



Údarás na  
Gaeltachta



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Údarás na Gaeltachta was established to strengthen Irish as the language of the Gaeltacht community through the promotion and development of employment, social and cultural affairs.



# Contents

## Who We Are 4-11

Chairperson's Foreword	5
Chief Executive's Foreword	6
What is the Gaeltacht?	8
What is Údarás na Gaeltachta?	10
Economic Mission	10
Social Mission	11
Cultural Mission	11

## Community Development 12-19

Community Development Organisations	12
Renewable Energy	14
Tourism	15
Social Enterprise	16
Community Employment Schemes	17
Community Enterprise Schemes	19

## Employment 20-39

Food & Drink	22
Manufacturing & Engineering	24
Clothing & Textiles	26
Language Enterprises	28
Medical & Pharmaceutical	30
Marine Sector	32
Audio-visual Sector	36
Arts & Crafts	38

## Property 40-47

Munster	42
Connacht	43
Ulster	43
gteic	44

## Language 48-57

Language Planning	50
#SeoíAnGhaeltacht	52
Irish Language in Business	53
Virtual Events	54
Irish in Client Companies	55
Language Service Centres	57

## Training & Education 58-65

Case Studies	60
Apprenticeships	63
Supports	64

## Subsidiaries & Others 66-69

Muintearas	67
Ealaín na Gaeltachta	68
Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta	69

## Diaspora 70-71

Ireland's Gaeltacht Experience	71
Connection With Scotland	71

## Tourism 72-77

Fanad Lighthouse	74
Uisceadán Dhaingean Uí Chúis	75
Ionad Cois Locha	76
Ionad na Feamainne	77

## Gaeltacht na hÉireann 78-82

The Brand	79
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## Our History 82-88

Establishment	84
Evolution	85
Language	87
Current	88





→ Young boatmen in Conamara going under the bridge in Muiceanach idir Dhá Sháile, the longest placename in Ireland.

## Foreword Chairperson



**Anna Ní Ghallachair**  
Chairperson,  
Údarás na Gaeltachta

On reading the first annual report of Údarás na Gaeltachta, it is clear that, from the start, a strong foundation was established which encompassed a broad range of objectives for the organisation: the provision of employment to ensure native speakers of Irish would have the opportunity to remain at home in the Gaeltacht; supports for community development, for naíonraí and youth clubs; management training programmes reserved for Irish speakers. In her address to the first meeting of the new Board, the Minister for the Gaeltacht, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, T.D., summarised the primary objective of the Údarás: ‘to keep Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht and keep them speaking Irish’. Although it still remains at the heart of the organisation’s work, that objective has evolved significantly over the years, in response to societal and economic changes and indeed changes within the Gaeltacht community itself.

Significant progress has been made in job creation, in community development, in empowering and providing training to the Gaeltacht community, in the development

Significant progress has been made in job creation, in community development, in empowering and providing training to the Gaeltacht community, in the development of the region’s natural resources as well as sustaining and strengthening Irish as the main language of the Gaeltacht community.

of the region’s natural resources as well as sustaining and strengthening Irish as the main language of the Gaeltacht community. Employees in Údarás client companies are working in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, research, the arts, the sciences, healthcare and food & drink, producing high-quality products destined for both national and international markets.

A network of Gaeltacht digital hubs has been established in response to the needs of modern 21st-century work practices. A language planning process is underway throughout the Gaeltacht. Financial and management support are provided to 33 community development organisations. The international dimension of the work of Údarás na Gaeltachta is also of considerable importance, allowing us to learn from best practice in other countries and, in certain circumstances, providing others with the opportunity to learn from us.

It is worth mentioning that sustainability is central to Údarás’s approach in the development of projects harnessing

natural resources, to ensure the Gaeltacht takes a leading role in innovation which affects its people and its environment. Opportunities are identified on an ongoing basis to create long term employment in the Gaeltacht region.

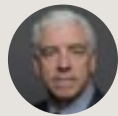
Indeed, the Gaeltacht community itself has changed significantly in the past 40 years. It is a community which enjoys a high standard of education and which benefits from life experience both at home and abroad. In Údarás na Gaeltachta’s Strategy 2021–25, the focus is very much on partnership with our communities and client companies around three key themes: empowerment, reinforcement, sustainability. There will certainly be challenges ahead but I have no doubt that Údarás will meet those challenges, hand in hand with the Gaeltacht community.

Finally, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the women and men who have worked so assiduously over the past forty years as members of staff of Údarás na Gaeltachta and as Board members, for the benefit of the Gaeltacht community, our language and our culture.



The organisation's strategy is now being prepared with the progressive objective of building on the substantial achievements to date, ensuring Ireland's Gaeltacht can thrive on a global scale and is recognised as a pioneering region rooted in the culture, heritage, innovation and creativity of this unique community.

## Foreword Chief Executive



**Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh**  
Chief Executive,  
Údarás na Gaeltachta

When I was a young teenager in 1974 in Roisín na Mainiach, the Gaeltacht Civil Rights Movement organised a march from Carna to Bearna to draw attention to one of their key demands, that a democratic Gaeltacht Authority be established and the Gaeltacht be recognised as a unique region to address significant social and economic issues locally. Those involved in the movement felt the Gaeltacht and its needs were being disregarded and despite being renowned globally as a place of unique culture and language, the young people of the Gaeltacht needed to sustain and strengthen that culture were being swept away to American and English cities.

My parents managed to fulfil the migrant dream and returned home to Conamara with their four children in the late 1960s. Little had changed in terms of the region's social or employment issues and it was normal to see young people from the area at the bottom of the *bóithríní* with their suitcase in hand ready to leave home. Myself and my brother Seán were inspired to take

part in the march on that historic day in 1974. We immediately understood the value of empowering and activating the Gaeltacht community. It is apt, therefore, that my working life began in Údarás na Gaeltachta, the authority established in 1980 to serve the unique needs of the Gaeltacht community.

Of course, the Údarás plays a far broader role today than it did when first established and has seen significant societal changes within the Gaeltacht during that time. As we look to the future, it is worth considering the central role that the Údarás will play in the years ahead. The organisation's strategy is now being prepared with the progressive objective of building on the substantial achievements to date, ensuring Ireland's Gaeltacht can thrive on a global scale and is recognised as a pioneering region rooted in the culture, heritage, innovation and creativity of this unique community.

Since the establishment of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 1980, representatives from various regions in the Gaeltacht have

served on the organisation's board. Some of these were elected by the community and others were appointed by the Minister. They all shared their experience, skills and knowledge of the Gaeltacht as the Údarás's strategy was implemented since 1980. Recognition must also be given to the wide range of people from every part of the country that worked and continue to work with the Údarás. These people served and continue to serve the community in the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht.

As mentioned, the range of activities and responsibilities being undertaken by the Údarás is now broader than ever. The Údarás has worked with and continues to work with many partners, such as Roinn na Gaeltachta, community-based organisations, Gaeltacht businesses and many more. These partnerships are a key component to the Údarás's work and will continue to be so in the many years ahead.

→ Opposite: Wren Day in  
Daingean Uí Chúis





The Gaeltacht is one of the most beautiful regions in the world and one of the richest in terms of culture and heritage.

## What is the Gaeltacht?

### NUMBERS

96,090

The total population of the Gaeltacht is 96,090 (Census 2016).

7

The Gaeltacht covers large parts of counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Kerry as well as parts of counties Cork, Meath and Waterford.

6

There are six populated offshore islands in the Gaeltacht.

The Gaeltacht is one of the most beautiful regions in the world and one of the richest in terms of culture and heritage.

The term 'Gaeltacht' is used to describe regions in Ireland that are scattered, for the most part, along the western seaboard and in which the Irish language is, or was until recently, the primary spoken language of the majority of the community.

The Gaeltacht regions were officially recognised shortly after the foundation of the new State in the early 1920s. Although comprehensive bodies of research have defined the Gaeltacht regions and boundaries since then, successive governments have acknowledged that specific legislation, structures and funding are required to ensure the viability of the Gaeltacht communities.

The Irish language is one of Ireland's most unique natural resources and remains a living language in the Gaeltacht regions among communities that have an unbroken connection with the first speakers of the language. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the Gaeltacht be cultivated and protected.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's primary objective, therefore, is to strengthen the Irish language as the main community language in these regions. Irish, as Ireland's native language, provides a valuable opportunity to benefit from unique aesthetic and diverse qualities with the aim of cultivating and strengthening the Gaeltacht for generations to come.

It is also important to protect this uniqueness in today's connected world and because the language is the root of the other types of wealth that exists in the Gaeltacht. There is a very strong traditional arts culture in the Gaeltacht and the people of the Gaeltacht are famous for their dancing, song, crafts and much more. The culture and spirit of enterprise is continually growing in the Gaeltacht and the people of the Gaeltacht are consistently succeeding in the world of business.

The total population of the Gaeltacht is 96,090 (Census 2016). The Gaeltacht covers large parts of counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Kerry as well as parts of counties Cork, Meath and Waterford. There are also six populated offshore islands in the Gaeltacht.



The preservation and promotion of the Irish language is at the core of all the organisation's activities

## What is Údarás na Gaeltachta?

### NUMBERS

**1980**

Údarás na Gaeltachta was established in 1980. This State agency is responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht.

**8,000**

Up to 8,000 people are employed full-time in Údarás client companies.

The overall objective of Údarás na Gaeltachta is to ensure that Irish remains the main communal language of the Gaeltacht and is passed on to future generations. The Údarás endeavours to achieve that objective by funding and fostering a wide range of enterprise development and job creation initiatives and by supporting strategic language, cultural and community-based activities.

Established in 1980, Údarás na Gaeltachta is the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht.

### Economic Mission

Údarás encourages investment in the Gaeltacht through a range of generous financial and non-financial incentives for new and existing enterprises in the Gaeltacht.

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 – life sciences, ICT, tourism, fish processing and aquaculture, renewable energy, food, niche manufacturing, audio visual and digital media, arts and crafts.

Approximately 8,000 people are currently employed full time in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies. These companies have a significant economic impact and make a substantial contribution to the Irish economy.

→ Employment opportunities in science highlighted at an open day for schools organised by the Údarás.



### NUMBERS

**>12%**

Employment at Údarás client companies has seen an increase of over 12% in the past 7 years.

**11**

Client companies have the highest level of employment in 11 years.

### Social Mission

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.

Údarás provides funding for these groups along with advice, assistance and financial support to help these community groups become strong and proactive structures in their own communities.

Údarás 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.

### Cultural Mission

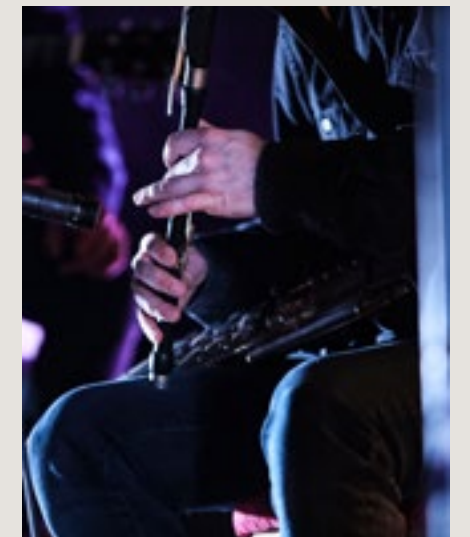
The preservation and promotion of the Irish language is at the core of all the organisation's activities. Údarás funds a range of strategic language and cultural initiatives as well as supporting the Irish language through its own practices.

Údarás supports a range of initiatives and collaborates with individuals, community groups and companies who embrace Irish and provide the everyday settings in which the language flourishes, such as: Language Services Centres, Irish Language Preschools, Irish in Business and Language Learning Incentives.



→ Primary school pupils observing shellfish at Lá na Mara in Cill Chiaráin, Conamara

→ Údarás na Gaeltachta promotes traditional music as well as other aspects of Gaeltacht culture through its subsidiary, Ealain na Gaeltachta





# 01 Community Development

Community Development Organisations are central to Gaeltacht development and the implementation of Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategy.

Údarás provides substantial funding and support services to over 30 community development organisations throughout the Gaeltacht. These development organisations, including co-operatives and community-based companies, are central to the promotion and development of tourism, language planning, renewable energy initiatives and the gteic network amongst other projects.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's community development strategy aims to empower Gaeltacht communities to optimise and develop their local resources.

Údarás recognises that economic development, cultural conservation, language enhancement and job creation are intertwined and central to the sustainable development of Gaeltacht communities.

As part of its community development work, Údarás administers a number of social employment schemes, provides funding to support preschool groups, youth clubs, arts and culture initiatives and language services centres.





RENEWABLE ENERGY

# Comharchumann Mhic Dara



Comharchumann Mhic Dara Teo developed a Green Estate in An Cheathrú Rua, Co. Galway, the region it operates in, because it believes in the importance of undertaking a local renewable energy project in the interest of public health and for the benefit of the environment and the social economy.

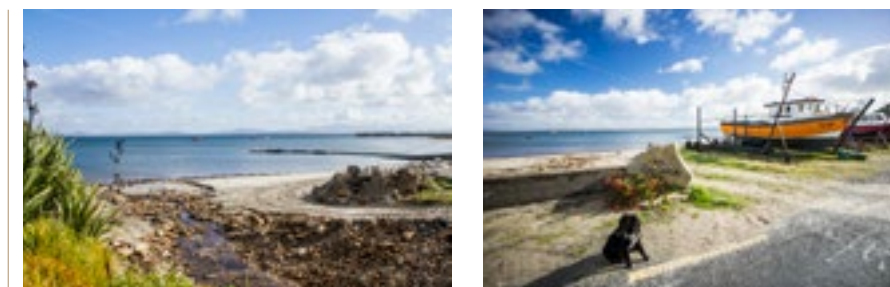
The Co-operative's initiative involved the installation of 160KW Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on the roofs of their workplace as well other buildings used by the Co-operative in the An Cheathrú Rua Business Estate.

The project was undertaken in the hope that it will promote best practice and will encourage other projects in different areas and estates throughout the Gaeltacht. This in turn will help to achieve the Government's target

of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 80%, reducing the Co-operative's electricity costs and on the many other services it provides.

**How did Údarás help?**

The project is a partnership between Comharchumann Mhic Dara, Forum Connemara (LEADER) and Údarás na Gaeltachta. Renewable Energy Project development is included in Údarás na Gaeltachta's Development Strategy and recognises opportunities for community development organisations to undertake various initiatives to promote the sector. Údarás na Gaeltachta can provide assistance and advice in the development of initiatives in this sector and in a partnership approach for the benefit of community development organisations.



TOURISM

# The Atlantic Story



→ An Fód Dubh Lighthouse on the Iorras Peninsula

*The Atlantic Story* was initiated by the local community in an effort to celebrate and interpret the history and culture of An Fód Dubh and the Béal an Mhuirthead peninsula. This tourism, language and cultural initiative being driven by the local community development organisation, Comharchumann Deirbhile, brings together the most unique and beautiful aspects of the peninsula.

**How did Údarás help?**

Údarás na Gaeltachta worked hand in hand with Comharchumann Deirbhile to develop concepts and funding applications for *The Atlantic Story*. In 2019 €2.5 million was secured from the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Údarás na Gaeltachta to develop this project. Údarás is actively working on the project with all stakeholders to create an immersive, all weather visitor attraction for the region.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

## Drioglann Inis Chléire



→ Gin from Drioglann Inis Chléire

Drioglann Inis Chléire is a great example of a community development organisation's social enterprise and the opportunities such an enterprise provides to the local community. Indeed, the distillery is the only one of its kind located on an island in Ireland. The '3SQ. MILES' gin is now being produced and sold locally and further afield.

Comharchumann Chléire established the independent company, Drioglann Chléire Teoranta, to undertake this enterprise. The local Cléire community invested in the company and a group of women from the island came together to perfect a formula that would eventually create

the island's unique flavour. The company now has many shareholders some of whom took part in the campaign that began last year to attract investment for the enterprise.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta helped in the development of the distillery from the very beginning, providing support for consultation services and a feasibility study. Údarás also provided capital and training funding, as well as developing a training programme.

The Social Employment Schemes play a central role in community initiatives across the Gaeltacht, such as the development and improvement of community, sports, landscaping resources and amenities as well as the preservation of heritage sites.

## Social Employment Schemes



### NUMBERS

# 1,000

More than 1,000 participants are employed by Social Employment Schemes across the Gaeltacht.

# 50

50 supervisors are employed by Social Employment Schemes across the Gaeltacht.

Údarás na Gaeltachta manages Social Employment Schemes (Community Employment Scheme, Rural Social Scheme & the TÚS scheme) that are funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. These schemes play an important role in providing work experience and training to the Gaeltacht community.

Over 1,000 participants and approximately 50 supervisors are employed across the Gaeltacht regions. Údarás has also developed an approach to strategically connect the work of the community development organisations in the Gaeltacht with the Social Employment Schemes.

The Social Employment Schemes play a central role in community initiatives across the Gaeltacht, such as the development and improvement of community, sports, landscaping resources and amenities as well as the preservation of heritage sites.

The Schemes provide work experience to unemployed persons with an emphasis on enabling the participant to attain subsequent employment elsewhere in the local economy.



## Community Development

The upgraded roads have given the walking, cycling and running communities in the heart of Conamara a new lease of life.

### SOCIAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

## Seanamhach Walking and Cycling Routes



The development of the old bog roads in Seanamhach near Casla in Conamara is an excellent example of the work being undertaken by social employment schemes in the Gaeltacht. These roads had traditionally been known for their rough terrain and potholes caused by lorries and tractors bringing turf from the bog over the years.

Under the supervision and direction of Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán and Údarás na Gaeltachta, the supervisors and participants in the social employment schemes have significantly upgraded the old bog roads which now provide a valuable community amenity. The upgraded roads with their new surfaces have given the walking, cycling and running communities in the heart of Conamara a new lease of life.

## Community Enterprise Schemes

The Community Enterprise Scheme aims to encourage committees and community organisations in the Gaeltacht to establish community enterprises.

The scheme is available to Gaeltacht committees and community development organisations registered

with Údarás na Gaeltachta and operating on a democratic basis. The organisations must be representative of the local communities which they serve and must be operating in accordance with work programmes agreed with Údarás na Gaeltachta Regional Offices.

### COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE SCHEME

## Leitir Corn Mill Conservation & Restoration Project



→ Few traditional corn mills of this type remain standing in Ireland today

The 19th century corn mill is one of the most attractive heritage sites in the parish of Cill Charthaigh. Although substantial restoration work has been undertaken at the mill to date, a significant amount of repair work is needed. The owner of the mill worked in conjunction with Cill Charthaigh Parish Council to attain LEADER funding, along with other funding, to prepare the historical site.

One of those funding sources, was the Community Enterprise Scheme, which meant that the restoration work could move forward and they could take the first steps in rejuvenating this local attraction.



→ Significant redevelopment has been done to an important part of the Northwest's heritage.



## 02 Employment

Údarás na Gaeltachta's primary objective is to develop a vibrant, successful and sustainable Gaeltacht community and economy, and thus strengthen and maintain the use of Irish as the main language of the Gaeltacht community. To that end, the Údarás has been involved in the creation of employment in the Gaeltacht for over 40 years supporting, therefore, the economic development of those regions.

In order to create sustainable employment opportunities in Gaeltacht communities, a strong and vibrant enterprise sector is required that will compete in and adapt to a highly competitive globalised economy. The Údarás is therefore focused on knowledge and service-based businesses, on niche manufacturing and on the development of indigenous enterprises rooted in the natural, cultural and environmental resources of the Gaeltacht.

Údarás na Gaeltachta can offer qualifying businesses and companies from various sectors a range of incentives and supports to start up, develop, expand or locate in a Gaeltacht region. Hundreds of companies have established businesses in the Gaeltacht with help from Údarás since its foundation in 1980 and its constant vision is to foster a strong economy that makes sustainable use of all the resources available. This will ensure access to an excellent quality of life for the Irish speaking communities living in these unique regions.

→ Right: An Dúlaman neck labelling



## Employment

Folláin was founded using a 100-year-old grapefruit marmalade recipe that had been passed down through three family generations.

FOOD & DRINK

# Folláin



Located in Baile Bhuirne in the Cork Gaeltacht, Folláin began by using a 100-year-old grapefruit marmalade recipe that had been passed down through three family generations. 30 years and more than 30 jams later Folláin has a collection of over 70 products, including a salt and sugar free range of jams and sauces. Folláin is the Irish word for wholesome which is at the core of its commitment to honest food made with the purest ingredients to hand.

From day one Folláin has grown and the brand is now widely recognised in Ireland for the quality of its products. Folláin has won many national and international awards for the excellence of its products which are available throughout Ireland. In recent years Folláin has completed a state of the art manufacturing facility on its site in Baile Bhuirne. There is a great future ahead for this exceptional Gaeltacht company.

### How did Údarás help?

With the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Peadar and Máire Uí Lionáird have achieved their vision and have grown and developed the business significantly from its modest beginnings in the family kitchen in the 1980s. In recent years the company has stood firmly on its own feet and Údarás has been able to support Folláin in conducting comprehensive research into the market in which they are competing, assisting them in growing their product offering as well as expanding their product range in order to meet ever-changing consumer preferences.



→ Folláin is the Irish word for wholesome which is at the core of the company's commitment to honest food made with the purest ingredients to hand.

The company's vision is to create long-term, sustainable employment on Achill Island and promote the area as a food experience destination.

FOOD & DRINK

# Salann Mara Acla



→ The O'Malley Family - Salann Mara Acla is a family business founded in 2013.

Salann Mara Acla is a family business founded in 2013. Using a combination of traditional methods and modern technology, they slowly evaporate the sea water to leave behind pure, white, sea salt flakes. The soft salt crystals melt instantly into food, creating an intense flavour. The company's vision is to create long-term, sustainable employment on Acaill and promote the area as a food experience destination.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta aided Salann Mara Acla/Achill Island Sea Salt by helping to develop a unique visitor centre and salt production facility in Bun an Churraigh on Acaill. The Achill Island Sea Salt Visitor centre offers an educational behind the scenes tour of their unique sea salt production facility, a long-forgotten tradition which existed on Acaill up until the 1800s.



## Employment

Mink Tek are specialists in high specification printed circuit boards and assembly.

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING

# Mint Tek



Specialists in high specification printed circuit boards and assembly, Mint Tek is a company that is helping researchers and developers bridge the gap between an idea and a fully functioning prototype. Mint Tek enables the procurement, design for manufacture and supply chain management involved in PCB manufacturing and assembly. Founded in 2014, the business works with suppliers to provide engineers with printed circuit boards (PCB) and electronic hardware prototypes, as well as dealing with PCB assemblers and designers on the engineers' behalf.

### How did Údarás help?

With the help of Údarás na Gaeltachta Mint Tek has been able to undertake several research projects regarding the uptake of supply chain management practices, assisting in creating positive changes in the company's operations. Moreover, Mint Tek has been able to conduct valuable research into the strengthening of supplier relations, increasing sales as well as improving cash flow.

### NUMBERS

## €500,000

In 2016 Mint Tek signed a €500,000 deal with electronic, electrical and industrial components manufacturer RS Components.

## 28,000

Mint Tek has access to 28,000 engineers worldwide and potential 300 orders per month, through the deal.

## 2014

Siobhán Ní Chofaigh founded Mint Tek in 2014.

→ Mint Tek maintain a global panel of qualified PCB manufacturers and assembly partners to deliver projects securely and quickly.

Fáisc Miotail's customers have included Ford, Toyota and BMW to name just a few.

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING

# Fáisc Miotail



### NUMBERS

## 70+

Fáisc Miotail employs over 70 people at its modern production facility located in Údarás na Gaeltachta's Gaoth Dobhair Business Park.

## 2007

First automotive contract won by Fáisc Miotail.

Founded in 2005, Fáisc Miotail is owned and operated by brothers Declan and Brendan Ward. Starting out as trained toolmakers, the Ward brothers have built an extensive portfolio of experience over the past 25 years to build upon their tool-making foundations - including experience in the area of pressed part production having worked closely with such industry leaders as Ford, General Motors, Toyota and BMW over the years.

### How did Údarás help?

Fáisc Miotail has grown with the help of Údarás na Gaeltachta from a small start-up with 3 employees to a very successful SME employing over 70 people. It has developed strong repeat export markets with end-customers including Bentley, BMW, Honda, Jaguar Land Rover, Nissan and Scania to name just a few. Fáisc Miotail is strongly embedded in the West Donegal Gaeltacht community, providing valuable employment in a globally trading company.

→ Many of Fáisc Miotail's clients are some of the most recognised in their industry.



## Employment

The brand is now recognised worldwide as a luxury international fashion brand.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

# Cniotáil Inis Meáin



Cniotáil Inis Meáin was founded on the island in 1976 by Tarlach de Blácam and Áine Ní Chonghaile, inspired by the unique spirit, environment and heritage of the place.

Tarlach was a graduate in Celtic Languages from Trinity College Dublin and had gone to Inis Meáin in the late sixties like previous scholars to immerse himself in the language and culture of the island. Áine was a native of Inis Meáin working as a teacher in Dublin in the early '70s. When the pair married

in 1973, they were determined to make their home on the island. Drawing on the island tradition, Tarlach and Áine went on to equip a small factory with six knitting machines and set about working with young islanders whose mothers knitted at home for the tourist industry.

Údarás has worked closely with Cniotáil Inis Meáin for many years and has provided support in helping the company to develop in that period from the ground up.



→ Inis Meáin is one of the three Aran Islands that lie on the far edge of Europe, thirty miles off the western shore of Ireland. It's a place of wild and rugged beauty that has enchanted many a visitor. But to make a living on the island has always called for a spirit of independence, resourcefulness and innovation.

It is the only wool carding mill operating on a commercial basis in Ireland.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

# Snáth Dhún na nGall



→ All production is carried out in the traditional wool spinning mill in Cill Charthaigh, Co. Donegal.

Nestled between the hills of South West Donegal and the Atlantic Ocean, Snáth Dhún na nGall Wool spinning mill can trace its origin back to the centuries' old tradition of tweed effect yarns domestically spun in Donegal. It is the only wool carding mill operating on a commercial basis in Ireland. These yarns burst onto world markets over a hundred years ago and gave their name to the internationally famous 'Donegal Tweed' products. The company operates a vertical production process from raw wool to a finished multi-coloured fleck yarn targeted at the weaving, knitting and craft industry.

**How did Údarás help?**  
With the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta the company have renewed and updated their electrical system, complete with new windows and doors as well as receiving assistance in improving the company's profile and social media presence.



## Employment

Providing quality Irish translation services for government and State agencies for 25 years.

### LANGUAGE ENTERPRISES

## Europus

Europus was established in 1996 by Áine Ní Chonghaile. The company was established to promote the language and meet the needs created by the foundation of TG4 as well as other developments in the communications sector. The company now provides a translation and language service to a wide range of Government organisations as well as companies in the public and private sector.

The director of Europus, Áine Ní Chonghaile received her training in the Translation Section of the Houses of the Oireachtas, Leinster House, Dublin and spent over ten years on the legal translation team in the section. Sinéad Ní Ráinne M.Sc. joined the company at its establishment and has worked in various areas of the company since then.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta has provided various supports to Europus that now employs 12 full-time employees. All the translators hold an honours degree in Irish and must pass an examination and an interview before appointment. Most of the company's senior translators hold a M.Sc. degree in Irish translation. Europus translators receive extensive in-house training and attend Europus's Post Graduate Diploma in Irish Language Translation which is validated and accredited by HETAC and funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta.

### NUMBERS

# 1996

Established in 1996, Europus is a full-time translation company specialising in Irish language consultancy, translation and subtitling.

# 12

The company now employs 12 full-time employees.

→ Trá Eilí is one of Ireland's best loved surf spots. Students attending Coláiste Uisce have access to some of the best marine facilities on their doorstep.



The Irish language is taught through the enjoyable medium of water sports and adventure activities.

### LANGUAGE ENTERPRISES

## Coláiste Uisce

Coláiste Uisce is an outdoor and adventure centre based in the heart of the Mayo Gaeltacht. The Irish language is taught through the enjoyable medium of water sports and adventure activities.

The work being done by Coláiste Uisce in terms of language has a significant influence on both the pupils attending the college and the local Iorras community. The company therefore plays a significant role in the promotion of the language in the Mayo Gaeltacht.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta has been supporting Coláiste Uisce for years by providing property and other supports. Coláiste Uisce has over 20 years' experience in providing adventure and Irish language courses that are both safe and exciting.



## Employment

Global innovation, making a real difference to people's lives, is right on our doorstep in beautiful Donegal!

MEDICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL

# Radox



Radox is an ambitious and innovative company committed to improving health worldwide. They are advancing cutting-edge science and technologies that hold the key to ground-breaking improvements in diagnostics and healthcare. Through a heavily committed research and development programme they continue to offer revolutionary products and solutions specifically designed to provide more efficient, higher quality, and reliable diagnostics in the widest variety of laboratory settings.

In 2008 Radox opened their site in An Clochán Liath, County Donegal for analyser manufacture and Research & Development.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta provide support and funding to Radox Teoranta for the development of the company's world class manufacturing and research and development facilities in An Clochán Liath. Údarás na Gaeltachta aided Radox in their initial recruitment drive through the dissemination of the recruitment information through its local and international channels and continue to provide support to the company through the provision of training and upskilling assistance for Radox employees. Údarás na Gaeltachta also provide assistance to Radox through its Research and Development Programmes.

**“My drive to work takes me through the most fantastic scenery — I feel privileged that I have been provided with an opportunity to return home to West Donegal to take up such a challenging and exciting position in the field of science just 20 minutes from my doorstep in Gaoth Dobhair.”**

**Ciarán Richardson**  
Research & Development Manager,  
Radox An Clochán Liath

There is a strong workforce of over 80 people, mostly university graduates, in the company.

MEDICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL

# Aran Biomedical



Proxy Biomedical Ltd moved to An Spidéal in April 2007 and has been undertaking the manufacturing of medical products for the life science sector since then. The company is situated in the Galway medical devices hub. Aran Biomedical offers expert design, development and manufacturing solutions for implantable medical devices and provides for some of the most dynamic and versatile product innovations ensuring the ongoing success and growth of the company.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta provided a production facility for the company. As the company expanded extra space and grant aid was provided based on its needs at that time. There is a strong workforce of over 80 people in this company, mostly university graduates with a language and cultural plan in place. The company's name is a reference to the Aran Islands, a collection of three islands situated in Galway Bay located directly across the sea from where the factory is located.



The Páirc na Mara Marine Innovation Park concept is central to Údarás na Gaeltachta's approach to developing natural resources to create and foster sustainable employment in peripheral Gaeltacht regions.

## Páirc na Mara – Marine Innovation Park

Situated on a site that comprises approximately 9 hectares, the Páirc na Mara Marine Innovation Park concept is central to Údarás na Gaeltachta's approach in developing natural resources to create and foster sustainable employment in peripheral Gaeltacht regions.

Páirc na Mara will comprise of a campus that is developed and built to the highest possible development, planning and environmental standards. The campus will encompass the necessary infrastructure, services and facilities required by private investors worldwide to establish marine based enterprises that will be in a position to scale their range of products, species, technologies and applications.

The Páirc na Mara Marine Innovation Park provides an important platform on which new services, facilities and infrastructure can be developed which will in turn create new products and enterprises that will foster employment locally and in the wider region.

### **How did Údarás help?**

Údarás na Gaeltachta has been central in the development of Páirc na Mara from the initial concept of developing the project on the organisation's land in Iorras Aithneach. As well as driving the design and planning of the project, Údarás is involved in ongoing discussions with third level institutions and companies in the marine sector worldwide to foster high quality employment in a region that acutely requires it.



## Employment

Located on the Fánaid peninsula in Co. Donegal, Mowi is one of the world's leading supplier of farm-raised organic salmon.

MARINE SECTOR

# Mowi



Mowi is one of the world's leading supplier of farm-raised organic salmon. The Mowi Ireland office is located on the Fánaid peninsula in Co. Donegal, and the company has salmon farms in five counties on the west coast of Ireland.

Farmed Atlantic salmon was first produced in Ireland in 1984 from young salmon that were initially farmed in 1982. From 1986, the company has been self-sufficient in terms of breeding stock. Since then, the company has gone from strength to strength and exports 85% of its produce worldwide to countries such as the USA, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Britain, Switzerland, Canada and the Middle East.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta is working closely with Mowi to develop an important sector in those Gaeltacht regions that are primarily situated on the Atlantic coast. As well as providing a range of supports and incentives, Údarás is collaborating with Mowi on European initiatives such as SAFER, initiatives that aim to promote and develop this sector further.

→ The seas on Ireland's west coast are among the most favourable in the world for organic salmon farming.

Bá Earagail exports premium quality shellfish products from the purest Atlantic waters to a global market.

MARINE SECTOR

# Bá Earagail



→ Bá Earagail provides fulltime and seasonal employment, serving shellfish markets across Europe and further afield.

Bá Earagail is 55 years in business in Donegal and is one of Ireland's largest premium-quality shellfish processors. With two facilities in Ireland certified to the highest industry standards, Bá Earagail exports premium quality shellfish products from the purest Atlantic waters to a global market of leading retailers, wholesalers, and foodservice companies.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta has worked hand in hand with Bá Earagail for many years, supporting its transformation from a primary fish processing business in the Donegal Gaeltacht to becoming a global player in the crab and whelk processing sector. With Údarás na Gaeltachta's support the company undertakes continuous research & development and boasts highly advanced processing equipment that allows Bá Earagail to compete internationally.

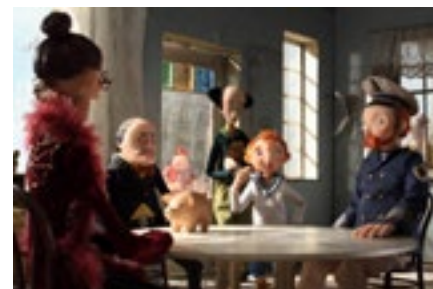


## Employment

The establishment of the company was a strategic step in the development of the audio-visual sector in the Gaeltacht.

AUDIO-VISUAL SECTOR

# Telegael



→ Various stills from Captain Morten & The Spider Queen – a stop-motion animation which features stars such as Brendan Gleeson, Pauline McLynn and Tommy Tiernan.

Telegael, situated in An Spidéal, works with international producers, distributors and broadcasters to develop, finance and co-produce animation and live-action content for the global market.

Established in 1988 by Údarás na Gaeltachta in partnership with RTÉ, the company has taken many forms since its foundation. Within a period of thirty years, Telegael has gone from providing postproduction services to becoming one of the biggest television and live action series broadcasters. Telegael's productions have spread to over 140 regions around the world and have been translated to over 40 different languages.

### How did Údarás help?

With support from Údarás na Gaeltachta Telegael has made significant improvements to their headquarters in An Spidéal, including both a building extension and developments to their post-production film studio, with pioneering image and sound technology. Moreover, Telegael have also been able to add to their design, graphic, colour grading and special effects facilities. As a result of these improvements Telegael have been able to seek opportunities in the international postproduction and live action film/animation market.

Creating premium content for broadcasters, sports organisations and commercial brands.

AUDIO-VISUAL SECTOR

# Nemeton



## NUMBERS

# 600

Nemeton produces over 600 hours of content for TV and the web each year.

# 50

Today Nemeton employs the equivalent of fifty full-time staff, including freelancers.

# 1994

Údarás na Gaeltachta has been working with Nemeton since 1994.

Nemeton TV is a sports production company working in television in Ireland and Scotland. The company produces over 600 hours of live sport yearly. Its HQ is based in West Waterford and its Scottish base is located in the culturally diverse city of Glasgow. Their collective Celtic spirit makes us an unconventional blend of passionate creatives, savvy techies and confident dealmakers. Their output includes GAA, Scottish Premier League, women's domestic and international football and six nations rugby, boxing, horseracing and a range of documentaries.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta provided support to Nemeton in developing the company. Nemeton is a company that started out with one person and now employs dozens of people. Údarás na Gaeltachta helped Nemeton to develop their HQ in An Rinn, in the Déise Gaeltacht. Nemeton also runs a highly acclaimed post-graduate Higher Diploma in Television Production which is accredited by Waterford Institute of Technology and backed by Údarás na Gaeltachta.



## Employment

Fíbín are pioneers in their field and consistently raise standards in Irish language drama.

ARTS & CRAFTS

# Fíbín



Fíbín was established in Conamara in 2003 with the primary aim of providing entertaining theatre for young people through the medium of Irish. To date, Fíbín has produced over 40 shows for audiences nationwide and further afield. They continue to meet the goal they set when the company was founded by using the most innovative and visual drama techniques available.

Fíbín are pioneers in their field and consistently raise standards in Irish language drama. The audiences of the coming years are being nurtured and shaped so that Irish language drama is viewed in a fun, engaging and positive way. Their mission, following exciting performances, is to create audiences and drama makers for the future.

Fíbín Media was established in September 2008 as a result of the success of its parent drama production company Fíbín Teoranta. The company focuses primarily on developing and producing audio-visual content for preschool and primary school audiences.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás assisted the two companies with various forms of financial aid down through the years. They have won many awards in recent times. Fíbín theatre company receives annual funding from Ealaín na Gaeltachta, a subsidiary of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

→ A scene from Pléasc, a site specific production by Fíbín

The workshop in Trá Chloichir in Corca Dhuibhne produces the best Irish craft pottery in exquisite fine porcelain and robust stoneware.

ARTS & CRAFTS

# Louis Mulcahy



→ Louis Mulcahy working on his pottery

When Louis Mulcahy won first prize for pottery at the National Crafts Competition in 1975, he decided to move his workshop from Dublin to Daingean Uí Chúis. For nearly fifty years Louis has been researching materials and producing new designs. His vision was to produce the aesthetically and technically best pottery and develop a studio/workshop which would leave a legacy on the long-term history of Irish handcraft.

Louis continues to make all his pots at his workshop at Trá Chloichir in Corca Dhuibhne, his work reflecting the magnificent scale and beautiful colours in the land. Louis makes his own glazes from natural silica, fluxes and colouring minerals. His clay bodies are blended

from stoneware and porcelain clays of the highest quality. This devotion to quality has gained worldwide recognition and the pottery has a special reputation for its durability, large pots and rich, glossy glazes.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta supported the business through development, employment, and the provision of technological and industrial facilities. Coordinating various training courses and seminars abroad to secure new business, which has led to an increase in the business performance for Louis Mulcahy Pottery. Louis Mulcahy is one of the biggest employers in the area.



## 03 Property

It was recognised, when Údarás na Gaeltachta was founded in 1980, that Gaeltacht areas lacked the infrastructure to attract employment to these peripheral regions. A building campaign began with the construction of business parks in Gaoth Dobhair, An Cheathrú Rua, Baile Bhuirne and elsewhere.

Today, the Gaeltacht regions are unique in the sense that these industrial spaces are being used and are available for Irish and international companies to locate to and provide high quality employment in some of the most beautiful areas in the world.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's approach to attracting and developing employment has evolved over the years in line with international trends. Likewise, the approach to property has evolved. Large factory spaces as well as smaller business areas are now available, along with spaces within the gteic network of digital hubs.

Tourism centres, craft centres and similar properties are among the properties currently held by Údarás na Gaeltachta.





## Folláin, Múscraí

The company has made continuous developments since its establishment and the company's brand is widely recognised throughout the country, renowned for the quality of their products.



Little did Peadar and Máirín Uí Lionáird know, when they began producing jam in the 80s, that forty years later Folláin would be an international business using some of the most advanced facilities and equipment in the world.

They established the company in 1985 and moved into an enterprise unit in Údarás na Gaeltachta's Baile Mhic Íre Business Park in the Cork Gaeltacht. In 2001, Údarás built a new factory for Folláin, measuring 700 square metres, to help with the company's cashflow, therefore allowing it to grow at a faster rate due to available working capital.

Folláin purchased the building in Baile Bhuirne from Údarás in 2006 and continued to develop and grow the business over the years. Údarás na Gaeltachta then sold the site to the company in 2013 where they built a new factory of the highest international standards in 2016. A tourist centre was

also opened on the site with Folláin intending to increase the number of visitors to the site in the coming years.

The company has made continuous developments since its establishment and the company's brand is widely recognised throughout the country, renowned for the quality of their products. They have made significant development and investment and their company is now one of the largest employers in the southern Gaeltacht. The company is renowned as one of the best food producers in the world playing a central role in the Múscraí economy, displaying innovation in product, property and research development.

### NUMBERS

## 1985

Folláin was established in Cork's Gaeltacht.

## 2001

Údarás built a factory for Folláin measuring 700 square metres.

## 2006

Folláin purchased the building in Baile Bhuirne from Údarás and continued to develop and grow the business over the years.

## An Cheardlann, An Spidéal

An Cheardlann in An Spidéal is an excellent example of the wide range of activities and properties under Údarás na Gaeltachta's remit. An Cheardlann opened in 1984 and is designed in the layout of houses along a village street where artists and craft makers work and sell their products.

An Cheardlann attracts many tourists to An Spidéal, and with an onsite restaurant serving both visitors and tenants alike, is an excellent example of Údarás na Gaeltachta's approach to the development of sustainable employment and the provision of a tourist infrastructure that significantly adds to the Gaeltacht economy by bringing various sectors together.

Approximately 10 craftworkers or artists are based in An Cheardlann, creating various products in the form of jewellery, pottery, clothing and basketry.



## RAP, Gaoth Dobhair Business Park

RAP is an international company located in Gaoth Dobhair in the Donegal Gaeltacht. RAP manufacture packaging for pre-prepared meals for some of the most well-known food and café companies in the world.

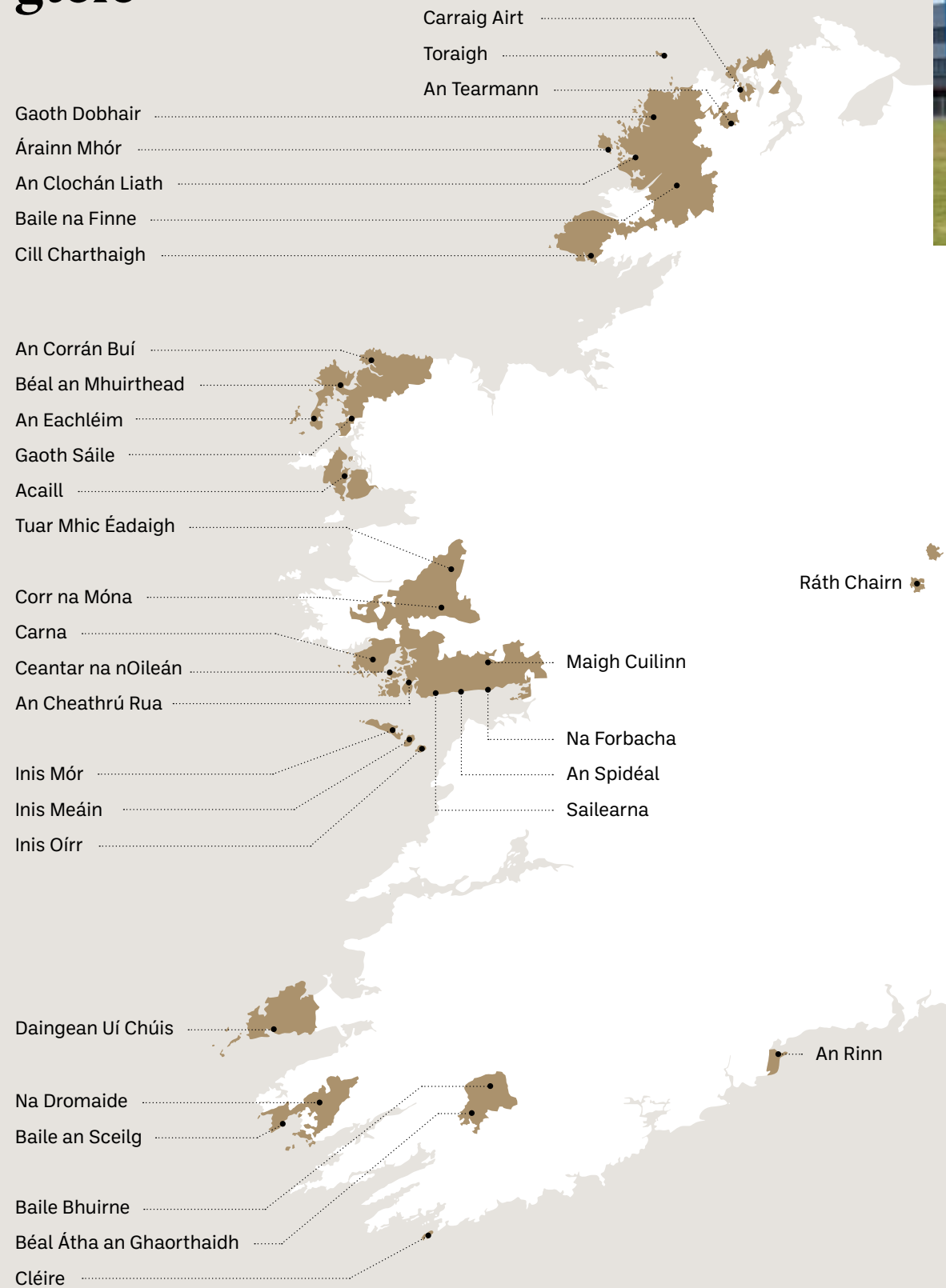
RAP began work in Gaoth Dobhair in 1998 and had employed 8 employees by the end of the first year. Údarás executives worked with the company to customise the building in the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park and to provide various other supports to allow the company to grow.

Today, there are over 200 employees working at RAP in Gaoth Dobhair working out of 3 large buildings in the Business Park. These buildings are innovative in terms of layout and equipment, allowing RAP to compete as one of the strongest companies in the international food packaging sector. The material produced in Gaoth Dobhair can be seen on sandwiches and other food products in the United Kingdom, across Europe and as far afield as Singapore.





**gteic**



A network of over 30 innovation & digital hubs located across the Gaeltacht.



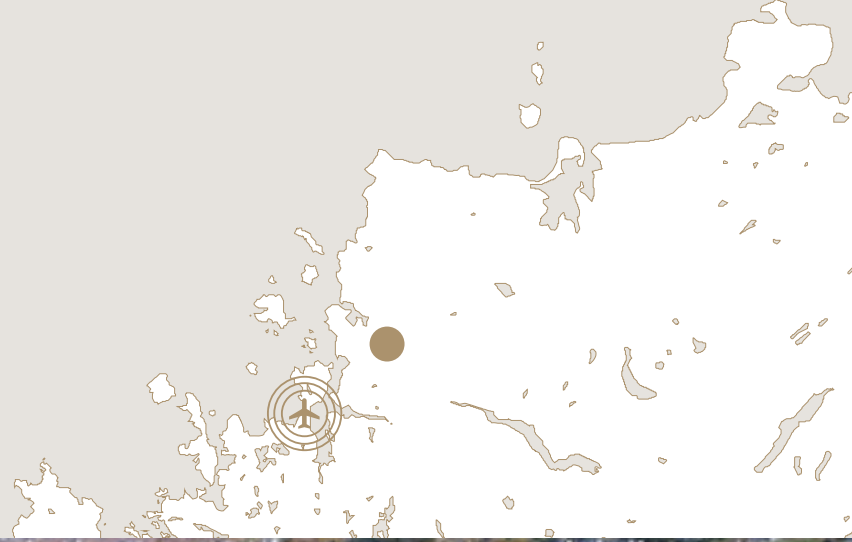
The gteic Digital Network is a network of 30 innovation & digital hubs established by Údarás na Gaeltachta and located in regions throughout Ireland's Gaeltacht, along the Wild Atlantic Way in counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Cork and in the Gaeltacht regions of Meath and Waterford. Six Gaeltacht islands are included in this digital ecosystem that will support the sustainability of those island communities.

→ The gteic units across the Gaeltacht provide a contemporary work space with highspeed internet connection.

Our hubs include hot desk and shared space facilities for remote workers and e-workers in addition to fully equipped office spaces and incubation units with high-speed internet access to facilitate innovation and concept development.



# Gaoth Dobhair



The doors of gteic@GaothDobhair opened in 2018, the first gteic in the Údarás network. The hub not only provides highspeed internet connection, newly developed conference, meeting, training and virtual conferencing facilities, gteic workers also have access to valuable networking opportunities in a productive and stimulating work environment. Entrepreneurs of newly founded businesses along with remote workers from long-established companies are availing of these high-quality work facilities.

The Gaoth Dobhair gteic, located in the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park can be easily reached by road or indeed by air with regular flights from Dublin or international cities arriving at various airports. Connection to the North West has never been better, offering easy access to Irish, UK and other European markets. Opportunities are now available to members of the local community to return to their unique regions and spend most or some of their working week working remotely from the hub on a national or worldwide scale. This initiative will help to support, develop and strengthen sustainable Gaeltacht communities.

### NUMBERS

**751M**

Mount Errigal — the tallest in Donegal, with a popular hike to its panoramic summit

**1000MBPS**

Gigabit enabled broadband 1000MBps

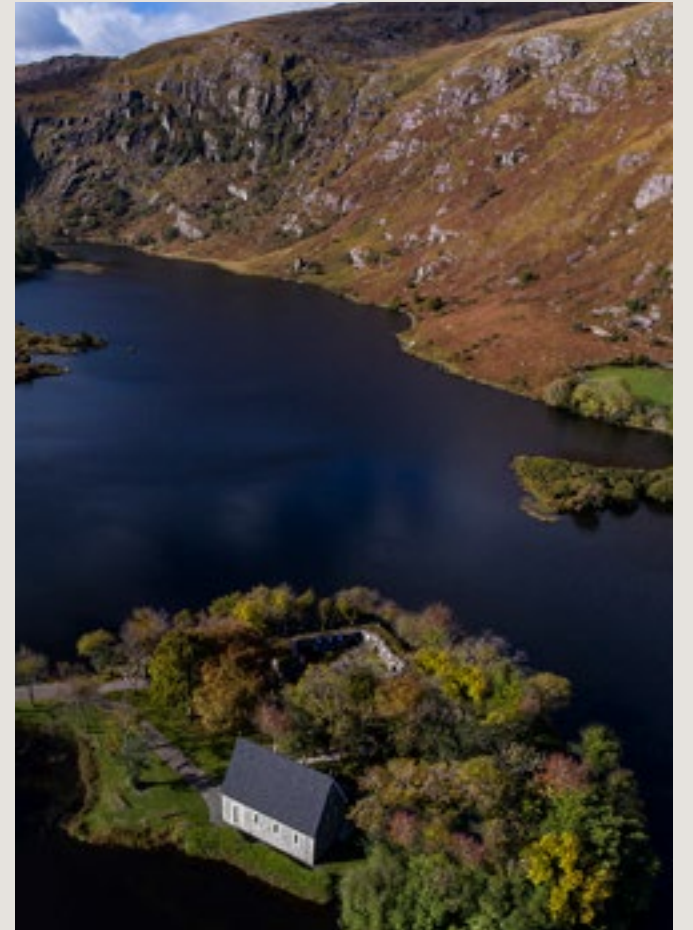
**15KM**

Donegal's International Airport is located within 15km of the gteic and provides regular flights to Dublin and Glasgow.

# Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh

gteic@Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh is located in the Údarás na Gaeltachta Business Park in Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh in the Cork Gaeltacht. It is a state-of-the-art innovation & digital hub where the unique Gaeltacht culture drives creativity and innovation.

The digital hub is being managed by Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí on behalf of Údarás na Gaeltachta. The gteic provides 22 desktop shared work spaces, meeting facilities and video conferencing and high-speed broadband in the workplace and creates excellent opportunities for entrepreneurs, innovators, remote workers and concept development in a relaxed atmosphere in this historical town in West Cork. This development provides an opportunity for members of the Gaeltacht community, at home or further afield, to return to live in their home region through remote working facilities available in the gteic.



# An Spidéal

gteic@An Spidéal is located in An Spidéal, Galway on the R336 in the Conamara Gaeltacht. There is a particular emphasis in this contemporary building on facilitating the creative sector.

Located 20 minutes' drive from Galway City, with a regular public transport service available from the city, fully equipped spaces are available that can easily adapt to meet the needs of e-workers, concept developers, inventors, newly established, scaled or medium-sized companies.

Access to highspeed broadband is available to start-ups or established companies in this contemporary and dynamic facility. As well as being funded by Údarás, significant funding was provided for gteic@An Spidéal from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.





## 04 Language

All aspects of Údarás na Gaeltachta's work contributes to the acquisition and maintenance of the Irish language as the principal language of the Gaeltacht.

A strong and sustainable Gaeltacht economy will ensure that speakers of the language can work and live in their home regions with access to an excellent quality of life. It is also hoped that the language planning process, under Údarás's remit, will add significantly to the number of Irish speakers in the regions through the implementation of language plans that have been prepared in conjunction with the local communities and that meet the needs of those communities.

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises the value and importance of the Gaeltacht as unique regions in a national and international context. The Irish language is still spoken as a living language in the Gaeltacht and among communities that have an unbroken connection with the first speakers of Irish. Those unique cultural aspects that contrast with the culture of a globalised world are more valuable than ever and should be utilised to the benefit of the Gaeltacht and its community.

The Gaeltacht communities maintain a living connection to Ireland's culture, heritage and history. Irish is one of the oldest written and historical languages in the world and is the oldest written vernacular language north of the Alps. Although most of the the country's population spoke Irish at the beginning of the 16th century, the people's language underwent many changes from the start of this period. The spoken language of this period is called Early Modern Irish.

The language suffered significant blows during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, including the Cromwell plantation in 1654 and the Penal Laws Act in 1695. This resulted in the loss of a ruling Irish speaking class, their cultural institutions had been destroyed and the status of Irish as a major language was lost. Although most people had Irish, the more prosperous members of the Irish-speaking community began to speak English and adopt an Anglicised way of life. By the end of the Famine

(1846-1848) the language was on the point of extinction. Scholars became interested in the language and its literature from the beginning of the eighteenth century onwards, however, and significant movements supporting the revitalisation and promotion of the language were established in the years before the foundation of the new State.

The image of the Irish language has changed a great deal in recent years, which is evident in the number of people who speak and learn the language, not only in Ireland but around the world. The Irish language is the language of the community in Gaeltacht regions and the language is also gaining strength in places outside the Gaeltacht. According to the 2016 Census, 1.77 million people in the Republic of Ireland can speak Irish. Surveys have long shown a deep affection towards the Irish language amongst the community all over the country and this is not confined to people who speak Irish.

→ Féile na Gealái, Ráth Chairn, Co Meath.  
Photo by Cathal Mac an Bheatha.



The aim of the language planning process is to strengthen the Irish language as a household and community language.

## Language Planning

### NUMBERS

**26**

There are 26 Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas.

**7**

Selected Lead Organisations will have 7 years to implement their respective language plans.

**13**

There are 13 towns located just outside the Gaeltacht, that can be recognised as Gaeltacht Service Towns.

The aim of the language planning process is to strengthen the Irish language as a household and community language. This is being done by implementing language plans that will significantly contribute to the use of Irish in all aspects of the community including in the household, among young people, in the education system, and in the business and public sector. Support is provided to communities in the implementation of those plans, and Language Planning Officers and Assistant Officers are employed to undertake the work involved.

Since the Gaeltacht Act 2012 was enacted, the Gaeltacht has been divided into 26 areas which are called Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas (LPT). Three Gaeltacht towns have also been recognised as Gaeltacht Service Towns (BSG). Each LPT and BSG must prepare and implement language plans and Údarás na Gaeltachta works closely to support the Gaeltacht communities involved. Co-operation and participation by the community, the State as well as the public and private sector is necessary if the process is to succeed and Irish as the living language of the Gaeltacht sustained.

→ Enjoying the outdoor market in Maigh Cuilinn in the Galway Gaeltacht.





The Language Planning Officers are involved in various initiatives to promote the Irish language throughout the Gaeltacht. Here are some examples of those initiatives:

## #SeoÍAnGhaeltacht: A view of the Gaeltacht through a social media campaign



### NUMBERS

**1.76M**

1.76m people can speak Irish in Ireland (Census 2016)

Language Planning Officers throughout the Gaeltacht launched the video campaign #SeoÍAnGhaeltacht (#This is the Gaeltacht) at the beginning of May 2020. This ongoing campaign aims to foster a pride of place, language and culture as well as reawakening memories of Gaeltacht visits. Engaging and inviting images and videos of the Gaeltacht are being widely shared on various social media platforms celebrating the regions, their culture and the Irish language instilling a strong sense of Gaeltacht identity throughout the Gaeltacht regions.

→ All aspects of Gaeltacht life, from culture to beauty, is being shared with #SeoÍAnGhaeltacht

Providing the local Irish-speaking community with the easy option of choosing Irish as the language they do business in.

## Irish Language in Business



### NUMBERS

**70%**

Language Plans are being implemented in 70% of language planning areas.

**21**

Language Planning Officers and Assistant Officers employed to implement the language plans.

**€2M**

€2m involved in the implementation of these language plans.

Significant work has been undertaken by the Language Planning Officers in their aim to promote the use of Irish in various businesses in their locality. An excellent example of this work are the campaigns being undertaken in LPT Cloich Cheann Fhaola and in LPT Gaoth Dobhair, Anagaire, Rann na Feirste and Loch an Iúir. Businesses in these areas (shops, offices and services etc) are asked to display signs letting the community know they can avail of a service in Irish and are encouraged to do so. The signs can now be seen in a variety of businesses in those regions providing the local Irish speaking community with an easy option of choosing Irish as the language they do business in.

→ The sign 'Gaeilge & Fáilte' being displayed proudly in Donegal Airport.



## Language

These events are important in creating a connection between communities in an attractive and engaging way.

## Virtual Events



Among the activities and events being organised by the Language Planning Officers are events that are focused on creating and fostering a connection and relationship with their local community and with the wider Gaeltacht regions. These national Gaeltacht events create friendly competition between the Gaeltacht regions, fostering a local pride and encouraging the use of Irish amongst those participating in the events.

Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta (The Gaeltacht Running Competition) is an excellent example of a virtual exercise campaign with over 730 participants taking part in a four week challenge. Indeed, the competition's participants

ran or walked over 127,000km during the course of the challenge. There was strong competition between the Gaeltacht regions and as the weeks went by, those involved significantly increased their mileage, with various participants reaching more than 40km a day and 200km a week. These events are important in creating a connection between communities in an attractive and engaging way.

### NUMBERS

## 127,000KM

Participants walked over 127,000km during the competition.

## 12+

Along with the work being undertaken by Language Planning Officers in their own regions, they organised over 12 events to nurture strong connections between the Gaeltacht community from the beginning of the pandemic.

We work closely with companies to help them prepare and implement a language plan.

## Irish in Client Companies



→ Lilly's Eco Clean promotes the Irish language on its products and in the business itself.

Since the foundation of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 1980, the emphasis has been on attracting employment to the Gaeltacht to ensure the Gaeltacht community could earn a living in their home regions.

Today, a combination of native companies and companies that have come from outside the Gaeltacht provide employment in these regions. Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises the important role these companies play and the impact they have on language in the Gaeltacht regions.

To that end, Údarás works closely with companies to help them prepare and implement a language plan, to ensure the language is being promoted and visible in the workplace. Údarás also works closely with client companies to impress on them the importance of considering the Irish language in their social responsibility charters.

This work builds on the vision of Údarás na Gaeltachta when established in 1980, that the Irish language may be sustained and strengthened by providing employment, ensuring communities could live sustainably in these peripheral regions.



## BÁCÚS UÍ BHAOILL



BÁCÚS UÍ BHAOILL is a large employer in the remote region of Baile na Finne in Co. Donegal. The Irish language plays a central role in the company's branding and Irish language signage can be seen on the company's fleet of delivery vans. The Irish language is given precedence on stationary and labelling of products. The company also sponsors the local festival, Éigse Sheáin Bháin, celebrating the language and literary tradition of the region.

BÁCÚS UÍ BHAOILL is owned by the Ó Baoill family and is located near the Gaeltacht village of Baile na Finne, in the heart of the Gaeltacht highlands. The bakery produces a large collection of baked products, using the best of local ingredients and their own spring water. The bakery's vans travel across the country delivering products to shops and supermarkets alike.

Údarás encourages parents who don't speak the language to attend these centres so they can increase their ability to use Irish at home and in the community.

## Languages Services Centres



→ Baile an Fheirtéaraigh in Corca Dhuibhne, Co. Kerry.

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises the centres and institutes providing Irish language learning services to the Gaeltacht community.

Centres offering classes and Irish language learning material to adults that want to learn the language and improve their speaking or writing ability are called Language Services Centres. The Údarás also aims to encourage parents who don't speak the language to attend these centres so they can increase their ability to use Irish at home and in the community.

A qualification in the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge/The Irish language European Certificate (TEG) can be attained in these centres as well as a Diploma in Translation and Irish in some of the participating centres in the Gaeltacht regions. As well as providing funding towards the cost of teachers, Údarás provides funding for the purchase of high-quality material, furniture and equipment for the achievement of these teaching and learning goals.



## 05 Training & Education

Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategic objective regarding the development of education and training courses is to contribute to the strong foundation and quality of skillsmanship in the Gaeltacht community.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategic objective regarding the development of education and training courses is to contribute to the strong foundation and quality of skills in the Gaeltacht community. The development of these resources supports the structural foundation and implementation of the general development programmes being funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta.

This investment allows us to contribute to the range of training and education initiatives that are strongly tied to a strategy that aims to support the development of the Gaeltacht. There is an emphasis, as part of this strategy, on the development of the economy and on the provision of employment, along with the area of community development and language planning.

These initiatives support the promotion and implementation of the organisation's primary objective, the nurturing of a sustainable Gaeltacht community and supporting that community to sustain Irish as its primary language.



## Training & Education

Up to 1,000 young entrepreneurs from across the Gaeltacht participate in Clár na gComhlachtaí.

# Clár na gComhlachtaí – Nurturing future Gaeltacht entrepreneurship



Each year, up to 1,000 young entrepreneurs from across the Gaeltacht participate in Clár na gComhlachtaí, an enterprise competition that aims to encourage and nurture entrepreneurship amongst Gaeltacht youth. In conjunction with Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI), regional competitions were held in the north, south and west Gaeltacht regions with the winners taking part in the national finals in Galway.

The competition often sees the high standard of winners going on to represent Ireland in the European Championship of the competition. Over the years, a wide range of projects, that have a business foundation, have been developed by the young students. Indeed, many projects have had a strong emphasis on sustainability and the environment in recent years.

→ Liam Ó hógáin, Finn Daibhéis and Patrick Saunders from Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Kerry, represented Ireland in the Company of the Year Competition 2020.

Údarás na Gaeltachta works in conjunction with the Education Training Boards in the Gaeltacht regions to fully serve the training needs of members of the Gaeltacht communities.

## CASE STUDY

# Pramerica



## NUMBERS

# 46

The course was held over 46 weeks and employment opportunities subsequently became available in Pramerica for the participants.

As well as providing and organising various training courses, Údarás na Gaeltachta works in conjunction with the Education Training Boards in the Gaeltacht regions to fully serve the training needs of members of the Gaeltacht communities.

Training needs in the tourism and marine sectors as well as others have been recognised. There is a mutual understanding between Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Education Training Boards regarding courses being primarily delivered in facilities owned by Údarás.

A good example of this collaboration is when the client company Pramerica was looking to recruit more employees for their satellite office in the gteic@Gaoth Dobhair innovation and digital hub. A decision was made by Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Donegal Education Training Board to deliver an 'Automated Software Tester' course in the gteic providing necessary training for trainee employees. The course was held over 46 weeks and employment opportunities subsequently became available in Pramerica for the participants.



## Training & Education

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises the importance of preserving and cultivating Gaeltacht traditions.

### CASE STUDY

## Boat Building

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises the importance of preserving and cultivating Gaeltacht traditions as well as creating employment opportunities in sectors that are deeply rooted in the Gaeltacht.

An example of this work is the Wooden Boat Building course delivered in Tír an Fhia in Leitir Móir in conjunction with the Galway and Roscommon Education Training Board. The part-time further education and training course focused on the building of 6 feet long wooden *currachai* (traditional wooden and canvas boats).

Among the skills being taught were the drafting of building instructions, reading and understanding of boat plans, recognising different types of wooden boats, understanding the use of different types of wood for building purposes, construction of wooden frames and mounting of the finished frame according to the boat plans as well as the other components.



→ Traditional boats of the west coast of Ireland were built as part of the course.

## Apprenticeships

Since the foundation of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 1980, an Apprenticeship Scholarship Scheme has been provided to support Gaeltacht applicants, who are fluent Irish speakers, to attain a recognised apprenticeship qualification.

Apprenticeships are provided in traditional trades such as plumbing, building and electrical work, as well as modern Apprenticeship Scholarships in biopharma, finance and logistics.

Apprentices often do well in their apprenticeships and subsequently gain permanent employment. Indeed, applicants of the scheme have also succeeded on the world stage at international apprenticeships competitions.

## International Apprenticeship Competition



→ Jeaic Ó Domhnaill and Pádraig Ó Tuama representing Ireland in Kazan in Russia.

Jeaic Ó Domhnaill from Tír an Fhia in Conamara represented Ireland at the Worldskills International Apprenticeship Competition in 2019 after being named Plumbing Champion of the Year earlier that same year. This achievement is evidence of the quality of the apprenticeships being provided by Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Indeed, two Údarás apprentices represented Ireland in Kazan, Russia that year, with Pádraig Ó Tuama from Cúil Aodha in Cork competing as well.

Ó Domhnaill is a former pupil of Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin in An Cheathrú Rua and began an apprenticeship with Terence McDonagh, a locally based plumbing contractor in An Tulach, Co. Galway.

Their awards were evidence of the quality of their employment, their own commitment to their apprenticeship and the value of the Údarás apprenticeship schemes.



# Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta can offer qualifying businesses and companies from various sectors a range of incentives and supports to start up, develop, expand or locate in a Gaeltacht region. Hundreds of companies have established businesses in the Gaeltacht with help from Údarás na Gaeltachta, with up to 8,000 jobs being provided.

Included in the supports available are employment, training, capital grants and many more. Údarás na Gaeltachta can be contacted to avail of the most up to date information on the supports available.

## NUMBERS

**8,000**

Údarás supports up to 8,000 jobs.

**€844M**

According to ABSEI research in 2019, client companies made estimated sales of €844m and had a direct expenditure of €430m.

## SUPPORTS

# Feasibility Study Grant Aid

Drioghlann Thír Chonaill Teo received support from Údarás na Gaeltachta to undertake a Feasibility Study. Based on that study, the distillery has now been developed and is ready to begin business from its premises in Croithlí in Co. Donegal.

Feasibility study grant aid is available to groups, organisations, businesses or individuals to allow them to assess the viability of a business idea.

A significant portion of costs directly related to the feasibility study may be covered. Examples of eligible costs are salaries and wages of the company's personnel, cost of consultants, related travel and subsistence and any other additional overheads incurred directly as a result of the Feasibility Study.

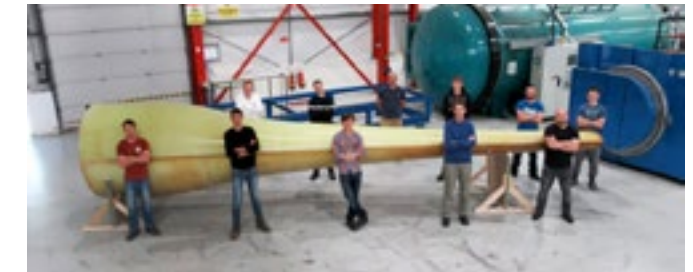


→ Whiskey stills in Drioghlann Thír Chonaill, Co. Donegal.



## SUPPORTS

# Research and Development Grant



When Éire Composites, based in Indreabhán, Conamara, recognised the need to develop further in the innovative sector they were working in, they spoke with Údarás na Gaeltachta with regard to securing a research and development grant to ensure they were ahead of international trends in their specialised sector.

Research and development grants are available to assist businesses develop innovative products, processes and services which will lead to an enhancement of their ability to perform in increasingly competitive markets.

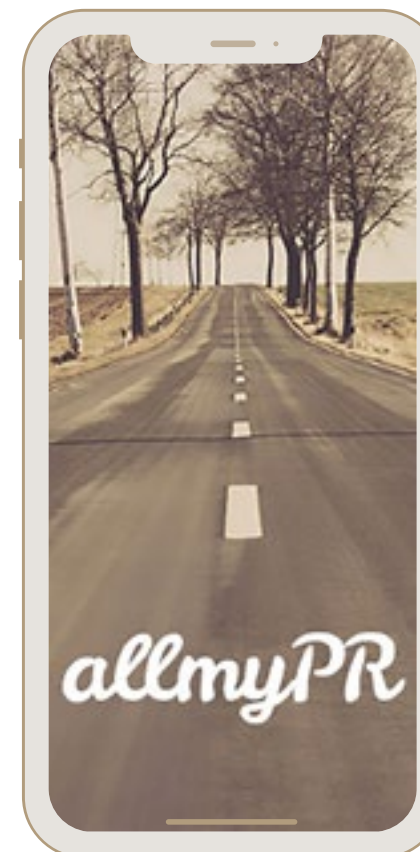
## SUPPORTS

# Online Trading Grant

The Online Trading Scheme is being provided to support Gaeltacht businesses under pressure due to the COVID-19 crisis. There was huge demand for this scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic as Gaeltacht businesses understood the importance of providing their services and products online due to the inability of customers to avail of their products or services in person.

The companies included MeasMedia in the Galway Gaeltacht who benefited from the scheme by developing and providing a new online service at a time when businesses in Ireland and abroad were under pressure due to the exceptional economic circumstances resulting from COVID-19.

This scheme has also been a valuable support to businesses big and small over the years, allowing them to enhance their capability to trade 'online', identify new markets expand, the sale of their products online and, as a result of this, to stabilise and develop the employment foundation during this period.





## 06 Subsidiaries & Other

Údarás na Gaeltachta has two subsidiaries, Muintearas and Ealaín na Gaeltachta. Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta is also funded through Údarás na Gaeltachta. The three companies play an important role in achieving Údarás's goals in developing the Gaeltacht as a region of excellence in which to live.



Muintearas, a subsidiary company of Údarás is funded to achieve certain educational, language, youth and community development objectives.

## Muintearas



→ An Chlúid, a restaurant run by Muintearas, is a social enterprise project



Muintearas Teo, a subsidiary company of Údarás is funded to achieve certain educational, language, youth and community development objectives. Muintearas Teo. focus largely on reducing disadvantages in Gaeltacht education/ training provision, on achieving equality of opportunities for the Gaeltacht and on reinforcing the Irish language as a medium of instruction in Gaeltacht education.

The company's primary fields of work include the following: early childhood development, education, youthwork, modern technology courses, communication and lifelong community education. In co-operation with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Muintearas Teo. also receives other sources of funding from the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, SOLAS and POBAL for various initiatives it administers.



## Subsidiaries & Other

Ealaín na Gaeltachta develops and maintains a programme of traditional and contemporary arts and administers the Arts Development Scheme that encourages new arts projects within the Gaeltacht community.

## Ealaín na Gaeltachta



The Gaeltacht community is lucky to live in the midst of some of the best and most exciting art and artists in the world. This is primarily due to the support provided by Ealaín na Gaeltachta, which is jointly funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Arts Council.

Seven strategic arts institutes/ organisations are also funded through the Maintenance Scheme and the Festival Scheme has helped the Gaeltacht community celebrate and cultivate Gaeltacht culture and heritage.

Ealaín na Gaeltachta develops and maintains a programme of traditional and contemporary arts and administers the Arts Development Scheme that encourages new arts projects within the Gaeltacht community.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta CTR. is the largest organisation, public or private, in the country providing early years services through Irish or English.

## Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta

### NUMBERS

24

The number of preschools in the Connacht Gaeltacht regions.

21

The number of preschools in the Donegal Gaeltacht regions.

17

The number of preschools in the Munster Gaeltacht regions.

→ Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta has been a pioneering force in the development of a curriculum since the establishment of the organisation.



Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta CTR. is the largest organisation, public or private, in the country providing early years services through Irish or English. CNNG operates in each Gaeltacht area in the country and the organisation works hand in hand with the Gaeltacht communities.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo. is an independent company structure funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta to provide a management and administration service to Gaeltacht early years services functioning through Irish in the Gaeltacht. The Department of Children and Youth

Affairs as well as the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provide funding for the various early childhood schemes.

The CNNG's headquarters is based in An Cheathrú Rua in the Galway Gaeltacht. The Donegal regional office serves the north, the Mayo office services Mayo and north and east Galway and the office in Waterford serves Munster. The Conamara and Meath Gaeltacht areas are served by the headquarters.



## 07 Diaspora

The main aim of the Gaeltacht Diaspora strategy is to foster a closer relationship with the Gaeltacht community at home and abroad.

It is hoped that an ongoing connection can be fostered with this community to inform them of employment opportunities in the Gaeltacht, as well as providing information, advice and support on their decision to return home.

Údarás publishes the newsletter, Cairde na Gaeltachta (Friends of the Gaeltacht) primarily for the Gaeltacht diaspora. Each edition is circulated worldwide and provides an opportunity to look at contemporary life in the Gaeltacht and learn of specific stories related to the diaspora.

→ Image Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



→ A gathering at Ireland's Gaeltacht Experience in Boston.

UNITED STATES

## Ireland's Gaeltacht Experience

Údarás na Gaeltachta has built on the strong connection between the Gaeltacht and the city of Boston in the United States, where Údarás organises the "Ireland's Gaeltacht Experience" event. Attendees witness a celebration of Gaeltacht traditional song, language, dance and traditions such as currach racing.

Arising from these celebrations, Údarás na Gaeltachta has presented a significant book collection to the South Boston Library, which now displays a Gaeltacht Corner.

SCOTLAND

## Connection with Scotland

There is a long-established connection between Northwest Donegal and Scotland. It is estimated that over a million people who live in Scotland are of Irish heritage. There are few regions in Ireland that witnessed an exodus of emigrants to Scotland as the Donegal Gaeltacht did, the parishes of Na Rosa, Gaoth Dobhair and Cloich Cheann Fhaola in particular. Indeed, the Gaeltacht community still maintain a strong connection with relatives in Scotland. Údarás na Gaeltachta is building on these long-established connections, through the development of new relationships and economic ties between the Irish Gaeltacht and Scotland.

Since this connection has been initiated, a trade mission has been established between the Gaeltacht and Scotland. Visits by government Ministers have been organised and a new bilateral policy is being developed between Ireland and Scotland, with Údarás na Gaeltachta playing a central role.





## 08 Tourism

The Gaeltacht boasts some of the most scenic regions in Ireland. Picturesque beauty, coupled with the Gaeltacht's distinct culture and language, provide the ingredients for an unforgettable visitor experience.

Encompassing 7 counties, each with its own Gaeltacht identity, there is a diverse landscape and culture that ensure no two days are ever the same for the visitor.

Launched in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way presents enormous opportunities for the Gaeltacht. Some 25% of the Wild Atlantic Way passes along the coast of the Gaeltacht Islands and mainland.

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises this opportunity and is working with community-led social enterprises, local authorities, entrepreneurs and other State agencies in the development of strategic cultural and experiential attractions.



## Tourism

Teach Solais Fhánada and lightkeeper's cottages are located in Ireland's most northerly Gaeltacht.

# Teach Solais Fhánada



Teach Solais Fhánada and lightkeeper's cottages are located in Ireland's most northerly Gaeltacht. The lighthouse has been featured in global marketing campaigns to showcase the unique destinations along the Wild Atlantic Way. Fanad Lighthouse is a community initiative supported by Donegal County Council, the Commissioners of Irish Lights, Fáilte Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta. This attraction has guided tours, a visitor centre and accommodation.

Údarás na Gaeltachta has offered valuable, ongoing support to the Fanad Lighthouse social enterprise from the outset and has been central in providing support to recruit a marketing executive to promote and sell this attraction. The Údarás is also represented on the Board of Fanad Lighthouse.

→ The wilderness of the Atlantic and the beauty of the sky seen at Teach Solais Fhánada.

Uisceadán Dhaingean Uí Chúis is Ireland's largest aquarium

# Uisceadán Dhaingean Uí Chúis

Rated on Trip Advisor's top ten things to do in Co. Kerry, Uisceadán Dhaingean Uí Chúis Mara Beo is a vibrant example of how Údarás na Gaeltachta works with private enterprises to create employment and opportunities in small towns. Uisceadán Dhaingean Uí Chúis is Ireland's largest aquarium, with plans to expand further.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta has supported the company from its very early days providing support through capital and employment grants, investments, marketing support and support for research and development.



→ Visitors can witness underwater marvels at Uisceadán Dhaingean Uí Chúis



## Tourism

At the foot of An Earagail and adjacent to Glenveagh National Park, Ionad Cois Locha has been welcoming visitors for almost 40 years.

# Ionad Cois Locha Dunlewey Centre

At the foot of An Earagail and adjacent to Glenveagh National Park, Ionad Cois Locha has been welcoming visitors for almost 40 years. Beginning with a small museum, café and shop, the project has grown into a significant family attraction in the region.

### How did Údarás help?

Údarás na Gaeltachta has provided grant aid for the development of the buildings, purchase of equipment and recruitment of staff. Since then, this social enterprise has developed a boat cruise, play areas, extensive craft shop, a weaver's cottage with a working loom and a theatre.



→ Traditional weaving demonstration at Ionad Cois Locha.

Comhar Chuigéal Teo has an ambitious tourism plan to develop the area as a tourist destination for visitors travelling to the west of Ireland.

# Ionad na Feamainne

This development is only the first phase of an ambitious tourism plan prepared by Comhar Chuigéal Teo to develop the area as a tourist destination for visitors travelling to the west of Ireland.

The centre provides a complete 'Seaweed Experience' with visitors enjoying a variety of experiences in the centre including shopping for products made from local seaweed. The centre also provides tourist information and a café. Visitors can witness seaweed preparation for cosmetic treatments; have an opportunity to go on a guided seaweed tour along the shore and experience seaweed footbaths.

The centre is a "haven of tranquillity" with a warm quiet atmosphere, soft music, soft lighting and dramatic piece of art inspired by seaweed.



→ All information regarding seaweed, from harvesting to the plate is available at Ionad na Feamainne.



## 09 Gaeltacht na hÉireann

The Gaeltacht regions are vibrant in terms of their language, history, culture, people and landscape. Ireland's Gaeltacht brand was developed by Údarás na Gaeltachta to promote the region's spectacular attractions.



→ Left: The Gaeltacht brand has a sweet taste as it's promoted by Skelligs Chocolates.  
 → Others: The brand being used by Oideas Gael, Dingle Distillery, Criostal na Rinne and Louis Mulcahy.

The values of the brand portray the attributes of these unique regions: sense of place, Irish language, Pride, Quality, Community and Culture.

The brand is a resource to promote the Gaeltacht and all aspects of Gaeltacht life with the purpose of sustaining the Gaeltacht community and the Irish language. The brand is available for everyone to use – our clients, other Gaeltacht companies, community organisations, the tourism and arts sector and many others. Anyone based in the Gaeltacht can use the brand on their signage, marketing material online or in print, on products and packaging, on workplace uniforms, on social media and when connecting with customers or the wider community.





## Gaeltacht na hÉireann

The Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand is proudly displayed on their products ensuring customers are aware the product is produced in the Múscraí Gaeltacht region.

GAELTACHT NA HÉIREANN BRAND ADOPTED BY BUSINESSES

# Macroom Buffalo Mozzarella



Renowned nationwide, Macroom Buffalo Mozzarella is available in shops throughout the country. The Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand is proudly displayed on their products ensuring customers are aware the product is produced in the Múscraí Gaeltacht region. The brand communicates the product's uniqueness and its origin from one of the most unpolluted and vibrant parts of the world.

It also depicts, not only that the product is Irish but also that the business that has been cultivated in a rural area fostering employment, the Irish language and various opportunities for the Gaeltacht community.

→ Macroom Buffalo Mozzarella is an excellent example of a successful food company being recognised as a Gaeltacht producer.

The Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand is prominent on all products, providing a unique sales element.

GAELTACHT NA HÉIREANN BRAND USED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

# Bia Farraigne Árann

→ Products such as Bia Farraigne Árann have a distinct marketing element through its affiliation with a clean and green region.



Bia Farraigne Árann Teo was established by Comharchumann Forbartha Árann in 2018. The business is a joint venture between Rosaria Piseri and the Co-operative. The business is a producer of seaweed products, products such as organic food and drinks based on seaweed, olive oil and sauces and edible seaweed products.

The Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand is prominent on all products, providing a unique sales element. The brand portrays Bia Farraigne Árann's products as distinctive and that distinction cannot be disputed, considering they are produced using natural resources found locally in the Gaeltacht.



# 10 History

The Gaeltacht Civil Rights Movement was founded in the Conamara Gaeltacht in 1969 influenced by similar human rights movements worldwide, including those movements in the North of Ireland and in the United States. The decimation caused by emigration as well as a lack of development and education in the Gaeltacht regions was a cause of concern and anger.

The Movement sought, as part of a list of demands, a democratic Gaeltacht authority. The development body, Gaeltarra Éireann was operating within more constrained functions than required by the Movement, and was focused on creating employment.

They called for the foundation of a Gaeltacht body, with a board elected by the Gaeltacht community governing the Gaeltacht regions and that those regions would be recognised as specific areas. Campaigns were organised between 1969 and 1979 to establish a Gaeltacht authority and by 1979 the first election of the Gaeltacht board was held on December 12th 1979.

- Above: Cathal Mac Gabhann, Údarás na Gaeltachta's first Chief Executive.
- Left: Máirtín Ó Cadhain speaking on behalf of the Gaeltacht Civil Rights Movement.
- Right: Óstán na Sceilge in Daingean Uí Chúis was a Gaeltarra Éireann initiative.









## History



→ Attendees at one of Údarás's first media courses, 1989-1990:

Front row from left: Aodh Ó Coileáin, Niall Mac Eamharcaigh, Miriam Judge (Coláiste Cumarsáide Video Cam), John Barr, Mairéad Dinny Ní Ghallachóir, Ciarán Ó Tuairisc, Micheál Ó Meallaigh agus Brid Ní Shirín. Back row from left: Ruán Ó Bric, Seán Ó Neachtain, Pól Ó Foighil, Cóilín Ó Scoláí, Séamus Ó Lorcáin, Seán Ó Domhnaill, Micheál G Ó Gallachóir, Seosamh Ó Cuaig agus Fionbarra Ó Muirí.

→ Minister for the Gaeltacht, Culture and Arts, Michael D Higgins, at the launch of TG4 in 1996.

Establishing television initiatives in the Gaeltacht was a main priority for Údarás and substantial investment was made in the industry in the 1990s, up until the establishment of Teilifís na Gaeilge in Baile na hAbhann on October 31st 1996. In addition, investment was made in the following industries to boost employment; Mechanical Engineering (32%), Services (30%), other Manufacturing (15%), Natural Resources (10%), Food (6%), Textile & Fabrics (5%) and in Rubber & Plastics (2%).

Most employment was created in the services industry in 2004 and proposed plans to develop a Marine Park in Cill Chiaráin was announced in 2001. In 2004, the services industry topped the employment poll, and the development of a Marine Park in Cill Chiaráin was announced in 2001. A development plan for salmon farming to the value of £30 million (€38 million) was proposed the same year. A strategic plan was also drafted for tourism in the Gaeltacht. Staffing and funding resources were provided to the subsidiary GAELSAOIRE to promote the Gaeltacht as a unique destination.

## 1996

Teilifís na Gaeilge was established in Baile na hAbhann on October 31st 1996.

## 2002

Údarás established a taskforce to revitalise the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park and contribute to employment there.

## 2012

With the implementation of the Gaeltacht Act 2012, Údarás na Gaeltachta was given a statutory duty in respect to the Irish language. Although this duty had previously been understood, it had not been set in legislation.

## 2020

Údarás na Gaeltachta celebrates reaching the 40 year milestone since its establishment.

## Language

With the implementation of the Gaeltacht Act 2012, Údarás na Gaeltachta was given a statutory duty in respect to the Irish language. Although this duty had previously been understood, it had not been set in legislation.

Under the Act, Údarás na Gaeltachta is responsible for implementing the Language Planning Process in the Gaeltacht regions. The aim of the Process is to nurture and sustain Irish as a language of the household and as a community language through the implementation of language plans in various areas including the family, youth, in the education system and in the business and public sector. These plans, prepared in conjunction with the community, will increase the use of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht regions.

Although Údarás na Gaeltachta's role is officially defined under the Act, it is worth mentioning that language planning played an important role in every aspect of Údarás's work since it was established in 1980. Language Planning involves actions taken to influence the ability, the usage and the beliefs regarding the language. Údarás, in that context, has supported the cultivation and strengthening of the Irish language for decades, through its work in community development, enterprise, cultural, social and language development.

Údarás currently works hand in hand with the Gaeltacht community to support every aspect of the language planning process. Cooperation and participation from the community, the State as well as the private and voluntary sector is vital to the success of the process ensuring the establishment of Irish as a living language in the Gaeltacht regions.

Another significant change arising from the Gaeltacht Act 2012 is the structure of Údarás na Gaeltachta's board. The process of electing Údarás board members since the establishment of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 1980 has been discontinued. Under the Gaeltacht Act 2012, members appointed by the Minister and who are nominated by County Councils sit on the board.



# Current

Sustainability is central to Údarás's approach today.



When Údarás na Gaeltachta published its current strategy in 2018 bringing the organisation up to the 40th anniversary of its establishment in 2020, it was evident significant changes had taken place in the organisation's modus operandi since 1980.

When there was a drastic fall in employment in the Gaith Dobhair Business Park in County Donegal at the end of the nineties, it was clear a new approach would be required. Businesses moved their manufacturing work to other countries where wages and production costs were lower, mainly in Eastern Europe and in Asia. Údarás approached the crisis with specific steps to boost employment in the Business Park, focusing on services, sustainable employment, the skills of the local workforce and the area's natural resources.

Sustainability is central to Údarás's approach, in strategic initiatives such as Páirc na Mara, for example, an initiative that is strongly connected to the area in which it is located. There is also an emphasis on tourism, another sector that is significantly linked to the immediate locality.

Opportunities to create long term employment dependent on specific areas have been identified.

All aspects of sustainability are considered when Údarás na Gaeltachta is developing renewable energy projects to promote the Gaeltacht's leading role with regard to environment and innovation. Údarás works in conjunction with community development organisation projects in this area as well as social enterprise initiatives.

One of these initiatives is the gteic digital hub network, providing Gaeltacht communities with access to high quality work facilities, greatly contributing to the entrepreneurial culture of the local regions.

Looking forward, Údarás na Gaeltachta believes the planting of these seeds now, will ensure a strong future for the Gaeltacht, from which sustainable employment and a community can grow, ensuring an Irish speaking community for the future.