

END OF YEAR STATEMENT



2019

- 593 new jobs created in 2018
- Highest level of employment in client companies in 11 years
- A net increase of 219 full-time jobs in 2019 – almost double last year's figure
- 7,844 full-time jobs in client companies at the end of the year
- Highest level of employment in the Galway and Waterford Gaeltacht since the establishment of Údarás na Gaeltachta
- New projects approved to create an additional 480 jobs with investment of €33m
- Údarás ahead of target to approve 1,500 new jobs between 2018-2020
- 16 Language Plans approved with a budget of €2.2m
- Number of gteic digital hubs doubled

2019 Review

593 new full-time jobs were created in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in 2019, resulting in the highest level of employment in the Gaeltacht since 2008. 2019 also saw the highest employment levels in the Galway and Waterford Gaeltachts since the establishment of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 1980. A net increase of 219 jobs on the previous year has resulted in 7,844 full-time and 523 part-time jobs in companies supported by Údarás by year end. There has now been a consistent increase in employment levels in the Gaeltacht for seven consecutive years. The Údarás is ahead of its target to approve 1,500 new jobs during the timeframe of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategic Plan 2018 -2020, with 1,005 new jobs created two-thirds of the way through the Plan's lifetime.

Significant progress has been made in the language planning process in the Gaeltacht, with 11 Language Planning Officers employed and now implementing language plans in their respective regions. By the end of 2019, language plans were approved for 16 Language Planning Areas and an investment of €2.2 million sanctioned for the implementation of these plans.

Outlook for 2020

With Údarás na Gaeltachta celebrating its 40-year anniversary in 2020, the organisation is mindful of the significant economic and societal changes at both Gaeltacht and international level in recent years, as it looks strategically towards the future.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's brief in 2020 is considerably wider than it was when it was established in 1980, with language planning, community development and other responsibilities added to the two areas the Údarás was initially tasked with: employment and commercial property.

Looking towards the next 40 years, Údarás na Gaeltachta is clear that innovation and sustainability are, and will continue to be, interwoven through all that we do. This is already evident in the foundations we are putting in place in relation to language planning, entrepreneurship, tourism, the marine sector, renewable energy and community development.

It will be even more evident in 2020 as we build on achievements in areas such as the marine innovation park, Páirc na Mara, the social economy, the creative industry, the gteic network and the Irish language.



“We are delighted with the progress made in regard to the implementation of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategy during 2019. We especially welcome the significant increase in employment levels in Gaeltacht companies and the progress being made in the Language Planning Process throughout the Gaeltacht. We greatly value the efforts of the companies located

in the Gaeltacht, as well as those of the communities in the various Gaeltacht regions and the State agencies with whom we work in partnership. Personally, as Chief Executive Officer, I am extremely grateful to the staff and Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta for their continued diligence and support in reaching the organisation’s objectives.”

Údaras na Gaeltachta’s
Chief Executive Officer,
Micheál Ó hÉanaigh



“We now have the largest number of employees in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in 11 years, and have laid the foundations to build on that with the introduction of the gteic digital hub network, providing the next generation with the infrastructure required to develop their own ideas as businesses. There are now eight gteics operational, a 100% increase on 2018 and more are expected in early 2020.”

“Significant developments have been made in the past year in relation to language planning and the positive impact of these efforts can now be seen throughout the Gaeltacht. The Gaeltacht communities have put a significant amount of work into preparing plans for their respective regions, resulting in the employment of a team of dedicated, energetic Language Planning Officers to implement their plans.”



Údaras na Gaeltachta's
Chairperson,
Anna Ní Ghallachair

Employment in the Gaeltacht

Tá méadú leanúnach tagtha ar chúrsaí fostaíochta i gcomhlachtaí Gaeltachta a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó Údarás na Gaeltachta le seacht mbliana anuas, agus ardú 12% tagtha ar an bhfostaíocht iomlán sa tréimhse sin. Tá sé suntasach go bhfuil figiúirí fostaíochta i gcliantchomhlachtaí Údarás na Gaeltachta anois ag an leibhéal is airde le 11 bliain. Ina theannta sin, tá an leibhéal fostaíochta i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe agus i nGaeltacht Phort Láirge ag an leibhéal is airde ó bunaíodh Údarás na Gaeltachta i 1980.

Ní i nGaillimh agus i bPort Láirge amháin atá dea-scéal le tuairisciú, áfach. Tá an leibhéal fostaíochta i nGaeltacht Dhún na nGall ag an leibhéal is airde ó 2008. Le 695 post, tá fostaíocht i nGaeltacht Chiarraí ag an leibhéal is airde ó 2013. Ní raibh figiúirí fostaíochta chomh hard i Maigh Eo le ceithre

bliana. Don dara bliain as a chéile, tá ardú tagtha ar fhostaíocht i gcliantchomhlachtaí de chuid an Údaráis i nGaeltacht na Mí. Cé gur fhan figiúirí fostaíochta mar a chéile i nGaeltacht Chorcaí le 699 post, tá ardú 21% tagtha ar fhostaíocht ann le sé bliana.

Ba iad na hearnálacha Seirbhísí agus Bia & Dí mar aon le Déantúsaíocht a léirigh na méaduithe fostaíochta is mó i rith na bliana.

Tá tionchar suntasach eacnamaíoch ag cliantchomhlachtaí an Údaráis ar gheilleagar na Gaeltachta agus na tíre. De réir thaighde ABSEI a rinneadh i 2019, meastar go raibh díolachán iomlán de €844m ag na cliantchomhlachtaí an bhliain roimhe sin chomh maith le caiteachas díreach de €430m i ngeilleagar na hÉireann. Léiríonn na figiúirí seo go bhfuil luach maith á fháil ar infheistíocht an Stáit sa Ghaeltacht.





480 new jobs approved for the Gaeltacht in 2019

The Board of *Údarás na Gaeltachta* approved a number of new projects which will create 480 jobs, with an estimated total investment of €33 million as the projects develop over the next few years. The majority of job approvals during 2019 were for projects in counties Donegal, Galway, Cork and Mayo. Approvals were particularly strong in companies in the medical devices, food, services and niche manufacturing sectors.

Economic impact of *Údarás na Gaeltachta* client companies

Údarás client companies have a significant impact on both the Gaeltacht and the Irish economy. Based on ABSEI research conducted in 2019, *Údarás* client companies, with 10 or more employees, generated a direct expenditure in the Irish economy of €430m on payroll, on services and the purchase of raw materials in 2018. In total, €189m was spent on payroll. Of the €143m expenditure on services, €89m, or 62.3% of the total expenditure, was on services based in Ireland. This, according to ABSEI 2019 figures, equates to a 10% increase on expenditure on Irish-based services compared to 2017.

The same research shows that *Údarás* client companies had total sales of €844m in 2018. Some €499m of sales consisted of exports, with a significant increase in exports to Asia and a modest increase in exports to the United Kingdom.

Irish Language Development

B2019 was a significant year in terms of Irish language development, with Gaeltacht communities seeing work begin on language plans for their respective Language Planning Areas (LPAs).

By year end, 16 language plans had been approved by the Minister of State with Responsibility for Gaeilge, the Gaeltacht and the Islands, Seán Kyne. In addition to this, three further plans were submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for approval, plans for LPA Na Rosann in Co. Donegal, Maigh Cuilinn in Co. Galway, and the Daingean Uí Chúis plan for a Gaeltacht Service Town. With language plans being implemented across the Gaeltacht, 2019 saw the appointment of 11 Language Planning Officers (LPO) as well as two Assistant Language Planning Officers, and another 4 LPOs in the process of recruitment. A budget of €2.2million was made available for language planning activities.

As well as a series of training workshops arranged by Údarás na Gaeltachta as support for the Language Planning Officers, the latter were invited to Government Buildings in December to meet with An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, along with Minister for State, Seán Kyne, in recognition of their efforts.

Strategic Community Development Review

Community development organisations are central to the development of the Gaeltacht and to the implementation of Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategy. The Údarás funded 33 community development organisations in 2019. These community development organisations, including co-operatives and community-based companies, played a central role in tourism, language planning, renewable energy projects and the gteic network as well as various other projects. Furthermore, the Údarás founded a Community Development Unit in 2019 focused on providing assistance and support to the community development organisations to achieve their development objectives for the benefit of the Gaeltacht community as a whole. The Unit will work directly with co-operatives and community-based companies to provide a number of supports to both staff and committee members, and by working in conjunction with them, to develop an exemplary community development model in the Gaeltacht.

As part of that work, the Údarás undertook a strategic review of community development issues to ensure a strong foundation for one of the most important networks in Gaeltacht society and the most innovative network in the country in terms of community





gtec – The Gaeltacht Digital Network

2019 saw the number of gtec digital hubs double by year end. There are now eight digital hubs operating in five Gaeltacht counties, hosting 193 workers based in them:

- Gaoth Dobhair in Co. Donegal
- Béal an Mhuirthead in Co. Mayo
- Carna, An Cheathrú Rua, Na Forbacha and An Spidéal in Co. Galway
- Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh in Co. Cork
- Daingean Uí Chúis (Mol Teic/ Dingle Hub) in Co. Kerry

Between them, there are more than 250 desk spaces available, with 500 desk spaces to be in place in 2020. An investment of over €5 million has been made in the gtec network to date, and Údarás are seeking to develop the gtec network further by providing a developmental training programme for both gtec managers and users, in addition to a marketing strategy.



Páirc na Mara

Údarás na Gaeltachta made significant progress in 2019 regarding the planning process for Páirc na Mara, a marine innovation park in Cill Chiaráin, Conamara. An Environmental Impact Assessment scoping document was published, providing the public with an opportunity to provide opinions with regard to the proposed initiative. The scoping document is the first step in the preparation of a final report on the Environmental Impact Assessment that will be central to the project's planning application. It is hoped that a planning application will be submitted before the end of the first quarter of 2020.

To date, 26 expressions of interest have been received from the private sector with a view to locating projects in Páirc na Mara, in areas such as pharmaceuticals, energy and engineering, micro-algae and seaweed products. Údarás na Gaeltachta also organised a number of events based on the Páirc na Mara initiative, including Lá na Mara 2019 (Marine Day 2019) and Lá Fuinnimh don Phobal (Community Energy Day). Various aspects of the Páirc na Mara initiative, such as food and sea products, marine and renewable energy initiatives were introduced to the large number in attendance at the events.

Tourism

2019 was a successful year for Gaeltacht tourism with several developments designed to promote the Gaeltacht as a unique destination in terms of language and culture. Towards the end of the year, the Minister for Rural and Community Development announced an allocation of €1.87m in capital funding for Údarás na Gaeltachta to develop a significant tourism hub in Eachléim in the Mayo Gaeltacht. ‘Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh’ will function as a central tourism focus for visitors to the Iorras Peninsula in the north Mayo Gaeltacht, where they will find information on the natural heritage and culture of the region. The project is expected to cost €2.5m in total.

Additionally, 11 tourism officers were employed under the Tourism Development Scheme in order to work on community-based tourism projects across the Gaeltacht. As part of their training, the tourism officers enrolled in a bespoke Tourism Management Certification programme in conjunction with the Institute of Technology Tralee.

Among other tourism projects developed in partnership with Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2019 were The Seaweed Centre in Leitir Mealláin, Co. Galway, Sliabh Liag and Fanad Lighthouse in Co. Donegal. Údarás also played a central role in the development of a strategy for the tourism sector in the Conamara Gaeltacht, with a view to attracting tourists and tourism services providers to Connemara.ie under the direction of Cóstá Gaelach Chonamara agus Árann.

The Gaeltacht Diaspora

The main aim of the Gaeltacht Diaspora strategy is to foster a closer relationship with the Gaeltacht community at home and abroad, informing them of employment opportunities in the Gaeltacht, along with information on the Irish language, Gaeltacht culture and tourism.

In 2019, a new newsletter, Cairde na Gaeltachta, was published, covering a wide range of topics relating to contemporary Gaeltacht society and the diaspora community. The newsletter has forged many important connections with Gaeltacht-related organisations across the world, including London, Memphis, Boston, Paris, Melbourne, Sydney and Taiwan.

Údarás na Gaeltachta participated in the St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Boston in 2019, creating ‘Ireland’s Gaeltacht Experience’ as part of the festivities there. Attendees witnessed a celebration of Gaeltacht traditional song, language, dance and traditions such as currach racing. Arising from these celebrations, Údarás na Gaeltachta presented a significant book collection to the South Boston Library, which now displays a Gaeltacht Corner.

Údarás na Gaeltachta also strengthened the bond between the Gaeltacht and the diaspora in Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles in the United States, in addition to building on the strong cultural and economic ties between the Gaeltacht and Scotland.

Further, a social media campaign with the #diasporagaeltachta hashtag was used to provide the Gaeltacht diaspora with information on jobs and other practical information regarding moving back to Ireland.

Taskforces and Forums

Three plans focused on the development of specific areas under the stewardship of Údaras na Gaeltachta were launched in 2019.

The official launch and initial implementation of a 5-Year Action Plan for Iorras Aithneach took place in January. This plan was the result of discussions between the community and Údarás na Gaeltachta with a view to identifying opportunities to generate employment, develop tourism and services in the community as well as other key priority areas. The Uíbh Ráthach Taskforce Action Plan was launched in July. The plan is led by Údarás na Gaeltachta and aims to develop enterprise, increase employment opportunities and best use the available resources in the region.

The Meath Gaeltacht Enterprise Forum Report was published in December and includes, as part of its overall objectives, a plan to bring new focus to enterprise development opportunities as well as to ascertain how best to benefit from the area's close proximity to Dublin.

Training

Clár na gComhlachtaí – Nurturing future Gaeltacht entrepreneurship

780 young entrepreneurs from 22 Gaeltacht schools across Donegal, Galway Cork, Waterford and Meath took part in the 2019 Clár na gComhlachtaí, organised in partnership with Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI). The aim of the programme is to nurture a culture of entrepreneurship among the young people of the

Gaeltacht. Regional competitions were held across the Gaeltacht, with the winners taking part in the national finals in Galway. The overall winner from Coláiste Cholmcille in Indreabhán, Galway, with their “Save our Ocean” project, represented Ireland at the European finals held in France last summer.

Apprenticeship Scholarship Schemes

Two young Gaeltacht apprentices represented Ireland at the “Worldskills” International Apprenticeship Competition in Kazan, Russia in August. When Jeaic Ó Domhnaill finished school, he embarked on a four-year apprenticeship with a locally-based plumbing contractor, Terence Mac Donncha, from Tulach, Galway. Pádraig Ó Tuama qualified as a metal worker having begun his apprenticeship with an Údarás na Gaeltachta client company, Innealtóireacht Uí Loingsigh in Cúil Aodha, Cork. Both were on the Údarás na Gaeltachta-funded Apprenticeship Scholarship Scheme at the time. Their awards were evidence of the quality of their employment, their own commitment to their apprenticeship and the value of the Údarás apprenticeship schemes.

Partnership with TG4

A new Digital Media training programme was developed in conjunction with TG4 and the independent production sector in response to some skills deficits in this rapidly growing area. As part of this scheme, trainees are funded in 10 different companies that provide content to TG4. Each trainee is chosen on the basis of the skills needs of each company, in areas such as directing/production/research, etc. Certification will be presented by the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology to the participants on successful completion of the programme.

Third level Courses

A new tourism course was developed in 2019 in conjunction with Tralee IT and Letterkenny IT, in response to training needs in the sector. The course is delivered through a blended online and weekend-based workshop programme. It is tailored to the needs of those currently working on strategic Gaeltacht tourism projects.

Údarás na Gaeltachta continued to fund a Higher

Diploma/MSc in Applied Irish and Translation, administered by Galway Mayo IT in conjunction with the Gaeltacht-based translation company, Europus. Funding of the Higher Diploma in Television Production and Digital Media at Waterford IT continued, the programme is run in conjunction with the Gaeltacht-based TV production company, Nemeton.





External Funding and Financing

Údarás na Gaeltachta attracted funding of €6,720,122 from external sources in 2019, with a total investment of €9,150,363 coming from external Irish and other European Union sources. The Údarás recognises the importance of being able to build upon its core State funding provision in order to invest in strategic projects throughout the Gaeltacht.

Funding of €4,723,299 was delivered through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for capital projects and the development of gteics in Gaoth Dobhair, An Spidéal and Mayo, along with Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh in the Mayo Gaeltacht of Iorras. The same fund provided €984,351 that will allow Údarás na Gaeltachta to apply for capital funding for strategic projects such as the Old Hospital in Daingean Uí Chúis, Coláiste Íosagáin in Baile Bhúirne, the Baile an Fheirtéirigh development centre, in addition to providing for the implementation of the Uíbh Ráthach Taskforce Strategic Plan. Funding for these projects is to be sought from other State funding sources, including Fáilte Ireland and RRDF.

€1,012,472 was sourced in 2019 from European Union funds for projects in areas such as renewable energies, digital services, marine research and language planning. By the end of 2019, Údarás was administering European projects to the value of €1,745,317, with a total investment value of €2,419,351.

Social Employment Schemes

The Social Employment Schemes managed by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Social Protection, play an important role in providing work experience and training for the Gaeltacht community. A total of 1,032 participants and 49 supervisors are employed throughout the Gaeltacht. 2019 saw the introduction of a new strategic approach regarding the work of community-based organisations and the Social Employment Schemes themselves.

European Projects

Údarás na Gaeltachta, through its Research and Sectoral Development department, secured €2.38 million of funding from European funds in 2019, to support the organisation in implementing its development and investment strategy. These projects were co-funded by INTERREG and the European Regional Development Fund through the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, the Atlantic Area Programme, the North-West Europe Programme as well as Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+.

At present, Údarás are involved in projects involving renewable energies, the blue economy, digital innovation skills and a learning network for those involved in minority languages. These projects are linked to European partners, including third level institutions,

These European projects are very beneficial to the Gaeltacht and serve to inform the community on matters regarding renewable energy, climate change, seafood resources and energy resources.

The European projects LECO, RegEnergy and REACT relate to renewable energies. SAFER, Acces2Sea, SW-GROW and EMPORIA4KT relate to value-added marine and blue economy projects. The objective of the Digi2Market project is to utilise immersive technologies in fifty companies across the partnership to enable them to develop their marketing and sales projects outside of their respective regions. Erasmus+ focuses on bilingual countries and on teaching lesser-used languages in those countries. In 2019, Údarás na Gaeltachta continued its membership of the Assembly of European Regions, giving the organisation a platform at European level to present the opportunities and challenges facing the Gaeltacht.





The Gaeltacht na hÉireann Brand

The Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand was developed to promote Gaeltacht regions and their products under one flagship brand on a global scale. In 2019, marketing packs were created explaining the brand and its worth, as well as providing examples of how it can be used as a brand for products, as a marketing tool and on social media. The brand is being used by Údarás subsidiaries and community-based agencies and the number of client companies using the brand is increasing. Údarás na Gaeltachta also utilise the brand as part of the Gaeltacht Diaspora project, including it on brochures, at events and in the Diaspora newsletter to promote it amongst the global Gaeltacht community.



Brexit Challenges and International Policies

With the final Brexit outcome still unclear at the end of 2019, uncertainties continue regarding the impact of whatever trade agreement is concluded between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

In light of these uncertainties, Údarás na Gaeltachta has continued to prepare and support its client companies in relation to Brexit, with regular meetings ongoing over the past three years. Client companies have invested considerable work in developing new strategies and Údarás has provided support in the form of grants and consultancy. Údarás organised a series of business seminars throughout 2019, placing particular emphasis on the skills and expertise essential for client companies' management teams during these uncertain Brexit times.

ABSEI research carried out in 2019 shows that Údarás-supported client companies exported €499 million of total sales of €844 million in 2018 and that exports to Asia have seen a significant increase, while exports to the United Kingdom have enjoyed a smaller increase.





Subsidiary & Other Companies

Ealaín na Gaeltachta

Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Arts Council jointly fund a development and maintenance programme of traditional and contemporary arts through the subsidiary company Ealaín (na Gaeltachta) Teo. Among the initiatives taken by Ealaín na Gaeltachta during 2019, the Arts Development Scheme helped develop new arts projects within the Gaeltacht. Seven strategic arts centres/organisations were invested in using the Cothú Scheme, and the Féilte Scheme helped the Gaeltacht community celebrate its heritage and culture.

There was significant development in the implementation of the Native Arts Programme for Young People in 2019 and in October, the Údarás and Ealaín na Gaeltachta welcomed funding of €1.275m over three years from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht in order to continue with the Programme.

Muintearas Teo.

Muintearas Teo, a subsidiary company of Údarás is seed 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 cooperation with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Muintearas Teo. also receives other sources of funding from the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, SOLAS and POBAL for various initiatives it administers.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta CTR.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta CTR. is the largest organisation, public or private, in the country providing early years services through Irish or English. CNNG operate 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 Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provide funding for the various early childhood schemes.

The CNNG headquarters are 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 Connemara and Meath Gaeltacht areas are served by the headquarters.

Ray Mac Pháidín was appointed Manager of CNNG in 2019, after Mairéad Mac Con Iomaire, who had been Manager since the establishment of the organisation, retired.



Galway Gaeltacht

The Galway Gaeltacht saw the highest number of jobs created in Údarás na Gaeltachta-supported client companies in 2019, with the level of employment there now at its highest since Údarás na Gaeltachta was founded in 1980. 227 jobs were created in the Galway Gaeltacht in 2019, or 38% of the total jobs created in the Gaeltacht in 2019. When the number of jobs lost is taken into consideration, there was a net increase of 112 jobs on the previous year, so that by year end, there were 3,090 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies.

New jobs were created during the year in companies operating in a wide range of sectors: medical devices, niche manufacturing, film/television, services and the marine sector, in companies such as Aran Biomedical, Munlaí Leighis Advant Teo., Fintrax Group Holdings Ltd, Telegael Teo., Eo Teilifís Teo., Fíbín Teo and Bradán Beo Teo. There were a number of job losses in the fish processing, marine, food and drink, data processing, software, computing and manufacturing sectors.

Complete Laboratory Solutions (CLS)

Complete Laboratory Solutions (CLS) celebrated 25 years in business in 2019 and, as part of their celebrations, announced the creation of 100 jobs over the next two years, to be located in the Galway Gaeltacht and in Galway City. Established with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Ros Muc Enterprise Centre in 1994, Complete Laboratory Solutions has flourished under the direction of Evelyn O'Toole, founder and chief executive officer of the company.

The company opened CLS MedPharma in Galway City with the support of Enterprise Ireland in 2009. 18 environmental science and food microbiology graduates will be employed at water services and environmental Complete laboratory Solutions in Ros Muc, in addition to the 45 people who are already employed in the Gaeltacht facility. Complete Laboratory Solutions, the biggest contract laboratory in private ownership in the country, provide sampling services, testing, analysis on contract and high standard management results for clients in the food, environment, medical products and pharmaceutical sectors.

Páirc na Mara

Substantial progress has been made on the development of Páirc na Mara in the last year. In 2019, 26 expressions of interest were received from companies who have an interest in basing their

businesses in Páirc na Mara and private investors discussed their own development requirements. Discussions also began with engineers/architects in relation to the layout of the park and essential preliminaries in terms of planning – environmental matters, water supply, effluent system, etc. A public meeting was held regarding the environmental scope report in Cill Chiaráin at the start of December 2019 and strong support was evident from the local community in attendance.

Údarás na Gaeltachta organised various activities based on the project, such as Marine Day and Energy Day 2019. Planning applications for the Páirc na Mara project are expected to be ready in the first quarter of 2020. The Páirc na Mara development will be one of the most significant projects undertaken by Údarás in the coming years.

Iorras Aithneach Action Plan

The 5-year Iorras Aithneach Action Plan started its implementation phase in 2019, with a newly-appointed Project Officer working in collaboration with an advisory and monitoring committee. The digital hub, gteic@Carna, was opened in 2019, and a Language Planning Officer, a Language Planning Assistant, the manager of Comharchumann Sliogéisc Chonamara and a Youth Officer with Muintearas were employed in the area throughout the year. Included among the developments in education and youth matters which took place were: a Gaeltacht Semester organised by NUI Galway's Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, mariculture training courses and others training programmes.

gteic - Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta i gConamara

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved capital provision to establish a gteic digital hub and a youth innovation centre in Ceantar na nOileán in Conamara. The gteic will be located in the building of Muintearas Teo. in Tír an Fhia Business Park, Leitir Móir and the youth innovation centre will be developed in conjunction with TechSpace, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and Muintearas. TechSpace is a national project that gives young people the opportunity to be creative in their use of technology. Up to 12 work spaces will be available in gteic@Ceantar na nOileán and users will have access to meeting space, canteen and reception facilities. Muintearas Teo. will manage the gteic on behalf of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

gteic@Carna has also been developed, with two offices with four desks in this centre. gteic@An Cheathrú Rua, under the management of Comharchumann Mhic Dara, is operating successfully and continuing to develop.

Cooperative and Community-Based Organisations

A total funding of €826,500 was approved for 12 organisations under the Údarás community development scheme in 2019. These organisations provide important local services, along with coordinating community development activities and providing an advisory service for the voluntary sector in their areas. The community organisations are administering and managing community schemes and initiatives across the Gaeltacht, and developing projects in the context of Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategic plan.

Social Employment Schemes

A total of 385 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of the year. 186 people participated in the Community Employment scheme, 139 in the Rural Social Scheme, 44 on the Tús Scheme and 16 in the Tús Nua Scheme. The schemes are managed by 20 supervisors, administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

Renewable Energy in the Community

The Údarás team were in a position to support two cooperatives in developing solar energy projects. Comharchumann Mhic Dara have received planning permission to develop a 160kw photovoltaic farm in the An Cheathrú Rua business park, thus making significant progress in creating a carbon-free business park. Charging stations for electric cars will form part of this project.

Tourism Centres

The first phase in the development of Ionad Feamainne Leitir Mealláin, where visitors can learn about the history of seaweed in the area and about that fascinating plant, is now open to the public. The excellent work on this project to date has been carried out by Comhar Chuigéil and further development of the centre will take place in 2020. A tourism officer funded by Údarás also began work in the centre this year.

Additionally, further progress was made at Ionad na nImirceach in Carna in 2019, where a tourism officer is employed, with consultancy work completed during the year in relation to developing the project further as a tourist attraction.

Language Planning

An allowance of €100,000 was approved for Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán, who are acting as a Language Planning lead organisation in the Ceantar na nOileán language planning area. The funding has been approved to support the organisation in implementing their recently-approved language plan. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provides funding to Údarás na Gaeltachta to enable the implementation of the language planning process in the Gaeltacht.

From this fund, Údarás na Gaeltachta provides funding to the lead-organisations that are responsible for operating the language plans in the Language Planning Areas (LPA) and in the Gaeltacht Service Towns (GST) for which they are responsible.

The language plan for Conamara Láir was launched in Ros Muc on the 20th of September 2019. A Language Planning Officer and Assistant Language Planning Officer have been employed to implement the plan in conjunction with FCL Teo. and other local committees in the area.



Mayo Gaeltacht

41 new jobs were created in Mayo in 2019, a net increase of 18 jobs compared to the previous year, which means client companies of Údarás na Gaeltachta provided 675 full-time jobs in the Mayo Gaeltacht by the end of the year. New jobs were announced in companies such as Turasóireacht Iorrais Teo, Innealtóirí Cairte Uí Mhaolala Teo and Eachtraí Uisce Teo. The biggest growth was in information technology services, manufacturing and tourism. During 2019, the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved new projects in the Mayo Gaeltacht that will result in the creation of 45 new jobs.

Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh

Funding of €1.87m was sourced from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for a significant tourism project in the Mayo Gaeltacht. 'Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh' will be the main guided site for visitors of the Iorras Peninsula in the North Mayo Gaeltacht, in which they will be given information about the cultural heritage and natural world in the area. Tours of Blacksod Lighthouse, along with other tours of the area, will feature at the top of thousands of tourists' 'to-do' lists once the new site in Eachléim begins to operate.

This project is expected to cost €2.5m, and 75% funding comes from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The remainder will be funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta. The project has approved an extension of 600m² for Ionad Deirbhile – a tourism and heritage centre which was developed by Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile, along with Údarás na Gaeltachta and An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht & Gaeltachta.

gteic@BéalanMhuirthead

gteic@BéalanMhuirthead has made significant progress in 2019. Extra resources will be developed for the gTeic network in the Mayo Gaeltacht, as a result of funding which was approved for a series of projects in Mayo under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. In 2018, €795,000 was approved to develop eight Innovation Centres/Digital Hubs/ Centres of Excellence in the Mayo Gaeltacht.

These centres progressed significantly in 2019, and it is expected that they will open to the public in early 2020. These projects will add to the employment opportunities available to the rural communities in these areas, and to the Gaeltacht diaspora if they choose to return home. The funding that has been approved will have a major impact on this area, and is central to the Údarás strategy of providing

opportunities for remote working in the Gaeltacht.

Cooperative and Community-Based Organisations

In 2019, €255,000 was made available to four organisations under the Community Development Programme. These organisations provide important local services, in addition to coordinating community development activities and providing an advisory service for the voluntary sector in their areas. The community organisations are administering and managing community schemes and initiatives across the Gaeltacht, and developing projects in the context of Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategic plan.

Social Employment Scheme

247 people were employed in social employment schemes in the Mayo Gaeltacht by the end of the year. 40 people on the Community Employment Scheme, 162 on the Rural Social Scheme and 45 on the Tús Scheme. These schemes are being managed by 11 supervisors, administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí.

Language Planning

Laoise Ní Dhúda was appointed as the Language Planning Officer in the Language Planning Area of North Mayo in February 2019. Amongst other language planning activities in North Mayo, a new campaign, "Úsáid Í agus Mairfidh Sí", was developed, and information booklets were distributed to every household in the area, which described the language plan and the opportunities that come from use of the Irish language.



Meath Gaeltacht

There were 210 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht at the end of year 2019. When the number of job losses is taken into consideration, there was a net increase of 32 jobs on the previous year in the county.

Significantly for the Meath Gaeltacht, the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support for projects which will result in 39 jobs and a projected total investment of €4.83 million when these projects are underway. Most of the approved jobs relate to the Turmec company in Ráth Chairn and Novelplast in Baile Ghib. Turmec Teo. are experts in recycling who have had a number of successful years and have sourced new international markets for their large-scale engineering products. Novelplast have experienced a promising start with their plastic manufacturing company.

Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht

The Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht was established as an enterprise action group to attract a greater focus to Ráth Chairn/Baile Ghib, a Gaeltacht area close to Dublin, as an excellent location for employment creation. Government Chief Whip and Minister of State for Gaeilge, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Seán Kyne, launched the Enterprise Forum Report at the beginning of December. The report's objective is to develop a framework to build and develop Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib as a competitive and prosperous region for employment creation. The main proposals laid out in the report are as follows:

- Develop an enterprise space, in particular an innovation and digital gteic hub as part of the Údarás na Gaeltachta 'Gaeltacht Digital Network' (gteic) to service entrepreneurs, innovators, concept developers, start-up businesses and remote workers in particular;
- Develop, support and promote a cultural tourism/ language plan and customised products for the Meath Gaeltacht, in conjunction with local suppliers, Meath County Council, Fáilte Ireland and relevant regional agencies;
- Continue communication with employers (current and future) regarding comprehensive skill audits so as to identify current skills requirements and future skills needs so that suitable training courses can be provided to meet skill deficits in the area;
- Enhance the Meath Gaeltacht's profile as a place to locate and develop a business to attract entrepreneurs/enterprises wishing to expand, to

establish and develop their businesses, and as a result create 60 additional jobs over a 3-year period (2019–2022);

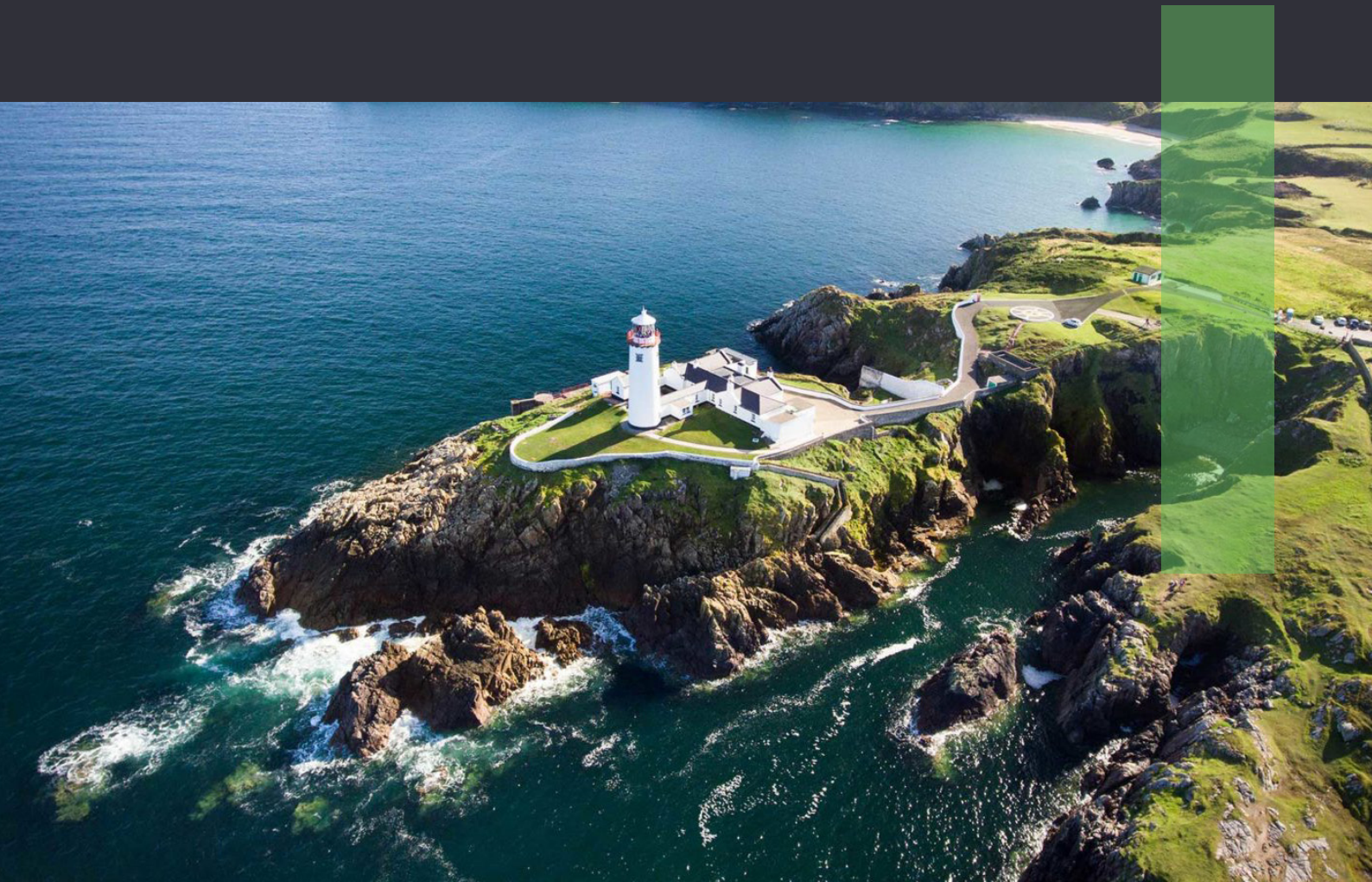
- Establish a Community Development Assembly for the Meath Gaeltacht to support various community groups in the Meath Gaeltacht.

Language Planning

The language plan for the Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib Language Planning Area was launched in 2019. Comharchumann Ráth Chairn Teo. is the Lead Organisation responsible for implementing the plan and a Language Planning Officer has been appointed to help them undertake this important work. A budget of €100,000 has been granted to implement the language plan.

Cooperative and Community-Based Organisations

Funding totalling €68,500 was provided to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2019 and this organisation in turn implemented an agreed community development work programme. It provides important local services, coordinates community development activities and provides an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their area.



Donegal Gaeltacht

2019 saw the creation of 191 new jobs in the Donegal Gaeltacht. When the number of job losses is taken into consideration, there was a net increase of 48 jobs. This means that there were 2,326 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies by year end, the biggest increase in jobs since 2008. Companies where jobs were created in 2019 in the Donegal Gaeltacht include Arán Ard Teo., Kombucha Éireannach Teo., Fáisc Miotail Teo., R.A. Pacáistí Teo. As may be evident, job increases were secured across a wide range of sectors and company sizes.

New Initiatives

Údarás na Gaeltachta's Board approved a number of new initiatives for the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2019 which will see the creation of 171 new jobs and a projected total investment of €8.47 million when these initiatives are underway.

Cooperative and Community-Based Organisations

Funding totalling €685,000 was provided to 10 organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2019 and these in turn implemented an agreed community development work programme. A new cooperative called Comhar Fhánada agus Gleann Bhairr CTR was established in Fánaid in conjunction with the area's development committees at the end of 2019. The new cooperative will start work in 2020 with Údarás na Gaeltachta's support.

Employment Schemes

A total of 305 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the end of the year, including 134 on the Rural Social Scheme, 11 on the Tús Nua Scheme, 117 on the Community Employment Scheme and 43 on the Tús Scheme. The schemes are administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

LEADER Programme

15 projects were approved under Údarás na Gaeltachta's LEADER Programme in 2019 with a grant valued of €1.145m. Projects were approved in relation to Broadband, Rural Tourism, Services for Marginalised Communities, and Enterprise and Rural Community Development. These projects will attract an investment of over €1.603m once underway.

gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network

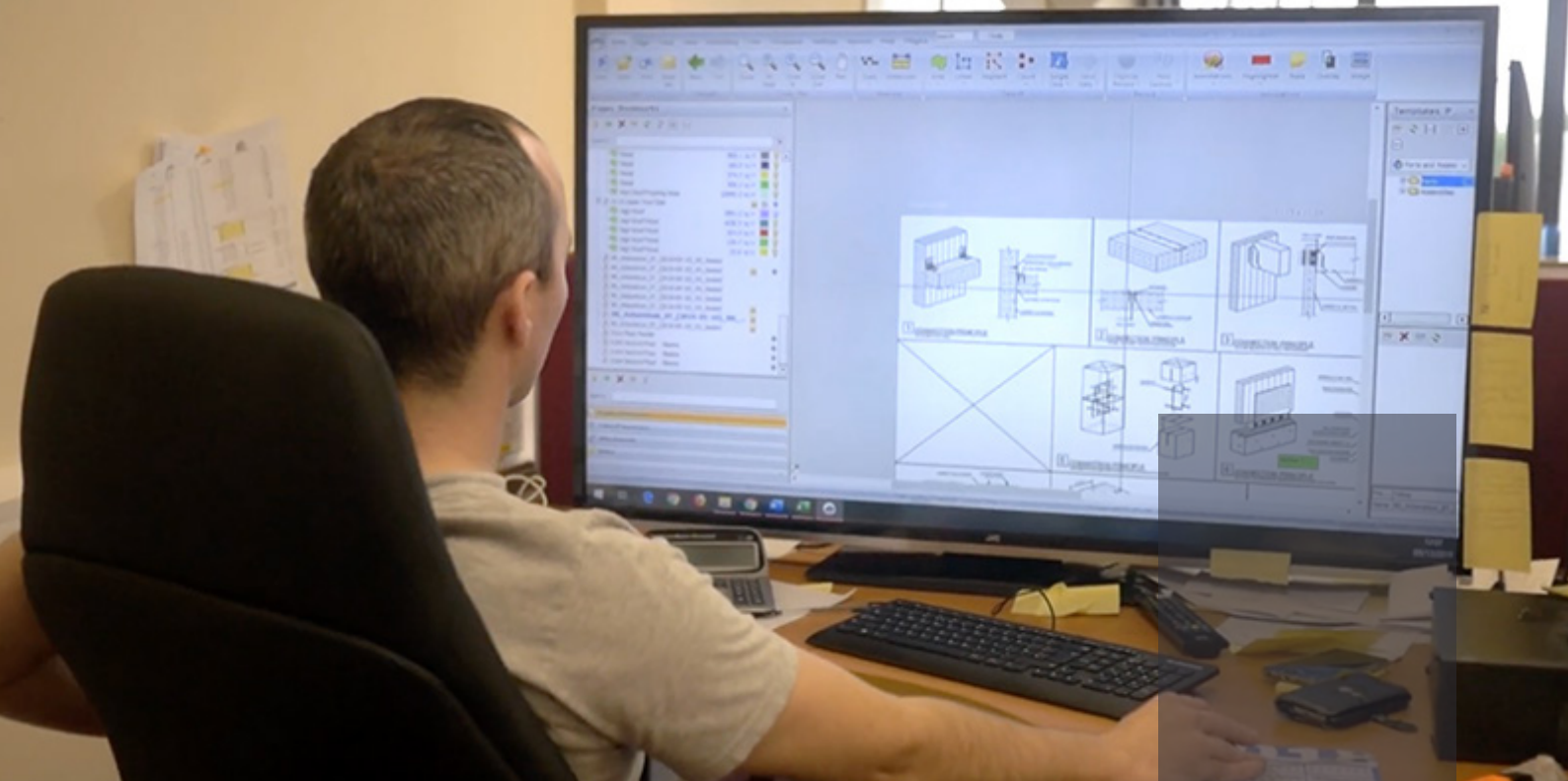
The development programme of the Digital Hub Network continued during 2019. The digital hubs will provide a vibrant network of high-speed broadband facilities in rural Gaeltacht areas to create employment, assist remote working, encourage and facilitate the return of the Gaeltacht Diaspora as well as develop new concepts and encourage new business. In 2019 gteic@GaothDobhair grew and developed as a result of the €1.5m in funding approved to the Údarás under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in 2018. As part of the development, a new office space/offices and associated facilities will be fitted in a 1,725 square metre space on the building's second floor. Discussions are ongoing with local community development organisations/committees and steps are being taken to develop digital hubs under the gteic network in An Tearmann, Ros Goill, Cill Charthaigh, Árainn Mhór, Baile na Finne, An Clochán Liath and in Toraigh. It is hoped these digital hubs will be operational by the end of 2020.

Diaspora Project

In early April, a trade mission took place to Livingston and Edinburgh in Scotland in partnership with the West Lothian Chamber of Commerce and the Scottish Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from Údarás na Gaeltachta, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Údarás client companies were part of the delegation which created a link with the West Lothian Chamber of Commerce and Scottish Chamber of Commerce during a trade mission to Donegal in 2018. This trade mission greatly increased the profile of Gaeltacht companies in Scotland and in the United Kingdom through individual meetings with Scottish companies, site visits and a presentation by West Lothian Development about local economic projects underway.

Community Facilitation Process

During the year, a community facilitation process was established in the Gaoth Dobhair parish in conjunction with the area's community development organisations. It is hoped a development plan for the area will be prepared in 2020 as a result of this process.



Research – Youth & Education Centre

A consultation process was initiated to research the demand, need and feasibility of building/developing a Youth/Education/ Sports & Culture Centre on Gaoth Dobhair Business Park and a business plan will be prepared (if applicable) during the year.

Language Planning

During 2019, language plans were approved for the Language Planning Areas (LPA) of Tuaisceart Dhún na nGall LPA and Dún na nGall Theas LPA, this meant that 5 language plans had been approved by the end of the year. The Language Plan for Árainn Mhór LPA was approved and a Language Planning Officer was employed in September. In March Gaoth Dobhair & Íochtar na Rosann LPA employed an Assistant Language Planning Officer.

The Language Plan for Na Rosa LPA was submitted to the Department and a draft plan was prepared for Toraigh LPA. Language Planning Consultants were appointed for An Ghaeltacht Láir LPA and for the Gaeltacht Service Town of An Clochán Liath to prepare plans. An investment of €540,000 per annum has been approved for the implementation of the plans between the 5 LPAs. The Language Plan for Na Rosa LPA will be approved in early 2020 and Language Planning Officers will begin work in Tuaisceart Dhún na nGall LPA and then in Dún na nGall Theas LPA.



Kerry Gaeltacht

A total of 53 new jobs were created in the Kerry Gaeltacht in 2019. These new jobs were created in companies that are primarily operating in the food & drink and tourism sectors. There were also some employment reductions during the year in fish processing companies and in some small companies in the crafts and food & drink sector. These employment reductions resulted in a net increase of 6 jobs in total in 2019. There were 695 full-time positions, therefore, in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of the year.

It is encouraging that the approval of a number of projects during the year will see 27 new jobs created and a total investment of €1.9 million when the projects are brought to fruition.

The proposed projects are primarily in the food & drink, tourism and information technology sectors. Of the 40 new projects approved, six were for new businesses and 34 from established clients.

Seanospidéal an Daingin

The Údarás acquired external funding of €415,000 from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to develop a masterplan for the project. Significant progress has been made recently and Pádraig Ó Laoithe has been operating as Project Manager since the 16th December 2019.

gteic - Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta i gCiarraí

A unit was renovated as a gteic space @Baile an Sceilg during the year. The space can accommodate 6 workers and is used by 2 workers at the moment. An agreement has been reached that the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht Joint Committee will manage the space. A unit was renovated as a gteic @Páirc Ghnó an Daingin at the end of year. The space can accommodate 18 workers and is used by 5 workers at the moment.



Tascfhórsa Uíbh Ráthaigh

Údarás na Gaeltachta's Chief Executive, Micheál Ó hÉanaigh, officially launched the Taskforce Action Plan on the 22 July 2019 at an event on the premises of Sceilg Chocolates, Baile an Sceilg, along with Minister for State Seán Kyne. This is the result of two years' work by members of the Taskforce, an interagency organisation founded in September 2017 under the chairmanship of Údarás na Gaeltachta with the aim of focusing on the socio-economic and population challenges in the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht and surrounding areas.

During the year, grant-aid of €174,351 for Údarás na Gaeltachta was approved through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to appoint a Project Manager and cover associated costs. A Project Manager was appointed part time in July 2019 to co-ordinate the work of the Taskforce. As the work of the Taskforce proceeded from planning to implementation stage, a steering committee was established according to the model laid out in the Action plan itself. Twenty organisations are involved in the group under the chairmanship of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Community Employment Schemes

There were 72 people employed on social employment schemes in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of the year. The schemes are managed and administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning

Four additional officers were employed in the area of Language Planning for the Munster Region in 2019.

- John Prendergast and Cristín de Mórdha as Language Planning Officers in the Ciarraí Thiar Language Planning Area.
- Victor Bayda as Language Planning Officer in the Ciarraí Theas Language Planning Area, and Micheál Ó Se as Educational Officer in Ciarraí Theas in conjunction with the Kerry Education and Training Board.

The Minister for State, Seán Kyne, officially launched the Ciarraí Theas language plan on the 15th November and a summary was provided to the public. A special event was held on the 10th of December when the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, invited Language Planning Officers to visit Government Buildings in Dublin to provide an overview of their current work and progress of the implementation of the language plans to date.

A Language Plan for the Gaeltacht Service Town, Dhaingean Uí Chúis, has been prepared and has been submitted to the Department for approval.

Cooperative and Community- Based Organisations

Total funding of €311,000 was made available to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2019 that implemented an agreed community development work programme. These organisations provide important local services, coordinate community development activities and provide consultancy services for the voluntary sector in their functional area.



Cork Gaeltacht

41 new jobs were created in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2019. When the number of job losses is taken into account, there is no net increase of jobs; there has been, however, a 21% increase in the level of employment over 6 years. There were 699 fulltime positions in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at the end of the year. A number of projects were approved in 2019 which will see the creation of 45 jobs and an investment of €8.3 million when those proposed developments are operational. The main developments are projected to take place in the food and engineering/manufacturing sectors.

gteic - Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta i gCorcaí

The first innovation and digital hub as part of the gteic network in the Cork Gaeltacht was opened in Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh. Work on the gTeic @Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh was completed at the beginning of the year and a management contract was agreed with Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo. to run the unit. The space can accommodate 22 workers and is used by eight workers at the moment. A working space accommodating 75 work spaces is proposed for Coláiste Íosagáin. An application has been made for this development under the REDF scheme.

Coláiste Íosagáin, Múscraí

During 2019, €180,000 was awarded to Údarás na Gaeltachta through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to prepare a strategic plan for Coláiste Íosagáin and the surrounding school grounds in the Múscraí Gaeltacht.

A broad range of stakeholders will play a central role in this project:

- Cork Education and Training Board
- University College Cork
- Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Údarás na Gaeltachta

Social Employment Schemes

There were 19 people employed on social employment schemes in the Múscraí Gaeltacht at the end of the year. The schemes are administered and managed by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning

Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo was the overseeing organisation for the language plan for Múscraí Language Planning Area (LPA) in 2019. Comharchumann Chléire Teo. are responsible for the management of the Language Plan for the Cléire LPA. This language plan is near completion.

Cooperative and Community- Based Organisations

Total funding of €166,000 was made available to two organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2019 who implemented an agreed community development work programme. These organisations provide important local services, coordinate community development activities and provide consultancy services for the voluntary sector in their area



Waterford Gaeltacht



The level of employment in the Waterford Gaeltacht is at its highest since the foundation of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 1980, with 4 new jobs being created this year. There were 149 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht in 2019. Job increases were mainly in the manufacturing sector.

One new company was founded in the Waterford Gaeltacht during 2019 and there were four projects from established clients during the year.

Community and Business Centre

Talks are underway with Comhlacht Forbartha na nDéise regarding the development of a community and business centre on the Údarás site in Baile na nGall. A gteic space is proposed as part of this development.

Language Planning

Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise Teo. is the lead organisation responsible for the preparation of a language plan for an Déise LPA. The first steps of the implementation of the plan are underway at the moment.

Cooperative and Community Based Organisations

Total funding of €64,000 was made available to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2019, who implemented an agreed community development work programme. These organisations provide important local services, coordinate community development activities and provide consultancy services for the voluntary sector in their functional area.

Σ *Údarás na Gaeltachta*

