

Working together to make a positive difference...

1. For you, what does it mean to be an 'active citizen'?

2. Do some people feel excluded from active citizenship and why?

What does it mean to be a citizen in today's Ireland?

3. Do you feel strongly part of a community – location, parish, sports association, language/cultural group, trade union or corporate interest etc?

4. Do you believe that with other people in the area where you live you can make a difference to the quality of life of people around you?

5. How can active citizenship help to include newcomers in a changing Ireland?

What barriers are there to 'active citizenship'?

6. From your experience, is there less volunteering and civic engagement than in the past? What do you think are the main reasons for this?

7. How do you think people could be encouraged and supported to be more active citizens?

Young People

8. How could we further develop a sense of active citizenship amongst young people in Ireland?

The role of schools and other centres of learning

9. What role can education play in promoting active citizenship and how?

Voter Participation

10. What steps do you think can be taken to promote greater participation in elections and other forms of civic engagement?

Older People

11. How do you think older people can be encouraged and supported to participate more actively in community and society?

Media

12. What role can the media, including the internet and other new technologies, play in promoting active citizenship?

Corporate Citizenship

13. What role can the corporate sector (including public sector organisations) play in promoting active citizenship? How can this be encouraged and supported?

Communities

14. What types of support do communities require to increase levels of participation and involvement?
15. How can communities be encouraged to identify the unique strengths and skills of their own members and to draw upon them for their own benefit?
16. How can Government – including Local Government – work more effectively with communities to help them organise effectively?

The Experience of Community and Voluntary Organisations...

17. What are the main challenges in establishing and running a community or voluntary organisation in Ireland today?
18. Does your organisation, or do organisations in your sector, find it harder to recruit and keep volunteers than in the past? If so, why and how can this trend be reversed?
19. How can the State support and encourage community and voluntary organisations?