

IRELAND

RANK IN EU-27

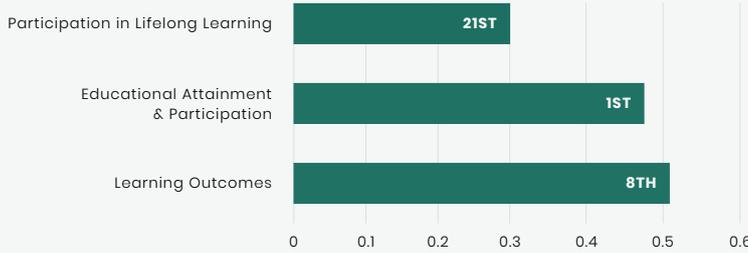
12TH

OVERALL SCORE

0.613

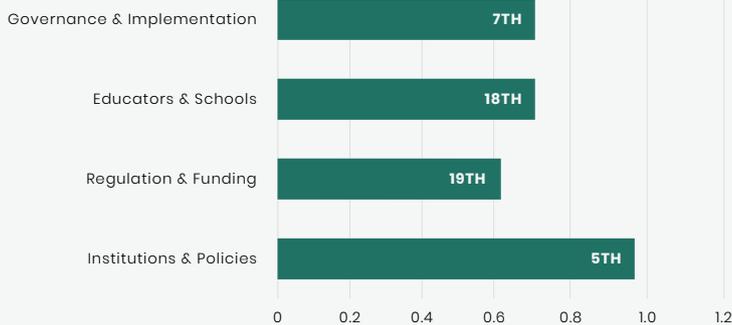
LEARNING PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOMES

RANK
8TH



INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK
16TH



AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK
16TH



MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- Ireland scores 12th in overall digital learning and averagely regarding the different index indicators.
- Its main strengths lie in the accessibility of digital learning with a national skills architecture that has been evolving in the past years to respond to the increased challenges of digitalisation at all levels.
- Despite a high awareness reflected by institutions and policies, and participation by society overall, the country's performance is undermined by a lack of up-skilling initiatives to respond to digital transformation and the absence of a sustainable, long-term vision.

TAKEAWAYS:

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS COUNTRY?

- Digitalisation of learning has been considered by the government since 2013, with initially a focus on infrastructure in primary and post-primary schools and it set out practical actions to encourage and assist more citizens and small businesses to get on line.
- Yet, if Ireland performs above the EU average in high-level digital skills, the average digital skills of its people remains low.
- This can be explained by the lack of sufficient support to accompany the shift in pedagogical practices of teachers, too much independence for education institutions combined with a lack of long-term sustainability in funding for pilot initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a continuous effort to highlight the deficiencies and challenges of the current system and this should be pursued, as well as the current work on the regulatory framework, towards establishment of equal technology enhanced learning environments to facilitate achievement of the national skills strategy through further funding and coordinating responsibilities.
- Targeted investments towards a specific audience when it comes to digital skills education in schools, universities and work, should also be considered further.

KEY REFERENCES

Doing more with digital. National Digital Strategy for Ireland Phase 1 – Digital Engagement (2013). Dublin: Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/enie/communications/publications/Documents/63/National%20Digital%20Strategy%20July%202013%20compressed.pdf>

'Project Ireland 2040. National Development Plan 2018–2027' (2018). Dublin: Government of Ireland. <https://assets.gov.ie/4049/071218131542-81b907e357df447cb8b471788cf6ecfe.pdf>

Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025 (2016). Dublin: Department of Education and Skills. https://www.skillnetireland.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/pub_national_skills_strategy_2025.pdf

PHOTOGRAPHY: Saturday Sun on Unsplash.com