

**OFFICE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION – NAP/INCLUSION
PROCESS – JUNE 2005 REPORT TO EU**

Report for Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism

OBJECTIVE: To prevent the risk of exclusion by improving general access to arts, culture, sporting and recreational facilities and by doing so creating a positive impact on socially disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Commitment	To provide funding, under the Sports Capital Programme, on an annual basis to voluntary and community organisations so as to assist with the provision of sporting facilities aimed at increasing levels of participation and improving standards of performance, while prioritising the needs of disadvantaged areas*.
Summary Assessment¹	In Progress
Will Target be met on time²	Likely
Indicator (s)	The Number of organisations/groups selected for funding. The level of funding awarded. Levels of participation Standards of performance Location of Project beneficiaries
Progress being made	In the period 1999 to 2004 almost €31 million was allocated to 4,271 projects throughout the country. Under the Sports Capital Programme, priority is awarded to applications from organisations located in areas of social disadvantage. Applicants from such areas are required to provide a lower level of their own funding contribution (20%) as against applicants from other areas (30%). In addition, extra marks are awarded to projects located in disadvantaged areas during the assessment process, ensuring them a higher overall ranking when considering projects to be recommended for funding.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	

¹ Summary assessment of progress (taken from Implementation Criteria used in EU Joint Employment Report, with addition of new 'unknown' category):

“Complete” where the reform process is (practically) complete and the desired results have (practically) been achieved;

“In progress” where the policy reform is well advanced and progress in implementation is being made;

“Limited” where the policy response to the recommendation is only partial and implementation is limited;

“Insufficient” where no substantial policy measures going in the right direction have been taken;

“Unknown” where there is insufficient information/data available to assess what progress has been made.

² Yes/No/Likely/Unlikely/Unknown/Not time bound

Data sources used to monitor progress	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism statistics
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	Allocations under the 2005 Programme have not been made as of yet, therefore the amount of funding or the number of projects to benefit are still unknown.

Commitment	To provide funding, under the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS 2001 – 2004), for arts and culture projects throughout the country.
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Likely
Indicator (s)	The number of projects selected for funding. The level of funding awarded The impact of projects funded on disadvantaged communities or vulnerable groups
Progress being made	In August 2001, forty four projects were selected for funding amounting to €45.71 million. Some of these projects have been completed whilst others are at varying stages of drawing down funding.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	A lot of the projects were delayed and revised timetables were submitted. Of the five projects selected in the BMW region in 2001 two are fully complete, two are commencing in 2005 and one is progressing satisfactorily. Of all the applications selected in the S&E region in 2001 only 9 have received any NDP funding. However funding is ongoing.
Data sources used to monitor progress	Department of Arts, Sport and Culture statistics
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	As general access to arts and culture facilities will be improved and participation in arts and culture will be increased, there will be a positive impact on socially disadvantaged individuals and groups. In assessing those projects for approval, account was taken of the need for the facility in the geographical catchment area. In addition, the very significant increase in cultural and heritage tourism with over 600,000 overseas visitors to Ireland annually indicating a special or particular interest in heritage and culture will result in increased employment opportunities for those living in the areas targeted for investment.
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	As above

