

#SDGchallenge Partner - Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

Social Justice Ireland



Social Justice Ireland is an independent think tank and justice advocacy organisation that advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole. We are committed to Ireland's achievement of the SDGs. Our [Sustainable Progress Index 2018](#) highlights Ireland's poor performance on low pay, long-term unemployment, household debt and GHG emissions, suggesting Ireland needs to drastically change its waste-based consumption patterns and recognise that short term economic growth policies are unsustainable.

We believe Government policy should focus on delivering five outcomes simultaneously: a vibrant economy, decent services and infrastructure, just taxation, good governance and sustainability.

In March 2018, we published our [seventh quarterly Employment Monitor](#) dealing with the issues of regional balance in employment generation, with a particular focus on the labour market participation rate. This edition highlighted an anaemic participation rate, despite improving jobs numbers, and recommended investment in regional hubs and population centres, particularly the cities of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford. This investment would mitigate the negative effects that the over-concentration of economic activity in one centre has on the overall economy.

Our Socio-Economic Review for 2018 was titled '[Social Justice Matters: 2018 guide to a fairer Irish society](#)'. Its chapter on Taxation argued that Ireland can remain a low-tax economy, but should be capable of adequately supporting the economic, social and infrastructural requirements necessary to support our society and complete our convergence with the rest of Western Europe.

To support Ireland's achievement of all SDGs, *Social Justice Ireland* submitted a list of [Data Considerations](#) to Minister Naughten to facilitate more effective commentary and the development of more robust policies for Ireland. We look forward to continuing this work into the future.