authority Swimming Pools Programme.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
53	We will seek additional capital funding to progress the further development of world class sports facilities at the Sport Ireland Campus, in line with the priorities identified in the new Master Plan and in support of the new High-Performance Strategy.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Sport for Education and Lifelong Learning

How does sport contribute to educational outcomes and the promotion of lifelong learning?

Sport and physical activity are enshrined as a fundamental right in documents such as the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport. Children and young people benefit tremendously from sport and physical activity. When combined with a school curriculum, physical activities and sport are necessary for a comprehensive education. Having high-quality physical education is important to children's physical literacy, improved education outcomes, lifelong participation in physical activity, and provides opportunities to develop values and life skills that transfer into all aspects of life. These include teamwork, fair play, respect of the rules and of other people, leadership, cooperation, discipline, and tolerance. To provide quality physical education, teachers need to be trained, and appropriate facilities built.

The NSP actions intend to instigate Interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures surrounding physical education and school sport. These, in turn will lead to more positive behaviours and educational outcomes which contribute to SDG 4.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Education is considered a fundamental human right and a core enabler for sustainable development and the goal is designed to promote inclusive access to education for both genders as well as quality of services. It explicitly addresses inequality, particularly to gender disparities. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to five targets (4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.A).

Figure 3 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to SDG 4 in regard to education and lifelong learning.
Table 3 maps the actions that contribute to education and lifelong learning.

Figure 3: NSP Roadmap for education and lifelong learning

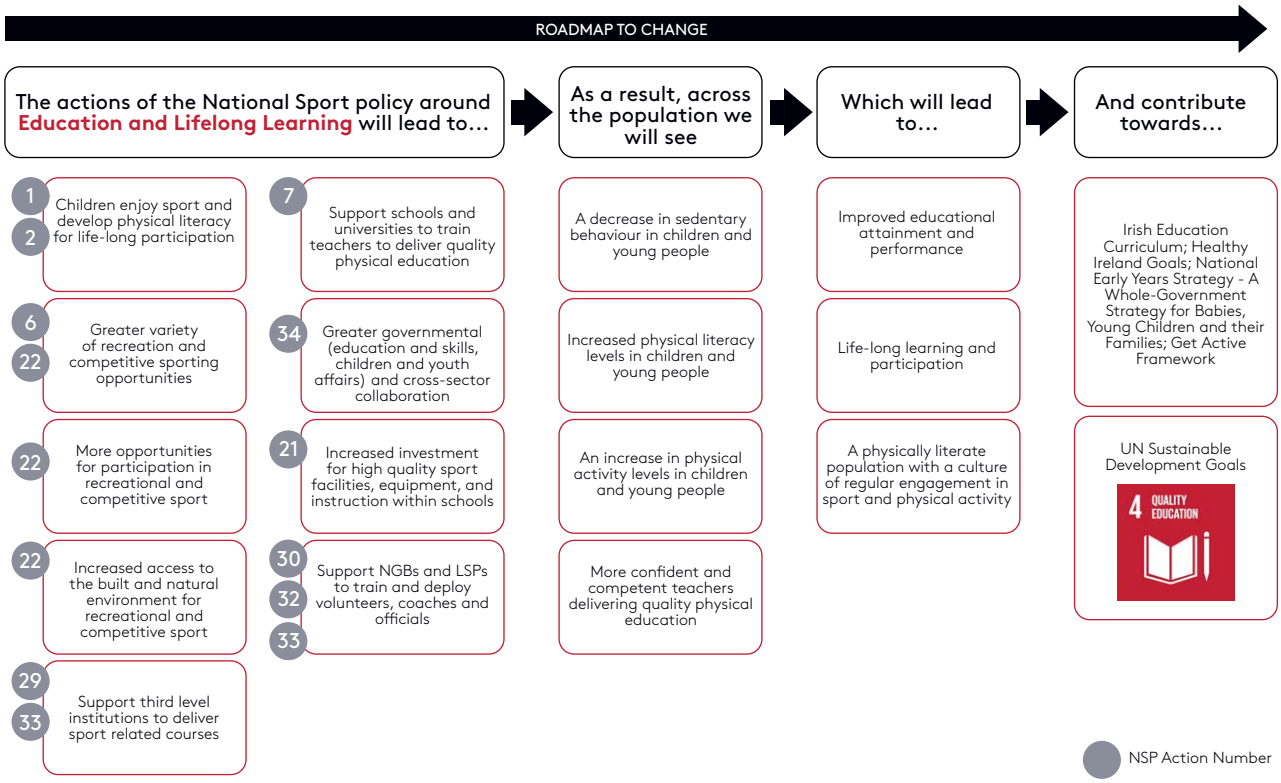


Table 3: Map of NSP actions that contribute to education and lifelong learning, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Participation			
Participation in sport takes many forms. Individuals can take part informally or formally, in competition or recreationally, on their own or as part of a group or team, as a beginner or at a top level. Socially, they can volunteer for many different roles, be a member of one or more sports clubs, or attend sporting events as a spectator. There is also an increasing number of people participating in individual sports. All forms of participation confer benefits on the individual, community, and broader society. At the heart of our ambition for this policy we want more people from all areas of society regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport, both actively and socially.			
POLICY ACTION		**MAPPED SDG TARGET**	
1	We will work with early childhood care and education services and organisations to ensure that pre-school practitioners, providers, and parents/guardians are supported in improving the physical activity habits of very young children in their care, including the development of improved physical literacy outcomes.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
2	We will work with the Department of Education, teachers, NGBs and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that PE in schools is delivered to fully support the development of physical literacy among all our children.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

6	Sport Ireland will develop initiatives with the NGBs, LSPs, schools, third level institutions, Active Disability Ireland, and other relevant parties to address participation in sport among adolescents and young adults, particularly females, those from lower socio-economic groups, persons with a disability, the LGBTI+ community, the Traveller community, and other ethnic minorities. Team and individual-based NGBs will be encouraged to develop initiatives which promote wider participation across their respective codes. Schools and sports clubs will be encouraged to foster better links to make more efficient use of their facilities, while LSPs will be asked to develop participation interventions making use of these facilities. Active Disability Ireland will advise on the particular needs in respect of individuals with disabilities.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
7	We will promote more strongly among teachers and parents/guardian's messages around the positive relationship between sports participation and exam performance in our efforts to attenuate the drop off that occurs in participation levels around exam years.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Policy Action Area: Sporting Facilities

Investment in sports facilities is helping to ensure quality sporting experiences for all adults and children regularly participating in sport, as well as assisting Ireland's top sports persons to compete successfully at the highest levels. The investment is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the nation as well as to social and economic development in Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
21	We will work with relevant stakeholders to explore the merits of a new programme of current sports funding under a targeted scheme to support schools on a sustainable basis in defraying reasonable costs (such as necessary transport and facility hire) incurred in delivering the aquatics strand of the PE curriculum.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
22	We will encourage Local Authorities to promote and facilitate more sharing of facilities locally, especially where capacity is available at off-peak times during the day, in the evening or during holiday periods in the case of educational establishments. This will involve working closely with clubs and sporting bodies, schools and colleges, leisure facility providers and others. As part of the Local Sport Plans, Local Authorities will also lead on other collaborative initiatives to improve access locally e.g., Local Authorities and LSPs will combine to see how recreational areas can be utilised more fully by local communities for sport and physical activity e.g., for Parkruns.		4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all

Policy Action Area: Building Capacity

In addition to the LSP network, there are over 60 NGBs and 12,000 affiliated sports clubs managing and administering organised sport for about 1.7 million individuals in Ireland. They train and deploy coaches and officials, organise representative level sport, provide opportunities and pathways from local sport to national and international competition, deliver critical national sports programmes in areas such as anti-doping and the safeguarding of children in sport, and organise and host international sporting events which stimulate competition at the highest level.

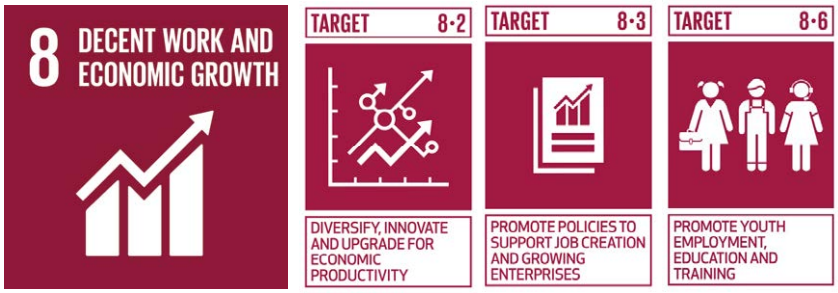
POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
29	Sport Ireland will work with the corporate sector to support volunteering in sport among employees, which should benefit employers as well as society at large given that volunteering can help individuals to develop skills which they can use to good advantage in their careers.		4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship
30	Sport Ireland Coaching will develop a new coaching plan by end 2019. It will seek to address the issues identified here around encouraging greater diversity among the coaching workforce, making coaching qualifications at entry level more adaptable so that coaches can work across a range of sports and physical activities. It will also place a greater focus on behaviour and attitudes rather than pure technical skills at entry level, promoting the greater use of technology in coach education, as well as coaching for people with disabilities.		4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship
32	NGBs will be asked to set gender diversity targets and develop equality action plans. Support will be provided for dedicated leadership training programmes for women including governance-related and technical training (coaching, refereeing and team management). Sport Ireland will monitor their progress in delivering on these and report annually. If sufficient progress is not being made, we will engage further with all stakeholders on the matter.		4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations
33	Sport Ireland will lead in the development of a sports sector workforce strategy which addresses recruitment, increased professionalisation, development, validation and recognition, provision for Continuous Professional Development (CPD), diversity of leadership throughout the sector and Irish representation on international sports federations. We will support Sport Ireland's efforts to develop a long-term strategy for education, learning and development.		4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship
34	We will foster and encourage collaboration within the sports sector and between sport and other sectors through training and development initiatives and through the provision of financial and other incentives to stimulate collaborative behaviour at all levels of sport. We will work on an all-island basis in this regard. We will seek to develop a stronger relationship with the education system in particular in our efforts.		4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship

Sport and Economy Activity

How does sport contribute to Ireland's economy?

Sport and physical activity provides direct and indirect employment and equips individuals, be they teachers, coaches, officials, administrators, board members, or volunteers with the skills necessary to enter the workforce. Sporting infrastructure (including stadiums, leisure centres, and activity parks), events, tourism, contribute directly to the economy through the sales of tickets, merchandise, subscriptions, membership fees, broadcasting, and digital media rights. Sport contributes indirectly via travel, hotels, and eateries in venues.

The NSP actions intend to instigate Interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the economy linked to sport and the funding of the provision sport and physical activity. These, in turn will lead to growth in employment, revenues, and taxes from physical activity and sport, as well as outcomes within the population in terms of their health, wellbeing, and the development of communities. This contributes to SDG 8.



Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. Although SDG 8 forms a standalone goal addressing decent work and economic growth, key aspects of this concept have also been embedded in the targets of many of the other SDGs. The International Labour Organization (ILO) determines decent work as comprised of employment creation, social protection, rights at work, and social dialogue. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to three targets (8.2, 8.3, 8.6).

Figure 4 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to SDG 8 in regard to economic activity.
Table 4 maps the actions that contribute to economic activity.

Figure 4: NSP Roadmap for economic activity

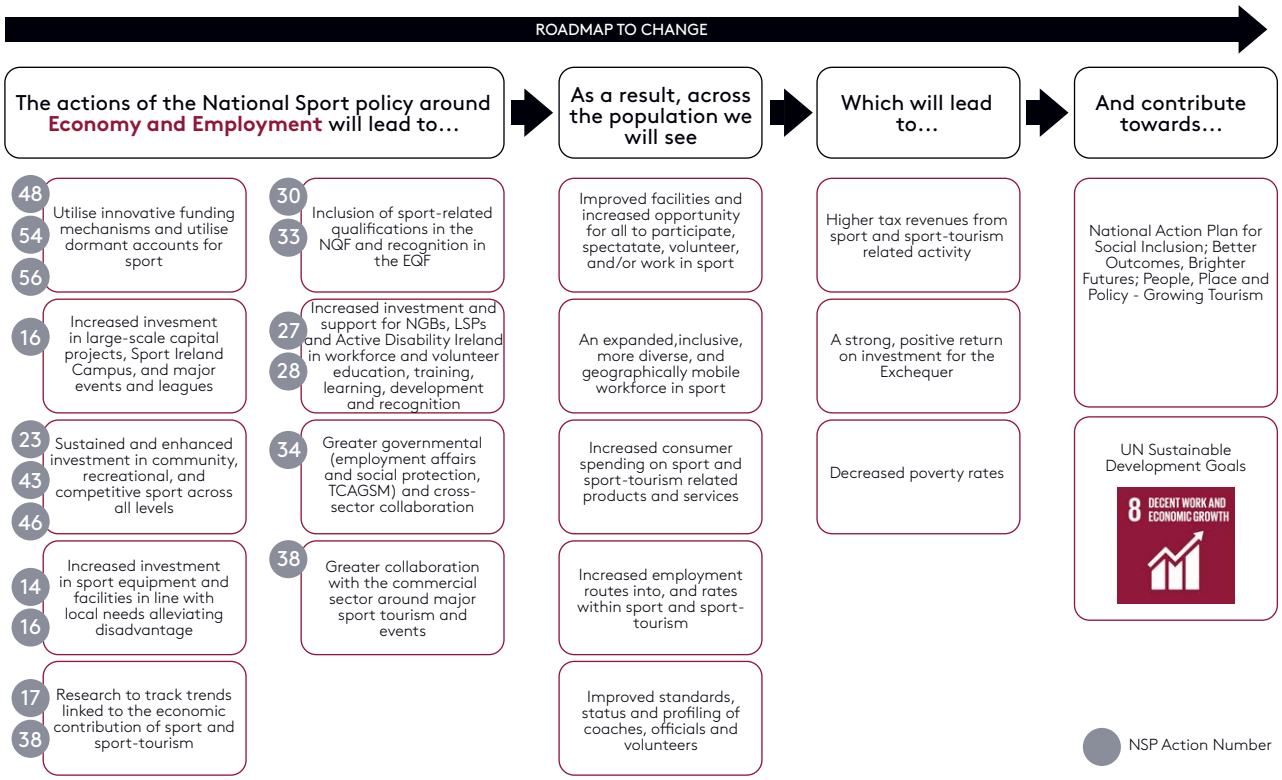


Table 4: Map of NSP actions that contribute to economic activity, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Participation

Participation in sport takes many forms. Individuals can take part informally or formally, in competition or recreationally, on their own or as part of a group or team, as a beginner or at a top level. Socially, they can volunteer for many different roles, be a member of one or more sports clubs, or attend sporting events as a spectator. There is also an increasing number of people participating in individual sports. All forms of participation confer benefits on the individual, community, and broader society. At the heart of our ambition for this policy we want more people from all areas of society regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport, both actively and socially.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
14	We will use our funding streams to foster social participation in sport by encouraging the development of strong community-based sports organisations (e.g., Community Sports Hubs), supporting and developing those who volunteer for sport and promoting social membership of sports clubs (as well as playing membership).	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Policy Action Area: Sporting Facilities

Investment in sports facilities is helping to ensure quality sporting experiences for all adults and children regularly participating in sport, as well as assisting Ireland's top sports persons to compete successfully at the highest levels. The investment is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the nation as well as to social and economic development in Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
16	We will commit to run the Sports Capital Programme in each year of this policy, to fund facilities targeting increased participation and improved participation experiences throughout the population. The scoring system and assessment process for the Sports Capital Programme will be reviewed to ensure that the programme is achieving objectives in line with this National Sports Policy.		8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
23	We will aim to secure a new stream of annual funding for a targeted sports scheme to sub vent Local Authorities in the operation of loss-making facilities where these have a key role in increasing participation, as well as to support programmes to increase active participation.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

Policy Action Area: Building Capacity

In addition to the LSP network, there are over 60 NGBs and 12,000 affiliated sports clubs managing and administering organised sport for about 1.7 million individuals in Ireland. They train and deploy coaches and officials, organise representative level sport, provide opportunities and pathways from local sport to national and international competition, deliver critical national sports programmes in areas such as anti-doping and the safeguarding of children in sport, and organise and host international sporting events which stimulate competition at the highest level.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
27	Sport Ireland will bring forward a volunteering strategy to consider issues around recruitment, retention and recognition, the gradients that exist in volunteering, and how to address the challenges to sustain and grow our volunteer base. Newer forms of volunteer engagement will be encouraged that stimulates active and social participation ideally suited to modern times.		8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training
28	We will introduce an annual volunteer training budget to be jointly administered by the NGBs and the LSP network to ensure that volunteer training can occur across sports. This training will focus on issues such as child welfare, disability awareness, first aid, sports administration and governance, and fundraising. The NGBs and LSPs will be expected to work closely with clubs and Sport Ireland Coaching in planning and delivering this training.		8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training

30	Sport Ireland Coaching will develop a new coaching plan by end 2019. It will seek to address the issues identified here around encouraging greater diversity among the coaching workforce, making coaching qualifications at entry level more adaptable so that coaches can work across a range of sports and physical activities. It will also place a greater focus on behaviour and attitudes rather than pure technical skills at entry level, promoting the greater use of technology in coach education, as well as coaching for people with disabilities.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
33	Sport Ireland will lead in the development of a sports sector workforce strategy which addresses recruitment, increased professionalisation, development, validation and recognition, provision for Continuous Professional Development (CPD), diversity of leadership throughout the sector and Irish representation on international sports federations. We will support Sport Ireland's efforts to develop a long-term strategy for education, learning and development.		8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training

Policy Action Area: Sport in a cross-sectoral and international context

Sport policy has long been closely linked with a breadth of Government policies. The role of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as joint chair with the Department of Health in the development and oversight of the National Physical Activity Plan is one example among many where the implementation of sports policy interfaces closely with the work of other Government Departments.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
38	Fáilte Ireland will continue to support NGBs in attracting those sports events which meet its events criteria and deliver a significant economic return.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
43	We will seek to increase investment in sport over the lifetime of this policy. Our ambition is that State investment in sport would exceed €220million in 2027.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

46	We will provide greater certainty in funding for participation programmes year-on-year. Arrangements for the introduction of multi-annual funding for key grantee organisations will be prioritised.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
48	Sport Ireland and its partners will continue to develop pilot programmes aimed at addressing participation gradients in sport around disadvantage and disability, to be supported by Dormant Accounts funding. As increased funds are made available for participation programmes, successful policy interventions will be scaled up and rolled out nationwide using more mainstream Exchequer funding sources along with possible private investment.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
54	The Sports Leadership Group will consider the operation of the tax relief scheme for donations to approved sports bodies for the funding of approved projects and, in consultation with sporting bodies, develop proposals to expand this scheme, for consideration by Government.		8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
56	Recognising the increasing trend towards personal exercise in gyms and other facilities, we will, in consultation with stakeholders, consider possible changes in the taxation code to incentivise participation through the usage of gym equipment and personal sporting equipment.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

Sport for an Inclusive, Equitable, and Cohesive Society

How does sport contribute to creating and sustaining an inclusive, equitable, and cohesive society?

The inequalities within society are reflected, and sometimes amplified, within Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland. The National Sport Policy has adopted a 'sport for all' ethos whereby the emphasis for change is on ensuring programming is as inclusive as possible, and that the challenges and barriers people face to participation and representation in sport are eradicated or mitigated. Tackling the issues that prohibit and detour people from engaging in physical education, being active, and participating in sport, will lead to higher engagement and participation levels because a more inclusive environment has been created. Those with disabilities will be able to access facilities and activities because physical barriers have been lifted; women will feel welcome in traditionally male dominated arenas; participation will become more affordable to more people, etc. This in turn allows for positive outcomes in other areas such as health and wellbeing to manifest.

The NSP actions intend to initiate interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures surrounding sport, physical activity, and physical education. These, in turn will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within organisations in terms of more equitable and equal provisions and a more cohesive society. This contributes to SDG 5 and SDG 10.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. SDG 5 recognises gender equality as an intrinsic human right. Furthermore, the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda to "leave no one behind" will be unachievable without gender equality and women's empowerment. While SDG 5 is a standalone goal on gender, achieving the 2030 Agenda requires an integrated effort as gender equality is intersectional in nature and gender issues are interwoven throughout the 2030 Agenda. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to three targets (5.1,5.5, 5.C).

Reduce inequalities within and among countries. The targets in SDG 10 reflect the idea that inequality is a multidimensional issue, often made up of economic, social, and political factors. SDG 10 also reflects an understanding of inequality as more complex than just an "inequality of outcomes" (disparities in living conditions) but also an "inequality of opportunities" (disparities in access to education, work, or political participation). Furthermore, it acknowledges that inequalities are experienced by all countries, not just developing ones. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to three targets (10.2, 10.3, 10.4).

Figure 5 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to the SDGs in regard to an inclusive, equitable, and cohesive society.

Table 5 maps the actions that contribute to developing an inclusive, equitable, and cohesive society.

Figure 5: NSP Roadmap for an inclusive, equitable, and cohesive society

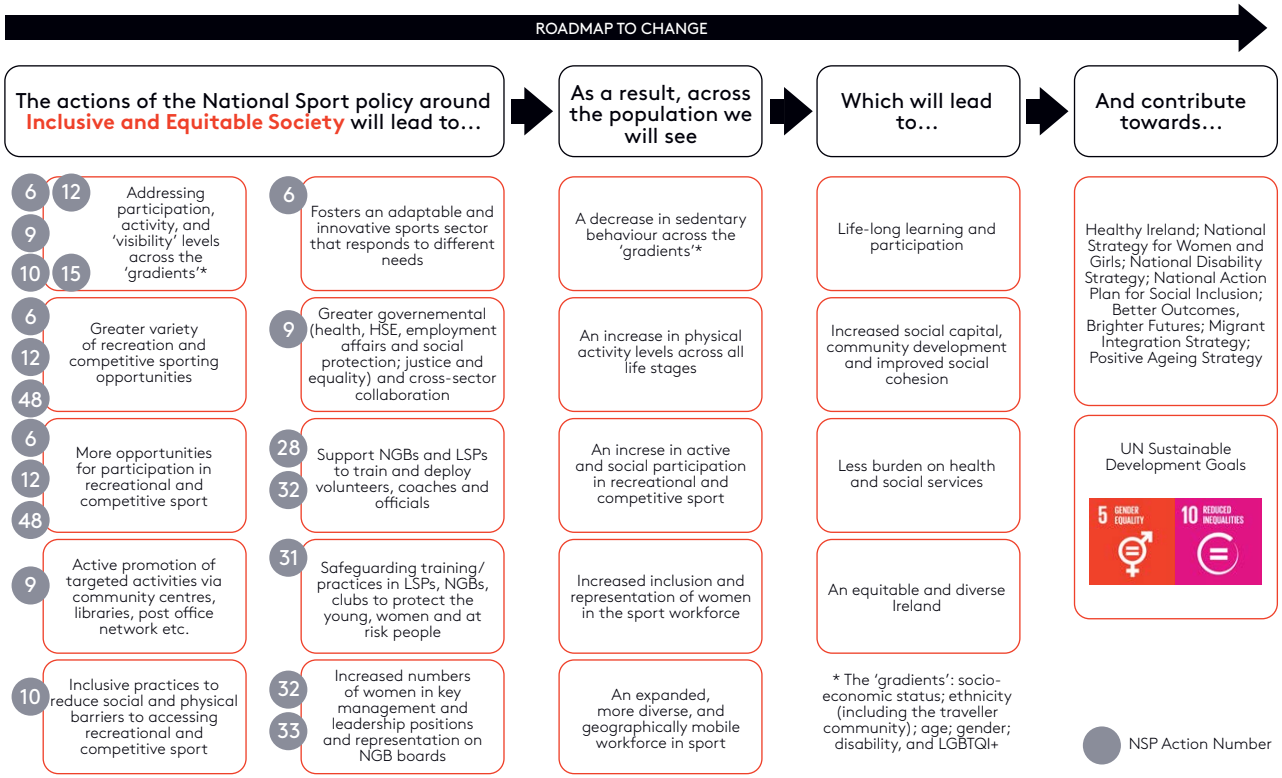


Table 5: Map of NSP actions that contribute to an inclusive, equitable, and cohesive society, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Participation			
Participation in sport takes many forms. Individuals can take part informally or formally, in competition or recreationally, on their own or as part of a group or team, as a beginner or at a top level. Socially, they can volunteer for many different roles, be a member of one or more sports clubs, or attend sporting events as a spectator. There is also an increasing number of people participating in individual sports. All forms of participation confer benefits on the individual, community, and broader society. At the heart of our ambition for this policy we want more people from all areas of society regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport, both actively and socially.			
POLICY ACTION		**MAPPED SDG TARGET**	
6	Sport Ireland will develop initiatives with the NGBs, LSPs, schools, third level institutions, Active Disability Ireland, and other relevant parties to address participation in sport among adolescents and young adults, particularly females, those from lower socio-economic groups, persons with a disability, the LGBTI+ community, the Traveller community, and other ethnic minorities. Team and individual-based NGBs will be encouraged to develop initiatives which promote wider participation across their respective codes. Schools and sports clubs will be encouraged to foster better links to make more efficient use of their facilities, while LSPs will be asked to develop participation interventions making use of these facilities. The Active Disability Ireland will advise on the particular needs in respect of individuals with disabilities.		5.1; End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
			10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
9	We will redouble our efforts to address inequalities in sports participation as part of the Local Sports Plans development process. Resources will be directed to promote the broadest possible participation, ensuring quality and accessibility for all groups. Funding will be prioritised on programmes which focus on those groups with lower levels of participation, particularly those in lower socio-economic groups, persons with a disability and older people. We will also emphasise the virtue of collaboration between sporting bodies (NGBs, LSPs and clubs) and between sport and other policy sectors in the development and promotion of participation initiatives.		10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
10	In prioritising initiatives and programmes to engage groups with lower participation levels we will use behavioural insights and other research to better understand issues around non-participation.		10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
12	In addressing the disability gradients in participation, we will explore the possibility of introducing a national network of Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) aligned to the LSP network. These SIDOs would be expected to work closely with relevant NGBs, the disability sector, leisure centre providers, Active Disability Ireland, and other stakeholders in providing opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in sport.		10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

15	Sport Ireland will, by mid-2019, advise the Sports Leadership Group around appropriate interim targets (2023) for adult and children's active and social participation in sport and for the reduction in the relevant gradients. Targets for narrowing the gradients in participation will also be set (age, gender, social, ethnicity and disability).		5.1; End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
			5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
			10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
			10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and action in this regard

Policy Action Area: Building Capacity

In addition to the LSP network, there are over 60 NGBs and 12,000 affiliated sports clubs managing and administering organised sport for about 1.7 million individuals in Ireland. They train and deploy coaches and officials, organise representative level sport, provide opportunities and pathways from local sport to national and international competition, deliver critical national sports programmes in areas such as anti-doping and the safeguarding of children in sport, and organise and host international sporting events which stimulate competition at the highest level.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
28	We will introduce an annual volunteer training budget to be jointly administered by the NGBs and the LSP network to ensure that volunteer training can occur across sports. This training will focus on issues such as child welfare, disability awareness, first aid, sports administration and governance, and fundraising. The NGBs and LSPs will be expected to work closely with clubs and Sport Ireland Coaching in planning and delivering this training.		10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
32	NGBs will be asked to set gender diversity targets and develop equality action plans. Support will be provided for dedicated leadership training programmes for women including governance-related and technical training (coaching, refereeing and team management). Sport Ireland will monitor their progress in delivering on these and report annually. If sufficient progress is not being made, we will engage further with all stakeholders on the matter.		5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
			5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

33	Sport Ireland will lead in the development of a sports sector workforce strategy which addresses recruitment, increased professionalisation, development, validation and recognition, provision for Continuous Professional Development (CPD), diversity of leadership throughout the sector and Irish representation on international sports federations. We will support Sport Ireland's efforts to develop a long-term strategy for education, learning and development.		5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
			10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and action in this regard

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
48	Sport Ireland and its partners will continue to develop pilot programmes aimed at addressing participation gradients in sport around disadvantage and disability, to be supported by Dormant Accounts funding. As increased funds are made available for participation programmes, successful policy interventions will be scaled up and rolled out nationwide using more mainstream Exchequer funding sources along with possible private investment.		5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Sport and Environmentally Friendly Practices

How does sport contribute to environmentally friendly practices?

Sustainable consumption and production focus on change within how natural resources, food, and waste are used within sporting sector. It goes hand in hand with combating climate change. It is about changing habits, the way things are built, run, and used at all levels – from large scale venues and mega events to grassroots clubs and individual athletes and participants. It is about energy efficiency, recycling, responsible food consumption, waste management, and the circular economy. Sport can help raise awareness through building knowledge within the workforce and fanbase and implementing policies and actions to lower CO2 emissions.

The NSP actions intend to instigate Interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures surrounding sport, physical activity, and physical education. These, in turn will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and sport sector in terms of being more environmentally sustainable and responsible. This contributes to SDG 12 and SDG 13.

Ensure responsible consumption and production patterns. Whilst worldwide consumption and production is a driving force of the global economy, it rests on the use of the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet. SDG 12 is about doing more and better with less. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency, and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable consumption and production can also contribute to poverty alleviation and the transition towards low-carbon and green economies. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to one target (12.6).

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. SG 13 recognises that collective action is needed to limit the rise in global mean temperature to 2°C. The consequences of a more than 2° increase would be severe and would have impacts beyond national borders. The goal acknowledges that vulnerable nations including least developed countries, landlocked countries, and small island states, are in particular need of resources to adapt to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Avoiding these impacts will require cooperation between sectors including energy, industry, transport, food, agriculture, and forestry. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to one target (13.3).

Figure 6 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to the SDGs in regard to environmentally friendly practices.
Table 6 maps the NSP actions that lead to environmentally friendly practices and lists them with their associated indicators to measure progress.

Figure 6: NSP Roadmap for environmentally friendly practices

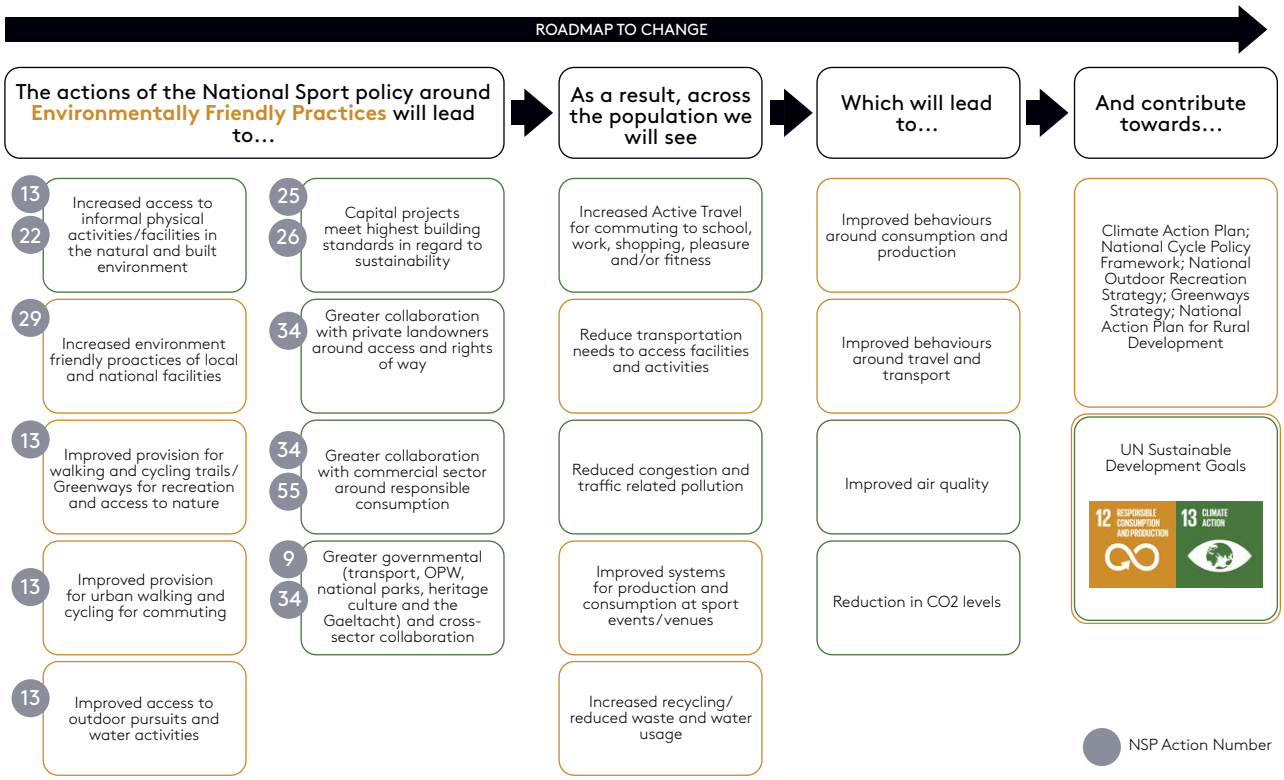


Table 6: Map of NSP actions that contribute to environmentally friendly practices, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Sport Ireland Campus			
Substantial work has been undertaken to develop the Sport Ireland Campus ("the Campus") to meet the evolving needs of the sporting community in Ireland. Significant progress in recent years means that world-class facilities are now in place at the Campus for a variety of sports. Facilities developed to date have largely been in line with the 2004 Development Control Plan (also known as the Master Plan) for the Campus. The Campus is home to 27 sporting organisations and the development of office accommodation for Sport Ireland as well as other NGBs will continue over coming years. The Campus is operated by a subsidiary company of Sport Ireland.			
POLICY ACTION		**MAPPED SDG TARGET**	
25	We will progress the construction of Phase 2 of the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena and the National Velodrome and Badminton Centre in line with Project Ireland 2040. The Department and Sport Ireland will continue preparatory works in respect of other projects with a view to commencement as and when funding becomes available.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
			13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warnin
26	Consistent with the vision set out in this policy, Sport Ireland will develop a new 10-year strategy for the development and operation of the Sport Ireland Campus. Sport Ireland will consult with the working group charged with development of the high-performance strategy, with NGBs and with other key stakeholders in developing this strategy, which will be submitted to Government for approval.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
			13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Policy Action Area: Building Capacity

In addition to the LSP network, there are over 60 NGBs and 12,000 affiliated sports clubs managing and administering organised sport for about 1.7 million individuals in Ireland. They train and deploy coaches and officials, organise representative level sport, provide opportunities and pathways from local sport to national and international competition, deliver critical national sports programmes in areas such as anti-doping and the safeguarding of children in sport, and organise and host international sporting events which stimulate competition at the highest level.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
29	Sport Ireland will work with the corporate sector to support volunteering in sport among employees, which should benefit employers as well as society at large given that volunteering can help individuals to develop skills which they can use to good advantage in their careers.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
34	We will foster and encourage collaboration within the sports sector and between sport and other sectors through training and development initiatives and through the provision of financial and other incentives to stimulate collaborative behaviour at all levels of sport. We will work on an all-island basis in this regard. We will seek to develop a stronger relationship with the education system in particular in our efforts.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
55	Opportunities will be explored so that business or individual donors will also be attracted to invest in a more meaningful way in sport. Collaborative models where sports work together and share benefits from a joint fund will be considered.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

Governance and the Integrity of Sport

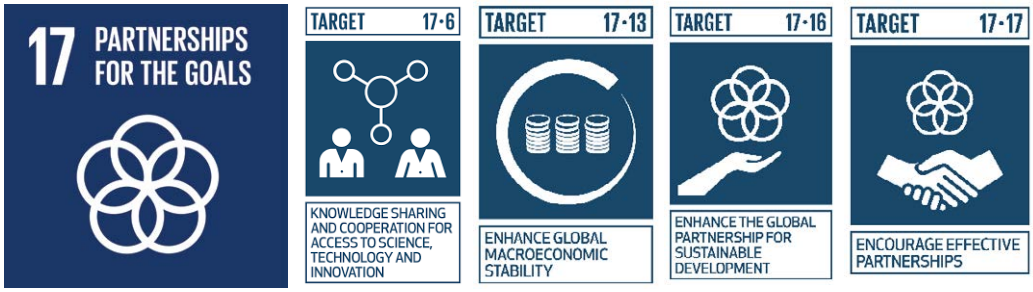
How do we govern sport in Ireland and protect its integrity?

At the heart of governance and integrity is the alignment of sectors for a coordinated response of systems, networks, and partnerships around a common agenda of sport, physical activity, and physical education in all its forms (including the elite, competitive, and commercial side of sport) to make the achievement of all the goals possible. System strengthening will lead to better outcomes for all areas of Ireland's National Sport Policy.

The Kazan Action Plan – the result of the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) in Kazan, Russia, in July 2017 is at the heart of international sport's efforts to achieve the SDGs. Led by international entities including UNESCO, the Commonwealth, and the International Olympic Committee, the Kazan Action Plan has highlighted ten goals and 36 targets where sport can make the biggest contribution. This includes protecting the integrity of sport through governance work and by ensuring standards are set, met and results reported on transparently by sporting institutions. The institutions, be they small community clubs, non-governmental organisations, national governing bodies, or international federations are at the heart of sport's contribution to sustainable development.

The NSP actions intend to instigate Interventions and activities that are expected to lead to specific changes within the systems and structures surrounding sport, physical activity, and physical education. These, in turn will lead to outcomes within organisations and decision makers and support change in all areas of the NSP. This contributes to SDG 16 and SDG 17.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. The targets for SDG 16 are aimed at a wide array of topics including reducing violence; reducing corruption; and organized crime; developing strong and representative institutions; and promoting individual rights. The targets also promote institutional transparency and accountability. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to three targets (16.4, 16.6, 16.7).



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. SDG 17 is about system strengthening and covers the elements making up means of implementation: finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, and systemic issues. It is designed to bring about alignment and coherence between policies, institutions, and organisations. Sport, physical activity, and physical education in Ireland currently contributes to four targets (17.6, 17.13, 17.16, 17.17).

Figure 7 outlines the 'roadmap' that explains how the NSP actions will lead to more positive behaviours and outcomes within the population and ultimately contribute to the SDGs in regard to governance and the integrity of sport. Table 7 maps the actions that contribute to developing governance practices and protecting the integrity of sport. It lists them with their associated indicators to measure progress.

Figure 7: NSP Roadmap for governance and protecting the integrity of sports.

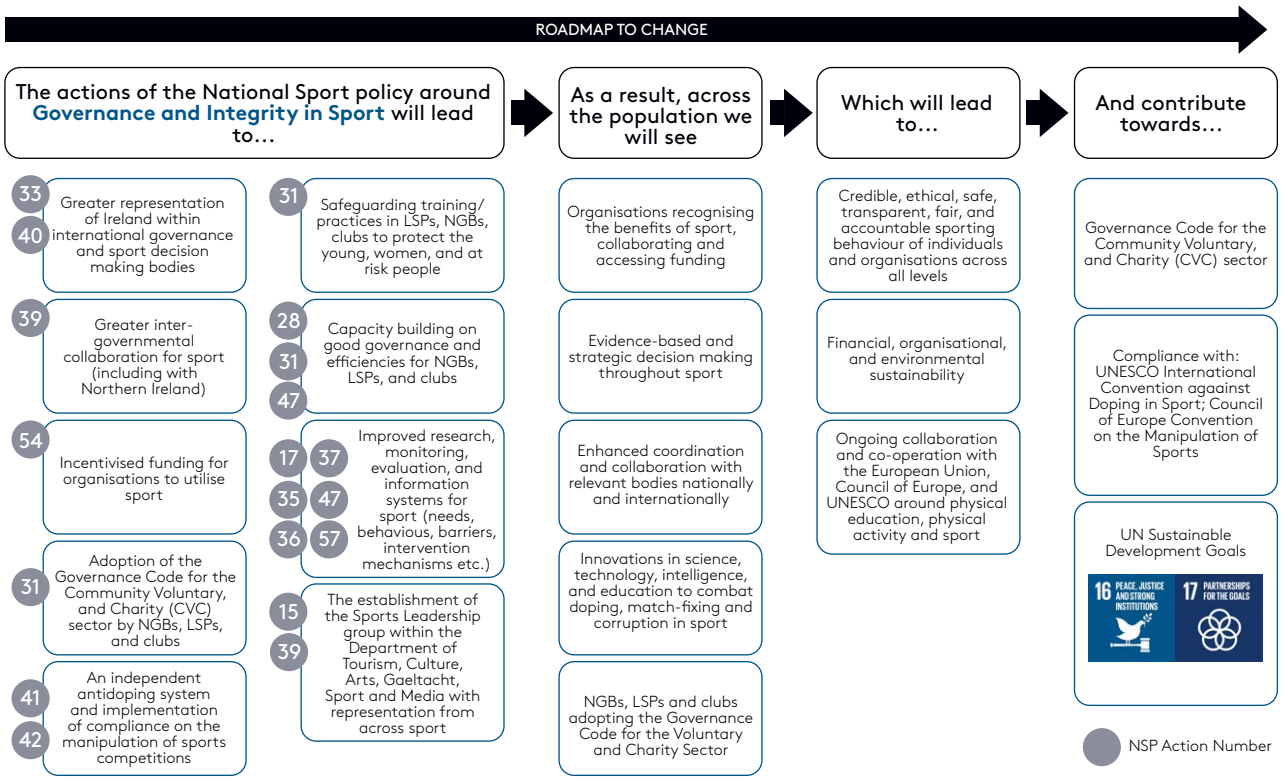


Table 7: Map of NSP actions that contribute to governance and the integrity of sport, and associated indicators

Policy Action Area: Participation

Participation in sport takes many forms. Individuals can take part informally or formally, in competition or recreationally, on their own or as part of a group or team, as a beginner or at a top level. Socially, they can volunteer for many different roles, be a member of one or more sports clubs, or attend sporting events as a spectator. There is also an increasing number of people participating in individual sports. All forms of participation confer benefits on the individual, community, and broader society. At the heart of our ambition for this policy we want more people from all areas of society regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport, both actively and socially.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
15	Sport Ireland will, by mid-2019, advise the Sports Leadership Group around appropriate interim targets (2023) for adult and children's active and social participation in sport and for the reduction in the relevant gradients. Targets for narrowing the gradients in participation will also be set (age, gender, social, ethnicity and disability).		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
			17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

Policy Action Area: Sporting Facilities

Investment in sports facilities is helping to ensure quality sporting experiences for all adults and children regularly participating in sport, as well as assisting Ireland's top sports persons to compete successfully at the highest levels. The investment is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the nation as well as to social and economic development in Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
17	We will conduct periodic Value for Money Reviews of the Sports Capital Programme with the first one to commence in 2019. Recommendations of the reviews will be reflected in subsequent investment programmes.		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

Policy Action Area: Building Capacity

In addition to the LSP network, there are over 60 NGBs and 12,000 affiliated sports clubs managing and administering organised sport for about 1.7 million individuals in Ireland. They train and deploy coaches and officials, organise representative level sport, provide opportunities and pathways from local sport to national and international competition, deliver critical national sports programmes in areas such as anti-doping and the safeguarding of children in sport, and organise and host international sporting events which stimulate competition at the highest level.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
28	We will introduce an annual volunteer training budget to be jointly administered by the NGBs and the LSP network to ensure that volunteer training can occur across sports. This training will focus on issues such as child welfare, disability awareness, first aid, sports administration and governance, and fundraising. The NGBs and LSPs will be expected to work closely with clubs and Sport Ireland Coaching in planning and delivering this training.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
31	Sport Ireland will oversee a process to have all NGBs and LSPs adopt the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector by end 2021. As part of this process Sport Ireland will also identify and put in place the training and supports needed by the different organisations to assist with the adoption process.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
33	Sport Ireland will lead in the development of a sports sector workforce strategy which addresses recruitment, increased professionalisation, development, validation and recognition, provision for Continuous Professional Development (CPD), diversity of leadership throughout the sector and Irish representation on international sports federations. We will support Sport Ireland's efforts to develop a long-term strategy for education, learning and development.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
35	Sport Ireland will develop a research strategy for sport engaging with all key organisations operating within the sector. The strategy should help to create more formal and structured relationships between the practice, policy system and research communities to ensure that the limited resources available in all domains are prioritised towards developing a better understanding of the key policy questions around sport, thereby developing better solutions to the challenges we seek to address. We will ensure that research and evaluation information is more widely disseminated throughout the sports system. To this end, Sport Ireland will develop an online sports research and data repository.		17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability
36	We will support NGBs and other sports bodies to develop evaluation tools for programmes and initiatives. Sport Ireland will develop standardised evaluation frameworks which will allow for the robust assessment of the impact of publicly funded facilities, programmes, and interventions. We will seek to tap into the considerable and expanding expertise in the third level and other sectors around sport and community-based initiatives to help develop the capacity of the sport system in this area. We will align our actions in this area with Action Area 7 of the National Physical Activity Plan.		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

37	In order to understand better the impact of Government investment in sport we will develop, in consultation with the representative sporting organisations, more coordinated information systems throughout the sector which will allow the Department, Sport Ireland, NGBs, Local Authorities and LSPs the opportunity to understand fully the impact of their investments.		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

Policy Action Area: Sport in a cross-sectoral and international context

Sport policy has long been closely linked with a breadth of Government policies. The role of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as joint chair with the Department of Health in the development and oversight of the National Physical Activity Plan is one example among many where the implementation of sports policy interfaces closely with the work of other Government Departments.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
39	We will establish a Sports Leadership Group within three months of the publication of this policy to agree an Action Plan and to oversee its implementation once approved by Government.		16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.
40	We will continue to engage actively with international organisations in order to be aware of, and to influence, developments at international level particularly at the EU, Council of Europe, UNESCO and international sporting federations and bodies.		17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed
			17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Policy Action Area: Integrity of Sport

At every level, from the club member to the player to the spectator, people want to believe that fairness and authenticity prevail. Those competing in or watching sport should have no doubt that it is being conducted on a level playing field. Competition in sport provides enthralling experiences that are rightly to be cherished.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
41	We will examine the potential for the establishment of an independent antidoping agency during the first two years of the policy.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
42	We will complete, on a collaborative basis, the preparatory steps necessary to facilitate a decision on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
			17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
47	We will increase our investment to build the capacity of the sporting sector, through strengthening governance, enhanced training and development of coaches and others in the sports workforce, support for volunteering in sport, and improved research, evaluation, and information systems.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
54	The Sports Leadership Group will consider the operation of the tax relief scheme for donations to approved sports bodies for the funding of approved projects and, in consultation with sporting bodies, develop proposals to expand this scheme, for consideration by Government.		16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.
			16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

Policy Action Area: Implementation, Monitoring, and Review			
Sports Leadership Group; Measuring Impact – targets and indicators.			
POLICY ACTION		**MAPPED SDG TARGET**	
57	We will develop and publish, by mid-2019, a comprehensive set of key performance indicators covering all elements of the policy. Progress in implementing the policy will be assessed against these indicators.	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

SDG Indicator Development

As part of their commitment to the Kazan Action Plan, the Commonwealth Secretariat developed the sport model indicators to help nations measure the contribution of physical education, physical activity, and sport to the SDGs. Significant progress has been made in developing aligned Irish indicators to measure the contribution of the NSP to the SDGs. However, there is still more work to be done in this area. The development of robust and reliable indicators is critical to ensuring that progress towards the SDGs can be measured and tracked over time. It is essential that these indicators capture the full range of contributions that sport can make to sustainable development, and that they are applicable across different sectors and contexts. With continued effort and collaboration, we can build a comprehensive set of indicators that will enable us to fully understand and maximize the impact of sports on sustainable development.

How can we measure and track the contribution of Irish Sport in relation to each focus SDG?

Developing indicators to measure the contribution of the NSP to the SDGs is a complex task for several reasons:

1. Sport can have a multifaceted impact on sustainable development, affecting everything from health and wellbeing to gender equality, environmental sustainability, and economic development. As a result, it is challenging to develop indicators that accurately capture the full range of contributions that sports can make to sustainable development.
2. Measuring the impact of sport on sustainable development requires the collection and analysis of data from a wide range of sources, including internal Sport Ireland units, wider sport sector as well as other government departments and agencies. This can be a time-consuming and resource-intensive process, particularly in contexts where data collection systems are not automated or harmonised.
3. Developing reliable indicators requires ongoing engagement and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that the indicators are pragmatic, relevant, meaningful, and responsive to changing needs and priorities. This requires a high degree of coordination and cooperation among different actors.

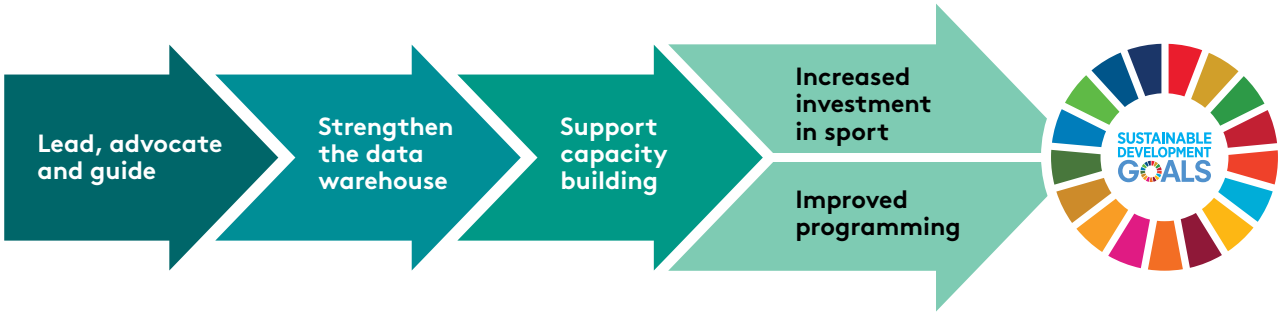
During stakeholder consultations an initial 48 potential indicators were identified to measure how the NSP actions will assess the contribution of Irish sport to sustainable development. These included existing indicators, those already in development, and new indicators. These have been placed in 'baskets' of indicators based upon an assessment of the extent to which each indicator is relevant in communicating progress and performance across the changes defined under each roadmap, and for each of the seven areas of sustainable development. Each indicator in turn has been categorised as either a Headline or Support indicator.

- **Headline indicators** are of central importance for assessing the contribution to the SDG. These are double weighted in terms of the overall performance assessment.
- **Support indicators** are beneficial in assessing contribution to the SDG, but not essential. These are single weighted in terms of assessing overall performance. They are also important to ascertaining the success of the NSP actions.

The indicators developed to date provide a useful starting point, but there are still many areas where indicators need to be refined to fully capture the impact of sport on sustainable development. Ongoing collaboration and consultation with stakeholders will be essential to ensure that selected indicators are pragmatic, relevant, and reliable. A robust and pragmatic set of indicators will enable progress towards the SDGs to be tracked and ensure that sport is being used to its full potential in contributing to sustainable development.

Next Steps

The next steps that Sport Ireland are working towards focus on promoting the value and contribution of sport to society and sustainable development, improving the evidence base and bridging data gaps to monitor and track the contribution of sport to the SDGs. The three steps outlined below will ultimately lead to reliable data and evidence to inform decision making on investment and programme planning for sport in Ireland, which in turn will improve the contribution of sport to sustainable development.



1. **Provide strategic leadership, guidance, and advocacy** by promoting the assets and materials developed from this project (and others). Encourage awareness of the SDGs, as well as sports' potential and actual contribution to the achievement of the SDGs through the NSP. Demonstrate how stakeholders might align to provide a more coordinated and long-term response to the developmental challenges in Ireland. This would in turn lead to a shared agenda and the natural promotion of associated tools and processes to monitor across the different ecosystem levels, progress being made towards nationally prioritised development goals.

2. **Strengthen the Data Warehouse and Visualisation Portal for Sport** (currently in development). Sport Ireland are developing a Data Warehouse and Visualisation portal for Sport that will provide a centralised repository of all sport-related data collected on the island of Ireland. This will allow Sport Ireland to collect and collate data at scale for many of the indicators in the framework and provide a home for new indicators that fill an identified gap. This cloud-based system will span a wide range of data sources allowing practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to efficiently combine, analyse and visualise data relevant to their scope of practice. The portal will be able to accommodate any future 'SDG Sport Index' within it, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to see progress towards the SDGs.

3. **Support organisations and actors in building their capacities and skills** specifically in relation to understanding the contribution sport can make to the SDGs and the actions sport can take to maximise its contribution to sustainable development in Ireland. This should be with an emphasis upon learning and sharing good practices in terms of both policy and practice across the ecosystem as well as supporting organisations in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) and Results Based Management (RBM).

Appendix 1
NSP Actions Mapped to SDG Targets

Policy Action Area: Participation

Substantial work has been undertaken to develop the Sport Ireland Campus ("the Campus") to meet the evolving needs of the sporting community in Ireland. Significant progress in recent years means that world-class facilities are now in place at the Campus for a variety of sports. Facilities developed to date have largely been in line with the 2004 Development Control Plan (also known as the Master Plan) for the Campus. The Campus is home to 27 sporting organisations and the development of office accommodation for Sport Ireland as well as other NGBs will continue over coming years. The Campus is operated by a subsidiary company of Sport Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
1	We will work with early childhood care and education services and organisations to ensure that pre-school practitioners, providers, and parents/guardians are supported in improving the physical activity habits of very young children in their care, including the development of improved physical literacy outcomes.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
2	We will work with the Department of Education, teachers, NGBs and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that PE in schools is delivered to fully support the development of physical literacy among all our children.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
3	Sport Ireland will review the financial support to NGBs so that a greater focus is placed on the development of non-sport specific physical literacy programmes for younger children. As part of this arrangement, NGBs would be expected to work with each other and with Sport Ireland Coaching in developing appropriate programmes.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
4	We will work with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, LSPs, NGBs, Health Service Executive (HSE) and others to develop an education or information campaign to help parents/guardians to engage with their children to develop physical literacy and positive habits around sport and physical activity as part of an overall healthier lifestyle.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
5	We will prioritise sports like swimming, cycling, and running which, we believe have the greatest potential for generating higher levels of active participation across the life course, seeking to ensure that our children have the necessary skills to engage in these activities in a meaningful way while also investing in the development of infrastructure, programmes, and people to help sustain participation throughout adolescence and adulthood.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
6	Sport Ireland will develop initiatives with the NGBs, LSPs, schools, third level institutions, Active Disability Ireland, and other relevant parties to address participation in sport among adolescents and young adults, particularly females, those from lower socio-economic groups, persons with a disability, the LGBTI+ community, the Traveller community, and other ethnic minorities. Team and individual-based NGBs will be encouraged to develop initiatives which promote wider participation across their respective codes. Schools and sports clubs will be encouraged to foster better links to make more efficient use of their facilities, while LSPs will be asked to develop participation interventions making use of these facilities. Active Disability Ireland will advise on the particular needs in respect of individuals with disabilities.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
			4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
			5.1; End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
			10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

7	We will promote more strongly among teachers and parents/ guardian's messages around the positive relationship between sports participation and exam performance in our efforts to attenuate the drop off that occurs in participation levels around exam years.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
8	We will establish, through Sport Ireland, an initiative to support Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The Local Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation locally. It will be developed and implemented in cooperation with LSPs, clubs, communities, and partners within and beyond sport.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
9	We will redouble our efforts to address inequalities in sports participation as part of the Local Sports Plans development process. Resources will be directed to promote the broadest possible participation, ensuring quality and accessibility for all groups. Funding will be prioritised on programmes which focus on those groups with lower levels of participation, particularly those in lower socio-economic groups, persons with a disability and older people. We will also emphasise the virtue of collaboration between sporting bodies (NGBs, LSPs and clubs) and between sport and other policy sectors in the development and promotion of participation initiatives.		10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
10	In prioritising initiatives and programmes to engage groups with lower participation levels we will use behavioural insights and other research to better understand issues around non-participation.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
			10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11	We will use Dormant Accounts and other Exchequer funding to roll out initiatives such as the Community Sports Hubs on a nationwide basis where they have been found to be successful following robust evaluation. We will also seek the support of the private sector for such initiatives.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
			13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
12	In addressing the disability gradients in participation, we will explore the possibility of introducing a national network of Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) aligned to the LSP network. These SIDOs would be expected to work closely with relevant NGBs, the disability sector, leisure centre providers, Active Disability Ireland, and other stakeholders in providing opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in sport.		10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
13	Apart from investment in traditional sports infrastructure we will examine how the wider natural and built environment can facilitate participation in sport and physical activity. This consideration will also take account of the type of activities towards which adults are increasingly gravitating such as running, cycling, outdoor adventure pursuits, recreational walking, etc.		11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

14	We will use our funding streams to foster social participation in sport by encouraging the development of strong community-based sports organisations (e.g., Community Sports Hubs), supporting and developing those who volunteer for sport and promoting social membership of sports clubs (as well as playing membership).		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
			8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
15	Sport Ireland will, by mid-2019, advise the Sports Leadership Group around appropriate interim targets (2023) for adult and children's active and social participation in sport and for the reduction in the relevant gradients. Targets for narrowing the gradients in participation will also be set (age, gender, social, ethnicity and disability).		5.1; End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
			5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
			10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
			10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and action in this regard
			16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
			17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

Policy Action Area: Sporting Facilities

Investment in sports facilities is helping to ensure quality sporting experiences for all adults and children regularly participating in sport, as well as assisting Ireland's top sports persons to compete successfully at the highest levels. The investment is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the nation as well as to social and economic development in Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
16	We will commit to run the Sports Capital Programme in each year of this policy, to fund facilities targeting increased participation and improved participation experiences throughout the population. The scoring system and assessment process for the Sports Capital Programme will be reviewed to ensure that the programme is achieving objectives in line with this National Sports Policy.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
			8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
			11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
17	We will conduct periodic Value for Money Reviews of the Sports Capital Programme with the first one to commence in 2019. Recommendations of the reviews will be reflected in subsequent investment programmes.		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability
18	We will periodically conduct a nationwide audit of sports facilities (whether publicly or privately owned), with the first such audit to be completed within 2 years of the publication of this policy. These audits will guide decisions regarding the sport capital projects to be prioritised for public funding and we will also consult with NGBs in relation to any further actions required. Local Authorities will conduct the audit at a local level, as part of their role in implementing their Local Sports Plans. As part of the audit, we will work with relevant stakeholders to develop and maintain a fully accessible, comprehensive, and up-to-date national database of sports facilities which will also be translated into a web-based portal to serve the needs of the public.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
			11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
19	We will establish a new Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund to support projects where the Exchequer investment will exceed the maximum amount available under the Sports Capital Programme.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
20	We will work closely with relevant Government Departments, Local Authorities, sporting bodies and other stakeholders to agree a coherent national strategy for swimming. As part of this, we will review swimming pool provision to identify where gaps exist and how these can be met.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
21	We will work with relevant stakeholders to explore the merits of a new programme of current sports funding under a targeted scheme to support schools on a sustainable basis in defraying reasonable costs (such as necessary transport and facility hire) incurred in delivering the aquatics strand of the PE curriculum.		4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

22	We will encourage Local Authorities to promote and facilitate more sharing of facilities locally, especially where capacity is available at off-peak times during the day, in the evening or during holiday periods in the case of educational establishments. This will involve working closely with clubs and sporting bodies, schools and colleges, leisure facility providers and others. As part of the Local Sport Plans, Local Authorities will also lead on other collaborative initiatives to improve access locally e.g., Local Authorities and LSPs will combine to see how recreational areas can be utilised more fully by local communities for sport and physical activity e.g., for Parkruns.		4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all
			11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
23	We will aim to secure a new stream of annual funding for a targeted sports scheme to sub vent Local Authorities in the operation of loss-making facilities where these have a key role in increasing participation, as well as to support programmes to increase active participation.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

Policy Action Area: High Performance

The structures for high performance (HP) sport in Ireland have advanced considerably since the then Irish Sports Council published its first high performance strategy in December 2001. The roles played by the Sport Ireland Institute, the Olympic Council of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland, together with Sport Ireland investment in the high-performance programme and International Carding Scheme, have contributed to improved athlete performances, while world-class facilities to accommodate high performance training for a range of sports are now available at the Sport Ireland Campus.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
24	Under the aegis of the Sports Leadership Group (see Chapter 11), we will establish a High Performance (HP) Working Group chaired by Sport Ireland and comprising representatives of Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, National Governing Bodies, Olympic Council of Ireland, Athletes Commission, Paralympics Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to develop a new HP Strategy for Ireland in line with the parameters set out in this policy. The new Strategy will be submitted to the Sports Leadership Group in the first instance and then to Government for approval.		Not applicable

Policy Action Area: High Performance

Substantial work has been undertaken to develop the Sport Ireland Campus ("the Campus") to meet the evolving needs of the sporting community in Ireland. Significant progress in recent years means that world-class facilities are now in place at the Campus for a variety of sports. Facilities developed to date have largely been in line with the 2004 Development Control Plan (also known as the Master Plan) for the Campus. The Campus is home to 27 sporting organisations and the development of office accommodation for Sport Ireland as well as other NGBs will continue over coming years. The Campus is operated by a subsidiary company of Sport Ireland.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
25	We will progress the construction of Phase 2 of the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena and the National Velodrome and Badminton Centre in line with Project Ireland 2040. The Department and Sport Ireland will continue preparatory works in respect of other projects with a view to commencement as and when funding becomes available.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
			13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

26	Consistent with the vision set out in this policy, Sport Ireland will develop a new 10-year strategy for the development and operation of the Sport Ireland Campus. Sport Ireland will consult with the working group charged with development of the high-performance strategy, with NGBs and with other key stakeholders in developing this strategy, which will be submitted to Government for approval.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
			13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Policy Action Area: Building Capacity

In addition to the LSP network, there are over 60 NGBs and 12,000 affiliated sports clubs managing and administering organised sport for about 1.7 million individuals in Ireland. They train and deploy coaches and officials, organise representative level sport, provide opportunities and pathways from local sport to national and international competition, deliver critical national sports programmes in areas such as anti-doping and the safeguarding of children in sport, and organise and host international sporting events which stimulate competition at the highest level.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
27	Sport Ireland will bring forward a volunteering strategy to consider issues around recruitment, retention and recognition, the gradients that exist in volunteering, and how to address the challenges to sustain and grow our volunteer base. Newer forms of volunteer engagement will be encouraged that stimulates active and social participation ideally suited to modern times.		8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training
28	We will introduce an annual volunteer training budget to be jointly administered by the NGBs and the LSP network to ensure that volunteer training can occur across sports. This training will focus on issues such as child welfare, disability awareness, first aid, sports administration and governance, and fundraising. The NGBs and LSPs will be expected to work closely with clubs and Sport Ireland Coaching in planning and delivering this training.		8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training
			10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
			16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
29	Sport Ireland will work with the corporate sector to support volunteering in sport among employees, which should benefit employers as well as society at large given that volunteering can help individuals to develop skills which they can use to good advantage in their careers.		4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship
			12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
30	Sport Ireland Coaching will develop a new coaching plan by end 2019. It will seek to address the issues identified here around encouraging greater diversity among the coaching workforce, making coaching qualifications at entry level more adaptable so that coaches can work across a range of sports and physical activities. It will also place a greater focus on behaviour and attitudes rather than pure technical skills at entry level, promoting the greater use of technology in coach education, as well as coaching for people with disabilities.		4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university
			8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

31	Sport Ireland will oversee a process to have all NGBs and LSPs adopt the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector by end 2021. As part of this process Sport Ireland will also identify and put in place the training and supports needed by the different organisations to assist with the adoption process.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
32	NGBs will be asked to set gender diversity targets and develop equality action plans. Support will be provided for dedicated leadership training programmes for women including governance-related and technical training (coaching, refereeing and team management). Sport Ireland will monitor their progress in delivering on these and report annually. If sufficient progress is not being made, we will engage further with all stakeholders on the matter.		4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations
			5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
			5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
33	Sport Ireland will lead in the development of a sports sector workforce strategy which addresses recruitment, increased professionalisation, development, validation and recognition, provision for Continuous Professional Development (CPD), diversity of leadership throughout the sector and Irish representation on international sports federations. We will support Sport Ireland's efforts to develop a long-term strategy for education, learning and development.		4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship
			5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
			10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and action in this regard
			16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
34	We will foster and encourage collaboration within the sports sector and between sport and other sectors through training and development initiatives and through the provision of financial and other incentives to stimulate collaborative behaviour at all levels of sport. We will work on an all-island basis in this regard. We will seek to develop a stronger relationship with the education system in particular in our efforts.		4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university
			4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship
			12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

35	Sport Ireland will develop a research strategy for sport engaging with all key organisations operating within the sector. The strategy should help to create more formal and structured relationships between the practice, policy system and research communities to ensure that the limited resources available in all domains are prioritised towards developing a better understanding of the key policy questions around sport, thereby developing better solutions to the challenges we seek to address. We will ensure that research and evaluation information is more widely disseminated throughout the sports system. To this end, Sport Ireland will develop an online sports research and data repository.		17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
			17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability
36	We will support NGBs and other sports bodies to develop evaluation tools for programmes and initiatives. Sport Ireland will develop standardised evaluation frameworks which will allow for the robust assessment of the impact of publicly funded facilities, programmes, and interventions. We will seek to tap into the considerable and expanding expertise in the third level and other sectors around sport and community-based initiatives to help develop the capacity of the sport system in this area. We will align our actions in this area with Action Area 7 of the National Physical Activity Plan.		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability
37	In order to understand better the impact of Government investment in sport we will develop, in consultation with the representative sporting organisations, more coordinated information systems throughout the sector which will allow the Department, Sport Ireland, NGBs, Local Authorities and LSPs the opportunity to understand fully the impact of their investments.		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

Policy Action Area: Sport in a cross-sectoral and international context

Sport policy has long been closely linked with a breadth of Government policies. The role of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as joint chair with the Department of Health in the development and oversight of the National Physical Activity Plan is one example among many where the implementation of sports policy interfaces closely with the work of other Government Departments.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
38	Fáilte Ireland will continue to support NGBs in attracting those sports events which meet its events criteria and deliver a significant economic return.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
39	We will establish a Sports Leadership Group within three months of the publication of this policy to agree an Action Plan and to oversee its implementation once approved by Government.		16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.
40	We will continue to engage actively with international organisations in order to be aware of, and to influence, developments at international level particularly at the EU, Council of Europe, UNESCO and international sporting federations and bodies.		17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed
			17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Policy Action Area: Integrity of Sport

At every level, from the club member to the player to the spectator, people want to believe that fairness and authenticity prevail. Those competing in or watching sport should have no doubt that it is being conducted on a level playing field. Competition in sport provides enthralling experiences that are rightly to be cherished.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
41	We will examine the potential for the establishment of an independent antidoping agency during the first two years of the policy.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
42	We will complete, on a collaborative basis, the preparatory steps necessary to facilitate a decision on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
			17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

Policy Action Area: Financing of Sport

The NSP actions aim to facilitate the development of our sporting sector over the period 2018-2027. The Government's objectives for 2027 are to achieve a sustained increase in participation levels across all sectors of society, to support our athletes to reach their potential in international competition and to support the development of the sport sector, in terms of facilities and organisational capacity. These objectives will not be achieved without continued investment of public funds across the sporting sector.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
43	We will seek to increase investment in sport over the lifetime of this policy. Our ambition is that State investment in sport would exceed €220million in 2027.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
44	We will aim to deliver funding on a multiannual basis for high performance and participation programmes. Funding for high performance programmes will be delivered on a multi-annual basis from 2019 onwards.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
45	We will aim to increase funding to participation programmes for every year of the policy, with the intention to double our annual investment in participation by 2027. We will support Local Authorities in developing and implementing Local Sports Plans, which will aim to work with local stakeholders to increase participation levels.		3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
46	We will provide greater certainty in funding for participation programmes year-on-year. Arrangements for the introduction of multi-annual funding for key grantee organisations will be prioritised.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
47	We will increase our investment to build the capacity of the sporting sector, through strengthening governance, enhanced training and development of coaches and others in the sports workforce, support for volunteering in sport, and improved research, evaluation, and information systems.		16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
48	Sport Ireland and its partners will continue to develop pilot programmes aimed at addressing participation gradients in sport around disadvantage and disability, to be supported by Dormant Accounts funding. As increased funds are made available for participation programmes, successful policy interventions will be scaled up and rolled out nationwide using more mainstream Exchequer funding sources along with possible private investment.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
			5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

49	We will move to a multi-cycle approach to high performance funding from 2019 onwards. A new high-performance strategy will be developed which will define the direction for at least 12 years and which will be reviewed each 4 years on a rolling basis.		Not applicable
50	Government funding for high performance will be increased to match the investment made in comparator nations. Sustained funding will be committed for each Olympic cycle.		Not applicable
51	We will seek additional capital funding for annual rounds of the Sports Capital Programme.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
52	As set out in Project 2040, the National Development Plan, €100 million will be committed to the establishment of a new Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund for larger sports projects where proposed Government contribution exceeds €500,000. As well as other largescale projects, the Fund will encompass potential new swimming pool projects, thereby superseding the existing Local Authority Swimming Pools Programme.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
53	We will seek additional capital funding to progress the further development of world class sports facilities at the Sport Ireland Campus, in line with the priorities identified in the new Master Plan and in support of the new High-Performance Strategy.		11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
54	The Sports Leadership Group will consider the operation of the tax relief scheme for donations to approved sports bodies for the funding of approved projects and, in consultation with sporting bodies, develop proposals to expand this scheme, for consideration by Government.		8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
			16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.
			16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
55	Opportunities will be explored so that business or individual donors will also be attracted to invest in a more meaningful way in sport. Collaborative models where sports work together and share benefits from a joint fund will be considered.		12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
56	Recognising the increasing trend towards personal exercise in gyms and other facilities, we will, in consultation with stakeholders, consider possible changes in the taxation code to incentivise participation through the usage of gym equipment and personal sporting equipment.		8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

Policy Action Area: Implementation, Monitoring, and Review

Sports Leadership Group; Measuring Impact – targets and indicators.

POLICY ACTION		MAPPED SDG TARGET	
57	We will develop and publish, by mid-2019, a comprehensive set of key performance indicators covering all elements of the policy. Progress in implementing the policy will be assessed against these indicators..		17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability

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