

Case Study principles

The case study principles document is to ensure transparency, consistency, and quality in the selection and promotion process of case studies as part of Embracing Ireland's Outdoors.

The principles provide a clear, structured, and fair framework for selecting and developing high-quality case studies that effectively highlight the achievements and innovations within the outdoor recreation sector.

1. Purpose and Scope

The case studies are delivered as part of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, "Embracing Ireland's Outdoors". The case studies align with strategic goals by offering a platform to exchange experiences and best practices from across Ireland, fostering valuable knowledge sharing

By developing and disseminating these case studies, our goal is to improve planning, development and delivery practices in outdoor recreation. This will ensure that future projects achieve higher quality and sustainability, contributing to the overall enhancement of outdoor recreation infrastructure and opportunities across Ireland. These case studies will serve as valuable resources for stakeholders, offering insights and best practices that can be replicated to foster more effective and environmentally responsible outdoor recreation initiatives.

2. Criteria and process

Selection Criteria

All projects or initiatives must align with one or more of the strategic objectives outlined in "Embracing Ireland's Outdoors." Projects submitted for consideration as case studies should demonstrate the following:

- **Impact:** Clear evidence of the project's positive impact on the community, environment, and/or industry.

- **Sustainability:** Demonstration through practices that prioritise environmental, economic and social responsibility.
- **Scalability and Replicability:** Potential for the project to be scaled or replicated in other contexts.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Significant involvement and engagement with local communities and other stakeholders.

Application Process:

1. **Submission:** Applications will be submitted through an online survey available on Sport Ireland's website. Applications are open year-round, with approvals conducted biannually by the Comhairle na Tuaithe Guidance Subgroup.
2. **Screening:** Submissions will first be screened by Sport Ireland for completeness and alignment with the strategic objectives.
3. **Evaluation:** The Guidance Subgroup will evaluate the screened applications based on the criteria outlined above.
4. **Notification:** Applicants will be notified of the decision following the approval of the Guidance Subgroup. Successful applicants will receive a draft of the case study for review before it is published.

Requirements:

- **Consent:** Organizations involved in the project must provide consent for the project to be used as a case study. This includes information and imagery submitted
- **Confidentiality:** No private or confidential information should be submitted.
- **Accuracy:** There must be a commitment to accurately representing the projects, avoiding any misrepresentation. Please provide a transparent account of your project, including any challenges or errors encountered. While not every project is flawless, our goal is for others to learn from these case studies and improve their practices.

All case studies will have a standardised structure and format. This will ensure that there is consistency across all information provided.

3. Dissemination and Use

Case studies will be listed on the Sport Ireland website under a specific section of the site. This location is temporary until a suitable online platform is developed in line with action 6.4. of the strategy.

The case studies will be accessible to the public. The individual or organization submitting the case study must have full rights to provide the information requested in the survey. This ensures that the case studies can be used by all stakeholder, allowing the sector to share valuable insights and best practices with the broader community.

4. Continuous Improvement

These principles will be reviewed annually by the Guidance Subgroup to ensure they remain relevant and effective. This review process is crucial to adapt to any changes in the outdoor recreation sector and to incorporate lessons learned from previous case studies.

Sport Ireland is committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders to refine the selection process and criteria. This will be done by actively seeking feedback and staying informed about evolving industry trends. By doing so, we aim to continuously improve the quality and impact of the case studies, ensuring they serve as valuable resources for the outdoor recreation community.