

DDCI /Financial Justice Ireland
Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Theory of change:

What is our vision?

DDCI believes that in order to bring about a world free from poverty and inequality we first need a just and sustainable financial system.

Our vision of a just and sustainable financial system means:

- the rules that govern the financial system are fair, transparent and accountable to the needs of community and planet.
- the needs of people are central.
- regulation strengthens, rather than weakens, democratic accountability.
- Countries are able to access and manage financial resources to enable them to meet the needs of their people.
- All countries have meaningful ability to determine the financial rules affecting them.

How can it be achieved?

To achieve, and preserve, a fair and sustainable financial system will require the action of informed citizens and governments.

Citizens must feel confident in their understanding of how the financial system works, and what alternatives exist. They must have the knowledge and skills to take action that will allow them to influence the shape of the financial system. They must be able to hold decision-makers to account about the ways the financial system affects their lives, and the lives of people throughout the world.

Governments and politicians must have the knowledge and the mandate to advocate for and implement necessary policy change at both national and international level.

An international movement of people acting in solidarity must build the global consensus necessary to bring about a more just and sustainable financial regime.

What is our role?

As an Irish-based organisation, DDCI focuses our work on Irish citizens and decision-makers, while continuing to work in solidarity and collaboration with global partners.

We seek to raise public awareness of the connection between the local and global effects of the financial system through supporting Irish citizens to link the effects that this system has in exacerbating inequality in Ireland with its impacts in the global south.

We provide critical education to build engagement and understanding among Irish citizens, challenge existing policy using evidence-based research, and promote sustainable, people-centred alternatives.

In particular, for the period of this strategic plan, DDCI will focus on what have in recent years been our core issues, namely sovereign debt, taxation and the role of the international financial system. We will also develop work in related areas including: the growing role of private finance in the public sector; the growth of public private partnership in the global south; the increasing global presence of vulture funds; and the links between the financial system and wider issues of global inequality including climate justice and gender equality.

What will we do?

Over the period of this strategic plan, DDCI will focus our work on the following areas.

Action Area 1: DDCI will produce high quality research to develop our evidence base and support our policy positions

We will produce briefing papers and reports on key areas in line with our mandate and areas of focus.

Our research will provide high quality evidence in order to inform interested members of the public, drive public debate, and influence individuals and policy makers.

What will success look like?

DDCI produces high quality research that provides a perspective on financial justice issues that is otherwise missing from debate in Ireland. This research supports public debate on these issues, and influences individuals and policy makers.

What will we measure?

Mentions of our research outputs in the media;
Mentions in Dail debates/by parliamentarians;
Mentions and impressions on social media;
Amount that conclusions of our research are reflected in the media and by influencers;
Traffic on DDCI website.

Action Area 2: DDCI will engage with and influence policy makers and processes to bring about change

We will lobby parliamentarians, make submissions to public consultations on issues of relevance, and engage policymakers through our public campaigns.

What will success look like?

DDCI communicates a critical perspective on financial justice issues to parliamentarians who have increased awareness of the justice component of these issues and take positive action as a result

What will we measure?

Number of meetings with parliamentarians and advisers

Number of appearances at Dail committees

Number of submissions made to public consultations

Number of quotes by parliamentarians referencing our work and issues

Number of Parliamentary Questions asked in connection with our activities

Policy changes

Action Area 3: DDCI will engage in and facilitate activism and campaigning to support our policy work

DDCI will work with coalitions, civil society organisations, and grassroots movements to build a movement of people campaigning together for financial justice in Ireland and the global south. We will build capacity for activism on financial justice issues and create opportunities for our members to engage in actions to call for financial justice and bring about policy change.

What will success look like?

There is increased capacity for activism on financial issues in Ireland. DDCI has a more active and mobilised membership base who know how to take action to bring about change.

What will we measure?

Number of campaigning actions taken with members

Number of joint meetings/actions taken with other groups.

Number of online engagements with DDCI campaigning communications

Number of public campaigning actions initiated and turnout where relevant

Number of supporter meetings held

Number of media mentions connected with campaigning activities

Action area 4: DDCI will deliver and facilitate global citizenship education in the adult and community sector.

DDCI will work with interested adults in communities across Ireland to build their knowledge of and engagement with financial justice issues, and to build their capacity to take action to bring about change. We will provide high quality and accessible workshops and public events which will demystify complex issues.

What will success look like?

A greater number of adults in Ireland understand financial justice issues, their link to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the connection between local and global issues of inequality. Adults who have engaged with our trainings know what kind of actions they can take to bring about change.

What will we measure:

Number of individuals reached.

Number of individuals who report greater knowledge on relevant issues following training.

Number of individuals who have indicated they are more likely to take action.

Number of individuals who get more actively engaged with DDCI.

Objective 5: DDCI will work with the formal education sector at second and third level to incorporate critical financial education in the curriculum and co-curricular activities.

DDCI will work with teachers and produce and promote curriculum-focused resources so that teachers can in turn equip second level students to understand, challenge and engage with financial justice. DDCI will produce educational materials that can be used in the classroom at second level. DDCI will work with students, student groups and institutions at third level to deepen understanding of financial justice issues.

What success looks like:

Teachers in Ireland feel confident embedding financial justice issues in their teaching. Students are informed about and empowered to take action in relation to financial justice issues at both local and global levels. DDCI has established and sustainable relationships with educational institutions and student organisations across the third level sector.

What will we measure?

Number of curriculum-specific resources produced.

Number of training sessions provided to teachers and trainee teachers.

Use of DDCI educational materials by teachers.

Number of training sessions provided to students and student groups.

Number of educational institutions with established relationships.