



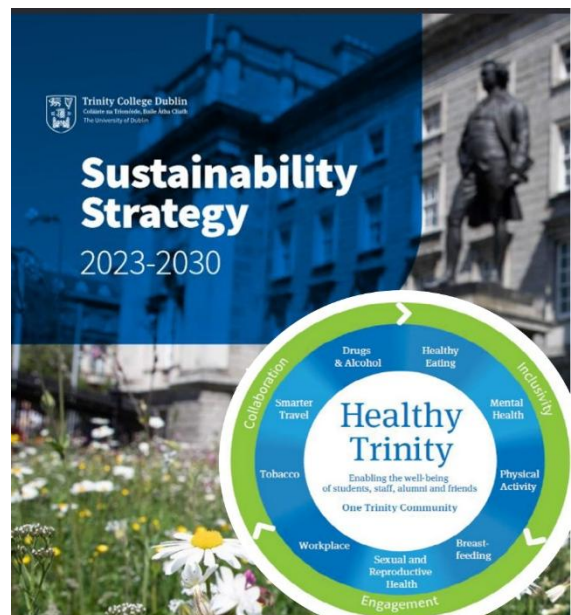
Healthy Trinity response to the Healthy Ireland Framework Public Consultation

22nd April 2026

Healthy Ireland in Trinity

Trinity established [Healthy Trinity](#) in 2014, in response to the publication of the Healthy Ireland Framework in 2013. Healthy Ireland has been a valuable framework for enabling academic, professional and student partners in Trinity to make the case for Trinity embedding health in all aspects of the university.

Trinity has been a HEA Healthy Campus since 2021 and Healthy Trinity 2030 is one of three key targets in Trinity's Sustainability Strategy. With [twelve working groups](#), direct reporting lines to Trinity's Board, a [leading and innovative implementation structure](#) and over 100 partners across the university, Healthy Trinity is a thriving, engaged community of academic, professional and student partners empowered and acting on Healthy Ireland in Trinity and beyond.



Trinity thanks colleagues in the Dept of Health for their work on Healthy Ireland and would welcome if the next phase of Healthy Ireland could incorporate the following.

Co-benefits for Health, Biodiversity and Climate

Healthy Trinity 2030 is one of three targets in Trinity's Sustainability Strategy, and aims to tackle the climate and biodiversity challenges through actions in our educational programmes, our research and innovation, and our day-to-day operations, both within Trinity and in partnership with external collaborators and communities. Recognising that healthy people require a healthy biosphere and that climate and biodiversity actions are public health interventions, could the next phase of Healthy Ireland focus on interventions with co-benefits across all three areas such as:

Nature and health: All human systems are built on healthy ecosystems. The [wedding cake model](#) of the UN Sustainable Development Goals illustrates this dependence. If the bottom tier of the cake collapses, everything, including health collapses. Although the One Health framework makes the link between healthy people and healthy environments explicit, the foundational importance of healthy ecosystems isn't prioritised in that model. Trinity suggests there is an opportunity for the next phase of Healthy Ireland to prioritise nature and health in a way that other national health frameworks do not. Actions on nature and health taken by Healthy Trinity to date under Trinity Sustainability have received very high engagement e.g. [Trinity Beo](#), [Burkitt Orchard Planting](#), [Land Food Health](#) events.

Sustainable Campuses and Healthy Campuses: Healthy Trinity has greatly benefitted from being included as one of three targets in Trinity's Sustainability Strategy. Trinity would like the next phase of Healthy Ireland to strengthen the links between healthy and sustainable campus initiatives.

Public Food Systems Living Labs: Trinity would like Healthy Ireland to enable cross-governmental action in universities, hospitals and schools to become test beds that experiment and study how food systems can become agroecological, local and community-supported. We have developed a Sustainable and Healthy Food Plan 2026-2030 (approvals in process) with that aim and would welcome the opportunity to work with Healthy Ireland when it is published in June.

Farming is Medicine research funding: Trinity would like Healthy Ireland to lobby for research funding streams that enables farmers, chefs and healthcare workers to support each other to transform public food (i.e. food in universities, hospitals, schools etc.) to community supported agriculture, short food supply chains, regenerative agro-ecology. Trinity's work to date on this emerging field of research and action is [here](#).

From the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion to the Limerick Framework for Action

2026 is the 40-year anniversary of the [Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion \(1986\)](#) and in 2025 Trinity was part of the global healthy campuses network that co-wrote the [Limerick Framework for Action](#), a roadmap for collective implementation of health promotion efforts across the whole higher education system. Trinity would like the next phase of Healthy Ireland to continue to support the health promotion movement started in 1986 by including:

Upstream health action: Responding to [Antonovsky's](#) founding philosophy for health promotion, Trinity would like the next phase of Healthy Ireland to focus on upstream policy and regulation that supports a salutogenic interpretation of health, rather than downstream interventions putting the responsibility for health on individuals.

Mental Health and Sense of Coherence (SoC): Trinity would like (SoC), a core concept in the salutogenic model of health, to be considered in the next phase of Healthy Ireland. SoC refers to a global orientation where life is understood as more or less comprehensible, meaningful, and manageable. A strong SoC helps individuals to mobilise resources to cope with stressors and manage tension (Moksnes, [2021](#)). Specifically, we suggest lack of effective action on the biodiversity, climate and health crises be explicitly addressed through education and research on conflicts of interests as a means of strengthening SoC amongst young people to promote mental health.

Wellbeing Framework and Healthy Ireland Data Capture

Data collection: The Healthy Ireland surveys have been very valuable to Trinity, particularly the accessible infographics and summaries. Trinity has used Healthy Ireland survey questions in Trinity for tobacco, food, alcohol and other topics, an approach that has allowed Trinity to compare our population to the national population and publish multiple datasets and papers. In 2026, Healthy Trinity embedded Healthy Ireland questions in broader questions aligned to the

government's [wellbeing framework](#). Could future Healthy Ireland surveys be broader in scope and aligned to other government measures like wellbeing framework?

Commercial Determinants of Health

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: Trinity's [Commercial Determinants of Health Lab](#) would like the next phase of Healthy Ireland to consider how the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control could be extended to other harmful industries such as the ultra-processed foods and alcohol industries. Specifically, 5.3 of the Framework Convention states that "In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law."

Public health alcohol bill: Healthy Trinity supported Alcohol Action Ireland's advocacy campaign to bring forward Ireland's alcohol health information labelling legislation and would like to see that legislation brought forward as a matter of urgency.

Public procurement: Public institutions (schools and universities, government departments, the justice system, hospitals, libraries) spend €2.5 trillion on the provision of goods and services in the EU. At around 15% of all spending in EU, public institutions are one of the largest consumers in Europe (Public Procurement Database, Europe 2025). Could the next phase of Healthy Ireland include a vision for legal and governance changes to unlock public procurement as a lever for health? More details can be found in [our submission to the EU Presidency on public procurement](#).

Implementation: Moving from commitment to delivery

While Healthy Ireland has provided a strong strategic vision, its impact has varied across sectors and settings due to differences in implementation capacity, governance, and resourcing. From Healthy Trinity's experience as a whole-university implementation model, the next phase of Healthy Ireland would benefit from a stronger and more explicit focus on implementation as a core policy priority.

Implementation should be understood as a structured, evidence-informed process that supports the translation of national policy into local action. This includes clarity on roles and responsibilities across government departments and delivery partners, dedicated implementation supports (e.g. training, guidance, and communities of practice), and alignment with existing systems such as Sláintecare, HEA frameworks, and local authority structures.

Healthy Trinity's model demonstrates the value of formal governance structures, cross-sector partnerships, and embedded leadership in enabling sustained implementation. The next phase of Healthy Ireland could build on this by:

- Supporting settings-based implementation models (e.g. campuses, schools, communities) as key delivery vehicles
- Investing in implementation capacity across sectors, including workforce development
- Embedding implementation frameworks and tools to guide planning, adaptation and scale-up

Strengthening implementation will ensure that Healthy Ireland moves beyond strategic intent to consistent, system-wide delivery and impact.

Healthy Trinity Topic Priorities

Sport and Physical Activity: Trinity would like to see the next phase of Healthy Ireland prioritise opportunities to compete and/or participate in sport as a means of engaging young people in health promoting behaviour whilst avoiding behaviours that harm people and the planet. For Trinity, Sport is a key institutional priority and by 2030 Trinity will implement a hugely ambitious sports transformation project that will enhance the governance, management, and financing of sport. A similar prioritisation of sport and physical activity in the next phase of Healthy Ireland would support our work.

Tobacco: Healthy Trinity supports tobacco 21 and is grateful for Ireland's leadership on it and other tobacco actions. We would like to see similar leadership and action on novel nicotine products. Our [Tobacco Free Trinity Living Lab](#) has affected a 79% reduction in observed smoking since 2016 but we're observing [increased vaping on campus](#). We have recently become [a vape free campus](#). We have made recent submissions on tobacco and nicotine to the [consultation on the Review of Tobacco Free Ireland](#) and [Ireland's tobacco leadership to the EU Presidency consultation](#).

Alcohol: Healthy Trinity supported Alcohol Action Ireland's advocacy campaign to bring forward Ireland's alcohol health information labelling legislation and would like to see that legislation brought forward as a matter of urgency.

Drugs: Trinity supports the National Drugs Strategy 2026-2029 and is currently working with UCC to introduce eShield on campus.

Sexual and Reproductive Health: The National Condom Distribution service, HSE Free Contraception scheme and SH: 24 Home STI services are very successful in Trinity. Similar leadership on PReP would be welcome.

Public and active travel: Trinity has been an NTA Smarter Travel Campus since 2011. Trinity would like to see strengthened links to it in the next phase of Healthy Ireland. Trinity has made [over 15 submissions](#) to public consultations on travel and health since 2018. Could the next phase of Healthy Ireland support more public and active travel to the benefit of health, biodiversity and climate?

Workplace: Trinity is grateful for Healthy Ireland's National Framework for Healthy Workplaces in Ireland and will continue to work within it. Healthy Trinity incorporates health across the lifecourse including menopause and would welcome national guidance on menopause in workplaces.

Breastfeeding: Trinity has worked in partnership with La Leche League for over ten years. Breastfeeding is a no-brainer for biodiversity, climate and health. We will gladly and enthusiastically support any action, but especially upstream action, that supports mothers to breastfeed children.

Monitoring and evaluation: Strengthening accountability and learning

Healthy Ireland has made important progress in population-level data collection through its national surveys. There is an opportunity in the next phase to allocate funding to monitoring and evaluation as a vital mechanism for public trust-building, learning, and continuous improvement.

From Healthy Trinity's perspective, effective monitoring and evaluation could extend beyond population health outcomes to include indicators of implementation, reach, equity, and sustainability. This would allow for a more nuanced understanding of what is working, for whom, and in what contexts.

The next phase of Healthy Ireland could consider:

- Developing a core set of implementation and equity indicators aligned with the Wellbeing Framework and Sláintecare
- Supporting local data collection and feedback loops within settings (e.g. universities, schools, communities)
- Enabling data linkage across sectors to better understand the interaction between health, education, environment, and social systems
- Creating mechanisms for shared learning, including dissemination of case studies and best practice (e.g. Healthy Trinity as a living implementation example)

Importantly, monitoring and evaluation should be positioned not only as a reporting requirement, but as a strategic tool to support adaptive implementation, policy learning, and long-term system change.

Governance and Oversight: Enabling strategic direction and accountability

A key strength of earlier phases of Healthy Ireland was the presence of a national oversight structure that brought together cross-sectoral expertise to guide implementation, monitor progress, and maintain strategic coherence. From Healthy Trinity's perspective, reinstating and strengthening such an oversight mechanism will be critical to the success of the next phase.

Effective oversight provides more than governance; it signals national commitment, supports accountability, and enables coordination across complex systems. In the context of Healthy Ireland, this is particularly important given the cross-governmental nature of the framework, spanning health, education, environment, transport, and agriculture.

The next phase of Healthy Ireland would benefit from a formal, well-resourced oversight committee with:

- Representation across key sectors, including higher education, local government, health services, and community stakeholders
- Clear terms of reference linked to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and policy alignment
- A mandate to review progress, identify barriers, and support adaptive responses

- Strong links to existing national frameworks, including Sláintecare and the Wellbeing Framework

Healthy Trinity's experience demonstrates that structured oversight—combined with distributed leadership and clear reporting lines—enables sustained engagement and delivery across large, complex organisations. A national oversight committee could play a similar role in ensuring coherence, maintaining momentum, and supporting shared accountability across the Healthy Ireland system.

Signed by

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