



of inhabitants 5.2 million

Surface area 68 655 km²

GDP per capita 234 pps [1]

Significant bodies of water (RBDs) Ireland; North Western

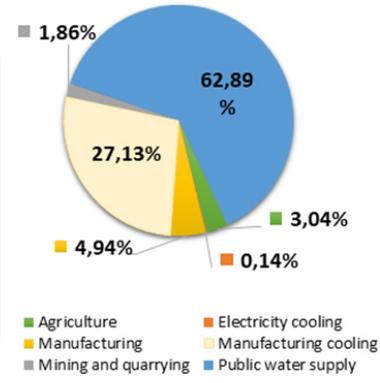
Polity parliamentary democracy and unitary state

Layers of government central government; 3 regions; 26 countries; 3 city councils; 2 city and county councils

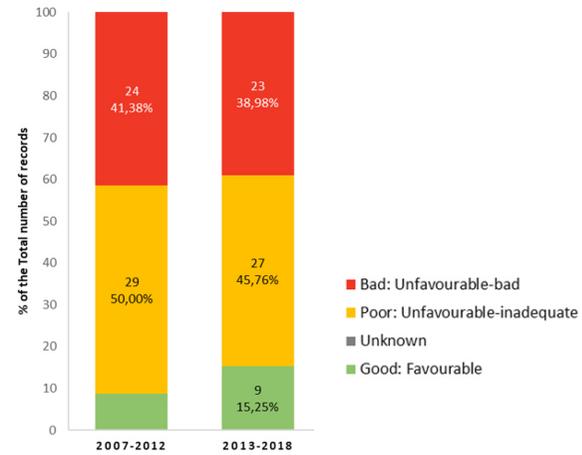
Legislative powers at the sub-national level No

Decentralisation index 0.8 (27 out of 27) [2]

Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) 2.98% (2017) [3]



Water abstraction per sector in Ireland - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Ireland - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Ireland - Source: EEA (2021)

Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
Water	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	Water Forum; Office of Public Works; Environmental Protection Agency; Irish Water; regional assemblies; Local Authorities Waters Programme
Energy	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	Climate Action Regional Offices; regional assemblies
Food	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	regional assemblies
Ecosystems	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	regional assemblies

WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

CHALLENGES

- Complete the designation of nature protection areas and put in place the necessary conservation plans and measures
- Take practical steps to address the serious decline of waders in Natura 2000 sites and the wider countryside
- Reduce water pollution from nutrients and address hydromorphological pressures
- Ensure appropriate control over water abstraction and hydromorphological changes
- Improve wastewater management infrastructure

OPPORTUNITIES

- The Irish administration has been **restructured** - to improve water governance coordination among authorities at local, regional and national levels - to ensure local engagement for solutions at the catchment level
- Many citizen science initiatives, including **Citizen Science Ireland**[4], **LAWPRO**[5] water quality monitoring, **Explore Your Shore**[6] and **Dragonfly Ireland project**[7] to promote public participation in the monitoring and collection of data.
- Irish **Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE)** (2019-2023)[8] develops capital accounts for different Natura 2000 sites in Ireland.

More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%
 [4] <http://citizen-science.ie/>
 [5] <https://lawaters.ie/>
 [6] <https://exploreyourshore.ie/>

[7] <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/dragonfly-ireland/>
 [8] <https://www.incaseproject.com/>

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