

Indicator Research Context - Indicator 144

Case Title: General Capacity Building

Case Type: To be Filled in

Indicator: #144 - How well does the government provide training or curriculum resources on access rights to public school teachers? CORE

Category: General Capacity Building

Topic: Effort

Subtopic: Scope and Quality of Access, Capacity Building for the Public, General Capacity Building

Researcher: Magnus Amajirionwu

Research Guidelines

In order to exercise their access rights, the public needs, as a foundation, awareness and understanding of those rights. Civics education that covers access rights plays an important role in providing this foundation.

This indicator assesses the degree to which the government builds the capacity of teachers to educate the public about their access rights.

Definitions: "Training or curriculum resources" may include teacher workshops, textbooks, pamphlets, websites or other materials designed to help teachers teach about access rights.

Recommended Research Methods and Sources:

1. Interviews:













- a. At least 1 official from the education ministry (or equivalent).
- b. At least 2 educators from publicly funded schools.

2. Document Review:

- a. Consult materials published by the education ministry (or equivalent) regarding access rights.
- b. Consult the curriculum for one selected educational grade or level. In the Explanations section, note why you chose that grade or level.

Indicator Score and Explanation

Values

	 No government training/ curriculum rights	
	 Access rights poorly addressed AN resources scarce	
	 Access rights poorly addressed OR resources scarce	
	 Access rights adequately covered C resources frequently available	
	 Strong access training/curriculum r available to any teacher	
	 Not applicable (N/A)	

Explanation

Civics, Social and Political Education (CSPE) is an obligatory subject at Junior Certificate level in Ireland. The subject is based around seven key concepts namely: democracy, rights and responsibilities, human dignity, interdependence, development, law and stewardship. This course is the nearest to addressing rights of citizens. It does not, however, address access rights. The teachers interviewed in relation to this indicator would have no objections to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment including the access rights as part of the CSPE curriculum. There are presently no plans for preparatory schemes to equip teachers to effectively teach access rights if included in the CSPE curriculum.

Recommended Sources

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Seamus Brennan, Teacher of CSPE
Agency/Company Affiliation	CBS School, Roscommon
Person conducting interview	Michael Ewing
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	24 January 2006

Interviews:

Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Ms Frances Ryan, Teacher of CSPE
Agency/Company Affiliation	Ballinode College, Sligo
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionw u
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	08 November 2006

Interviews:

Person(s) Interviewed and Title	John Hammond, Director
Agency/Company Affiliation	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionw u
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	10 November 2006

**Document
Review:**

Document Title(s)	Social and Political Education: Guideline for Teachers
Issuing Authority(ies)	Department of Education, Ireland
Page Number(s)	
Document Found At	www.education.ie

Indicator Research Context - Indicator 145

Case Title: General Capacity Building

Case Type: To be Filled in

Indicator: #145 - How well does the government provide opportunities and incentives for public school teachers' professional development in environmental education?

Category: General Capacity Building

Topic: Effort

Subtopic: Scope and Quality of Access, Capacity Building for the Public, General Capacity Building

Researcher: Magnus Amajirionwu

Research Guidelines

Environmental education provides the public with background knowledge needed for effective participation in decisions that affect the environment. Public schools represent an important venue for such education, since they reach a broad spectrum of citizens. This indicator assesses the extent to which the government encourages environmental education through the training of teachers.

Definitions: “Opportunities or incentives for public school teachers’ professional development” may include curriculum in university education departments, continuing education programs for teachers, opportunities for collaboration between teachers and NGOs or government agencies, environmental awards programs for teachers or students, scholarships or other financial incentives, testing requirements, curricular structures that create time for environmental education, or others. Opportunities may differ between teachers who specialize in environmental education and those who involve environmental elements in a more general curriculum.







Recommended Research Methods and Sources:

1. Interviews:

a. At least one official at the Education Ministry knowledgeable about environmental education programs

- b. At least one public school teacher engaged in environmental education
- c. It may also be appropriate to interview a professor at a university education department or an environmental studies department
- 2. Document Review:** Examine materials advertising or describing government-supported teacher training courses or other professional development activities.

Indicator Score and Explanation

Values	Explanation
 <input type="checkbox"/> No effort to provide teachers with incentives	
 <input type="checkbox"/> Limited effort to provide teachers with incentives	
 <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate effort to provide teachers incentives	
 <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate effort to provide teachers incentives	
 <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive effort to provide teachers incentives	
 <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (N/A)	

Explanation

Most of environmental education in Ireland's public schools is provided through two subjects; Geography, and Environmental and Social Studies (ESS). Geography is a compulsory subject in the Junior Leaving Certificate examination. The ESS course is rolled out on a pilot basis and not offered yet in most colleges. The Geography teacher interviewed attest to the fact that there is moderate effort to provide teachers with opportunities and incentives with much room for improvement. These opportunities and incentives include orientation workshops and seminars geared towards continuous professional development.

The UBUNTU Network, located in the University of Limerick and funded by the Irish Aid supports the integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Development Education (DE) into Post Primary Initial Teacher Education (ITE) through:

- Facilitation of DE workshops, seminars, etc
- Assistance in the planning and implementation of DE interventions across all aspects of teacher education, and
- Promotion of action research to monitor and evaluate DE interventions.

Teacher educators and researchers from the education departments of ITE institutions are expected to partner the network.

Recommended Sources

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	John Hammond, Director
Agency/Company Affiliation	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionw u
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	10/11/2006

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Ms Geraldine Fox, Teacher of Geography
Agency/Company Affiliation	Magh Ene College Bundoran
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionw u
Location of interview(s)	Magh Ene College Bundoran
Date interview(s) took place	15/11/2006

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Ms Deidre Hogan, Coordinator and Teacher of Educa
Agency/Company Affiliation	Ubuntu Network, University of Limerick

Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionwu
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	16/11/2006

Document Review:	
Document Title(s)	Environment and Social Studies
Issuing Authority(ies)	Department of Education and Science
Page Number(s)	
Document Found At	www.education.ie

Indicator Research Context - Indicator 146

Case Title: General Capacity Building
Case Type: To be Filled in
Indicator: #146 - How equitably does the government implement rules and regulations for registration and operation of CSOs?
Category: General Capacity Building
Topic: Effort
Subtopic: Fairness and Equitability, Capacity Building for the Media & CSOs, General Capacity Building
Researcher: Magnus Amajirionwu

Research Guidelines

CSOs often play a pivotal role in bringing attention to problems and holding government accountable. It is vital that government practice facilitate fair and effective registration of

CSOs, as well as their unencumbered operation.

This indicator assesses whether government agencies implement rules for CSO registration and operation in a way that is equitable across different localities and different types of NGOs.

Definitions: There are no definitions for this indicator.

Recommended Research Methods and Sources:







1. Interviews: Interview at least 5 representatives of CSOs in different locations and types of organizations. Ask about their experience interacting with the government, as well as stories they have heard from colleagues at other organizations.

2. Document Review: Consult lists of organizations registered over the past five years. Obtain any information available about organizations that were not granted registration, or which encountered government censure after they became operative

3. Media Review: It may be useful to review any news stories regarding CSOs that were closed down by the government, or which had to fight legal battles to maintain their registration.

Indicator Score and Explanation

Values

-  Government consistently presents b registration and operation of CSOs.
-  Government is inconsistent and un
-  Government is moderately equitable
-  Government is generally equitable
-  Government creates a strong enabli full spectrum of CSOs
-  Not applicable (N/A)

Explanation

There is currently no legal framework for the registration and operation of CSOs in Ireland. The Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Charities Section maintains a database of organisations to which they have granted charitable tax exemption. In granting tax exemption, the Charities Section give the organisation a CHY reference number. The full list of bodies granted exemption is published on the Revenue Commissioners website. The list is sometimes mistaken as list of registered CSOs.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in December 2003 published a consultation document on 'Establishing a Modern Statutory Framework for Charities'. The aim is to facilitate and put in place an appropriate regulatory framework for registered charities, is transformed into an Act of the Oireachtas, there will be no legal framework for the registration and operation of CSOs in Ireland.

Alternatively, some CSOs have sought to and obtained registration of their organisations with the Company Registration Office (CRO) as 'company limited by guarantee not having a share capital'. (The CRO is the statutory authority for registering new companies in the Republic of Ireland.). CSOs seeking such registration must be made up of at least seven members. The members' liability is limited to the amount specified in the memorandum. If a guarantee company does not have a share capital, the members are not required to buy any shares in the company. Many charitable and professional bodies find this form of company to be suitable vehicle as they wish to secure the benefits of separate legal personality and of limited liability but do not require to raise funds from members. CSOs registered with the CRO have an obligation under the law to file certain documents with the CRO. These documents include details of changes of registered office, changes of company's officers (director or secretary), or a number of other changes which affect the company. Such CSOs are also required to file annual returns, and in most cases, they must also file annual audited accounts.

On the operation of CSOs, all officers of CSOs interviewed say they have no experience of government interference. However, they all confirm that they have received some form of funding from the government. Some of these funds were meant for specific projects. Such funds are applied for by the CSO carrying out the project, to the government agency providing the fund. Conditions for providing these funds are stated by the funding agency. These conditions are mainly to ensure proper accountability. The recipient CSOs interviewed have no experience of the government interfering in a way to compromise their operations because of the funds received. Again, some Irish CSOs are affiliated to international organisations, which stipulate and maintain standards of operation. Such CSOs claim that they cannot compromise these standards for the purpose of obtaining government funding or for any other purpose.

Funding for core operations or capacity building are available to CSOs through the Environmental (Ecological) NGOs Core Funding Secretariat Ltd (EENGOSEC). The EENGOSEC is made up of NGOs (who own it) and is registered with the CRO as a company limited by guarantee not having shares. EENGOSEC set up in 2001, gets funding for the government and other organisations which it in turn distributes to its members. The government or any other agencies providing funds have hand in neither the running of EENGOSEC nor its constituent members.

Recommended Sources

Document Review:

Document Title(s)	Consultation Paper on Charities Regulation
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Issuing Authority(ies)	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affai
Page Number(s)	
Document Found At	www.porbail.ie

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Ms Bridget Farrell, Coordinator
Agency/Company Affiliation	EENGO Secretariat Ltd
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionw u
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	20/11/2006

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Mr Davie Phillip, Secretary
Agency/Company Affiliation	Sustainable Ireland Cooperative
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionw u
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	21/11/2006

Interviews:

Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Mr Niall Hatch, Secretary
Agency/Company Affiliation	Birdwatch Ireland
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionwu
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	21/11/2006

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	Ms Caroline Lewis, Coordinator
Agency/Company Affiliation	Irish Natural Forestry Foundation
Person conducting interview	Magnus Amajirionwu
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	24/11/2006

Indicator Research Context - Indicator 147

Case Title: General Capacity Building
Case Type: To be Filled in
Indicator: #147 - How equitably does the government implement rules and regulations for registration and operation of media organizations?
Category: General Capacity Building
Topic: Effort

Subtopic: Fairness and Equitability, Capacity Building for the Media & CSOs, General Capacity Building

Researcher: Magnus Amajirionwu

Research Guidelines

The media plays a pivotal role in bringing attention to problems and holding government accountable. It is vital that government practice facilitate fair and effective registration of media organizations, as well as their unencumbered operation.

This indicator assesses whether government agencies implement rules for the registration and operation of media organizations in a way that is equitable across different localities and different types of media.

Definitions: There are no definitions for this indicator.

Recommended Research Methods and Sources:







1. Interviews: Interview at least 5 representatives of different media organizations in different locations. Ask about their experience interacting with the government, as well as stories they have heard from colleagues at other media organizations.

2. Document Review: Consult lists of organizations registered operating in the country. Obtain any information available about organizations that were not granted registration in the last five years, or which encountered government censure after they became operative

3. Media Review: It may be useful to review any news stories regarding media organizations that were closed down by the government, or media representatives who have been arrested.

Indicator Score and Explanation

Values

	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government consistently presents b
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government is inconsistent and unpr
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government is moderately equitable
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government is generally equitable
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government creates a strong enabli
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable (N/A)

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Explanation

The media space in Ireland can be captured in three categories: public sector broadcasting, independent broadcasting, and print media.

In the public sector broadcasting, Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE) is governed by the RTE Authority, which is appointed by the government, under the Broadcasting Acts, 1960 to 2001. RTE is funded through a combination of licence fee and advertising revenue.

Independent broadcasting is regulated by the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI), as provided for in three pieces of regulation, namely the Radio and Television Act 1988, the Broadcasting Act 2001, and the Broadcasting (Funding) Act 2003. The key functions of BCI include the licensing of independent broadcasting services including the additional licensing of television services on digital, cable, MMDS (microwave multimedia distribution service) and satellite systems; the development of codes and rules in relation to programming and advertising standards and the monitoring of all licensed services to ensure that license holders comply with their statutory obligations and terms of their contract. The BCI currently licenses 54 independent sound broadcasting services consisting of an independent national terrestrial television service (TV3), a national radio service (Today FM) and a total of 52 regional, local, community, community of interest and institutional radio services. Licenses are for a period of 5 to 10 years.

The ownership and control over the print media is regulated by the Competition Authority through a variety of Statutory Instruments such as the Competition Acts 1991 to 2002. There is no specific legislation dealing with press ownership in Ireland. The Competition Authority is concerned mainly with economic issues in relation to the print media. It is not in the Authority's remit to regulate the establishment and political/cultural leanings of the print media. On 1 January 2003, Statutory Instrument SI No. 622 of 2002, an Order under Section 18(15) of the 2002 Act in relation to media mergers, came into effect. This Order applies the provisions of Part 3 of the Competition Act 2002 to all mergers in which one or more of the undertakings involved carry(ies) on a media business in the State, regardless of the turnover of the undertakings involved. The term 'media business' is defined in Section 23(10) of the ACT as a business of the publication of newspapers or periodicals consisting substantially of news and comment on current affairs.

Recommended Sources

Document Review:	
Document Title(s)	Competition Acts 1991 to 2002, Radio and Television
Issuing Authority(ies)	Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources
Page Number(s)	

Document Found At	<input type="text" value="www.irishstatutebook.ie"/>
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Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	<input type="text" value="Mr Paul Herrin"/>
Agency/Company Affiliation	<input type="text" value="Sligo Champion New spapers"/>
Person conducting interview	<input type="text" value="Magnus Amajirionw u"/>
Location of interview(s)	<input type="text" value="Telephone"/>
Date interview(s) took place	<input type="text" value="27/11/2006"/>

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	<input type="text" value="Ms Caoimhe Burkley (New s Editor)"/>
Agency/Company Affiliation	<input type="text" value="Dublin FM"/>
Person conducting interview	<input type="text" value="Magnus Amajirionw u"/>
Location of interview(s)	<input type="text" value="Telephone"/>
Date interview(s) took place	<input type="text" value="27/11/2006"/>

Indicator Research Context - Indicator 148

Case Title: General Capacity Building
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Case Type: To be Filled in

Indicator: #148 - To what extent does the government provide free legal aid? CORE

Category: Access to Justice, General Capacity Building

Topic: Effort

Subtopic: Fairness and Equitability, General Capacity Building

Researcher: Magnus Amajirionwu

Research Guidelines

Free legal aid is fundamental to ensuring equal protection to all citizens under the law. Without free legal aid the poor are at a significant disadvantage in fighting for their rights and can easily be outmaneuvered by corporations or individuals with financial resources. Research into this indicator will therefore focus on whether the government allows, supports and has created a network of free legal council.

This indicator looks at the practice and availability of free legal aid, as well as the scope and extent of free legal aid programs. Countries where programs have a broad scope (i.e. are applicable to a variety of forums and claim types, and available to a wide range of claimants) will score higher than those where eligibility for legal aid is more restrictive. Likewise, the indicator score should take into account the extent of legal aid programs in both financial terms and geographic distribution, as well as whether they are adequate to meet existing demand.







Definitions: “Free legal aid” includes attorney services and legal advice provided by a government-funded agency or office available to the public at no cost.

Recommended Research Methods and Sources:

- 1. Interviews:** At least 3 providers of free legal services. Ask about the number of clients served, the length of waiting lists, and the adequacy of government funding.
- 2. Document Review:** Consult pamphlets, websites, newspapers, phonebooks, and other locations where free legal aid services might be advertised.

Indicator Score and Explanation

Values

	<input type="checkbox"/>	No free legal aid is provided	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope and extent of free legal aid is very limited	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope and extent of free legal aid is limited	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope and extent of free legal aid is moderate	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope and extent of free legal aid is extensive	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable (N/A)	

Explanation

In Ireland, legal aid is available for both civil and criminal cases. There are two categories of legal aid: legal advice and legal aid. Legal advice is available to persons on the application of Irish law to any particular circumstance which have arisen in relation to the person seeking legal services. Legal aid, including representation in court is available to persons in civil proceedings (other than certain ‘designated matters’) in any Irish court of law.

Under Section 28(9)(a) of the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995, certain ‘designated matters’ are excluded for legal aid. The most significant designated matter is ‘representative’ actions. Under this section, civil legal aid is not available to a group or individual members of a group, where that member is acting on behalf of the group. Civil legal aid is also not available in respect of proceedings before an administrative tribunal such as An Bord Pleanála (Planning Board) or Environmental Protection Agency oral hearings. These imply that local pressure groups who are mounting a challenge to unwanted development in their area cannot avail of any form of legal aid. This situation has profound and palpable impact in the particular context of planning and environment. Groups and individuals affected by the provisions depend on lawyers acting pro bono (for free).

Recommended Sources

Interviews:	
Person(s) Interviewed and Title	<input type="text" value="Ms Michelle O'Mahoney"/>
Agency/Company Affiliation	<input type="text" value="Civil Legal Aid Board"/>

Person conducting interview	Michael Ew ing
Location of interview(s)	Telephone
Date interview(s) took place	24/01/2006

Document Review:	
Document Title(s)	Civil Legal Aid Act 1995, and the enacting Civil Legal
Issuing Authority(ies)	Civil Legal Aid Board
Page Number(s)	
Document Found At	www.irishstatutebook.ie