



GNÍOMHCHÁRTA: ACTIVITY CARD

**Supporting children's participation
in sporting and cultural activities**

 GNÍOMHCHÁRTA 
ACTIVITY CARD
FOR SPORT & CULTURE



► **Don leagan Gaeilge, téigh chuig lch - 17**

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**Aengus
Ó Snodaigh TD**



Foreword: Getting our young people active

Participating in sport or culture has the power to change lives. Getting our young people participating from an early age can shape their whole future in terms of health and life opportunities.

From the days of the First Dáil, there was an understanding of the need for government to provide for the wellbeing of our young people. The Democratic Programme of 1919 was clear:

“It shall be the first duty of the Government of the Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the children”.

As Irish republicans, we are committed to building that Republic and providing for our children’s every need. Sports and cultural engagement are central to the wellbeing of our young people and our society.

We in Sinn Féin know all too well the power of sport to unite communities across our island. Our ambition of reuniting Ireland is made easier when we are all rooting for the same team.

As we celebrate the most successful Team Ireland in Olympic history and look ahead to cheering on our Paralympians in Paris, we take this opportunity to dream up our own Olympic-sized vision for how to get our children active and staying active. Our mission is simple: to empower every child to pursue their passions and develop their skills.

The inclusion of dance for the first time in this year’s Olympic Games reminds us that for many young people, it is the arts that inspire that passion, and that the arts themselves were at the core of the Olympic movement from the very first games in 1896, at which Irish nationalist John Pius Boland secured our first gold medal and insisted on flying a gold harp on green in place of the Union flag. When the first Team Ireland took part in the Olympics precisely a century ago in 1924, it won its first medal in art, with Jack B. Yeats taking silver for a painting of the Liffey Swim.

Like Yeats’ painting, we combine our commitment to both arts and sport in this policy. Like the ancient Greeks, we Irish too have celebrated human achievement in sports and culture for thousands of years, stretching back to our own games at Tailteann. Like the Olympic movement, Sinn Féin has its roots in a cultural revival of the late 1800s which also gave rise to that other great bastion of the amateur sporting tradition, the Gaelic Athletics Association.

Successive governments since independence have failed to fulfil their first duty laid down by the First Dáil. The flagship Creative Schools programme which promised to “enable the creative potential of every child” only caters to a small minority of schools. Our smaller sports clubs are often disadvantaged compared to the more affluent big, established clubs when it comes to infrastructure and equipment. Sinn Féin would do things differently, with ambition, vision and fairness.

Our proposal in this document is a simple one: provide every child with an Activity Card – Gníomhchárta – worth €130, for them to use to take part in sports or cultural activities, giving them the agency and ability to be active in their own preferred way while helping to relieve the cost of living burden on struggling parents and families.

We know that this idea on its own will not address all the barriers, and must come as part of a holistic all-of-government approach to increasing investment and planning for both sports and culture. We believe, however, that this piece of the puzzle could be a game-changer in terms of evening the playing field for Ireland’s sporting and cultural heroes of tomorrow.

Chris Andrews TD and Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD





• **The Liffey Swim by Jack B. Yeats (1871-1957) | NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND**



Democratic Programme

We declare in the words of the Irish Republican Proclamation the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies to be indefeasible, and in the language of our first President, Pádraig Mac Piarais, we declare that the Nation's sovereignty extends not only to all men and women of the Nation, but to all its material possessions, the Nation's soil and all its resources, all the wealth and all the wealth-producing processes within the Nation, and with him we reaffirm that all right to private property must be subordinated to the public right and welfare.

We declare that we desire our country to be ruled in accordance with the principles of Liberty, Equality, and Justice for all, which alone can secure permanence of Government in the willing adhesion of the people.

We affirm the duty of every man and woman to give allegiance and service to the commonwealth, and declare it is the duty of the Nation to assure that every citizen shall have opportunity to spend his or her strength and faculties in the service of the people. In return for willing service, we, in the name of the Republic, declare the right of every citizen to an adequate share of the produce of the Nation's labour.

It shall be the first duty of the Government of the Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as Citizens of a Free and Gaelic Ireland.

The Irish Republic fully realises the necessity of abolishing the present odious, degrading and foreign Poor Law System, substituting therefor a sympathetic native scheme for the care of the Nation's aged and infirm, who shall not be regarded as a burden, but rather entitled to the Nation's gratitude and consideration. Likewise it shall be the duty of the Republic to take such measures as will safeguard the health of the people and ensure the physical as well as the moral well-being of the Nation.

It shall be our duty to promote the development of the Nation's resources, to increase the productivity of its soil, to exploit its mineral deposits, peat bogs, and fisheries, its waterways and harbours, in the interests and for the benefit of the Irish people.

It shall be the duty of the Republic to adopt all measures necessary for the recreation and invigoration of our Industries, and to ensure their being developed on the most beneficial and progressive co-operative and industrial lines. With the adoption of an extensive Irish Constabulary Service, trade with foreign Nations shall be revived on terms of mutual advantage and goodwill, and while undertaking the organisation of the Nation's trade, import and export, it shall be the duty of the Republic to prevent the shipment from Ireland of food and other necessities until the wants of the Irish people are fully satisfied and the future provided for.

It shall also devolve upon the National Government to seek co-operation of the Governments of other countries in determining a standard of Social and Industrial Legislation with a view to a general and lasting improvement in the conditions under which the working classes live and labour.



Eolas agus Teachtáil Dála agus Sasúadair Shíon Fíon san Oireachtas



• **Team Ireland at Paris Olympics 2024**



• **Democratic Programme of 1919**



Introduction

Ireland is increasingly a more difficult environment for young people to be growing up in. The provision of sporting and cultural activities for young people faces mounting pressure for both providers and parents as the cost of living escalates, creating increased inequalities in our society.

In this document we look at the role sports and the arts can play in building a New Ireland.

A New Ireland where our children are given the opportunities to experience the fullness of our cultural and sporting heritage, and opportunities to help shape new and emerging sports and cultural activities in Ireland.

Children growing up in Ireland should not face barriers and limitations to pursuing extracurricular opportunities.

Sinn Féin believes that the development of increased extracurricular opportunities for young people will be a benefit to our society and show a significant return on investment within the medium term.

Participation in sports and in the arts are key elements in building a healthier population and in fostering a strong sense of community. Ireland has long been a sporting nation and rich in art and culture but Eurostat figures from 2022 show that the 26 Counties had the worst ratio of GDP devoted to recreation and sporting services of all EU and EFTA member states, at only 0.1%, compared to .4% average of GDP across the EU¹.

Participation in sports from a young age, from a purely economic point of view, leads to greater savings in healthcare in the long term. It also has a proven role in programmes of intervention that contribute to social cohesion. We acknowledge the link between investment in sport and the reduction of child poverty and believe that it can also play an important role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. It can also have a positive role in post-conflict situations.

The arts also act to provide a unique outlet for children and young people to express themselves and engage with peers in the community outside the school setting. The lifelong benefits of all art forms cannot be overstated. Speech and language skills developed in drama, theatre and performing arts at a young age can create opportunities for employment across many sectors in the future as well as boost confidence and self-esteem. Dance training competes with sport in terms of meeting the physical exercise needs of our young people, as well as inspiring both creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Music, literature and the visual arts have a central role in Irish society and the economy, not to mention the unquestionable cognitive and formational benefits that they can foster.

In this policy document we will show how increased investment and participation in sports and the arts has underpinned one of the most effective primary prevention models currently operating, the Icelandic Prevention Model (IPM), also known as Planet Youth. Primary prevention models work by preventing problems before they ever arise and have been used to divert young people away from alcohol and drug misuse, and other risk behaviours, by enhancing their relationships, lifestyle, environment and wellbeing.

1 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/gov_10a_exp__custom_12157577/default/bar?lang=en





Benefits of Sports and Cultural Activities

► Community Development and Social Cohesion

Cultural and sporting organisations play a major role in community development and fostering stronger social cohesion. The impact of which is felt far beyond the pitch, stage or local club. The additional and often unseen benefits are often some of the most profound.

From research carried out by the Irish Sport Monitor (ISM), it has been shown that an average of one in ten of all adults frequently volunteer within local sporting clubs.²

Further research from the ISM has also shown that 34% adults were members of a sporting club.³

In response to Sinn Féin's Arts Survey, conducted in 2024, 35% of the more than 1,100 who took part said that they are part of an arts group, and an overwhelming majority of respondents claim to engage with the arts for enjoyment.⁴

With the benefits of taking part in supervised extracurricular activities being well documented by groups such as the ESRI and the ISM. The benefits range from improved mental and physical health, stronger social cohesion and for students, on average, obtaining better Leaving Certificate results.

The negative effects of dropping out of supervised extracurricular sport and cultural activities are also extensive, ranging from increased substance use, poorer school grades and to widening the socio-economical gap.

It has been documented in research by the ESRI that "the less well-off are more likely to drop out from sport" and "While primary school children from lower socio-economic backgrounds are similarly likely to undertake

2 https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-05/ISM%202023%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf

3 https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-05/ISM%202023%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf

4 https://mcusercontent.com/ffc5ff2fa2294c89d2ff7598e/files/08b20515-bd07-ac83-5cee-f5d24a0ae930/SF_Arts_Survey_results_2024.pdf

extra-curricular activities, they are less likely to participate in sport outside of the school setting compared to those from middle-class families.”⁵⁶

Research from Sport Ireland has shown the impact that social class has on participation in sport, with a 19 percentage point socio-economic gap in sport participation.⁷

The same factors are at play when it comes to the arts. We can see from the insights Prof. Emer Smyth prepared for the Arts Council based on the ESRI Growing Up in Ireland study that kids from middle-class families are much more likely to take part in structured cultural activities outside school than those from working-class or non-employed households.⁸

► Cost of Living Crisis and its impact on Participation

The cost of living crisis continues to have a deepening impact on the daily lives of workers and families.

An increasing number of domestic and international reports are showing the harsh impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on children’s involvement in extracurricular activities.

The Good Childhood Report 2022 showed that 27% of parents have struggled with the cost of PE or sports kit over the last year.

Utilita’s The Price to Play report, following engagements with over 1,000 parents of children playing with local clubs, found that “10% of players have not returned to the pitch with 31% of parents saying that they couldn’t afford” the subscription fees and 27% “could not afford other things such as kit or equipment .”

Barnardos Cost of Living Report 2024 showed that 20% of children of survey participants have had to go without or cut down on participating in local sports groups/clubs due to cost-of-living increases.⁹

Sinn Féin’s Arts Survey also found that money was a barrier to 83% to engaging in the creation, performance or enjoyment of art.

These reports show that affordability is now one of the primary barriers stopping children from taking part in extracurricular activities.

► Economic Activity

Sport plays a significant role in the Irish economy annually. Providing employment to 64,000 people across the economy.

Spending by Irish households on sport has been steadily increasing. The total value of sport-related consumer spending was €3.3 Billion in 2018. With approximately 400,000 adults across the State frequently volunteering with sporting clubs, the economic value of volunteering for sport in 2018 was approximately €1.5 billion per annum.¹⁰

We know from the 2011 Indecon assessment of the economic impact of the Arts in Ireland, that the overall aggregate impact of the direct expenditures undertaken by Arts Council-supported organisations, taking into account the indirect and induced (multiplier) impacts was estimated at €195 million in 2010, at a time when Arts Council funding to organisations and individuals amounted to just €60.3 million.¹¹ Arts Council funding is

5 <https://www.esri.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2015-07/RS33.pdf>

6 <https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/2019-11/fair-play-sport-and-social-disadvantage-in-ireland-2007-report.pdf>

7 https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-05/ISM%202023%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf

8 <https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>

9 <https://www.barnardos.ie/barnardos-cost-of-living-report-2024/>

10 <https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-09/vos-report-final-19-07-21.pdf>

11 https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Indecon_Update_Report_fin.pdf



now over double that, making for substantially increased knock-on benefits for our economy in a sector which the National Campaign for the Arts has described as employing 55,000 people across Ireland.¹²

► Impact on Education

Research from the ESRI report “Keeping them in the Game” found a positive association between playing sport and Leaving Certificate performance among a sample of 1,200 students.

This research showed that children who kept up sports during their Leaving Certificate year achieved higher grades on average than those who dropped out of sports in the build up to exams.

Similarly, research commissioned by the Arts Council into arts and culture participation among 17 year olds in 2020, using data from the ESRI Growing Up in Ireland study, found that “involvement in music, drama lessons or clubs was also associated with higher Junior Certificate grades.” Prof. Emer Smyth’s findings appeared to support other research that points to “the relationship between doing well in music at Leaving Certificate and in higher education, and young people’s access to out-of-school musical instrument tuition, which is largely paid-for.”¹³

Research carried out by Sheffield Hallam University¹⁴ highlighted that participation in sport was higher among graduates and that enterprises benefited from increased team working, communication skills, motivation, competitiveness and flexibility by those engaged in sporting activity.

► Health and Wellbeing

According to the Governments ‘National Sports Strategy 2018-2027’, Physical inactivity has been estimated to cost the State’s health budget approximately €1.5 billion per year.¹⁵

‘The Social Return and Investment Report’ carried out by the FAI and UEFA has shown that €1.4 billion healthcare saving is made from participation in football alone. The report authors employed a ‘Social Return



- Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Sport, Chris Andrews TD, meeting with Drogheda United Chairperson, Joanna Byrne

12 <https://www.rte.ie/culture/2021/0929/1248781-irelands-arts-sector-a-new-journey-into-a-better-future/#:~:text=It%20took%20the%20global%20pandemic,arts%20workers%20and%20arts%20organisations.>

13 https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/RS103_0.pdf

14 Sheffield Hallam University SIRC “The Impact of Engagement in Sport on Graduate Employability” June 2013

15 <https://assets.gov.ie/15979/04e0f52cee5f47ee9c01003cf559e98d.pdf>





- **Hosting the Gaelic Players Association in Leinster House for a panel discussion on their work to establish equal conditions for female and male players**

on Investment’ model which is endorsed by the World Health Organisation, United Nations and the Council of Europe’s Enlarged Participation Agreement on Sport (EPAS).¹⁶

Artforms too can be key outlets for physical activity among young people, with dance identified as one of the most popular community sports or activities among girls in the Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study by Sport Ireland, Sport NI and Healthy Ireland in 2022, accounting for almost a third of primary school girls and a quarter at second level. The Paris 2024 Olympics will see the role of dance recognised, with breaking included among the summer events for the first time.¹⁷

However, childhood obesity has become an alarming national health concern in recent years. One in five children is considered to be obese with levels of obesity reaching epidemic proportions in recent

years. More than 300,000 children are now considered obese, and this figure is estimated to increase by 10,000 annually according to research carried out by the Department of Health.

Participation in sport and culture also impact on mental health, as evidenced by research based on the ESRI Growing Up in Ireland study, which shows that “life satisfaction levels are higher where young people regularly make music or are involved in music/drama clubs or lessons”¹⁸ and that children who are more physically active were least at risk of depressive symptoms in early adulthood.¹⁹

► Substance use among Irish teenagers

From data published by the European Schools Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) report²⁰ we get an understanding of the current substance use within school students aged between 15 and 16 years old.

The ESPAD Ireland report focuses on trends in alcohol and drug use, smoking and gambling, gaming and internet use.

The key findings from the ESPAD 2019 Ireland Report were the following:

- **SMOKING:** 32% of respondents had tried smoking and 14% were current smokers (reported smoking in the last 30 days) with 5% smoking daily
- **ALCOHOL:** 41% of 15–16-year-olds surveyed used alcohol in the last 30 days, an increase from 36% in 2015. 32% of 15–16-year-olds surveyed reported being drunk in the previous 12 months and 16% reported being drunk in the previous 30 days
- **DRUG USE:** Cannabis is reported as the most used drug with 19.1% of respondents having tried cannabis. After cannabis, inhalants were the most commonly used substance (10%), with students also reporting use of painkillers (5%), alcohol with pills (4%), cocaine (3%) and ecstasy (3%)

The increase in the use of substances among Irish teens has been noted by many commentators and the impact of this rise has been clear to those working in community and social roles.

16 <https://www.fai.ie/domestic/news/uefa-sroi-study-confirms-%E2%82%AC18bn-impact>

17 <https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2023-08/CSPPA%202022%20Full%20Report.pdf>

18 https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/RS103_0.pdf

19 <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/33/5/878/7250232?login=true>

20 <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/33347/1/ESPAD%202019%20Ireland.pdf>



Planet Youth is an international evidence-based primary prevention model, developed by the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA).

The Planet Youth model was developed as part of Iceland's national effort to reduce substance use rates amongst young people. The model uses a whole population approach and offers the opportunity to improve health and life outcomes for young people in many areas.

The model relies on data derived from biennial cross-sectional surveys that are conducted using the Planet Youth questionnaire. This comprehensive lifestyle questionnaire is administered to all 15–16-year-olds and examines home life, substance use, physical health, mental health, physical activity, extracurricular pursuits, school experience, internet use, bullying and many other categories.

The Planet Youth data is used to develop preventative interventions that will improve the social environment for the younger children in the community and also to monitor associated progress. Interventions are applied in the four domains specified in the Planet Youth model; parents and family, leisure time, peer group, and school.

The Planet Youth site in Galway, Roscommon, and Mayo has been operating since 2018 and some of their work can be seen on the www.planetyouth.ie website. Separate Planet Youth sites have commenced in Cavan Monaghan and in North Dublin in October 2021.

► Some Key Findings from Planet Youth Research

MAYO:

- 44% of 15–16-year-olds reported being drunk once or more in the last year.
- 16% have tried cannabis.
- 19% reported being drunk in the last month.
- 53% of teenagers spend 3 hours or more on social media.
- 57% of 15–16-year-olds are not getting the recommended amount of sleep.
- 43% of boys and 52% of girls do not take part in sports outside of school with a club or team.

GALWAY:

- 41% of 15–16-year-olds reported being drunk once or more in the last year.
- 18% have tried cannabis.
- 20% reported being drunk in the last month.
- 47% of teenagers spend 3 hours or more on social media.
- 59% of 15–16-year-olds are not getting the recommended amount of sleep.
- 37% of boys and 47% of girls do not take part in sports outside of school with a club or team.

ROSCOMMON:

- 43% of 15–16-year-olds reported being drunk once or more in the last year.
- 15% have tried cannabis.
- 19% reported being drunk in the last month.
- 57% of teenagers spend 3 hours or more on social media.
- 62% of 15–16-year-olds are not getting the recommended amount of sleep
- 32% reported self-harm once or more
- 45% of boys and 56% of girls do not take part in sports outside of school with a club or team.

Teenagers that report hanging out in the street are 6 times more likely to have used cannabis



The Icelandic Model (Frístundakortið)

From the 1990's to early 2000's Iceland had been enduring a crisis amongst its youth. Icelandic teens were ranked among the highest across Europe for use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

To bring about a drastic change in the level of underage substance use, a radical change in policy was required that involved a whole-population and systemic approach and not just targeted projects.

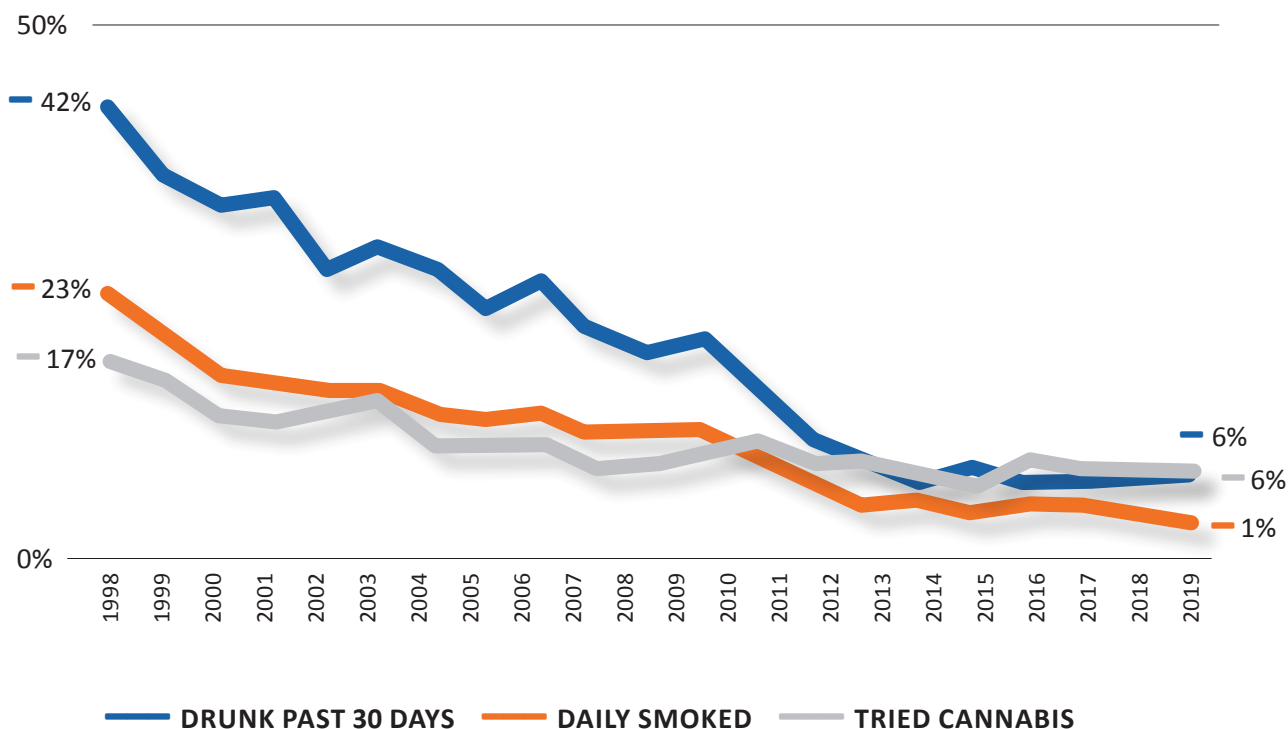
Through the establishment of primary prevention initiatives such as the Recreation card, and increased investment in community and youth projects, over a short period Iceland managed to drastically reduce levels of substance abuse among teenagers.

The Frístundakortið , or Recreation card scheme, was first introduced in 2007 by Reykjavík City Council with the aim of boosting after school activities for children in the city in a controlled environment and reducing the number of teenagers involved in anti-social activity.

The scheme began at the value of €75 per child aged between 6-18. Following an immediate positive response to the Recreation card scheme, its value was increased to €150 the following year and its current value per child is €502.



Substance Use in Icelandic 15-16 year olds



A central database for the scheme was established with all children aged between 6-18 years old automatically added regardless of whether they used the scheme or not. This reduced possible barriers for children from a lower socio economic background accessing the scheme.



This database also provides useful data for the local and national government in the planning and development of sporting and cultural facilities.

The number of activities offered under the scheme has steadily increased annually and participation in the scheme has been very high year on year with an average of 78% of those aged between 6-18 years of age participating. 100% of 6–12-year-olds avail of the scheme.

Organisations and providers of activities under the scheme must meet a quality standard which includes the pricing of activities. This is to prevent fees being increased due to the scheme.

This scheme also provides for greater investment into the local community with all funding being used locally. In Iceland this has been a driving force in the increased professionalisation of youth recreational services. A fundamental element of the scheme was the establishment of the continuous surveying of children in specific age cohorts, using the Planet Youth survey, which has helped to assess the implementation and results of the scheme from a wellbeing impact perspective.



- Sinn Féin TDs Aengus Ó Snodaigh and Mark Ward welcomed the High Five Boxing Academy, who provide inclusive boxing training for children with additional needs, to present to members of the Dáil and Seanad in October 2022



Gníomhchárta – Irish Activity Card

Sinn Féin believe that an Irish model of the Icelandic Recreation Card scheme could have an overwhelmingly positive impact on young people across the State. It could help set in place the measures required to increase Ireland’s international standing in the areas of sports, arts, and culture but more importantly have a profound positive effect on their quality of life and wellbeing.

This scheme will aim to provide parents of all school aged children with the supports and resources to help them engage their children in supervised extracurricular sports and activities. Given the cost of living crisis that many households are presently facing this scheme will help to remove or reduce cost barriers and ensure participation is not only maintained for those who are struggling to cover fees and but increased in other areas where cost of participation or equipment ensured it was not a viable option to explore.

Taking part in regular, supervised, extracurricular activities is a protective factor for substance use behaviours and has many other significant benefits to young people and society at large.

Research from the ESRI has shown that between 15% to 20% of children drop out of individual activities due to the financial cost of the sport,²¹ and that only half of those involved in structured cultural activities outside school at age 9 remain involved at 13.²² We need to be removing these cost barriers.

A well administered scheme of this nature will provide a significant return on investment through improving the physical health, wellbeing, and general life outcomes for a whole generation of young people. An early introduction to a wider range of activities and interests helps develop habits and ambitions that remain throughout life.

► Introduction of the Activity Card

Activity Card

This scheme will aim to provide parents of all school aged children with the supports and resources to help them engage their children in supervised extracurricular sports and cultural activities. Given the cost-of-living crisis that many households are presently facing, this scheme will help to remove or reduce cost barriers and ensure participation is not only maintained for those who are struggling to cover fees, but increased in other areas where cost of participation or equipment ensured it was not a viable option to explore.

How would we do this

We propose introducing legislation to provide for the introduction of the Activity Card.

We would envisage that the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth would be assigned as the lead for this project with input from other relevant departments such as the Department of Education and also the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



21 <https://www.esri.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2015-07/RS33.pdf>

22 <https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>



They would be tasked with the creation of a digital platform which would allow parents to log on and register their children for the Activity Card. Registration would require a valid PPS, proof of identity and address.

This website would also serve as a catalogue for all sporting and cultural clubs/activity providers registered with the Activity Card Scheme.

Parents would be able to search by activities or by geographical area to see what is available under the scheme.

Once the child's Activity Card has been approved, their account on the Activity Card Website will be credited with €130 to be spent via the website on activities.

An oversight body comprising the ETB, TUSLA, Sport Ireland and the Arts Council would be also established to review the operation and implementation of the Scheme.

Criteria for clubs and providers to take part

Sporting and cultural clubs and activity providers participating in the scheme will need to have good governance in place that clearly shows transparency, responsibility, accountability, and targets for participation.

To ensure this, groups will need to be affiliates of relevant governing bodies or apply to the new oversight body to register to take part under the scheme.

This will ensure the strong levels of governance are achieved.

How much would it cost?

The full implementation of the Activity Card Scheme would require an investment of €127 million. This would ensure that the scheme would reach all pupils in primary and secondary level education.

According to research published by the Federation of Irish Sport, for every €100 invested in sport by the Irish Government, the Exchequer receives up to €195 back through taxes on sports-supported expenditures and incomes²³, and we have known for almost two decades that half of the money invested by the State in arts funding later comes back to the Exchequer in taxation.

Expenditure on culture and sport is important for our social and economic development given the associated benefits with sporting activities, such as health and wellbeing, social and cultural development, tourism and the economy.

It is time we put the needs of our young people first and help build a better environment for them to grow and develop and live up to our reputation as a nation that punches above our weight in both sporting and cultural achievement.

23 <https://www.irishsport.ie/federation-of-irish-sports-pre-budget-submission-calls-on-government-to-honour-funding-commitments-made-in-national-sports-policy-2018-2027/>





Sinn Féin

www.sinnfein.ie

Gníomhchárta: ACTIVITY CARD

Ag tacú le leanaí páirt a ghlacadh i
ngníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus cultúr

 GNÍOMHCHÁRTA 
ACTIVITY CARD
FOR SPORT & CULTURE



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TD Shinn Féin
do Cuan BÁC Theas &
Urlabhraí Spóirt

**Chris
Andrews TD**



TD Shinn Féin
do BÁC Lár Theas &
Urlabhraí Gaeilge,
Gaeltachta, Ealaíon,
Cultúir, Turasóireachta
agus Meán

**Aengus
Ó Snodaigh TD**



Réamhfocal: Ár aos óg a chur ag gníomhú

Is féidir saolta a athrú trí páirt a ghlacadh sa spórt nó sa chultúr. Athraítear todhchaí uile ár aos óg maidir le sláinte agus deiseanna saoil nuair a chuirtear iad ag glacadh páirt ó aois óg.

Ó ré an Chéad Dáil, bhí tuisceant ann gur gá don rialtas na gléasa a sholáthar chun leasa dea-bhail ár n-aos óg. Bhí Clár Oibre Poblacánaighe 1919 soiléir:

“Isé an príomhchúram a bheidh ar Riaghaltas an tSaorstáit ná gleusa soláthar chun leas corpordha, leas spioradálta agus leas inntleachta na leanbhaí do chur i n-áirithe dhóibh”.

Mar phoblachtánaigh, táimid tiomanta an Phoblacht sin a chruthú agus na gléasa a sholáthar do riachtanais uile ár leanaí. Tá rannpháirtíocht sa spóirt agus sa chultúir lárnach do dea-bhail ár n-aos óg agus ár sochaí.

Tuigeann Sinn Féin go maith cumhacht an spóirt pobail a aontú fud fad ár n-oileán. Tá sé níos éasca athaontú na tíre a bhaint amach mar sprioc nuair atá muid go léir ag tacú leis an bhfoireann céanna.

Agus muid ag ceiliúradh an foireann Éireannach is mó rath i stair na Cluichí Oilimpeacha agus ag thabhairt ugaigh dár bParailimpeachaigh i bPáras, tapaíonn muid an deis aisling mór Oilimpeach dár gcuid féin a chruthú faoi conas ár bpáistí a chur agus a choimeád ag gníomhú. Cuspóir simplí atá againn: gach leanbh a chumhachtú a gcroí a chur ina gcuid paisean féin agus a scileanna a fhorbairt.

Agus an damhsa mar chuid de Cluichí Oilimpeacha na bliana seo don chéad uair, cuirtear i gcuimhne muid gurb iad na healaíona a spreagann an paisean i gcás a lán daoine óga, agus go raibh na healaíona ag croílár na gluaiseachta Oilimpeacha ó na céad Cluichí in 1896, áit a bhain an náisiúntóir John Pius Boland ár gcéad bonn ór amach agus a lorg sé cláirseach ór ar chúlra uaine in áit bratach an Aontais. Nuair a ghlac an chéad fhoireann Éireannach páirt sna Cluichí céad bliain ó shin i 1924, is in ealaín a baineadh a chéad bonn amach, le bonn airgid Jack B. Yeats dá phictiúir de Snámh na Life.

Ar nós pictiúir Yeats, táimid ag nascadh ealaíon agus spórt sa pholasaí seo. Ar nós na Sean-Ghréigigh, tá stair na mílte bliain againn in Éirinn ag déanamh ceiliúradh ar ghaiscí an duine sna spóirt agus sa chultúr ó tharla ár gcluichí féin i dTailteann. Ar nós an ghluaiseacht Oilimpeach, tá Sinn Féin fréamhaithe in athbheochan cultúrtha ag deireadh na 1800idí a spreag an chrann taca mór eile i dtraidisiún an spóirt amaitéarach, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Tá teipithe ag rialtas i ndiaidh rialtas ón neamhspleáchas ar aghaidh an phríomhchúram a leag an Chéad Dáil síos dóibh a chur i gcrích. I gcás clár suaitheanta na Scoileanna Ildánacha, a bhí in ainm is a bheith ag tacú le cumas cruthaitheach gach leanbh, níl dhéantar freastal ach ar mhionlach beag scoileanna. Go minic, bíonn ár gclubanna níos lú spóirt faoi mhíbhuntáiste i gcomparáid le clubanna níos rachmasaí móra agus fréamhaithe maidir le bonneagair agus trealamh. Bheadh cur chuige difriúil ag Sinn Féin, lán d'uailmhian, fíis agus cothrom na Féinne.

Is moladh simplí atá sa doiciméid seo: Gníomhchárta a chur ar fáil do gach leanbh ar luach €130 le n-úsáid chun páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí spóirt nó cultúir, agus iad a chumhachtadh agus a chumasú bheith gníomhach sa mbealach ar mian leo agus faoiseamh a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí agus teaghlaigh ag streachailt leis an gcostas maireachtála.

Tuigeann muid go maith nach sáróidh an coincheap seo na bacanna go léir, agus caithfidh sé a bheith mar chuid de chur chuige iomlánaíoch uile-rialtais chun cur leis an infheistiú agus pleanáil don spórt agus don chultúr. Creideann muid, áfach, go bhféadfadh leis an mhír seo mearaí athrú suntasach a dhéanamh chun páirc imeartha níos cothroime a thógáil do laochra spóirt agus cultúir an todhchaí.

Chris Andrews TD agus Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD



Réamhrá

Tá Éire ag éirí níos deacra de réir a chéile mar thimpeallacht do dhaoine óga fás aníos ann. Tá an brú ag géarú ar sholáthróirí agus ar thuismitheoirí araon gníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus cultúrtha a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga agus an costas maireachtála ag dul in airde, agus éagothroime ag fás sa tsochaí dá réir.

Sa doiciméad seo pléimid an ról is féidir le spóirt agus na healaíona a imirt i gcruthú Éire Úr.

Éire Úr ina mbeidh deis ag ár leanaí eispéireas a fháil ar iomláine ár n-oidhreacht cultúrtha agus spóirt, agus deiseanna a chuirfidh le gníomhaíochtaí nua spóirt agus cultúrtha atá ag teacht chun cinn in Éirinn a mhúnlú.

Níor cheart go mbeadh constaicí agus srianta ar pháistí in Éirinn agus iad ag iarraidh deiseanna seach-churaclaim a thapú.

Creideann Sinn Féin go rachaidh sé chun sochair don tsochaí tuilleadh deiseanna seach-churaclaim a fhorbairt agus go mbainfear tairbhe as an infheistíocht seo sa mheántréimhse.

Is príomhghnéithe iad rannpháirtíocht i spóirt agus sna healaíona chun daonra níos folláine a fhorbairt agus chun pobail láidre a chothú. Is tír spórtúil í Éire le fada an lá agus saibhreas ealaíne agus cultúir aici ach léiríonn figiúirí Eurostat ó 2022 go raibh an cóimheas OTI ba mheasa ag na 26 Chontae dírithe ar 'seirbhísí fóillíochta agus spóirt' i ngach ballstát den AE agus CSTE, ag 0.1% amháin, i gcomparáid le .4% den OTI ar fud an AE1.

Mar thoradh ar rannpháirtíocht i spóirt ó aois óg, ó thaobh eacnamaíoch amháin de, déantar coigilteas níos mó i gcúram sláinte san fhadtéarma. Tá ról cruthaithe aige freisin i gcláir idirghabhála a chuireann le comhtháthú sóisialta. Aithnímid an nasc idir infheistíocht sa spóirt agus laghdú ar bhochtaineacht pháistí agus creidimid gur féidir leis ról tábhachtach a bheith aige freisin maidir le coireacht agus iompar frithshóisialta a laghdú. Féadfaidh ról dearfach a bheith aige freisin i gcásanna iar-choimhlinte.

Soláthraíonn na healaíona bealach freisin do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga chun iad féin a chur in iúl agus teagmháil a dhéanamh le comhghleacaithe sa phobal lasmuigh den scoil. Ní féidir an iomarca béime a chur ar na buntáistí fadsaioil a bhaineann le gach foirm ealaíne. Is féidir le scileanna urlabhra agus teanga, a dhéantar a fhorbairt sa drámaíocht, san amharclannaíocht agus sna taibh-ealaíona ag aois óg, deiseanna fostaíochta a chruthú i réimse leathan earnálacha amach anseo chomh maith le muinín agus féinmheas a mhéadú. Bíonn oiliúint rince san iomaíocht le spóirt maidir le freastal ar riachtanais aclaíochta ár ndaoine óga, chomh maith le cruthaitheacht, smacht agus obair foirne a spreagadh. Tá ról lárnach ag an gceol, ag an litríocht agus ag na hamharcealaíona i sochaí agus i ngeilleagar na hÉireann, gan trácht ar na tairbhí cognaíocha agus foirmithe gan amhras gur féidir leo a chothú.

Sa doiciméad beartais seo taispeánfaimid an dóigh a bhfuil infheistíocht agus rannpháirtíocht mhéadaithe i spóirt agus sna healaíona mar bhunús agus mar thaca ag ceann de na samhlacha coiscithe príomhúla is éifeachtaí atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair, Samhail um Chosc na hÍoslainne (IPM), ar a dtugtar Planet Youth freisin. Oibríonn samhlacha coiscithe príomhúla trí fhadhbanna a chosc sula dtagann siad chun cinn agus baineadh úsáid astu chun daoine óga a atreorú ó mhí-úsáid alcóil agus drugaí, agus iompraíochtaí riosca eile, trína gcaidrimh, a stíl mhaireachtála, a dtimpeallacht agus a bhfolláine a fheabhsú.

1 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/gov_10a_exp__custom_12157577/default/bar?lang=en





Buntáistí na nGníomhaíochtaí Spóirt agus Cultúr

► Forbairt Pobail agus Comhthathú Sóisialta

Tá ról tábhachtach ag eagraíochtaí cultúir agus spóirt i bhforbairt pobail agus ag cur le comhthathú sóisialta, le tionchar acu atá le braith i bhfad ón bpáirc imeartha, ón stáitse, nó ón gclub áitiúil. Go minic, bíonn na buntáistí breise agus nach bhfeictear go minic i measc na gcinn is mó a théann i gcion orainn.

De réir taighde de chuid an Irish Sport Monitor (ISM), léiríodh go ndéanann duine fásta as gach deichniúir ar a mheán obair dheonach le clubanna spóirt áitiúil².

Nochtaíodh i dtaighde eile de chuid an ISM go bhfuil 34% de dhaoine fásta ina mbaill de chlub spóirt³.

Dúirt 35% den breis is 1,100 duine a ghlac páirt i Suirbhé Ealaíon Shinn Féin, déanta sa bhliain 2024, go bhfuil siad páirteach i ngrúpa ealaíon, agus dúirt formhór suntasach a ghlac páirt go nglacann siad páirt sna healaíona ar mhaithe le sult a bhaint astu⁴.

Tá na buntáistí a bhaineann le páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim faoi mhaoirseacht sonraithe go mór ag a leithéidí ESRI agus ISM. I measc na buntáistí, tá feabhsaithe meabhairshláinte agus sláinte coirp, comhthathú sóisialta níos láidre, agus, do dhaltaí ar a mheán, torthaí níos fearr a fháil san Ardteist.

Is fairsing freisin iad na drochimpleachtaí a bhaineann le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus cultúr seach-churaclaim faoi mhaoirseacht a chaitheamh san aer, ó tuilleadh mí-úsáid substaintí agus gráid scoile níos measa go dtí leathnú ar an mbearna socheacnamaíoch.

Tá sé sonraithe ag taighde de chuid an ESRI gur mó an cosúlacht go gcaithfeadh iad siúd nach bhfuil chomh rachmasach an spóirt in aer, agus cé go bhfuil an cosúlacht céanna ann go dtabharfadh páistí bunscóile ó chúlraí

2 https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-05/ISM%202023%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf

3 https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-05/ISM%202023%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf

4 https://mcusercontent.com/ffc5ff2fa2294c89d2ff7598e/files/08b20515-bd07-ac83-5cee-f5d24a0ae930/SF_Arts_Survey_results_2024.pdf



socheacnamaíocha níos ísle faoi gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim, is lú seans go nglacfaid siad páirt sa spórt lasmuigh de chomhthéacs na scoile i gcomparáid leo siúd ó theaghlaigh meánaicmeacha.⁵⁶

Léirítear i taighde de chuid Spóirt Éireann an tionchar atá ag aicmí sóisialta ar an rannpháirtíocht spóirt, le bearna socheacnamaíochta de 19 fán gcéad sa rannpháirtíocht spóirt⁷.

Tá na toscairí céanna i gceist maidir leis na healaíona. Feictear dúinn ó léargas a d'ullmhaigh an tOllamh Emer Smyth don Chomhairle Ealaíon, bunaithe ar staidéar Growing Up in Ireland de chuid an ESRI, go bhfuil i bhfad níos mó seans ann go nglacfaid páistí ó theaghlaigh meánaicmeacha páirt i ngníomhaíochtaí cultúir struchtúrtha lasmuigh den scoil ná páistí ó theaghlaigh an lucht oibre nó gan fostaíocht.⁸

► Géarchéim an Chostais Maireachtála agus a Thionchar ar Gníomhaíochtaí

Leanann géarchéim as cuimse an chostais maireachtála ag goill ar ghnáthshaol laethúil na n-oibríthe agus na dteaghlach.

Léirítear i níos mó agus níos mó tuarascálacha idirnáisiúnta an impleacht garbh atá ag géarchéim an chostais maireachtála ar an mbaint atá ag páistí le gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim.

Léiríodh sa Good Childhood Report 2022 go bhfuil 27% de thuismitheoirí tar éis a bheith ag streachailt le costais maidir le feisteas corpoideachais nó spóirt i rith na bliana seo caite.

Tar éis comhairliúcháin a dhéanamh le os cionn 1,000 thuismitheoirí de pháistí a bhíonn ag imirt le clubanna áitiúla, d'aithin tuarascáil The Price to Play de chuid Utilita nár fhíll 10% d'imirtheoirí ar an bpáirc imeartha, agus 31% de thuismitheoirí ag rá nárbh acmhainn dóibh na táillí shíntiúis a íoc agus 27% nárbh acmhainn dóibh rudaí eile ar nós feisteas nó treallamh a cheannach.

Léirigh tuarascáil Cost of Living 2024 de chuid Barnardos go raibh ar 20% de na leanaí acu siúd a ghlac páirt i suirbhé gan páirt a ghlacadh, nó laghdú a dhéanamh ar a bpáirt, i ngrúpa/club spóirt áitiúil mar thoradh ar arduithe sa chostas maireachtála.⁹

D'aimsigh Suirbhé Ealaíon Shinn Féin freisin go raibh airgead ina bhac roimh 83% dul i mbun cruthaíocht, taibhsíú, agus sult a bhaint as ealaín.

Léirítear sna tuarascálacha seo gurb í an inacmhainneacht ceann de na príomhbhaic ag cur stop le páistí páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim.

► Gníomhaíocht Gheilleagrach

Bíonn ról ríthábhachtach ag an spórt go bliantúil i saol eacnamaíochta na hÉireann, trí fostaíocht a sholáthar do 64,000 duine fud fad an gheilleagair.

Tá caiteachas ag teaghlaigh na hÉireann ar an spórt ag méadú de réir a chéile. B'ionann caiteachas tomhaltóra a bhaineann le spórt agus luach €3.3 billiúin sa bhliain 2018. Le tuairim is 400,000 daoine fásta as gach chearn den Stát ag obair go deonach go rialta le clubanna spóirt, b'ionann luach eacnamaíoch an obair dheonach don spórt sa bhliain 2018 agus ti mpeall €1.5 billiúin per annum.¹⁰

Tá a fhios againn ó measúnú Indecon sa bhliain 2011 ar thionchar eacnamaíochta na nEalaíon in Éirinn, gurb é an tionchar comhiomlán ar chaiteachais dhíreacha de chuid eagraíochtaí maoinithe ag an gComhairle Ealaíon, agus an tionchar indíreach agus ionduchtaithe (iolraitheoir) timpeall €195 milliúin sa bhliain 2010, tráth is nach raibh ach maoiniú de luach €60.3 milliúin curtha ar fáil ag an gComhairle Ealaíon chuig eagraíochtaí agus daoine aonaracha¹¹. Tá os cionn dá oiread an maoiniú sin ag an gComhairle Ealaíon anois, rud a chiallaíonn go

5 <https://www.esri.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2015-07/RS33.pdf>

6 <https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/2019-11/fair-play-sport-and-social-disadvantage-in-ireland-2007-report.pdf>

7 https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-05/ISM%202023%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf

8 <https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>

9 <https://www.barnardos.ie/barnardos-cost-of-living-report-2024/>

10 <https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-09/vos-report-final-19-07-21.pdf>

11 https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Indecon_Update_Report_fin.pdf



mbeadh impleachtaí méadaithe go suntasach don gheilleagar in earnáil atá, dar leis an bhFeachtas Náisiúnta ar son na hEalaíona, ag fostú 55,000 duine trasna na tíre¹².

► Tionchar ar an Oideachas

D'aithin taighde de chuid tuarascáil an ESRI “Keeping them in the Game” nasc dearfach idir spóirt a imirt agus torthaí Ardteistiméarachta i measc sampla de 1,200 daltaí.

Léirigh an taighde seo gur éirigh le páistí a choinnigh orthu i spóirt le linn don bhliain Ardteiste gráid níos fearr ná an mheán a fháil ná iad siúd a chaith spóirt san aer agus na scrúduithe ag druidim leo.

Sa chaoi céanna, léirigh taighde coimisiúnaithe ag an gComhairle Ealaíon ar rannpháirtíocht ealaíon agus cultúir i measc daoine ag aois a 17 sa bhliain 2020, bunaithe ar shonraí i staidéar Growing Up in Ireland de chuid an ESRI, go raibh “baint ag páirt a ghlacadh i ranganna nó glubanna ceol, damhsa, le gráid níos airde sa Teastas Shóisearach”. Is cosúil gur thacaigh an méid a d’aimsigh an tOllamh Emer Smyth le taighde eile a mholann “caidreamh idir bheith ag éirí go maith leat sa cheol ag an Ardteist agus san ardoideachas, agus rochtain an duine óg ar an dteagasc ar uirlis ceoil lasmuigh den scoil, atá íoctha den chuid is mó.”¹³

Tharraing taighde déanta ag Ollscoil Sheffield Hallam¹⁴ aird ar an gcaoi ina raibh rannpháirtíocht sa spóirt níos airde i measc céimithe agus gur bhain frontair tairbhe as an mbarraíocht comhoibriú fóirne, scileanna cumarsáide, spreagadh, iomaíochas agus solúbthacht a léirigh iad siúd a bhí ag glacadh páirt i ngníomhaíocht spóirt.

► Sláinte agus Folláine

Dar le Straitéis Náisiúnta Spóirt 2018-2027 de chuid an Rialtais, meastar go ngearrann an neamhghníomhaíocht físiúil costas thart ar €1.5 billiúin in aghaidh na bliana ar bhuiséad slainte an Stáit.¹⁵

Tá sé léirithe i The Social Return and Investment Report a rinne an FAI agus UEFA go ndéantar coigilteas €1.4 billiúin sa chúram sláinte mar thoradh ar an rannpháirtíocht sa sacar amháin. Bhain tuarascáil na n-údar úsáid as mhúnla an ‘Toraidh Sóisialta ar Infheistíocht’ atá molta ag an Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Sláinte, na Naisiúin Aontaithe agus



- Urlabhraí Spóirt Shinn Féin, Chris Andrews TD, ag bualadh le Cathaoirleach Droichead Átha Aontaithe, Joanna Byrne.

12 <https://www.rte.ie/culture/2021/0929/1248781-irelands-arts-sector-a-new-journey-into-a-better-future/#:~:text=It%20took%20the%20global%20pandemic,arts%20workers%20and%20arts%20organisations>

13 https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/RS103_0.pdf

14 Sheffield Hallam University SIRC “The Impact of Engagement in Sport on Graduate Employability” June 2013

15 <https://assets.gov.ie/15979/04e0f52cee5f47ee9c01003cf559e98d.pdf>





- **Cumann Imreoirí Gael á n-óstáil i dTeach Laighean i gcomhair comhrá painéil faoina gcuid oibre ar son coinníollacha cothrom a bhaint amach do imreoirí baineann agus fireann.**

beaga go dtí seo. Glactar leis go bhfuil os cionn 300,000 páistí otrach anois, agus meastar go gcuirtear 10,000 breise leis an bhfigiúr seo go bliantúil de réir taighde déanta ag an Roinn Sláinte.

Bíonn tionchar ag rannpháirtíocht sa spórt agus sa chultúr ar an meabharshláinte chomh maith, mar is léir ó taighde bunaithe ar staidéar Growing Up in Ireland de chuid an ESRI, a thaispeánann go mbíonn “leibhéil sástachta saol níos airde áit a dhéanann daoine óga ceol go minic nó ina bhfuil siad páirteach i gclubanna nó ranganna ceol/damhsa”¹⁸ agus gurb iad na leanaí sin atá níos gníomhaí go físiúil is lú atá i mbaol airí dúlagrach a bheith orthu sa luath-aosacht.¹⁹

► **Úsáid Substaintí i Measc Déagóirí na hÉireann**

Is féidir linn tuiscint a fháil ar úsáid reatha substaintí i measc daltaí idir 15 agus 16 mbliana d’aois ó shonraí foilsithe ag tuarascáil Thogra Scoile na hEorpa um Alcól agus Drugaí Eile (ESPAD)²⁰.

Díríonn tuarascáil ESPAD Éireann isteach ar threoracha maidir le húsáid alcóil agus drugaí, chaitheamh tabac, chearrbhachas, cluichíocht, agus úsáid idirlín.

Seo a leanas na príomhthorthaí a bhí i dTuarascáil Éireann ESPAD 2019:

- **CAITHEAMH TABAC:** As na freagróirí, 32% a bhain triail as caitheamh tabac agus 14% a chaith tabac go reatha (a thuiriscigh gur chaith siad laisti gh den 30 lá roimhe sin), le 5% ag caitheamh go laethúil.
- **ALCÓL:** 41% dóibh siúd 15-16 mbliana d’aois a ghlac páirt sa suirbhé a deir go rabhaidis ar meisce sa 12 mí roimhe sin agus 16% a deir go raibh siad ar meisce laistigh den 30 lá roimhe
- **ÚSÁID DRUGAÍ:** Cannabas a tuairiscíodh mar an druga ba mhó a úsáidtear le 19.1% dóibh siúd a d’fhreagair tar éis cannabis a thriail. Tar éis don channabas, ionanálaithe ab iad an substaint ba mhó in úsáid go comónta (10%), le daltaí freisin ag rá gur bhain siad úsáid as pianmhúcháin (5%), alcól le pillí (4%), cócaon (3%) agus eacstais (3%)

Tá an ráta ard seo d’úsáid substaintí i measc déagóirí na hÉireann tugtha faoi deara ag a lán tráchtairí agus, anuas ar na himpleachtaí fadtéarma sláinte a bhaineann leis an iompair seo, tá an tí onchar díreach soiléir le feiceáil dóibh siúd a bhíonn ag obair i roil pobail agus sóisialta.

16 <https://www.fai.ie/domestic/news/uefa-sroi-study-confirms-%E2%82%AC18bn-impact>

17 <https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2023-08/CSPPA%202022%20Full%20Report.pdf>

18 https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/RS103_0.pdf

19 <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/33/5/878/7250232?login=true>

20 <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/33347/1/ESPAD%202019%20Ireland.pdf>



Is éard atá i gceist le Domhain na nÓg (Planet Youth) ná macasamhail coiscthe príomhúil idirnáisiúnta bunaithe ar thaighde atá Forbartha ag Lárionad na hÍoslainne um Thaighde agus Anailís Sóisialta (ICSRA).

Forbaíodh múnla Planet Youth mar chuid d'iarracht náisiúnta na hÍoslainne úsáid substaintí a ísliú i measc daoine óga. Baineann an samhail úsáid as cur chuige don daonra ar fad agus ligeann sé don deis aschur sláinte agus saoil a fheabhsú do dhaoine óga in a lán bealaí.

Braitheann an samhail ar shonraí bailithe i suirbhé débhlíantúil treasghearrthach a ritear de réir an ceistneoir Planet Youth. Tagann gach duine atá 15-16 mbliana d'aois faoi scáth an cheisnteora chuimsitheach slí maireachtála seo a dhéanann scrúdú ar an saol sa bhaile, úsáid substaintí, sláinte fi siciúil, meabharshláinte, gníomhaíocht fi siciúil, caitheamh aimsire seach-churaclaim, taithí scoile, úsáid idirlín, bullaíocht agus a lán catagóirí eile.

Úsáidtear sonraí Planet Youth chun idirghabháil coiscthe a fhorbairt a dhéanfaidh níos fearr an ti mpeallacht sóisialta do pháistí níos óige sa phobal, agus freisin cuhn monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar aon dul chun cinn lena mbaineann. Baintear leas as idirghabháil sna ceithre réimsí sonraithe i samhail Planet Youth; tuismitheoirí agus teaghlach, am fóillíochta, piarghrúpa, agus scoil.

Tá feidhm leis an gcéad samhail Planet Youth in Éirinn i nGaillimh, Maigh Eo agus Ros Comáin ó 2018. Is féidir teacht ar roinnt aschuir ón dtogra sin ar a shuíomh idirlín ag www.planetyouth.ie. Cuireadh tús le suíomhanna éagsúla Planet Youth i gCábhán Muineachán agus i dTuaisceart Bhaile Átha Cliath i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021.

► Roinnt de na PríomhThorthaí ó Thaighde Planet Youth

MAIGH EO:

- 44% dóibh siúd a bhí 15-16 mbliana d'aois a thuiriscigh go raibh siad ar meisce ar a laghad uair amháin sa bhliain díreach imithe.
- 16% a bhain triáil as cannabis. 19% a thuiriscigh go raibh siad ar meisce laisti gh den mhí roimhe.
- 53% de dhéagóirí a chaith 3 uair a chloig nó níos mó ar na meáin shóisialta.
- 57% dóibh siúd a bhí 15-16 mbliana d'aois nach raibh ag fáil an méid codladh agus atá molta.
- 43% de bhuachaillí agus 52% de chailíní nach nglacann páirt i spóirt lasmuigh den scoil le club nó foireann.

GAILLIMH:

- 41% dóibh siúd a bhí 15-16 mbliana d'aois a thuiriscigh go raibh siad ar meisce ar a laghad uair amháin sa bhliain díreach imithe.
- 18% a bhain triáil as cannabis.
- 20% a thuiriscigh go raibh siad ar meisce laisti gh den mhí roimhe.
- 47% de dhéagóirí a chaith 3 uair a chloig nó níos mó ar na meáin shóisialta.
- 59% dóibh siúd a bhí 15-16 mbliana d'aois nach raibh ag fáil an méid codladh agus atá molta.
- 37% de bhuachaillí agus 47% de chailíní nach nglacann páirt i spóirt lasmuigh den scoil le club nó foireann.

ROS COMÁIN:

- 43% dóibh siúd a bhí 15-16 mbliana d'aois a thuiriscigh go raibh siad ar meisce ar a laghad uair amháin sa bhliain díreach imithe.
- 15% a bhain triáil as cannabis.
- 19% a thuiriscigh go raibh siad ar meisce laisti gh den mhí roimhe.
- 57% de dhéagóirí a chaith 3 uair a chloig nó níos mó ar na meáin shóisialta.
- 62% dóibh siúd a bhí 15-16 mbliana d'aois nach raibh ag fáil an méid codladh agus atá molta.
- 32% a thuiriscigh féin dochar uair amháin nó níos mó
- 45% de bhuachaillí agus 56% de chailíní nach nglacann páirt i spóirt lasmuigh den scoil le club nó foireann.

Bhí 6 oiread níos mó seans ann gur úsáid déagóirí cannabis más rud é gur thuiriscítear gur ag crochadh thart ar an sráid a bhítear



Múnla na hÍoslainne (Frístundakortið)

Ó na 1990idí go dtí tús na 2000idí, bhí géarchéim faoi lánsheol san Íoslann i measc daoine óga. Bhí cáil bainte amach ag déagóirí na hÍoslainne i measc na rátaí ab airde san Eoraip don úsáid alcóil, chaitheamh tabac agus drugaí eile.

Chun teacht ar athrú suntasach i leibhéil úsáide substaintí i measc iad siúd faoi haois, bhí athrú radacach polasaí ag teastáil ag baint leas as cur chuige córasach agus don daonra ar fad, seachas tograí díríthe amháin.

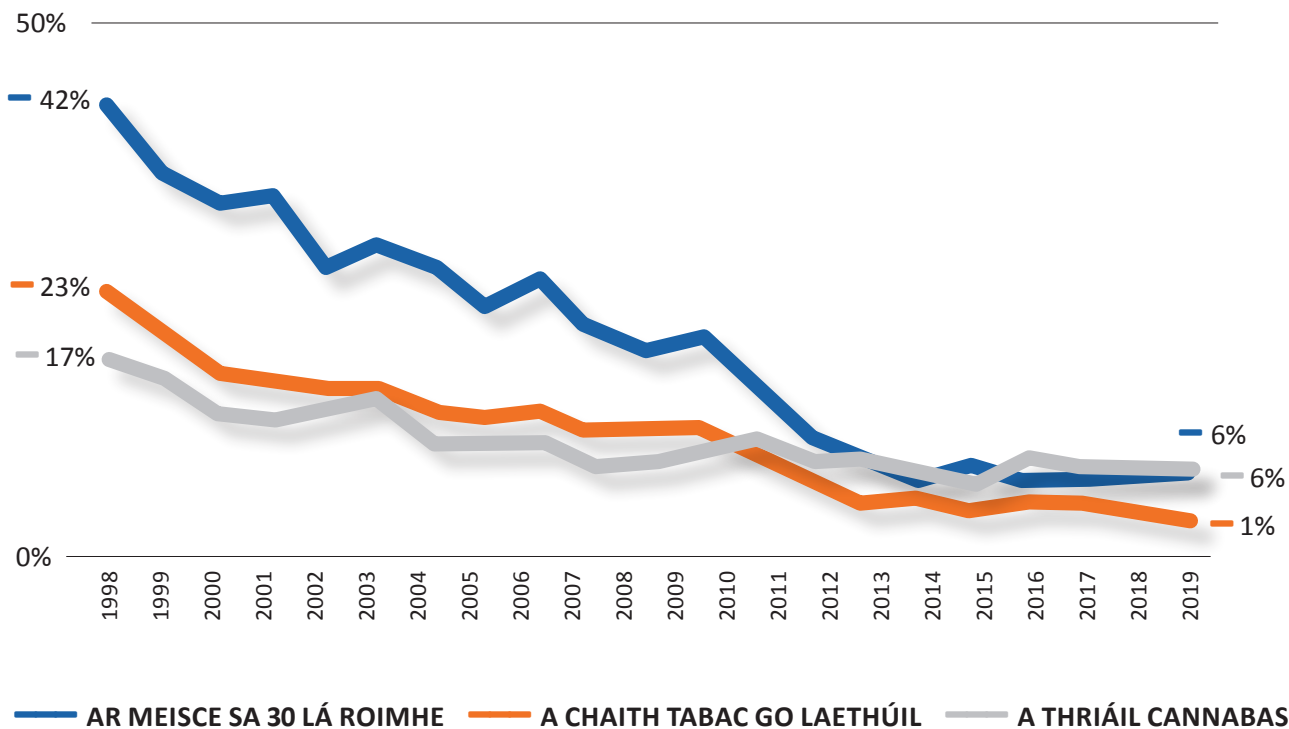
Trí thionscnaimh coiscthe príomhúla ar nós an cárta fóillíochta, agus infheistíocht a mhéadú i dtograí pobail agus óige, thar tréimhse ghearr d'éirigh leis an Íoslann íslíú as cuimse a dhéanamh ar ráta míúsáide substaintí i measc déagóirí.

Cuireadh tús le scéim an Frístundakortið, nó an chárta fóillíochta, sa bhliain 2007 nuair a thug Comhairle Cathrach Réicivic isteach é agus é mar aidhm acu cur go mór le ghníomhaíochtaí tar éis na scoile do pháistí sa chathair i dti mpeallacht rialaithe agus íslíú a dhéanamh ar líon na ndéagóir a bhí baint acu le ghníomhaíocht frith-shóisialta.

Thosaigh an scéim amach le luach €75 in aghaidh an pháiste idir aois a 6 agus a 18. Tar éis freagra dearfach a fháil ar an bpointe do scéim an chárta fóillíochta, ardaíodh an luach go €150 an bhliain ina dhiaidh, agus go dtí an €502 in aghaidh an pháiste atá mar luach reatha air.



Úsáid Substaintí I measc Íoslannaigh ar aois a 15-16



Bunaíodh bunachar sonraí lárnach don scéim agus cuireadh gach páiste idir 6 agus 18 mbliana d'aois leis go huathoibreach is cuma má bhain siad úsáid as an scéim nó munar bhain. D'ísligh sé seo na bacanna a bhféadfadh cur isteach ar pháistí ó chúlraí socheacnamaíocha níos ísle rochtain a fháil ar an scéim.



Cuireann an bunachar sonraí fiúntacha ar fáil freisin don rialtas áiti úil agus náisiúnta agus áiseanna spóirt agus cultúir á bpleanáil agus á bhforbairt acu.

Tá ardú tagtha go seasta ar líon na ngníomhaíochtaí atá á thairscint faoin scéim gach bliain agus tá rannpháirtíocht sa scéim an-ard bliain ar bhliain le 78% ar a mheán dóibh siúd idir 6 agus 18 mbliana d'aois ag glacadh páirt ann. 100% dóibh siúd idir 6 agus 12 a bhaineann leas as an scéim.

Ní mór d'eagraíochtaí agus soláthraí gníomhaíochta faoin scéim caighdeán cáilíochta a léiriú, agus tá praghsáil na ngníomhaíochtaí san áireamh anseo. Déantar é seo ar mhaitheas lena chinnti ú nach n-ardófar táillí mar thoradh ar an scéim.

Cuireann an scéim le hinfheistíocht breise sa phobal áitiúil tríd an maoiniú go léir a bheith in úsáid go háitiúil. San Íoslann, bhí sé seo ina cheann feadhna ar sheirbhísí fóillíochta óige a dhéanamh níos gairmiúla. Gné bunúsach den scéim ná bunú an tsuirbhéireacht leanúnach ar pháistí in aoisghrúpaí ar leith, ag baint leas as suirbhé Planet Youth, atá tar éis cúnamh a thabhairt i gcur i bhfeidhm agus torthaí na scéime a mheas ó thaobh tionchar folláine de.



- Teachtaí Dála Shinn Féin Aengus Ó Snodaigh agus Mark Ward ag cur fáilte roimh an High Five Boxing Academy, a sholáthraíonn oiliúnt inchiomsitheach dornálaíochta do leanaí le riachtanais breise, chun cur i láthair a thabhairt do chomhaltaí Dála agus Seanaid i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2022.



Gníomhchárta Éireannach don Spórt agus don Chultúr

Creideann Sinn Féin go bhféadfadh le múnla Éireannach de scéim cárta fóillíochta na hÍoslainne deathionchar as cuimse a bheith aige ar dhaoine óga ar fud an Stáit. D'fhéadfadh sé tús a chur leis na beartais ar gá leo chun seasamh na hÉireann go hidirnáisiúnta i ndomhain an spóirt, na n-ealaíon, agus an chultúir a chur chun cinn, ach níos tábhachtaí fós, d'fhéadfadh impleachtaí doimhne dearfacha a bheith aige ar chaighdeán maireachtála agus folláine ár bpáistí.

Beidh sé mar sprioc ag an scéim seo na tacaíochtaí agus

áiseanna a theastaíonn ó thuismitheoirí gach páiste ar aois scoile a chur ar fáil chun tacú leo suim a bpáistí a chur i spóirt agus gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim faoi mhaoriseacht. Leis an ngéarchéim costais maireachtála ag goill ar an méid sin teaghlaigh faoi láthair, cabhróidh an scéim seo leis na constaicí costais a íslíú nó fáil réidh leo agus ní hamháin rannpháirtíocht a chinntiú dóibh siúd atá ag streachailt le táillí a chlúdach, ach cur leis áit a raibh costais rannpháirtíochta nó treallaimh mar chúis nach raibh sé mar rogha ar an gcéad dul síos.

Toscaire cosantach atá ann páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí rialta seach-churaclaim faoi mhaoriseacht d'iompair úsáide substaintí agus tá a lán buntáistí eile aige do dhaoine óga agus don sochaí mór.

Tá sé léirithe i dtaighde de chuid an ESRI go gcaitheann idir 15% agus 20% de pháistí gníomhaíochtaí aonaracha san aer toisc costais airgeadais an spóirt²¹, agus nach mbíonn baint fós ach ag leath dóibh siúd a bhí baint acu le gníomhaíochtaí structúrtha cultúir lasmuigh den scoil ag aois a 9 ag aois a 13²². Caithfidh muid tosú fáil réidh leis na constaicí costais seo.

Bheadh toradh suntasach ar an infheistíocht ag baint le scéim cárta fóillíochta Éireannach a bainistíodh i gceart trí sláinte fisiciúil, meabhairshláinte, agus aschur ginearálta saoil a fheabhsú do ghlúin iomlán de dhaoine óga. Cabhraíonn tús luath i réimse níos leithne gníomhaíochtaí agus caitheamh aimsire le nósanna agus uaimhianta a fhorbairt a leanfaidh leo fud fad a saoil.

► Gníomhchárta a Thionscnú

Gníomhchárta

Beidh sé mar sprioc ag an scéim seo na tacaíochtaí agus áiseanna a chur ar fáil do thuismitheoirí gach leanbh ar aois scoile chun cabhrú leo a leanaí a chur ag glacadh páirt i ngníomhaíochtaí maorsithe seach-churaclaim spóirt agus cultúr. I gcomhthéacs géarchéim an chostais maireachtála atá ag cur isteach ar a lán teaghlaigh faoi láthair, cabhróidh an scéim seo le bacanna costais a laghdú agus ní hamháin nach bhfuil rannpháirtíocht coimeáda i gcás daoine atá ag streachailt le táillí a íoch, agus go méadaítear é áit inar chinntigh costas rannpháirtíochta nó trealamh nach raibh sé mar rogha fiú.

Conas a dhéanfaimis seo

Molann muid reachtaíocht a thionscnú chun socrú a dhéanamh do Scéim an Gníomhchárta a chur ar bun.

Bheadh súil againn leis go sannfaí an Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige mar cheannasaí ar an tionscadal seo le hionchur ó ranna ábhartha eile ar nós na Roinne Oideachais agus na Roinne Turasoireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.



21 <https://www.esri.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2015-07/RS33.pdf>

22 <https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>



Bheadh sé de chúram orthu ardán digiteach a chruthú trína dtiocfadh le tuismitheoirí logáil isteach agus a leanaí a chlárú don Ghníomhchárta. Chun clárú, bheadh PSP bailí, cruthúnas céannachta agus seoladh de dhíth.

Bheadh an suíomh gréasáin seo mar chatalóg freisin do gach club/soláthraí gníomha spóirt agus cultúrtha atá cláraithe le Scéim an Ghníomhchárta.

Bheadh tuismitheoirí in ann cuardach a dhéanamh de réir gníomhaíochtaí nó de réir ceantair thíreolaíochta le heolas a fháil faoin méid atá ar fáil faoin scéim.

Nuair a bheidh Gníomhchárta an linbh ceadaithe, cuirfear €130 chun sochair a gcuntas ar shuíomh gréasáin an Ghníomhchárta le caitheamh tríd an suíomh ar gníomhaíochtaí.

Bhunófaí freisin comhlacht maoirseachta ina mbeidh ETBI, TUSLA, Spórt Éireann agus an Chomhairle Ealaíon chun oibriú agus cur i bhfeidhm Scéim an Ghníomhchárta a athbhreithniú.

Critéir do Clubanna agus Soláthraí páirt a ghlacadh

Ní mór rialachas maith a bheith i bhfeidhm ag clubanna spóirt agus cultúir agus soláthróirí gníomhaíochta a ghlacann páirt sa scéim a thaispeánann go soiléir trédhearcacht, freagracht, cuntasacht, agus spriocanna rannpháirtíochta.

Chun é seo a chinntiú, beidh ar ghrúpaí a bheith ina gcleamhnaithe de na comhlachtaí rialaithe ábhartha nó iarratas a chur isteach chun clárú leis an scéim tríd an gcomhlacht nua maoirseachta.

Cinntoidh sé seo go mbainfear amach na leibhéil láidre rialachais.

Cá mhéad a chosnódh sé?

Bheadh infheistíocht de €127 milliún ag teastáil chun Scéim na gCártaí Fóillíochta a chur i bhfeidhm ina hiomláine. Chinnteodh sé seo go mbeadh an scéim ar fáil do gach dalta atá ag freastal ar oideachas bunscoile agus meánscoile.

De réir taighde a d'fhoilsigh Cónaidhm Spóirt na hÉireann, do gach €100 a infheistíonn Rialtas na hÉireann sa spórt, faigheann an Státchiste suas le €195 ar ais trí chánacha ar chaiteachas agus ioncaim a fhaigheann tacaíocht spóirt²³, agus tá a fhios againn le beagnach dhá scór bliain go dtagann leath den airgead atá infheistithe ag an Stát i maoiniú ealaíon ar ais chuig an Státchiste níos déanaí mar chánachas.

Tá caiteachas ar chultúr agus ar spórt tábhachtach dár bhforbairt shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch i bhfianaise na mbuntáistí a bhaineann le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt, amhail sláinte agus folláine, forbairt shóisialta agus chultúrtha, turasóireacht agus an geilleagar.

Tá sé in am againn riachtanais ár ndaoine óga a chur chun tosaigh agus cabhrú le timpeallacht níos fearr a chruthú dóibh le fás agus forbairt agus maireachtáil de réir ár gcáil mar náisiún atá níos fearr ná a chosúlacht ó thaobh éachtaí spóirt agus cultúrtha araon.

23 <https://www.irishsport.ie/federation-of-irish-sports-pre-budget-submission-calls-on-government-to-honour-funding-commitments-made-in-national-sports-policy-2018-2027/>





Sinn Féin

www.sinnfein.ie



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