An Ghaeltacht

Údarás na Gaeltachta

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Úsáidtear an téarma 'Gaeltacht' chun na ceantair sin in Éirinn ina bhfuil, nó ina mbíodh go dtí le gairid, an Ghaeilge mar theanga an phobail. Tá ceantair fhairsinge Ghaeltachta i gcontaetha Dhún na nGall, Mhaigh Eo, na Gaillimhe agus Chiarraí agus pobail níos lú i gcontaetha Phort Láirge, Chorcaí agus na Mí. Is oileáin Ghaeltachta iad sé cinn de na hoileáin a bhfuil cónaí orthu.

Tá na ceantair Ghaeltachta sainithe ag ordú Rialtais agus tá sé aitheanta ag rialtais i ndiaidh a chéile go bhfuil gá le bearta, struchtúir agus maoiniú ar leith chun caomhnú na bpobal seo a chinntiú. Is í an ghníomhaireacht forbartha stáit, Údarás na Gaeltachta, agus An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta na léirithe is inaitheanta de pholasaí poiblí i leith na Gaeltachta ó thaobh Riaracháin Poiblí de.

De réir daonáirimh 2006, is é daonra iomlán na gceantar agus na n-oileán Gaeltachta ná 90,000. Tá thart ar 12,000 den daonra seo ina gcónaí laistigh de bhruachbhailte nua chathair na Gaillimhe. Tá an Ghaeilge, atá á labhairt in Éirinn ón tríú céad RC agus á scríobh ón naoú céad, ar cheann de na teangacha is sine san Eoraip. Bhí bunús Ceilteach leis an teanga, agus tá colceathracha teangeolaíochta aici sa Bhreatain Bheag, in Albain, i gCorn na Breataine, sa Bhriotáin agus ar Oileán Mhanainn.

Cuidíonn an Ghaeilge mar theanga pobail sa Ghaeltacht ní hamháin leis na sainghnéithe luachmhara de thraidisiún agus de chultúr a bheadh imithe murach sin, ach tá sí mar chuid dílis agus inspioráideach den sprioc náisiúnta sochaí dátheangach a bhaint amach.

The Gaeltacht

The term 'Gaeltacht' is used to denote those areas in Ireland where the Irish language is, or was until the recent past, the communal language of the local population through historical transmission. There are extensive Gaeltacht areas in counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Kerry and smaller communities in counties Waterford, Cork and Meath. The Meath Gaeltacht, thirty miles from Dublin, is an Irish-speaking colony established by the Government in the 1930's. There are also six populated offshore Gaeltacht islands.
The Gaeltacht areas are defined by Government order and every successive government has recognised the need for specific measures, structures and funding to ensure the maintenance of these communities. The regional development agency, Údarás na Gaeltachta, and the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs are the most publicly identifiable expressions of public policy towards the Gaeltacht in terms of Public Administration.

The total population of the Gaeltacht areas and islands after the 2006 Census of Population was 90,000. About 12,000 of this population reside within the expanding suburbs of Galway City. Irish is one of the oldest languages of Europe, spoken on the island from perhaps the third century BC and having a written tradition dating back to the 9th century. The language was Celtic in origin, and has linguistic cousins in Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Brittany and the Isle of Man. The continuance of Irish as a communal language in the Gaeltacht not only helps to preserve valuable aspects of a distinctive tradition and culture that otherwise would be lost to the Irish nation but also forms an integral and inspirational element of the national objective of achieving a bilingual society in Ireland.

Struchtúir Thacaíochta Achoimre

Is í an Ghaeilge céad teanga oifigiúil an stáit de réir an Bhunreachta. Tá sí mar pháirt riachtanach den chóras oideachais ag leibhéal bunscoile agus meánscoile.

Bunaíodh Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, atá lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht, in 2003 chun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm fhorálacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Is í An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta an roinn rialtais atá freagrach as polasaí Gaeilge agus as na gníomhaireachtaí atá ainmnithe le bheith freagrach as forbairt na teanga agus na Gaeltachta.

Freastalaíonn seirbhís raidió Gaeilge, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, a chraolann ar bhonn náisiúnta agus atá le fáil go hidirnáisiúnta ar an idirlíon, go speisialta ar an nGaeltacht. Tá ceannáras TG4, an tseirbhís teilifíse Gaeilge, lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht.

Oibríonn Údarás na Gaeltachta i gcomhpháirtíocht le hOllscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, ag a bhfuil trí ionad for-rochtana ag feidhmiú sa Ghaeltacht faoi choimirce Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge agus atá ag tairiscint raon leathan cúrsaí creidiúnaithe.

Support Structures Overview

Irish is the first official language of the Irish State according to the Constitution. It is a mandatory part of the education system at primary and post-primary levels. The Office of the Language Commissioner, which is based in the Gaeltacht, was established in 2003 to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the Official Languages Act.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is the government department with overall responsibility for Irish language policy and for the designated agencies responsible for Irish language and Gaeltacht development.

The Gaeltacht is served by a dedicated Irish language radio service, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, which broadcasts nationally and is available internationally on the worldwide web. The national dedicated Irish-language service, TG4, is based in the Gaeltacht.

The organisation also works in partnership with the National University of Ireland, Galway which has three outreach centres operating in the Gaeltacht under the aegis of a body called Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge and offering a wide choice of accredited courses.

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Is é Údarás na Gaeltachta, a bunaíodh i 1980, an t-údarás forbartha réigiúnach atá maoinithe ag an Rialtas chun forbairt eacnamaíochta, shóisialta agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta a chur chun cinn. Tá sé mar mhóraidhm aige an Ghaeilge a chothú mar theanga phobail an réigiúin. Chun an aidhm seo a bhaint amach maoiníonn an tÚdarás réimse leathan tionscnamh straitéiseacha teanga, cultúrtha, pobail agus forbairt fiontair.

Tá fiche comhalta ar bhord an Údaráis, seacht nduine dhéag acu tofa go daonlathach ag toghthóirí na Gaeltachta i dtoghchán a bhíonn ar siúl gach cúig bhliana, agus an triúr eile, an cathaoirleach san áireamh, ainmnithe ag an Rialtas ar mholadh ón Aire. Tá foireann de 113 agus gréasán d'oifigí réigiúnacha sna Gaeltachtaí éagsúla aige chun dualgais reachtúla an Údaráis a chur i bhfeidhm.

Tá clár forbartha eacnamaíochta an Údaráis ríthábhachtach sa mhéid is gur trí chothú gnóthaí nua agus gnóthaí atá ann cheana féin, forbairt infreastruchtúr nua-aimseartha gnó, forbairt agus cur chun cinn an bhonn scileanna agus mealladh infheistíochta a leagann an bhunchloch do chruthú pobail inbhuanaithe agus roghanna slí mhaireachtála. Tá dúshlán ar leith anseo ag baint leis na ceantair atá scoite amach agus na hoileáin eischósta.

Tá thart ar 8,000 duine fostaithe go lánaimseartha agus os cionn 4,000 go páirtaimseartha nó go séasúrach i gcliant-thionscadail a fuair tacaíocht airgeadais ó Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Established in 1980, Údarás na Gaeltachta is the regional development authority funded by the Government to promote the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht with the overall objective of maintaining Irish as the main communal language of the region. It endeavours to achieve that objective by funding a wide range of strategic language, cultural, community and enterprise promotion and development initiatives.

The Authority has a 20 member board, 17 of whom are democratically elected by the Gaeltacht electorate at elections held every five years, the other three, including the chairperson, being appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Minister. The organisation has a staff complement of 113 people and a network of regional offices throughout the Gaeltacht to implement its statutory brief.

It's economic development programme is critical in that nurturing new and existing businesses, developing modern business infrastructure, developing and enhancing the skills base and attracting inward investment form the foundation-stone for creating sustainable communities and lifestyle choices. The more remote areas and the offshore islands present a particular challenge in this regard.

There are approximately 8,000 people employed fulltime and in excess of 4,000 part-time or seasonal in enterprises financially assisted by Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Oiliúint

Tá todhchaí eacnamaíochta na Gaeltachta ag brath ar mheascán d'infheistíochtaí seachtracha agus smaointe agus tionscnaimh ó fhiontraithe an réigiúin. Spreagann an tÚdarás infheistíocht nua trí réimse de dhreasachtaí flaithiúla, idir airgeadas agus neamhairgeadas, a thairiscint i gcomhair fiontair nua agus trí thacaíocht agus cúnamh a chur ar fáil do ghnólachtaí atá ann cheana.

Tacaíonn an eagraíocht le gnólachtaí chun margaí nua a fhorbairt, agus chun teicneolaíocht, táirgí agus ceangail straitéiseacha a aimsiú trí thaighde agus forbairt. Clúdaíonn na comhlachtaí a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó Údarás na Gaeltachta réimse d'earnálacha tráchtála, macasamhail ceardaíocht, turasóireacht, próiseáil éisc agus uisceshaothrú, fuinneamh inathnuaite, bia, earraí cógaisíochta, teicneolaíocht an eolais, déantúsaíocht, áiseanna clósamhairc, na meáin dhitigeacha agus na healaíona.

Tá forbairt scileanna agus saineolais an phobail go ginearálta ríthábhachtach. Spreagann sé pobal na Gaeltachta i dtreo féinfhorbartha agus foghlama fadsaoil, ag cur ar a gcumas scileanna a fhoghlaim atá indíolta i dtimpeallacht eacnamaíochta de shórt ar bith. Ofrálann an tÚdarás clár leathan oiliúna agus oideachais do dhaoine aonaracha agus do chuideachtaí atá ag lorg traenála i ngnónna ar leith.

Economic development and training

The economic future of the Gaeltacht is dependent on a healthy mixture of external investment and the ideas and initiative of entrepreneurs in the region. An tÚdarás encourages new investment through a range of generous financial and non-financial incentives for new enterprises and through support and assistance for existing businesses.

The organisation supports businesses in developing new markets, technologies, products and strategic alliances through research and development. Gaeltacht companies span a range of commercial sectors, including tourism, fish processing and aquaculture, renewable energy, food, pharmaceuticals, information technology, manufacturing, audiovisual crafts, digital media and the arts.

Of paramount importance is the development of the skills and expertise of the general population, encouraging people towards self-development and lifelong learning, whereby they can gain skills that will be marketable in any economic environment. An tÚdarás offers extensive programmes of training and education for both individuals and companies seeking to extend their training portfolios.

Gníomhaíochtaí sóisialta agus pobail

Tá páirt ghníomhach ag muintir na Gaeltachta i bhforbairt eacnamaíochta, shóisialta agus chultúrtha a gceantair, go mórmhór trí ghrúpaí eagraithe ar nós comharchumainn pobail agus cuideachtaí pobalbhunaithe. Gníomhaíonn an tÚdarás mar éascaitheoir do na grúpaí seo trí comhairle, cúnamh agus tacaíocht airgeadais a chur ar fáil a chuidíonn leis na grúpaí seo a bheith ina n-acmhainní láidre réamhghníomhacha ina bpobail féin. Comhoibríonn an tÚdarás go dlúth le grúpaí pobail ar mhaithe le scéimeanna fostaíochta pobail a riar, tacú le clubanna óige agus le grúpaí réamhscolaíochta, agus le feabhsú an infreastruchtúr shóisialta trí ghníomhaíochtaí ar nós cúnamh a chur ar fáil don aosach agus dóibh sin atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste.

Social and community activities

The people of the Gaeltacht play an active role in the economic, social and cultural development of their communities, largely through well-established groups such as community cooperatives and community development companies. An tÚdarás provides funding for these and provides the advice, assistance and financial support that help these community groups become strong and proactive structures which can deliver local services, promote local development initiatives, and in many instances manage and administer community or state assets such as enterprise centres. An tÚdarás works in close partnership with community groups to administer social employment schemes, manage youth clubs and pre-school groups and enhance the social infrastructure through activities such as the provision of assistance for the elderly and the disadvantaged.

Gníomhaíochtaí teanga agus cultúrtha

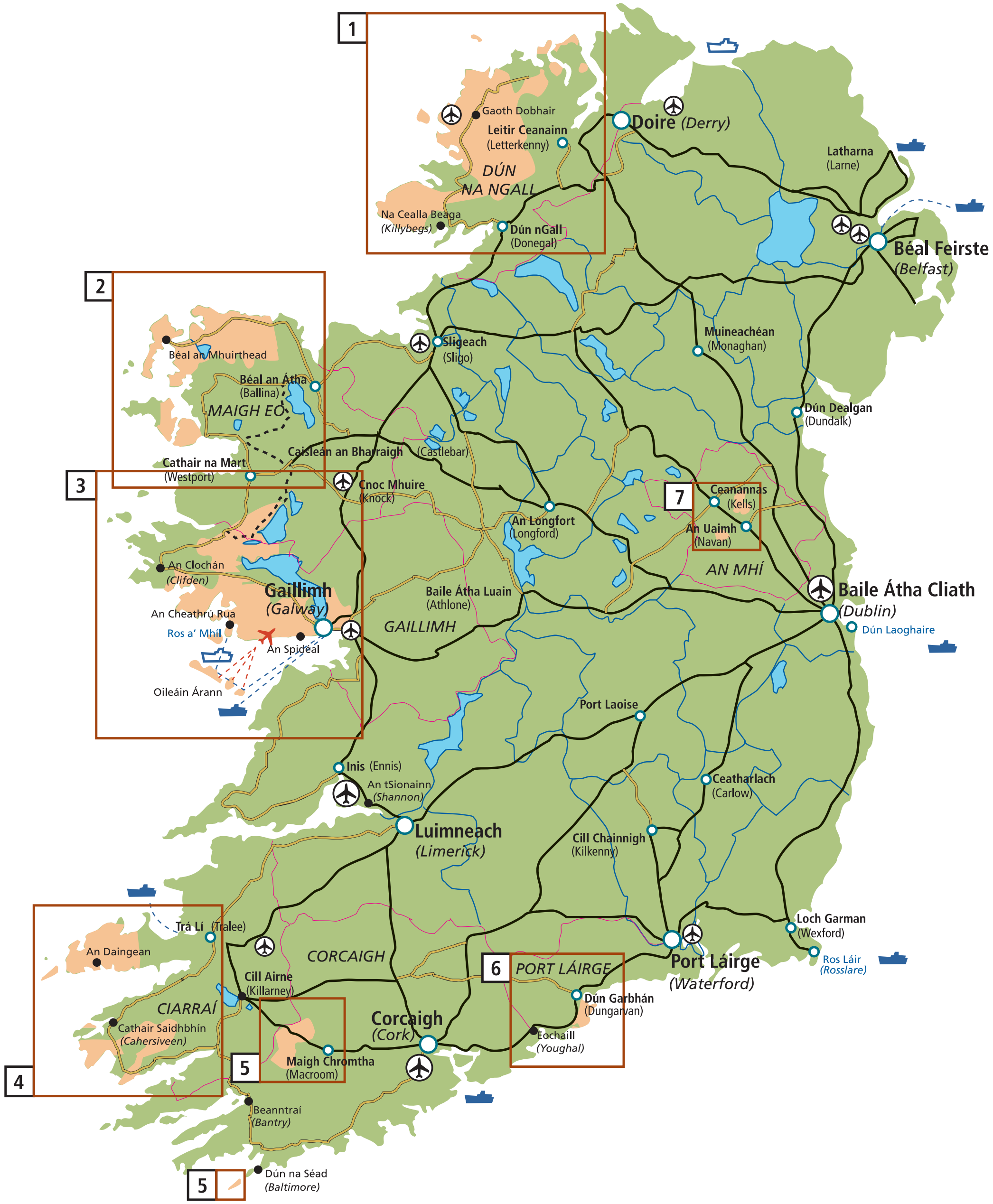
Is é caomhnú agus láidriú na Gaeilge mar theanga bheo, le cois í a thabhairt ar aghaidh mar oidhreacht don chéad ghlúin eile, an bunchuspóir atá le polasaí Údarás na Gaeltachta. Tá sprioc chothabhála agus forbartha teanga lárnach i ngach uile ghníomh de chuid na heagraíochta. Tá an tÚdarás ag iarraidh na pobail láidre Ghaeltachta a chosaint agus a neartú, chomh maith le modhanna cruthaitheacha a aimsiú chun an Ghaeilge a athbheochan mar dhara teanga láidir i gceantair ina dtáinig meath uirthi. Cuireann an eagraíocht tacaíocht agus cuidiú ar fáil do roinnt gníomhaíochtaí croíláir teanga ar a n-áirítear iad seo a leanas:

- Scátheagras réamhscoileanna (naíonraí) trí Ghaeilge
- Tacaíocht do sholáthar cúrsaí tríú leibhéal trí Ghaeilge
- Tionscnaimh do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge san ionad oibre
- Lárionaid Foghlama Teanga
- Eagraíocht óige Ghaeltachta

Language and cultural activities

The preservation and strengthening of Irish as a living language in the Gaeltacht and its transmission to the next generation forms the basis of Údarás na Gaeltachta's policy. All of the organisation's activities have at their core language maintenance and development objectives.
An tÚdarás seeks to protect and invigorate the stronger Irish-speaking communities as well as finding creative ways to revive Irish to strong second-language status in Gaeltacht areas where it has weakened. The organisation supports a number of core language activities, including:

- Irish-language pre-school structure
- Third-level courses through Irish
- Initiatives to promote Irish in the workplace
- Community-based language learning centres
- A Gaeltacht youth organisation

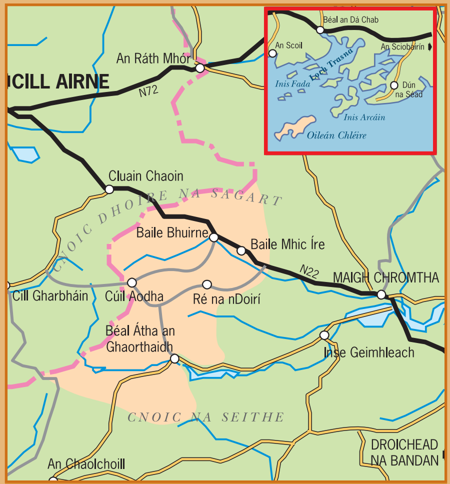


1. Dún Na NGall

2. Maigh Eo

3. Gaillimh

4. Ciarraí



5. Corcaigh

6. Port Láirge

7. An Mhí

Eochair

- Gaeltachtaí
- Príomh Bhealaí Náisiúnta
- Fobhóithre/Bealaí Eile
- Bealaí Treasach
- Teorainn Chontae
- Teorainn Contaetha Gaeltachta
- Aibhneacha
- Aerfoirt Idirnáisiúnta
- Aerfoirt Réigiúnacha/Aerstráice
- Calafort Trádálach/ Báid Farantóireachta Ghluaisteán
- Báid Farantóireachta Phaisinéirí

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Déan teagmháil le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta

I gcomhair tuilleadh eolais ar aon ghné de chuid oibre Údarás na Gaeltachta, nó eolas faoin dóigh le tacaíocht a fháil do do ghnó, téigh i dteagmháil linn, le do thoil, nó tabhair cuairt ar ár suíomh gréasáin.

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