



IRELAND

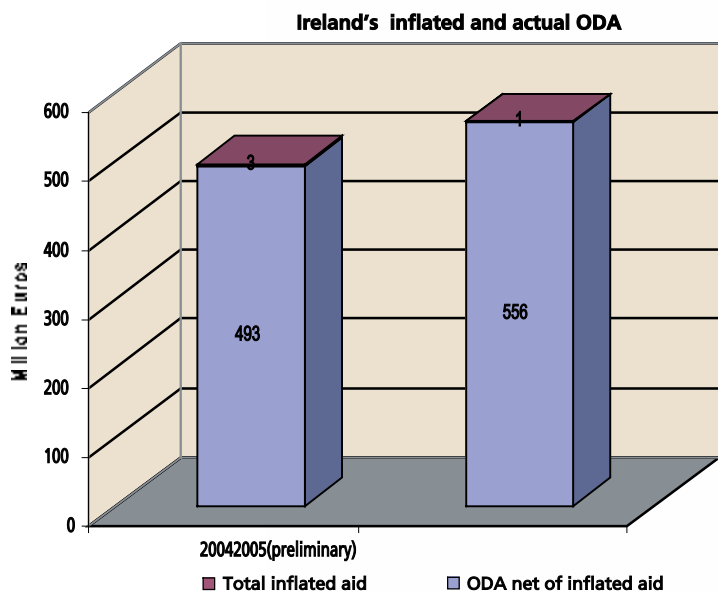
Will Ireland meet its minimum EU aid target by 2006 without inflating its aid?

NGO Prediction : YES

According to the latest OECD figures Ireland exceeds the EU 2006 minimum aid target, registering 0.41% ODA/GNI in 2005. Only €1.5 million of Irish ODA in 2005 was inflated aid, according to our calculations, making it one of the best European countries when it comes to not inflating its ODA figures. Once the inflated aid is removed, Ireland still remains comfortably above the EU target.

Irish NGOs are pleased that their Government has met the EU minimum target ahead of schedule with genuine aid. However, they urge their Government to continue to increase their genuine aid levels in line with their own national timetable: 0.5% by 2007, 0.6% by 2010 and 0.7% by 2012.

If we draw on Irish official aid trends over the last four years, 700 thousand euros of Irish ODA in 2005 went towards expenditure related to accommodating refugees in Ireland and a further 700 thousand was spent on educating foreign students in Ireland.



Source: OECD (2006); OECD (2005)

Irish NGOs are asking their Government to:

- Keep its promise to spend 0.7% of national income annually on overseas aid by the year 2012, at the latest.
- Introduce legislation to ensure that future Governments abide by this timetable.
- All debt cancellation must be additional to Ireland's contribution toward meeting their obligation of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid.

Further information:

www.budget.gov.ie/2006/downloads/StabilityProgramme.pdf
www.irishaid.gov.ie/latest_news.asp?article=678
www.dci.gov.ie/latest_news.asp?article=618