Ireland

Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi)
Supporting UN Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015.

As part of the agenda, the UN General Assembly identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets, and 232 global indicators which focus on five key elements: people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership.

Ireland’s Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020 provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 SDGs.

With these goals in mind OSi and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) are collaborating to link geography and statistics to produce indicators that help monitor Ireland’s performance towards achieving the 17 SDGs.

The collaboration includes:
- Developing an online GIS-based SDG Hub, for monitoring UN SDGs
- Establishing a joint OSI/CSO working group to develop data visualisation tools
- Developing technical solutions to fulfil Ireland’s reporting responsibilities under the UN 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development
- Developing new data dissemination channels
- Promoting the statistical potential of geospatial data

Ireland’s SDG Hub (http://irelandsdg.geohive.ie) is an important element of the State’s geospatial data hub, GeoHive, which supports collaboration among data producers and users, and facilitates interoperability across a wide range of data and sources.

The SDG Hub is freely accessible to all, and was developed through a partnership between OSI, CSO, and Esri Ireland. Developed and maintained by OSI, it is Ireland’s public platform for exploring, downloading and combining publicly available data relating to the UN and the European Union (EU) Sustainable Development Goals. Ireland’s progress against each goal is measured using a set of globally and EU agreed indicators and users can search for, discover and visualise the data used to create them.

The Irish Government, through the recently published Public Service Data Strategy 2019 – 2023, recognises the important role that geospatial data plays in the overall government data ecosystem. It has called on OSI to encourage public sector bodies to catalogue and share geospatial datasets using a common reference, to further develop GeoHive as the State’s geospatial data hub and to ensure the appropriate governance structure and best practice methodologies are in place to optimise the State’s geospatial data and related resources.