

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

Organisation	Summary of Issues Raised	Summary of Proposals
<p>Chambers Ireland</p>	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of housing is increasing inequalities. • The existing housing crisis is causing difficulty in hiring from overseas. • Infrastructure concerns relating to water supply and increasing housing stock. • Concerns regarding the delivery of affordable housing that is in line with our climate objectives. • A lack of integrated processes on key policy areas • Housing issues are impacting employee productivity. • Funding provided for town centre living is not sufficient. <p>FDI & Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy supply concerns are causing FDI opportunity losses. • Increasing construction costs will impact the delivery of affordable housing. • Remote working has created a number of stresses such as housing in regional areas. • Ireland's energy prices will continue to rise due to geopolitical concerns. • Inadequate regulatory and planning procedures may hamper Ireland's potential to realise its renewable energy potential. • Covid-19 has caused climate actions taken under the NDP needing to be completed in a shorter timeframe. The lack of prioritisation within NDP is exacerbating this. The deference of many projects to the planning system may counter the need for prompt actions on the infrastructure and climate challenges facing Ireland. • Chambers Ireland is concerned the Government will seek to by-pass planning problems through a new Judicial Review system. This could create a conflict with constitutional rights and the Aarhus Convention rights <p>Competitiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased costs to businesses associated with shortening supply chains, maintaining higher levels of stock and diversification of suppliers. • Labour costs are expected to increase over the 2020s, likely leading to increased migration from other EU states, putting further strain on the housing market. • The exiting of banks from the domestic banking sector is making it harder for SMEs to access credit. <p>Taxation</p>	<p>FDI & Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the regulatory apparatus does not unnecessarily inhibit the construction of new renewable energy infrastructure. • Progress an agenda to maximise our renewable energy generation. Coupled with long term energy storage solutions Ireland should aim to be a net exporter of electricity. • Continue support for successful skills services such as Solas, Springboard and Skillnet. • Provide upskilling and resources to our planning agencies. • Create a dedicated Environment and Planning Court to deal with infrastructure and housing matters. <p>Competitiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SME's entering the value chains of internationally trading firms. • Supports should be extended to all firms who wish to trade, not just high potential start-ups. <p>Taxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the diversification of the Irish tax base.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concentration of Corporation Tax receipts in a small number of multinational corporations and the small proportion of the population accounting for the majority of income taxes could become a problem in the event of an economic downturn. • 8% of tax revenue is derived from taxes derived from the use of the internal combustion engine. As the economy decarbonises this poses a risk to tax revenue. • The decoupling of Local Government expenditure from the setting of Local Property Taxes and Commercial Rates undermines Local Governments and their activities. 	
<p>Community and Voluntary Pillar</p>	<p>Inequality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 has highlighted the impact of inequality. Healthcare and housing issues have been exacerbated by Covid-19 • A high percentage of the population is living in enforced deprivation, particularly among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lone parents ○ People unable to work due to illness or disability ○ People who are unemployed ○ People whose housing tenure is described as rented or rent free. • Increases in the cost of living are putting low income individuals and households at risk of further inequality. • Current social welfare rates are inadequate and the living wage is higher than the minimum wage. • Employment and unemployment figures for people with disabilities and Travellers are in stark contrast to the national ones. • With the focus of the spending on community-based employment services changing in 2022, there is concern that this will impact on people more distant from the labour market, with particular implications for women who are parenting alone, are qualified adults, carers and people with disabilities. <p>Digital Divide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern at the long-term impact on learners of all ages who cannot access online learning to maintain and improve their educational attainment and skills. • Lack of access to broadband, the necessary equipment, suitable accommodation exacerbated existing inequalities and created new ones. Delays in the roll out of the National Broadband Plan continue to make it more difficult for people in rural areas to access online resources and remote working opportunities. 	<p>Inequality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on adaptability demonstrated during COVID-19 to address challenges around poverty, inequality, housing and healthcare access. • Develop specific and targeted plans to address poverty, particularly with regards to those in disadvantage groups. • Benchmark social welfare rates. • Enhanced access to services and grants for disabled persons. • Tailor active labour market policies toward the needs of women is required. • Promote policies to tackle gender inequality and the gender pay gap. • Ensure that people do not experience a net loss of income when taking up employment. • Invest in public and affordable housing, accessible healthcare/childcare and labour market activation. • <p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Ireland's total tax-take. • Invest sufficiently to ensure that Ireland's services and infrastructure reach EU-average levels. • Create a long-term socio-economic strategy for Ireland to meet its commitments under the SDGs. • Invest in one-off national infrastructure. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Intergovernmental Just Transition plan. • Support those impacted by the changes required to meet our climate change targets. • Promote policies to improve energy efficiency in homes. In particular in the rental sector. • Investment is needed in The Sláintecare programme.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing face to face access to essential services with solely digital access will result in many people in society being permanently excluded and disadvantaged in their participation in society. <p>Healthcare, Childcare & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lengthy waiting times to access health services for those without health insurance. Private fees for secondary education continue to increase, while schools in underprivileged areas struggle for funding. Childcare subsidies are invariably subsumed into private rate increases and those who cannot access sparse community childcare schemes or family care have no alternative but to remain outside the labour force. Paid statutory leave for parents in Ireland is much lower than EU norms and there is a larger gap between the end of paid leave and the start of ECEC services. Many charities, community and voluntary organisations are struggling to provide services and supports as resources are being diverted to fulfil regulatory, service-agreement and compliance requirements for which no funding is provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater funding for an environmentally sustainable public transport system across the country. Develop sustainable, renewable energy sources that are affordable to those with lower incomes. <p>Healthcare, Childcare & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in the care economy can help deliver on gender equality and climate action goals. Increase investment in early years to 1% of GDP over the next decade and introduce a Living Wage for all Early Years Educators. Provide free access to a healthy meal each school day. Support a range of training and apprenticeship opportunities. Additionally take a life-cycle approach to education provision. <p>Stakeholder Engagement & Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater recognition and provision of adequate and sustainable funding for the community and voluntary sector. Inclusive and effective engagement with all sectors of society on key national issues.
<p>DFI</p>	<p>Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty and deprivation rates are 2-3 times higher for those with disabilities compared to general population. Children with disabled parents are more likely to live in persistent poverty and children living in poverty are twice as likely to have a chronic condition or disability. There are significant extra costs for people with disabilities. <p>Funding & Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an underfunding of voluntary disability organisations. COVID-19 has impacted that Services that support people with disabilities and exacerbate existing problems Inequality in pay between Section 39 staff and staff working for Section 38 organisations and HSE. Mainstream health services have staff shortages, long waiting lists and lack of funding/resources. There are delays in assessments of need preventing children from getting supports. 	<p>Poverty & Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Household Benefits and Telephone Support Allowance to include support for digital services. Strengthen employment supports for disabled people. Prioritise needs of disadvantage groups. Benchmark social welfare rates above the poverty line. Strengthen employment supports for disabled people. <p>Funding & Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align expenditure on disability social protection with EU average. Fund the implementation of the Disability Capacity Review. Increase funding to support disabled people at a local level. Pay parity for staff in Section 39 organisations. Fund a Specialist Clinical Rehabilitation Networks in every Community Health Organisation. Address growing waiting lists for neurology services. Community support packages for under-65s out of nursing homes.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families who can afford private assessments more likely to get special education resources. Over 1,300 people with disabilities under 65 were inappropriately placed in nursing homes. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vast majority of people with disabilities in Ireland live in the community, and experience many housing challenges – mostly related to lack of sufficient resources, universally designed housing and of joined up policy-making <p>Education & Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing issues with significant delays in assessments of need, which prevents children from getting the supports that they need Students with disabilities face additional costs to access education such as specialist transport, equipment, assistive technology etc <p>Supports for students with disabilities in further education are often underdeveloped in comparison to higher education Transitioning from early years education to primary school to secondary school to further/higher education to employment means having to reapply for the same supports over and over again. A more joined up system is needed.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>given ongoing accessibility issues, disabled people sometimes cannot use public transport, and face significant extra costs due to, for example, needing to take an accessible taxi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Catherine Day Report, addressing existing deficits and multi-annual funding requirements <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund, resource and implement National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. Consider disability across all planning and housing initiatives. Move towards Universal Design+, wheelchair liveable housing, and reform Part M of Building Regulations. More funding needed to address the recommendations of the Ombudsman's Wasted Lives Report. <p>Education & Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint 20 additional NEPS psychologists. Invest in an education, training and employment support fund. Extend SUSI grant to part-time and postgraduate students. Fully implement EPSEN Act 2004. Increase funding to support disabled people at a local level. Develop and implement participation strategies to include local citizens with disabilities in local plans. Implement the recommendations of the Loneliness Taskforce Report. Fully implement work of IDG at a national level. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase accessibility of Local Link transport. Consult disabled people on major public space changes. Train public transport staff to assist people with various disabilities. Establish Transport Support Scheme to replace Mobility Allowance. <p>Legislation & Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully implement UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, particularly those parts that address employment, standard of living, education and independent living. Pass/commence Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016.
<p>EAPN Ireland</p>	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing house prices and rent. Costs related to construction materials are rising. Homelessness is still a problem in Irish society. 	<p>Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland's Anti-Poverty Commitments must be honoured. Increase investment in anti-poverty measures. <p>Housing</p>

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is uncertainty around the National Retrofitting Scheme and its impact on tenants of privately rented accommodation. • The Housing Assistance Payment cannot respond to the level of housing need for low-income households within the private rental market. <p>Green Transition & Cost of Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition to a greener economy will have a negative employment impact in certain areas, such as the midlands. • The rising cost of living is placing a burden on households, especially those on lower incomes. • Social welfare rates have been improving but are still inadequate. • Government must commit to Bench marking Social Welfare to adequacy. <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 has had a negative impact on Irish society, including groups most likely to experience unemployment, including women, migrants and young people. • As of yet a living wage has not been introduced with no indication regarding when or if this will happen • It is not enough to have general aims and ambitions regarding employment creation as a response to Ireland's economic recovery, instead a targeted integrated approach is necessary <p>Broadband & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For people struggling to pay for basics such as heating, food and rent, purchasing digital devices and consistent quality internet access represents a luxury item for low-income households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to various rent options to respond to housing needs of those in poverty, including single parent households and people with disabilities. • Examine the role of private developers in the provision of social, affordable housing. • Extend retrofitting scheme to benefit low-income groups renting in poorly insulated private rental accommodation. • Direct andadequate funding to Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies. <p>Green Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing consultation around Ireland's Just Transition ensuring it doesn't had unintended consequences for marginalised groups. • Focus on retraining and learning opportunities providing secure long-term jobs with adequate income for those most likely to experience unemployment due to the green transition. <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of right to access adequate minimum income, social protection, and unemployment benefits. • Define how employment and economic policies to reduce inequality can be achieved. • Measures to address inequality must receive ongoing and adequate funding. • Secure working conditions, regular hours, in environment respecting and enabling rights and dignity of employees while providing access to living wage. <p>Broadband & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable quality broadband via National Broadband plan and access digital devices, for marginalised groups and low-income households, including Travellers and people living within direct provision.Funding for duration of and objectives within Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy.
<p>European Committee of the Regions, the Southern Regional Assembly, and the Northern and Western Regional Assemblies</p>	<p>Covid-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 caused significant unemployment in the regions. • Commercial units across the regions experienced high Covid-19 exposure ratios. <p>Regional Disparities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional disparities within Ireland are high and growing. For example the Northern and Western Region has been downgraded from a "More Developed Region" to a "Transition Region" and is the only NUTS 2 region in Ireland viewed as a "Lagging Region" by the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ring-fence funding for the regions to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework (NPF). <p>Regional Disparities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of high-speed broadband is essential to the delivery of the NPF, the RSEs and the government's rural development strategy "Our Rural Future" which aims close the gap in urban-rural digital connectivity. • Supports to Higher Education Institutes and Education and Training Boards, the Regional Skills Fora and funding actions for life-long learning are needed to enhance human capital levels across our regions.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northern and Western Region is now the only NUTS 2 region in Ireland considered “Moderate Innovator” . . • Ireland requires greater investment in digital infrastructure. • There is gap in broadband provision between urban and rural areas. • A low level of Irish people are served by high frequency public transport (29.6%). <p>The Green Transition & Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are significant gaps in the amount spent per capita on infrastructure in the regions including in the areas of education, transport infrastructure and transport. • Many homes in the regions have lower levels of energy efficiency than the national average. Nationally there are a low level of homes that meet an A or B energy rating. • The green transition provides challenges and opportunities in the areas of energy, employment, biodiversity, water supply, flood relief, coastal defence and transport infrastructure. • The employment losses that will continue to occur as Bord na Móna transitions away from peat extraction activities presents a significant challenge to the economy of the Midlands. • Funding mechanisms in relation to Project Ireland 2040 funds should be reformed. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion caused by the dominance of private transport for most of our journeys is a cost to our economy and environment. • A low level of Irish people are served by high frequency public transport (29.6%). • Lower levels of people in the regions live close to high frequency train stations or bus stops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and expand the network of co-working hubs in Ireland. • Ensure there is a regional approach to Smart Specialisation Strategies. • Support sustainable sectors in rural economies. <p>The Green Transition & Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Just Transition in the Midlands. • Invest in the electricity transmission and distribution network. • Improve energy efficiency in the built environment. • Strengthen biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure. • Enhance water supply, flood relief and coastal defence infrastructure. • Deliver enterprise infrastructure that supports Smart Specialisation and Clustering. • Invest in infrastructure and services to build socially inclusive communities. • Establish a long-term budgeting mechanism to drive the achievement of the accelerated growth of the three metropolitan areas. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver sustainable and active modes of transport. <p>Health & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver investment to enhance the health and wellbeing of our citizens. • Deliver education and childcare services and infrastructure that caters for future populations. • Enhance the capabilities of Higher Education Institutes.
<p>Environmental Pillar</p>	<p>SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second National Implementation Plan (NIP) on the SDGs has not been published and there is no indicated date. • The lack of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). • Shortfall in the budgetary allocations to overseas development assistance. • The IDG on the SDGs has not met since 2020 and minutes post 2019 are not available viewing. • Data on the SDG hub is not up to date. The latest data is August 2020. 	<p>SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold more regular meetings of the IDG on SDGs and update the data on the SDG hub. • Utilise the SDGs as a framework for decision making. • Amendments to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) could provide a unique opportunity to match policies and initiatives with budgetary frameworks to ensure delivery on SDGs is part and parcel of national budgeting. <p>Environment</p>

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is difficulty in finding who are the departmental leads and stakeholder departments for each SDG. <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the current focus on Climate Action there is a danger that other environmental issues such as biodiversity, water quality and waste will be side-lined. • Lack of progress in, and low funding for tackling biodiversity loss. • Concerns in relation to the debate on the fair allocation of sectoral targets and process in relation to the 2031-2035 carbon budget. • Marine ecosystems are under extreme pressure from overfishing, climate change and pollution. • Biodiversity declines due to unsuitable forestry models, agricultural intensification and the unregulated destruction of wetlands and overfishing. • Increase funding on biodiversity and the ration spend D/AFM schemes. • Ireland should fully implement its legal obligations under Irish and EU environmental law and the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green budgeting reforms should explicitly include biodiversity and other environmental issues. • The Government should formally request the CCAC to review Ireland's fair share and the indicative targets for 2031-2035 of 3.5%. • All sectors must be held to the upper limit of their respective sectoral emission reduction targets. • The ability of the marginalised, older people, renters, migrants and other people to access the retrofitting scheme should be examined. • Ensure that the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for fish mortality. • Expand the number of Marine Protected Areas.
<p>IHREC</p>	<p>COVID-19 & Future Pandemics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Covid-19 pandemic exasperated existing inequalities in Ireland. • Ireland has not established a dedicated Parliamentary Committee on human rights and equality. <p>Poverty & Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority groups, young people and women amongst others face significant barriers in securing the right to decent work. • The consistent poverty rate was at 5% in 2020 with minority ethnic groups overrepresented. • Ireland ranks as one of the most expensive countries in the world for childcare. • There are significant barriers to employment for disabled persons in Ireland. Ireland has one of the lowest employment rates for disabled persons in Ireland. • Gender pay and pension gaps stand at approximately 14% and 38%, respectively. <p>Housing & Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More needs to be done than addressing supply alone to combat discrimination and housing disadvantage among particular subgroups. • Persistent underspending of budgets by local authorities on culturally appropriate housing for Travellers. 	<p>Future Pandemics & Crises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the pandemic impact on human rights. • Adopt preparatory measures to protect vulnerable groups in future crises • Establish a Parliamentary Committee on human rights and equality. <p>Poverty & Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve protection of the poorest and vulnerable so that they are able to live with dignity • Pass legislation and policy to establish a Living Wage; • Address the index-linking of all welfare payments. • Introduce a socio-economic status ground of discrimination in equality legislation. • Achieve the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 target rate of 2% or less for consistent poverty. • Put in place a comprehensive national strategy to eliminate child poverty. • Improve equality of access to decent work. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve equality of access to housing. • Prioritise the delivery of adequate Traveller-specific accommodation.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the inadequacy and shortage of culturally appropriate Traveller accommodation in Ireland. • Disabled people are significantly over-represented among the homeless population, many disabled people under the age of 65 are inappropriately housed in nursing homes or live at home with a primary carer over the age of 70. <p>Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about systemic shortcomings in childcare infrastructure • Ireland has the third highest weekly hours of unpaid work for men and women across the European Union. The provision of support for combining paid and unpaid work remains well behind that seen in Scandinavia and other European states. <p>Racism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is persistent and overt racism against Travellers in Ireland, and they continue to experience systemic discrimination in employment, education, health, and housing, with many living in poverty <p>Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are ongoing issues regarding domestic violence support infrastructure. • Migrant women are disproportionately at risk of gender-based violence. <p>International Protection Claims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are long delays in international protection claims. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland's performance with regards to climate change is the sixth worst in the EU. Disadvantaged groups are disproportionately impacted by climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that Local Authorities who fail to provide new Traveller-specific and culturally appropriate accommodation are subject to dissuasive sanctions. • Introduce an 'ethnic identifier' in the social housing needs assessment data. • There is a need for multiple housing solutions and robust independent living supports to meet the housing needs of disabled people. • <p>Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Citizens' Assembly recommendations on transitioning to a publicly funded model of childcare, on paid parental leave. • Give greater recognition to the economic and social value of care as a form of work, including family and community caring. • Increase the share of GDP spent on childcare. • Take measures to reduce the high costs of childcare. <p>Racism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the publication and implementation of the National Action Plan Against Racism. • Ensure the participation of rights holders during the formation and implementation of the National Action Plan Against Racism. • Develop data collection capacity on equality. <p>Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the assistance and services provided to victims of domestic violence are sufficient and not limited by geographical disparity or disability access. • Establish protective measures for vulnerable groups. <p>International Protection Claims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the phasing out of Direct Provision by 2024. • Ensure that vulnerability assessments are carried out within 30 days of an applicant lodging an international protection claim. • Ensure sufficient supports are provided to international protection applicants. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the impact of climate change on human rights and equality. • Improve data available on climate change and human rights. • Implement a rights-based approach to climate change. <p>Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratify the UNCRPD Optional Protocol. • Implement UNCRPD Article 4.3 and CRPD General Comment 7.
--	---	---

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations of the Citizens 'Assembly on Gender Equality;
INOUE	<p>Employment & Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of disadvantaged groups remain at increased risk of unemployment. There is a lack of good quality and sustainable employment, including in rural areas. Ensure initiatives under Pathway's to Work do not exacerbate income inadequacy for those who are unemployed or those in low paid employment. PUP covered a wider range of people than the Jobseeker's payment system does, raising serious questions on equality and social cohesion. Challenges involved in accessing decent work. With the cost of living rising, many people reliant on social welfare will face harder struggles to make ends meet. <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The past number of years have highlighted the digital divide in Irish society: people without the income, the broadband, the equipment, the skills struggled to engage in online learning and work, while people with these resources and skills could and in many cases enjoyed better employment prospects. 	<p>Employment & Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help jobseekers develop and pursue personal progression plan. Create an hours-based system rather than a days based one for people on a Jobseeker's payment. Focused engagement with employers to encourage recruitment of older workers. Implement an intensive model of engagement with young people at risk of long-term unemployment. Consult with stakeholders from the Traveller (and/or Roma) community to advise the Public Employment Service. Address poverty in order to support those living on margins of society. Increase social welfare so as to lift recipients above the poverty line and ensure they can meet a minimum essential standard of living. Address distance from the labour market, including people who are not on a social welfare payment. Ensure targeted programmes are properly supported. Give people opportunity to re-skill to avail of emerging opportunities. Allow those working on the ground to feed into policy development and implementation. Increase the BTWEA scheme from two years to three. Adequately resource community-based organisations, ensuring support for the unemployed, or those distanced from labour market, and living with socio-economic exclusion. <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance digital skills through Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy and a new Digital Strategy for Schools. Reserve places on public employment programmes for people from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds. Introduce digital hubs at local offices to provide guidance on digital systems.
NERI	<p>Structural Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to the international trade and taxation. Support ageing population in context of declining working age ratio will be a challenge. 	<p>R&D & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised economic model based on a strong innovation ecosystem, public R&D, and domestic entrepreneurship. Measures to support economy's innovative capacity including reversing annual under-spend on public R&D.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapting to digitalisation, artificial intelligence and automation will present challenges. <p>Employment & Cost of Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are affordability issues with regards to housing and childcare. Cost of living is rising in particular for low income households. A long-term solution to housing affordability needs to be identified. Labour market precariousness and in-work poverty are problems. Further work needs to be done on increasing labour productivity and facilitating labour market participation. <p>Green Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economic transformation necessary for the net zero green transition presents challenges that will have to be met if there is to be a just transition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater spending on green R&D, on existing green technologies and on green infrastructure. Higher levels of per person investment in education and training, including digital literacy and lifelong learning. <p>Employment & Cost of Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to eliminate barriers to labour force participation, such as subsidising childcare costs and remote working. The step-effects in the PRSI system should be removed as these create a disincentive to work and a disincentive for employers to increase hours. The tax system should phase in full individualisation. Indexation of the welfare system would be a positive fiscal and social reform. Social insurance should be reformed to include a pay-related element, and to incorporate unemployment benefit, family benefits, illness benefits and disability benefits. A structural uplift in investments in cost rental housing stock and reforms to taxation of land to increase supply and reduce prices. A significantly higher tax on all residential property combined with a meaningful tax on all other land. Surcharge on non-principal residences and vacant properties and taxes on immovable property. Avoid incentivising demand through taxation system. <p>Productivity and Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing investments in productive capacity in order to grow the economy and make it more environmentally sustainable over longer-term. Capital investment over the next 30 years to meet our 2030 and 2050 climate change targets. Gradually move to a European style social insurance system to better encourage entrepreneurial risk-taking and human capital development.
<p>NWC</p>	<p>Childcare and Statutory Leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaffordable childcare system. Provision of paid statutory leave is below the EU norm. <p>Healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland is over reliant on institutional care. The home care system is largely unregulated. Those who work in the home care system are often migrant women and women of colour. They can face instances of precarious work and exploitation. 	<p>Childcare and Early Years Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase investment in early year's education and care for next 7 years to deliver UNICEF target of 1% of national income. Commit to a public childcare model. Ensure childcare supports, part time and remote opportunities are available to those seeking active labour market supports. <p>Education & Parental Leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund school infrastructure in physics and maths so women and girls can access higher paid work.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

- Women experience particular inequalities in health outcomes and in access to health services.
 - Ireland remains the only country in Western Europe without universal access to primary care.
- Housing & Homelessness**
- Lack of housing continues to have an impact on women and families. Ireland has one of the highest rate of female homelessness in the EU.
- Employment and Social Welfare**
- Our current work and welfare systems are not fit for purpose in an era of greater female participation in the work force.
 - Poverty remains unacceptably high in Ireland.
 - Women are more likely to be in low paid precarious work. This makes it more difficult for them to collect sufficient PRSI contributions to be eligible for the full state contributory pension. There is also the problem of the gender pay gap.
- Rural Challenges**
- Rural development policies have focused on the economic and not the social.
 - Investment is needed in rural communities with a focus on social and sustainable economic development.
 - There are currently 9 counties with no refuge spaces.
- Climate Change**
- Climate change will impact women to a greater extent.
 - Delivering a living wage and developing a new model of work based on decent pay, workers' rights and sustainable development, including an active labour market policy that works for women.
- Taxation**
- Ensuring sufficient resources to fund an equal and sustainable recovery through taxation reform.

- Increase duration of paid parental leave and income replacement rate of Parent's Benefit.
- Healthcare**
- Provide Universal Basic Services as a way to meet societal needs.
 - Invest in public, affordable, accessible care infrastructure.
 - Escalate Sláintecare implementation.
 - Provide nationwide abortion services and expand universal contraception roll out.
 - Continue to resource Women's Health Taskforce and Women's Health Fund.
 - Increase social care investment by 0.3% of national income.
 - Provide statutory right to home and social care supports for disabled and older people.
- Housing & Homelessness**
- Establish gender sensitive support services for women living in homelessness.
- Employment & Social Welfare**
- Deliver targeted supports to women most at risk of poverty.
 - Deliver a living wage and develop a new model of work based on decent pay, workers' rights and sustainable development.
- Rural Challenges**
- Invest in rural transport solutions with a focus on disabled people, dispersed populations and women
 - Provide multi annual funding for independent community development in rural communities
 - Invest in a just transition plan for rural development.
 - Invest in rural communities with a focus on social and sustainable economic development.
- Climate Change**
- Introduce 'polluter pays' environmental tax measures.
 - Remove fossil fuel subsidies and end lower rate of excise duty for aviation, autodiesel, marked gas oil, fuel oil & kerosene.
 - Promote feminist climate justice.
- Taxation**
- Review all individual and sectoral tax expenditures, assessing cost and gender and equality impacts.
 - Include cost of tax expenditures as part of annual budget.
 - Consider increasing employers' PRSI to fund social infrastructure.
 - Ensure sufficient resources to fund an equal and sustainable recovery through taxation reform.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

		<p>Civil Society and Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support women's political participation and leadership. • Develop new models of social dialogue and engagement that include civil society organisations. <p>The National Reform Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed gender and equality proofing in the NRP.
<p>Social Justice</p>	<p>Employment & Social Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our tax and welfare systems are not fit for purpose. • Workers on temporary support payments will be unable to return to work or will work less hours than desired. • There is a problem with youth unemployment. • Standard of living of many dependent on social welfare may fall further behind rest of society. <p>Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a persistent failure to meet poverty targets, and address poverty and deprivation among children, single parent households and people with a disability. • Poverty risk of households in receipt of housing subsidies is two and a half times greater after they have paid their rent. <p>Healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for full implementation of Sláintecare and reform of long-term care system. • Weaknesses in health system, particularly capacity deficits and access inequality. <p>Digital Divide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of digital divide, including in education, stemming from poor connectivity, lack of access to devices and skills gaps. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall social housing targets set out in Housing for All Strategy are insufficient and lack detail on how they will be met. • There is a need to for the state to supply an adequate amount of social housing and eradicating homelessness 	<p>Employment & Social Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new Social Contract. • The social welfare system and the income tax credits system should be replaced by a Universal Basic Income, accompanied by the development of Universal Basic Services. • Introduce policies protecting value of minimum wage and reduce prevalence of precarious employment practices. • Increase awareness among low income working families of entitlement to the Working Family Payment. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in renewable energy, transport and retrofitting. • Invest in the in green and digital transition. • Underpin investment with a Just Transition Strategy. • Invest in a sustainable future, in our social and human capital. <p>Healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in infrastructure towards implementing Sláintecare. <p>Digital Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve broadband services in Border, Midland and Western areas. • Ensure affordable high-speed broadband access across country. • Use recommendations of NESC report on Digital Inclusion as basis of comprehensive strategy to address digital inclusion and transition. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase spending on building social homes. • Build more social and affordable housing. • Tackle long term mortgage arrears cases. • Legislate to ensure Approved Housing Bodies retain social housing status and prohibit sale on private market. • Prioritise community health networks, social care supports, community policing, safe spaces. • Address Housing Data Deficits <p>Fiscal Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in infrastructure and services, funded by just taxation.

Summary report of information provided by Stakeholders for Ireland's National Reform Programme 2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance pandemic costs through low-cost, long-term borrowing.• Review macro-economic governance of EU and incorporate need to ensure fiscal rules prioritise investment to support recovery and meet climate goals.• Broaden the tax base.• Develop transparent international corporate finance and corporate taxation system where multinational firms pay reasonable and credible effective corporate tax rate.• Introduce Minimum Effective Corporate Tax Rate of 6% with pathway to move to 10%, subject to outcomes of OECD BEPS process.• The next Government should commit to an annual review of Tax Expenditures, presented as part of the Budgetary process.• Introduce Refundable Tax Credits.• Re-introduce a Windfall Gains Tax. <p>European Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop social imbalances procedure as part of the European Semester Process, ensuring same prominence as macro-economic imbalances, and subject to the same policy response.
--	--	--