

BUILDRES Project**Project number: 2024-2-CY01-KA220-YOU-000295718****EU COUNTRIES DESK RESEARCH****Partner organisation: CCIF CYPRUS****Research on: Ireland****Country overview**

As of 1 January 2025, Ireland's population is about 5.440 million (5,439.8 thousand). Ireland's TFR in 2023 is 1.50 (Eurostat), still below replacement but not among the EU's lowest. In Ireland, the "work-life balance & childcare" conversation is often shaped less by whether support exists and more by affordability, availability, and the mix of public vs private provision.

Healthcare and family supports interact strongly through the public system: the Health Service Executive (HSE) manages public health services and social care provision across Ireland. For leave entitlements, employees have the right to 26 weeks 'maternity leave (plus the option of additional unpaid leave), and 2 weeks 'paternity leave. Ireland also uses layered parenting-related leave: each parent can take Parent's Leave, and this increased from 7 to 9 weeks from August 2024 for eligible children, with a corresponding payment (Parent's Benefit) for those who qualify. Separately, parental leave allows up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave per child (subject to rules) before a defined age threshold.

For childcare affordability, Ireland operates the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) with a universal subsidy (including the widely referenced €2.14/hour up to 45 hours/week for eligible settings) and an income-assessed pathway for higher support. Ireland also has a major early-education pillar: the ECCE programme, a universal, free two-year preschool programme for children in the eligible age range. A key structural point, however, is that there is no legal guarantee of a childcare place—parents select providers and availability can be uneven. Emergency assistance is available via 112.

Name of the organisation	Department of Social Protection — Child Benefit
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	National monthly Child Benefit payment; information and administration through the Department of Social Protection.
Country	Ireland
Mail	info@welfare.ie
Phone	01 704 3000



Website	https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-social-protection/services/child-benefit/
Address	Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03
Name of the organisation	HSE — Free Contraception Scheme / SRH information
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	HSE provides information and access routes for contraception services, including the Free Contraception Scheme and sexual health supports.
Country	Ireland
Mail	hselive@hse.ie
Phone	1800 700 700
Website	https://www.hse.ie/
Address	Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Steeven's Lane, Dublin 8, D08 W2A8, Ireland
Name of the organisation	Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Specialist provider of sexual and reproductive health services, contraception support, counselling, and education, with clinics and national contacts.
Country	Ireland
Mail	reception@ifpa.ie
Phone	0818 49 50 51
Website	https://www.ifpa.ie/
Address	South Point – Iconic Offices, Herbert House, Harmony Row, Dublin 2
Name of the organisation	Samaritans (Ireland)



Short Description (Around 300 characters)	24/7 emotional support for anyone in distress; phone support via 116 123 and additional contact options online.
Country	Ireland
Mail	jo@samaritas.org
Phone	116 123
Website	https://www.samaritans.org/?currency=EUR
Address	Samaritans, 4-5 Usher's Court, Usher's Quay, Dublin 8
Name of the organisation	Rotunda Hospital — Rotunda Fertility Centre (Dublin)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Hospital-based fertility centre providing fertility assessment and treatment services within the Rotunda Hospital setting.
Country	Ireland
Mail	apptscheduling@rotunda.ie , midwife@rotunda.ie , privateclinic@rotunda.ie
Phone	01 817 1700
Website	https://rotunda.ie/
Address	The Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Square, Dublin 1, DO1 P5W9