Nutrition policy status in Ireland

NOURISHING policy index



This country snapshot presents detailed results of the **NOURISHING policy index** [1] for Ireland. It highlights strengths and weaknesses in the design of national government nutrition policies. This snapshot supplements the policy index results with an in-depth look at the quality of policy design in each country. Full policy index results are outlined in the NOURISHING policy brief, which compares Ireland to 29 other European countries.

Main messages

- 1 Ireland implements policy actions in eight out of the ten policy areas of the NOURISHING framework. One policy area received a good assessment, referring to public awareness of healthy eating through communication campaigns and social marketing (I2).
- 2 A moderate assessment was received for food standards in schools and other out-of-education settings (O), nutrient labels (N1), and limits or removal of specific nutrients in food products (I1). Gaps on limits on the availability of unhealthy food within the school vicinity and lack of food standards in out-of-education (O) impacted otherwise well-designed policies in this area. There were no actions on nutrition labelling (N1) beyond EU level or on policy actions which decrease young people's exposure to food marketing and advertising through point-of-sale measures and product packaging (R).
- 3 No action was taken in food systems and health (H) or to create a healthier retail and food service environment (S) therefore, implementation within these policy areas should be prioritised. Much more needs to be done to use financial incentives which increases the availability and affordability of healthy food, to accompany the existing sugary beverage tax (U).

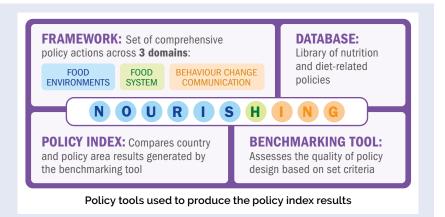
Overview of policy status	NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	POOR	FAIR	MODERATE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Nutrition label standards and regulations on the use of claims and implied claims on food					MODERATE	
Offer healthy food and set standards in public institutions and other specific settings			MODERATE			
Use economic tools to address food affordability and purchase incentives			FAIR			
Restrict food advertising and other forms of commercial promotion			FAIR			
Improve nutritional quality of the whole food supply			MODERATE			
S Set incentives and rules to create a healthy retail and food service environment				NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED		
H Harness supply chain and actions across sectors to ensure coherence with health				NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED		
Inform people about food and nutrition through public awareness				GOOD		
Nutrition advice and counselling in healthcare settings					FAIR	
G Give nutrition education and skills					FAIR	

This snapshot is based on national level policies only. Policies issued by provincial, regional or local governments are outside the scope of this project.

Methods

The NOURISHING policy index methods are fully explained in the associated **policy brief**. In short, the policy index combines values for a) policy presence, and b) policy design for 41 benchmarks.

The benchmarks are applied to policies in the **NOURISHING database** [2], collected through a comprehensive scan in 30 European countries, including Ireland.



 No policy identified Meets up to 75% of policy design Meets up to 99% of policy design Meets up to 50% of policy design Meets all aspirational standards 	Breakdown of policy index results	(For full details on the policy design criteria, consult the policy brief)		
	X No policy identified	Meets up to 75% of policy design		
Meets up to 50% of policy design Meets all aspirational standards	Meets up to 25% of policy design	Meets up to 99% of policy design		
ů	Meets up to 50% of policy design	Meets all aspirational standards		

	Nutrients on back of pack	
N	Front of pack labels	×
	Warning labels	
	Rules on nutrient claims	
	Rules on health claims	
	Food and drink available in schools, including restrictions on unhealthy foods	
	Measures relating to sugar-sweetened beverage provision in schools	
0	Fruit and vegetables initiatives in schools	
	Food and drink available in immediate vicinity of schools	X
	Unhealthy food in out-of-education locations	
	Health-related food taxes or tariffs	
U	Income related subsidies or initiatives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthy food	×
	Targeted subsidies or initiatives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthy food	
R	Marketing to young people through advertising	
	Direct marketing to young people	
	Marketing through sponsorship to young people	0 0 X
	Marketing to young people through point of sale measures	×
	Marketing to young people through product placement and branding	
	Marketing to young people through product design and packaging	×
	Marketing in/or around schools	
	Limit or removal of specific nutrients in food products	

S	Planning restrictions regarding food service outlets around schools	×
	Planning restrictions on food service outlets	×
	Initiatives to increase the availability of healthier food in stores and food service outlets	×
H	Measures to support food producers to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain	×
	Measures to support food manufacturers to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain	×
	Measures to support food retailers to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain	×
	Governance structures for multi- sectoral/stakeholder engagement	×
	Nutrition standards for public procurement	×
	Supporting urban agriculture in health and planning policies	× × ×
	Community food production	×
	Development and communication of food-based dietary guidelines	
	Public awareness, mass media and informational campaigns and social marketing on healthy eating	
N	Nutrition advice and counselling in primary care	
	Nutrition advice and counselling in school healthcare setting	×
G	Nutrition education in curricula	
	Training for educators	X
	Training for health professionals	
	Cooking skills	
	Training in schools in growing food	
	Training for caterers	X

Note: The policy landscape in any country evolves over time. These findings reflect our knowledge as of May 2023. To see latest results and for further technical information on the policy indexes, please consult our website: wcrf.org/our-policy-work.

For feedback or suggested updates, please email policy@wcrf.org. More info in the CO-CREATE project can be found at co-create.eu

[1] Policy index: wcrf.org/nutrition-policy-index

[2] Policy database: policydatabase.wcrf.org





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