



Údarás na  
Gaeltachta

End of Year Statement

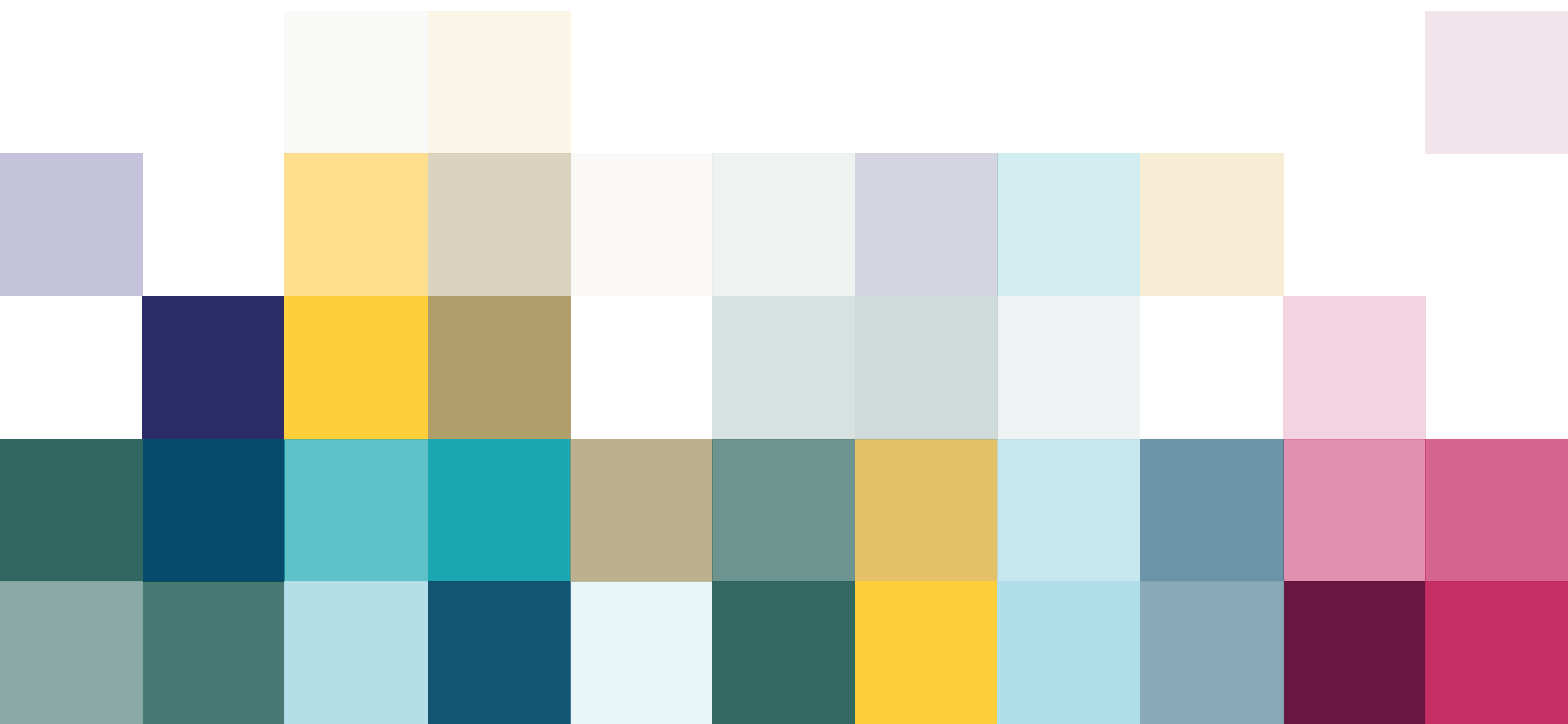
2022



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# 2022 End of Year Statement

- **945 new jobs** created in the Gaeltacht in 2022.
- Net job increase of **151** in full-time jobs in 2022.
- **8,235 jobs** in client companies at year end.
- A gain in employment in 5 Gaeltacht counties.
- **444** new jobs approved.
- More than **€1 billion worth of sales achieved by Údarás-supported companies.**
- **€19.26m** in capital provision approved for the development of Gaeltacht business infrastructure.
- **24** Language Plans being implemented with a budget of **€3.2m.**
- Administrative funding of **€4.3m** provided for **33** community development organisations.
- gteic – **27** digital hubs in place with 430 people working in those units.



## Quick Links

Review of 2022	4
Towards 2023	6
Employment in the Gaeltacht	9
Economic Impact of Gaeltacht Businesses	10
Innovation in the Gaeltacht	11
Language Planning	11
Implementations of Language plans in 2022	12
gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network	13
Tourism	14
The Community Development Sector	15
European Projects	16
Training	17
Scholarship Scheme for Apprentices	18
Social Employment Schemes	18
Brand - Gaeltacht na hÉireann	18
Task Forces and Forums	19
Connecting with our neighbours in Europe and beyond	20
Subsidiaries/Strategic Companies	21
<b>Review by Gaeltacht Areas</b>	<b>23</b>
– Galway Gaeltacht	24
– Mayo Gaeltacht	27
– Meath Gaeltacht	29
– Donegal Gaeltacht	30
– Kerry Gaeltacht	33
– Cork Gaeltacht	35
– Waterford Gaeltacht	37





## Review of 2022

Gaeltacht employment was maintained at a stable level in 2022, and there was significant growth in several important sectors. There were 8,235 jobs in companies that received support from Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2022, compared to 8,084 in 2021. A significant number of jobs were created in the niche manufacturing, tourism, and language sectors. When job reductions are taken into account, there was a net increase of 151 jobs and increased employment in most Gaeltacht areas, demonstrating the resilience of the Gaeltacht economy.

This year's employment figures - 8,235 jobs - are being reported using a methodology recommended by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Under this methodology, employment is classified into two categories: full-time and other jobs. Previously, employment was reported by full-time, part-time, and seasonal employment. The 2021 employment figures have been restated so that an accurate comparison can be made. 9,491 jobs would be reported in Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies for the year 2022 on a total headcount basis. The work being done on the databases and the methodologies used will continue for at least another year.

Regionally, there was a growth in employment in the Kerry Gaeltacht, where there was a net increase of 83 jobs, an increase of 13% compared to 2021. Employment was also strong in the Gaeltacht regions of Waterford and Meath, although there was a small drop in employment in the Gaeltacht regions of Galway and Cork. Following the difficulties of the Covid 19 pandemic, companies faced further economic challenges during 2022, mainly in terms of rising costs, energy costs in particular, and an uncertain international trading environment due to geopolitical unrest. It is clear that some of these challenges will still be with us in 2023. But Gaeltacht companies have shown stability and resilience, driven by constant innovation.



There were significant advances in the language planning process in 2022. By the end of the year, language plans were being implemented in 24 of the 26 Language Planning Areas and in two Gaeltacht Service Towns. Implementation of the language plans will begin in the other two Language Planning Areas, An tEachréidh and Bearna agus Cnoc na Cathrach, in early 2023. The implementation of the approved language plans involves a total annual investment of €3.2 million. During the year, the Glúin Z project aimed at young people in the Gaeltacht was launched, which will be a cornerstone of the youth strategy of Údarás na Gaeltachta in the coming years. The gteic network was developed and expanded; there were more than 430 people working in 27 digital hubs at the end of the year.

The Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Strategy was launched, as well as two new support schemes and an information campaign regarding social enterprise, to ensure so that organisations and community development committees are aware of the benefits of Social Enterprise for their respective communities. There has been a substantial increase in funding for cooperatives and community development organisations, enabling them to undertake ambitious plans, in collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta.



## Towards 2023

Significant progress is being made with the 'An Ghaeltacht Ghlas' Údarás na Gaeltachta's strategic green strategy. Photovoltaic energy projects have been launched in Gaoth Dobhair, An Cheathrú Rua and our business parks. Further emphasis will be placed in 2023 on support for Gaeltacht client companies to take steps in relation to renewable energy and climate-change. We will also continue to support the development of Ros an Mhíl as a strategic location to serve the offshore renewable energy sector.

There are plans to further strengthen the gteic network and increase the opportunities for entrepreneurs, businesses and remote workers in the Gaeltacht. A Micro-Enterprise Strategy will be published in early 2023 to support small businesses and encourage the establishment of innovative indigenous companies, building on what has been achieved in the field of Social Enterprise in 2022.

We recognise the importance of the tourism sector as an employer, particularly in more remote Gaeltacht areas. We will build on the progress made in 2022, continuing our support for important strategic tourism projects, including Coláiste Íosagáin, and Solas (Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh); we will also continue with our successful Tourism Community Development Programme. There will be a strong focus on language tourism during 2023 and on the Irish Language Experience, developing opportunities for people to learn Irish while on holiday in the Gaeltacht. We intend to develop several pilot packages in the coming year to test and measure this market. Special recognition will also be given to a limited number of underdeveloped areas in the Gaeltacht and specific plans will be tailored to their requirements, to enhance their tourism product.

At the beginning of 2023, special emphasis will be placed on young people in the Gaeltacht. We intend to launch an ambitious plan, in collaboration with Gaeltacht and Irish language stakeholders, to support young people in the Gaeltacht regions, emphasising their unique identity and ensuring opportunities for them to flourish and thrive as a language community, building on the research carried out through the Glúin Z Project in 2021 and 2022.

2023 will be a vital year for the Language Planning Process. Language plans are now being implemented in almost all Language Planning Areas and Údarás na Gaeltachta will be supporting this implementation through research and guidance; we are currently examining the best way to support the Irish language in our client companies, in the retail and hospitality sector and among young people.



## Tomás Ó Síocháin Údarás na Gaeltachta Chief Executive

Údarás na Gaeltachta's positive year-end statement reflects the long-standing relationship between the Gaeltacht community, client companies large and small, those involved in education and research and the staff and Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta. It is my privilege as the newly appointed Chief Executive to welcome the publication of this statement, and to give due recognition to the work of the current team and those who have gone before them.

Reclassification work on the employment figures is underway, work that will put Údarás na Gaeltachta in line with other state agencies. Notwithstanding this necessary reclassification, there is an improvement again in this year's employment figures. This important technical work will continue over the coming years. The gteic network is flourishing and as it develops, it will provide both private and public services to the Gaeltacht community, ensuring the Gaeltacht's position as a national leader in innovation. We now have a chance to share those stories of innovation and growth with a wider community and develop new links and new opportunities for collaboration for Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Work is continually underway on the development of Gaeltacht enterprise facilities, with the over-arching aim of consolidating the Irish language as the community language in the Gaeltacht. In that context, the progress in the area of language planning is immensely positive, and we will build on this further in the coming year, focusing specifically on young people and certain enterprise sectors.

As we press ahead with our development plans, and cognisant of the risks of an uncertain economic outlook, I believe a strong foundation has been and is being laid, to enable us to face those coming challenges. The environment around us is constantly changing: climate change, the impact of technology and numerous other disruptions are creating both challenges and opportunities for the Gaeltacht community and for our language.





## **Anna Ní Ghallachair** **Chair of Údarás na Gaeltachta:**

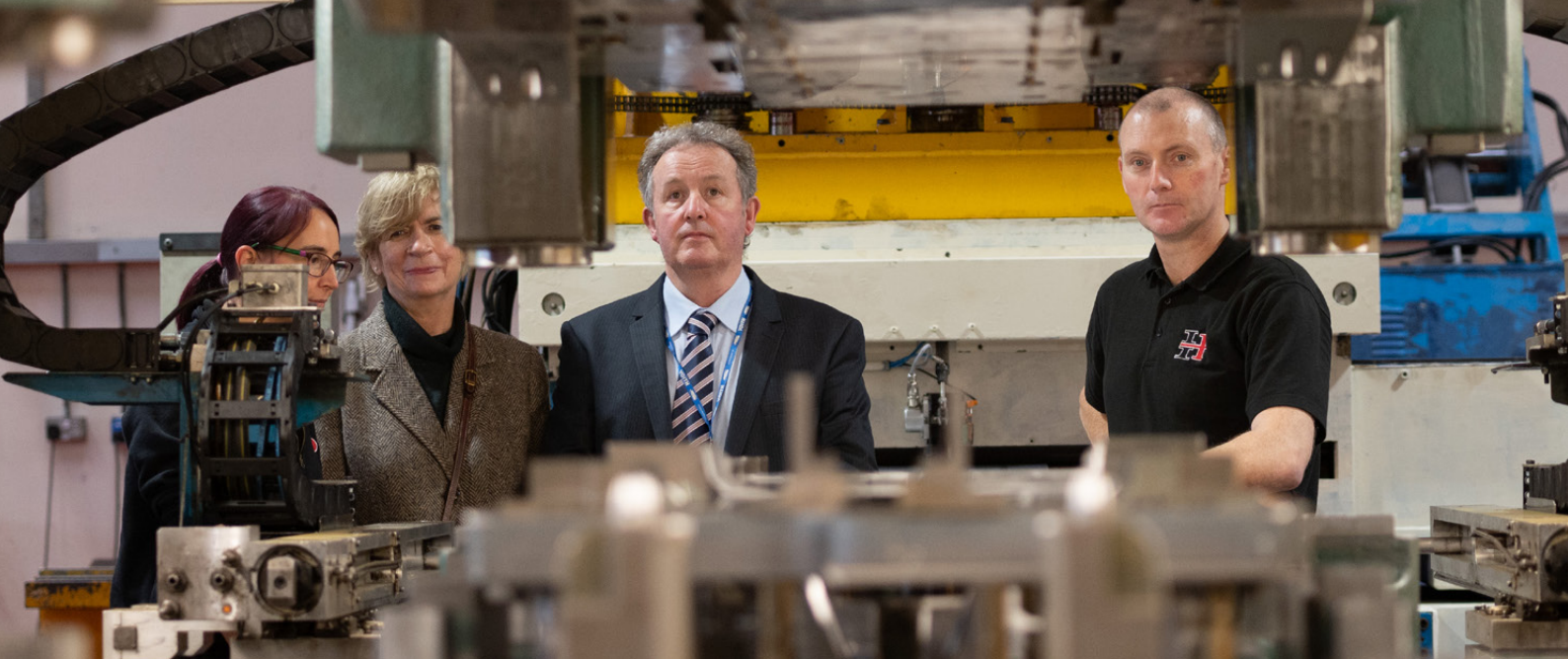
The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta takes great encouragement from these positive employment figures, demonstrating the resilience of Gaeltacht employment at a time of international economic uncertainty. Progress can be seen in certain medical and engineering sectors, where high-quality jobs are available for the Gaeltacht community.

The Board will continue the support given to those sectors and other sectors which are showing strong growth potential, such as the natural resources sector.

Significant progress has been made in terms of language planning and language plans are now being implemented in almost all Language Planning Areas.

The Board is proud of the dedication and commitment of the Language Planning Officers and the Assistant Language Planning Officers. The positive impact of their efforts can be seen throughout the Gaeltacht. Údarás na Gaeltachta hopes that the research we are carrying out on the use of Irish among important target groups, including client companies and the hospitality and retail sector, will be of help and support to their important work in 2023 and for years to come.





## Employment in the Gaeltacht

Údarás na Gaeltachta companies demonstrated resilience in 2022. 945 new jobs were created and there was a net increase of 151 jobs during 2022. There are now 8,235 posts in Gaeltacht companies, an increase on 8,081 employed at the end of 2021. The employment picture was most positive in Co. Kerry. The greatest gains in employment were seen in the engineering, natural resources, and services sectors. The most significant drop in employment was in the food and drink sector, in textiles and in traditional manufacturing.

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta has approved several new projects which will create 444 jobs with an estimated investment of €30.4 million from the State and the private sector in the years ahead. These new jobs will predominantly be in companies in the health products, food, services and specialty manufacturing sectors.

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved State investment of €7.1m in employment, plant, training, and education grants during 2022. Up to €19.26m in capital provision was approved during the year to refurbish and develop the Gaeltacht's business infrastructure to assist with the development of employment and new initiatives.



## Economic Impact of Gaeltacht Businesses

According to ABSEI research of Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies, in which ten or more employees are employed, the client companies had estimated total sales of €1.04b in 2021, the first time that Údarás client company sales have exceeded the €1bn threshold. Projections in the research for 2022 suggest that the threshold will be broken again, with an estimated sales figure of €1.06b.

Exports made up €656m or 62% of total sales by Gaeltacht companies (10+) in 2022. The EU remained the highest export market for Gaeltacht products at 21% (€216m) of total exports, although the British market grew strongly, accounting for €213m of sales or 20% of the total. A total of €148m or 14% of exports were to North America. Chemicals/medical products €213m (20%), agriculture/fishing/marine €166m (16%) and food and drink €107m (10%) were the highest value export sectors for Gaeltacht companies. It is worth noting that the type of companies and the range of sectors is extremely broad, which will assist the Gaeltacht economy as we face a possible period of international instability.



## Innovation in the Gaeltacht

Innovation is continually intensifying in the Gaeltacht and three client companies, in conjunction with other parties, had projects worth €12m approved under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for pioneering Gaeltacht initiatives: a noteworthy achievement for our clients FeelTect and Advant Medical in the Galway Gaeltacht and Somex Automation Teoranta in the Cork Gaeltacht.

## Language Planning

By the end of 2022, language plans were being implemented in 24 of the 26 Language Planning Areas and in two of the Gaeltacht Service Towns, with a total funding allocation of €3 million. Implementation of the Eachréidh and Bearna/Cnoc na Cathrach language plans will commence in early 2023.

During 2022, the Oileáin Árann language plan was approved and implementation was commenced, along with language plans in four other language planning areas and in two Gaeltacht Service Towns. An announcement is expected shortly regarding the Béal a Mhuirthead plan. A further allocation of €20,000 was approved to support the implementation of each language plan in Gaeltacht Service Towns, which ensures a provision of €100,000 annually for the of language plans in those towns. By year end, 29 people were employed in the implementation of language plans as Language Planning Officers and Assistant Language Planning Officers.



## Implementation of Language Plans in 2022

Significant progress has been made in the area of language planning in the last year and the results of that progress can now be seen. There is regular awareness, discussion and communication in the community about the importance of the language due to the commitment of the Language Planning Officers, working with the language planning lead organisations, and targeting specific groups and encouraging them towards using the Irish language. The Language Planning Officers are approaching their work with energy and imagination. The number of Irish-based and Irish-centred events and activities available to the communities throughout the Gaeltacht has increased significantly.

There is also a high degree of cooperation between the Language Planning Officers and organisations providing support to specific target groups, such as community development organisations, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta, Glór na nGael, Muintearas Teo, Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta, Tús Maith and others. The language planning process is increasing language awareness in the Gaeltacht with a corresponding positive impact on the use and visibility of Irish. People in the community are being encouraged to speak and use it more often, new speakers are being attracted and empowered, modern activities are organized through Irish and there is pressure on state organizations to ensure that the Gaeltacht community will receive a high level of service through Irish.

In the course of the year, the Language Planning Officers worked with their respective local communities to provide support for the Ukrainian people living in the Gaeltacht. A video was prepared, presented by an Irish speaker from Ukraine, welcoming the people of Ukraine and encouraging them to learn and use some Irish. Irish language classes were organized in the areas in which they were in demand. Language Planning Officers are also offering support to local schools, particularly those which are trying to achieve recognition as a Scoil Ghaeltachta. We recognise that challenges remain, such as planning in the Gaeltacht, recruitment difficulties and a tendency towards frequent changes of employment and the constant pressure from the English language.

But there are many reasons to be hopeful - the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, the goal of which is to increase the number and quality of services through Irish that State bodies provide and the goal that 20% of recruits to the public service will be competent in Irish by 31 December 2030; the number of jobs being created in the Irish language sector; the launch of the digital plan for Irish; the investment in the area of language planning and the additional resources on the ground as a result.



## gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network

The gteic network was further developed and expanded during 2022. New hubs were opened in Donegal and in Kerry. 27 digital hubs are now operational in five Gaeltacht counties with over 430 people working in them at the end of the year, an increase of 34% on 2021.

Training courses were provided for gteic managers in 2022 and the hubs have developed as an essential part of Gaeltacht business infrastructure. Over 70 people attended microenterprise courses in gteics in 2022; gteics will also be central to the delivery of the new enterprise courses being run by Údarás na Gaeltachta, one focusing on women entrepreneurs and another on the Digital Creative Economy. The gteic network was also central to the Community Digitisation campaign led out by Digital First in November.



## Tourism

There was a resurgence in the tourism sector in 2022 following the end of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns. However, other challenges came to the fore in the Gaeltacht regions, as in other rural areas; recruitment difficulties, rising costs, particularly energy costs and the use of tourism infrastructure to come to the assistance of Ukrainian refugees fleeing war.

In early 2023, the second call of the Community Tourism Development Programme was announced, modelled on the successful pilot scheme established in 2018. This programme was targeted at significant community-based projects (Visitor Centres and Tourism Networks) and provided funding of €30,000 per annum for 12 successful projects to employ a Tourism Officer for up to 2 years. The Programme has been highly successful; 15 Tourism Officers are currently employed or being recruited in Gaeltacht regions through the Programme. In September 2022, FETAC Level 5 Certificates in Sustainable Tourism were awarded to the first cohort of participants. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Údarás na Gaeltachta agus Fáilte Ireland to facilitate partnership between the two organisations on strategic tourism projects and campaigns.

Údarás na Gaeltachta played an important role in the implementation of Fáilte Ireland's destination plans for Clew Bay in Mayo, Conamara and the Islands, An Daingean and the Sceilig Coast in Kerry.

In 2023, there will be a particular focus on Language Tourism and on Irish Language Experiences, exploring the opportunities for tourists who come to the Gaeltacht on holidays to learn Irish during their stay; we hope to develop a number of pilot packages in the coming year to test this market. Specific underdeveloped Gaeltacht regions will also be identified, and bespoke plans will be agreed and implemented to help improve their tourism offering.



## The community development sector

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognizes that community development organizations are vital to Údarás na Gaeltachta's fulfilment of its strategic goals in collaboration with the Gaeltacht communities. There was a significant increase in the funding provided by Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media to community development organisations in 2022. €4.3m was made available to 33 organisations, enabling them to undertake an ambitious community development programme, focusing inter alia on tourism, language planning, renewable energy and the gteic network.

The Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Strategy was launched, as well as two new support schemes and an information campaign about the value of social enterprise, ensuring that community groups and community development organisations are aware of the benefits of this type of business for themselves and their community.

During the year, there was an opportunity for the first time in 3 years, to bring together managers and representatives of the community sector at one location, to launch a Handbook of Best Practice for the Committees of Development Organisations, a valuable resource for Gaeltacht Community Development Organisations.



## European Projects

Údarás na Gaeltachta is involved in several European projects for the development of strategic sectors in the Gaeltacht, including renewable energy, the blue economy, tourism and language courses. These projects are worth a total of €3.5 million to the Gaeltacht. They provide additional resources to carry out research programmes, developing new skills and exploring new sectors, and supporting innovation and knowledge transfer between companies and academic researchers. During 2022, the projects INEVAL, SAFER, Access2Sea, SW-GROW and EMPORIA4KT were further continued, focusing on marine value-added projects and the blue economy. The RegEnergy, REACT and SMEC projects centred on renewable energy.

Six months' funding was received for the initial preparation of two significant projects BRAIN (Building Resilient and Innovative Networks among rural communities) and SMEC (Sustainable Marine Energy Communities). Following an application prepared in 2021 and 2022, funding was approved for a 3-year tourism project Glow 2.0 (Green Energy Technologies for Tourism Growth). Údarás na Gaeltachta also received funding from the Horizon Europe Research Programme for a 3-year project in the field of community development EmpowerUs (Socio-economic empowerment of coastal communities as users of the sea to ensure sustainable coastal development). Funding was received for a 3-year project CODIL (COVID-Disrupted Regional Innovation Ecosystems) under Interreg Europe, looking at regional innovation policies post-pandemic.



## Training

New training schemes were established, arising out of collaboration between Údarás na Gaeltachta and other organisations; 2022 saw the launch of a new programme for female entrepreneurs in the Gaeltacht areas of Mayo and Galway, CUMASÚ, provided by Údarás na Gaeltachta jointly with the EMPOWER programme, a training programme established by ATU's Innovation Hubs.

Údarás na Gaeltachta and CREW (Creative Enterprise West) partnered again, offering a Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development to creatives in the Gaeltacht. This accredited qualification is run by CREW in association with Atlantic Technological University (ATU). Údarás na Gaeltachta continued to support the Advanced Diploma in Applied Irish and Translation administered by ATU in partnership with Europus Teo and also provided funding for the Advanced Diploma in Television and Digital Media Production, run by the South East Technological University (SETU) in association with Nemeton Ltd.

A Media Training Scheme, Scéim Oiliúna na Meán was also continued in partnership with TG4 at the Atlantic Technological University. The aim of the scheme is to support production companies in the independent sector to develop the skills and abilities of their workforce. A development funding fund was made available to attract directors, producers, and writers to create short-form content through the medium of Irish entitled Glúin Nua. This is a partnership between TG4, Northern Ireland Irish Broadcasting Fund (ILBF), Irish Broadcasting Authority (BAI) and Údarás na Gaeltachta with support from Gréasán na Meán. Under the Graduates in Companies Scheme, Scéim na gCéimithe sna Comhlachtaí, graduates have the opportunity to spend 2 years in a Gaeltacht company to enhance their skills and gain experience in a specific sector. Priority is being given to the marine sector, language development and translation services, niche manufacturing and renewable energy.

Údarás na Gaeltachta continued Clár na gComhlachtaí, the programme for young entrepreneurs that is run in secondary schools in the Gaeltacht in collaboration with Junior Achievement Ireland. 750 Gaeltacht Transition Year students took part in the programme, which aims to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship among young people. Pupils from Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Co. Galway represented Ireland at the 2022 European Junior Achievement Company of the Year Competition in Estonia.



## Scholarship Scheme for Apprentices

25 apprentices registered for the scholarship scheme for apprentices in Scéim Scoláireachtaí do Phrintísigh in 2022. In 2023, Údarás na Gaeltachta intends to place particular emphasis on the opportunities arising from apprenticeships and the wide range of apprenticeships available, both traditional and modern. We will be running a strong information campaign for school leavers, career fairs and events are to be held throughout the Gaeltacht and we hope that as a result of this, there will be a significant increase in the number of people who will benefit from Údarás na Gaeltachta's apprenticeship scholarships in 2023.

## Almost 1,000 employees on Social Employment Schemes

There were 979 participants and 47 supervisors employed on 48 schemes throughout the Gaeltacht in 2022. The social employment schemes (Community Employment Scheme, Rural Social Scheme & TÚS Scheme), which are managed by Údarás na Gaeltachta are funded by the Department of Social Protection and have an important role, providing work experience and training to Gaeltacht communities.

## Brand – Gaeltacht na nÉireann

The brand “Gaeltacht na hÉireann” is widely used by businesses, organisations, language planning areas and Gaeltacht associations. Extensive publicity campaigns were held in 2022 around the brand, linking it to the excellence of Gaeltacht products, such as Ón nGaeltacht le Grá, Féirín ón nGaeltacht and Blas na Gaeltachta. It is intended in 2023 to develop the brand, in conjunction with a destination marketing campaign, in Ireland and abroad. Its aim will be to highlight the unique linguistic and cultural identity of the Gaeltacht, as well as the attractiveness of the Gaeltacht as a place in which to live, work, holiday, study, and do business in.



## Task Forces and Forums

**Uíbh Ráthach Inter-agency Task Force:** The Taskforce Progress Report 2020-21 was published in 2022. Relocation enquiries were received from 147 individuals/families to date. 13 families have resettled in the area with the support of the taskforce. A Research Officer has been appointed and consultants have been engaged to design guidelines for an Affordable Housing Scheme in the area. 2023 will see the commencement of the planning process for the second phase of the work of the Taskforce.

**Iorras Aithneach 5-Year Action Plan:** As a result of the pandemic, the implementation period for the Iorras Aithneach Action Plan has been extended by one year until the end of 2024. An effective partnership exists between the various local committees which make up the Plan's Monitoring Advisory Committee. The implementation of the plan was delayed by the resignation of the Development Officer in 2022. That post has been advertised and we hope to fill the vacancy in the near future.

**Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht:** The implementation period of the work of the Forum came to an end during 2022. Construction of the @gteic Baile Ghib should be completed in 2023. The design has been completed and tenders issued for the construction of gteic@Ráth Chairn. Comharchumann Ráth Chairn has ambitious plans for the essential renewal of Áras Ráth Chairn, including the development of a heritage centre. They are currently preparing an application for funding.

**An Cheathrú Rua 5-Year Action Plan:** The An Cheathrú Rua Action Plan 2022-2027 was launched towards the end of 2021. This ambitious plan consists of 55 recommendations under seven strategic themes. Advances were made in the areas of Language & Culture, Tourism, Enterprise, the Arts, and Services & Infrastructure. A Development Officer has been recruited to oversee the Plan's implementation.

**The Gaeltacht Diaspora:** There was a strong focus on the Diaspora in 2022. Ionad Diaspóra na Gaeltachta, established in collaboration with Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImlirceach in Carna, launched a new website, aimed at developing a direct link with the Gaeltacht Diaspora worldwide. A series of podcasts was also made available on stories related to the Gaeltacht diaspora. In 2022, Údarás na Gaeltachta attended the Golden Bridges international conference in Boston, the first time in three years that the conference was held in person. Also in Boston, a Cúinne Gaeltachta was opened in the South Boston library, with a collection of Irish books for adults and young people.

Údarás na Gaeltachta publishes a monthly online newsletter "Cairde na Gaeltachta", specifically for the Gaeltacht community abroad. In 2023 we intend to commence a comprehensive programme focusing on the Gaeltacht community abroad, developing information services, establishing a genealogy facility and education and training programmes, and facilitating research on matters related to the Diaspora in the various Gaeltacht regions, as well as organising conferences, workshops and seminars for Gaeltacht communities and the Gaeltacht Diaspora.

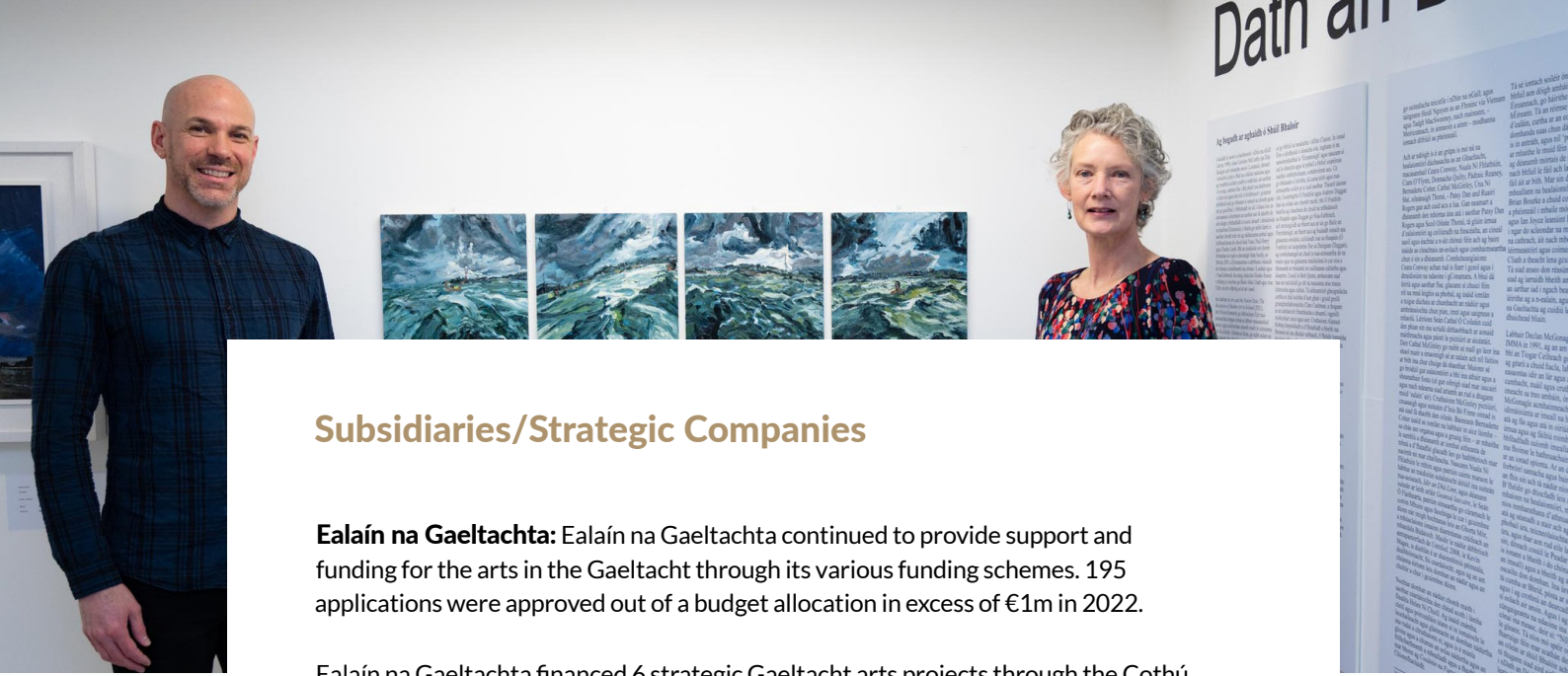


## Connecting with our neighbours in Europe and beyond

**European Regional Assembly Summer Academy:** Údarás na Gaeltachta, in collaboration with Donegal County Council, hosted the AER Summer Academy, the conference of the Assembly of Regions in Europe in August 2022. More than a hundred youth delegates, politicians and community activists gathered from all over Europe, to discuss ways to create a more democratic, more peaceful and sustainable future, starting in the regions of Europe.

**MIT Conference Innovators under 35 in Europe:** Some of Europe's leading young innovators came to the Gaeltacht in May 2022 for the Festival of Innovators Under 35 in Europe, the first time this festival was held in Ireland. The event was held in Gaoth Dobhair by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in collaboration with Aisling Events and Údarás na Gaeltachta; the editors of the MIT Technology Review selected 35 of Europe's top innovators under the age of 35 from fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Software, Energy and Materials, who participated in a range of debates on innovation and technology during the conference.

**Connection with Asia:** Údarás na Gaeltachta held a conference in Na Forbacha as part of the Asia Matters business week, attended by the Ambassador of India. The opportunities arising from the Blue Economy and the offshore wind energy sector were discussed at the event, as were the links that could be developed between the Gaeltacht and Asian partners in those areas.



## Subsidiaries/Strategic Companies

**Ealaín na Gaeltachta:** Ealaín na Gaeltachta continued to provide support and funding for the arts in the Gaeltacht through its various funding schemes. 195 applications were approved out of a budget allocation in excess of €1m in 2022.

Ealaín na Gaeltachta financed 6 strategic Gaeltacht arts projects through the Cothú Scheme, 42 applicants had their projects funded under the Síol Scheme and support was provided to 20 Gaeltacht festivals. 48 artists received support through the Bursary Scheme for Artists, Scéim Sparántachta d'Ealaíontóirí. Funding was awarded to 13 strategic arts projects, including projects in the visual arts, literature, stage shows and artist residencies through the Arts Development Scheme. The activities of the Cuisle programme continued, with the support of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, through which 2,077 participants attended music and dance classes in Gaeltacht areas. The possibilities for a drama programme for young people were explored, a training programme for instructors was established and a Support Scheme for Youth Theatre was announced, targeting the 12-18 age group.

A live version of Dath an Dóchais, an exhibition of 40 Gaeltacht artists commemorating 40 years of Údarás na Gaeltachta and their support for the arts in the Gaeltacht, was launched in An Gailearaí Beag in Gaoth Dobhair and the exhibition was taken on a Gaeltacht tour to Béal an Mhuirthead, Inis Oírr, Corca Dhuibhne and Baile Bhúirne. Ealaín na Gaeltachta continued its partnership with international organisations, such as the Center Culturel Irlandais in Paris, who provided a residency for a Gaeltacht artist, and Na Comharsana Ceilteacha (our Celtic Neighbours) creating links with other minority language countries throughout Europe.

Ealaín na Gaeltachta strengthened connections with the National Youth Council, Youth Hub, the British Irish Council, Shared Island Forum, Theatre Forum and other organisations. Workshops and advice sessions were provided to artists, facilitators, leaders, and organizations on a wide range of issues: financial matters, publicity and marketing, and best practice in a number of fields.

Two major Gaeltacht works of art were commissioned during the year, a statue of the famous writer Máirtín Ó Cadhain in An Spidéal, Conamara and Stucaí an Screabáin, on Páirc Gnó Ghaoth Dobhair.

**Strategic Plan for the Development of the Arts in the Gaeltacht:** The implementation period of the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Arts in the Gaeltacht 2018-2022 is coming to an end. The impact of that strategy was reviewed during 2022 and the 2023-2027 strategy was developed, following an extensive public consultation process.



## Subsidiaries/Strategic Companies

**Muintearas:** Muintearas Teo is a subsidiary of Údarás na Gaeltachta which promotes training, education, youth and early education projects, and administers the Summer Camps Scheme and the Language Assistants Scheme on behalf of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media.

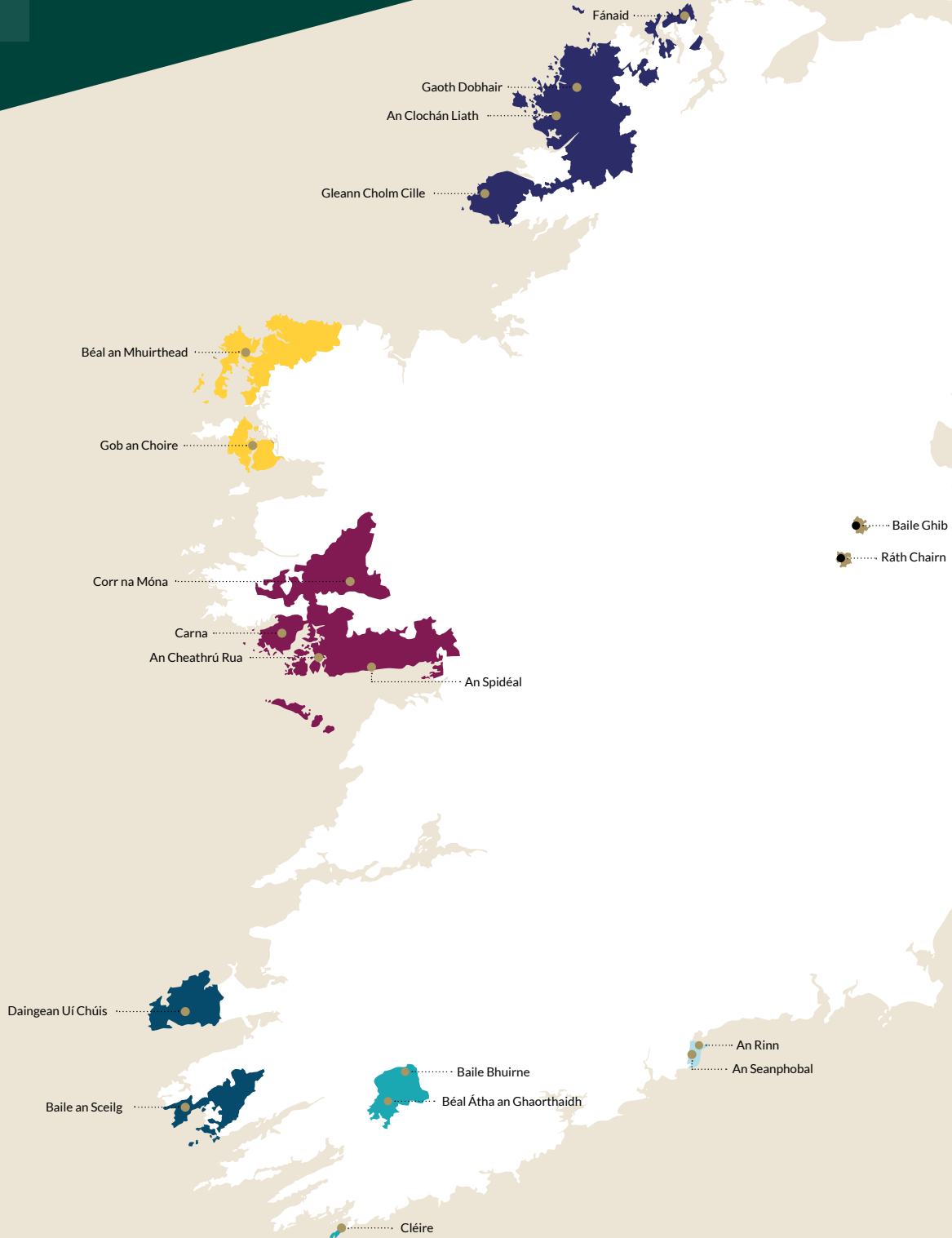
During 2022, Muintearas established a pilot youth service in Gaoth Dobhair, Ionad Buail Isteach, a centre for young people, where a youth officer is employed in a project developed in collaboration with Coiste Ionad Óige Gaoth Dobhair and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

gteic@Ceantar na nOileán, a digital hub with particular emphasis on training and education, was also opened. Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, there was a significant increase in attendance for the Summer Camps Scheme and in the activity relating to the Language Assistants Scheme.

**Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta:** Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta is an independent body that receives funding from Údarás na Gaeltachta to provide a management and administrative service for the Gaeltacht early years services, operating through Irish in the Gaeltacht. The company currently employs a total of 223 people - 212 people are employed in the early years services and 11 are employed in the company itself.

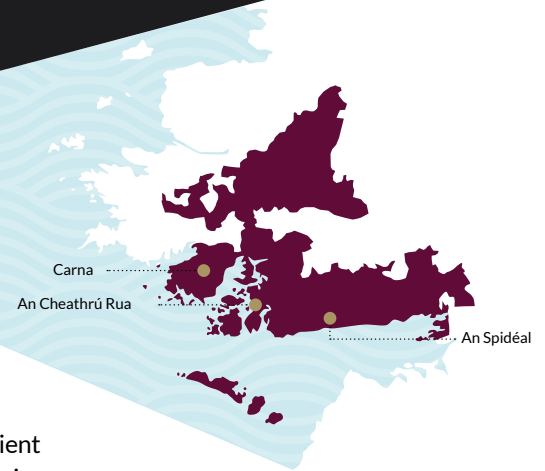
During the 2022/23 school year, 1,878 children attended 121 early years services run by Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta, an increase of 110 children and seven additional services from the previous year.

# Review by Gaeltacht Areas



# 278

278 new jobs were created in these companies in 2022.



## Galway Gaeltacht

At the end of 2022, there were 3222 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in Galway. 278 new jobs were created in these companies in 2022. However, there was a net loss of 53 jobs, when loss of employment is taken into account, after an exceptional year of job creation in 2021.

This fall in Gaeltacht employment was associated with the closure of some large companies on the eastern edge of the Gaeltacht. Most of the new jobs were created in companies operating in the medical devices, science and engineering sectors, including Aran Biomedical, ÉireComposites and Micron Clean. In addition, there was an increase in employment in niche manufacturing companies as well as in the community services, education and language sectors.

**New Projects:** 243 jobs were approved for the Galway Gaeltacht during 2022. Job creation will be mainly in the food and drink, biotechnology, audiovisual, aquaculture and services sectors.

**gteic - Digital Network of the Gaeltacht in Galway:** There are eight gteic digital hubs operational in the Galway Gaeltacht: gteic@An Cheathrú Rua, gteic@An Spidéal, gteic@Na Forbacha, gteic@Carna, gteic@Ceantar na nOileán, gteic@Inis Mór, gteic@Inis Meáin and gteic@Corr na Móna. There are now up to 200 workspaces available across Galway; training programmes for gteic managers were commenced in 2022.

**Language Planning:** Language plans were being implemented in eight of the ten Language Planning Areas identified for the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of 2022, with total funding of €1.3m per year.

The Oileáin Árann Language Plan was approved and started operating in 2022. In view of the geographical challenges facing the implementation of the plan, an allocation of €300,000 per year was approved for this Language Planning Area and it was confirmed that three Language Planning Officers would be employed, one on each island.

The implementation of the Oirthear Chathair na Gaillimhe Language plan has begun. A company, An tEachréidh Teo. is to undertake the implementation of the language plan in An Eachréidh and there will be a recruitment process for the position of Language Planning Officer shortly. A strengthened committee is to be responsible for the implementation



of the Bearna & Cnoc na Cathrach Plan, including the recruitment of the Language Planning Officer. A wide range of events were held during the year; campaigns aimed at promoting pride of place and language were developed, information and support packages aimed at families raising their children with Irish were provided; heritage and cultural projects were organized based on specific local traditions; and the Language Planning Officers in An Cheathrú Rua and Ceantar na nOileán undertook a joint venture and established a School Community Radio Station.

**A range of significant developments and announcements were made in Galway Gaeltacht during the year:**

**Walking & Cycling Routes:** Work has started on the Seanadh Mhach walking and cycling route in Connemara, a 23.80km route suitable for walkers, cyclists & families and it is expected to be completed during 2023.

Maintenance work will be carried out on joining up the network of existing walking routes in the area. This work will involve a high level of cooperation between Údarás na Gaeltachta, local stakeholders, landowners, social employment schemes, Galway County Council and community development organisations.

**Tourism Projects:** Mirador Media was appointed to develop Interpretative Plans for three strategic tourism projects in Co. Galway, Ionad Feamainne & Oidhreachta Leitir Mealláin (Leitir Mealláin Seaweed & Heritage Centre), Ionad Cuairteoirí Árann (Árainn Visitors Centre) and Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImlirceach (The Emigrant Memorial Centre) Carna.

In partnership with Comharchumann Dúiche Sheoigheach, an application was registered to UNESCO to achieve UNESCO Geopark status for the Dúiche Sheoigheach area in Galway and Mayo.



**An Ghaeltacht Ghlas:** Pioneering work continued in Inis Mór, where the Horizon 2022, REACT 4-year project is being implemented by Údarás na Gaeltachta in collaboration with Comharchumann Fuinnimh Árann Teo (Árann Energy Cooperative), aiming to achieve energy independence for the island.

An successful application was made for the EU LIFE programme, a partnership between Údarás na Gaeltachta, Comharchumann Fuinnimh Árann and other parties led by the Atlantic Technological Institute. Through the LEAP (Local Energy Agencies for Peripheral Regions) project, Comharchumann Fuinnimh Árann will be recruiting staff to establish an energy bureau for the Galway Gaeltacht and Oileáin Árann. The proposal will focus on upgrading and retrofitting houses to improve their energy efficiency.

Údarás na Gaeltachta organized a conference, An Ghaeltacht Ghlas, in collaboration with the Department of Rural and Community Development. A panel of experts and individuals working with green economy gave an insight into the significant opportunities the Green Economy holds for rural areas through the renewable energy sector, the bioeconomy, tourism and social entrepreneurship.

Significant progress was made in the plans to open a Low Carbon Sustainable Centre of Excellence in Casla, in partnership with Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán and funding of €110,000 was received.

**Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme:** A total of €1,167,350 in funding was provided to 12 organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2022 which completed agreed community development programmes. These organisations provide important local service, coordinating community development activities and provide a support service to the voluntary sector in their area.

**Social Employment Schemes:** 375 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of the year. The Community Employment Scheme had 200 participants, the Rural Social Scheme had 127 and 48 people participated on the TÚS Scheme. These schemes are managed by 18 (16 ar SFP/SST + 2 TÚS) supervisors.

# 745

There were 745 jobs in client companies of Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of 2022.

## Mayo Gaeltacht

2022 was a positive year for employment in the Mayo Gaeltacht and 111 new jobs were created. When job losses are accounted for, this is a net increase of 44 jobs on the previous year. There were 745 jobs in client companies of Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of 2022.

The services, food and textile sectors created the most jobs in 2022 and new employment was created in companies such as Milseogra & Bacús Uí Donnchadha, Aran Woollen Mills and IPSOS located in the Béal an Mhuirthead gteic and in the Acaill gteic. Employment prospects for 2023 look positive; the Údarás na Gaeltachta board approved new projects in which 58 jobs will be created in the Mayo Gaeltacht, with a total investment of over €976,729 when they are fully underway.

**gteic – Digital Network of the Gaeltacht in Mayo:** There are four gteics (Acaill, Béal an Mhuirthead, An Corrán Buí and Eachléim) operating in Mayo with over 170 workspaces. gteic@Gaoth Sáile will soon be ready to open. Design work has begun on Phase 4 of the Beal an Muirthead gteic due to a lack of space and high demand. A pilot project on Community Digitization was started in Béal an Mhuirthead, with the help of Connected Hubs and Digital HQ; Béal an Mhuirthead was also chosen as one of the hubs leading out the national campaign “Digital First Day” in November.

**Language Planning:** There are two Language Planning Areas and a Gaeltacht Service Town in the Mayo Gaeltacht. The implementation of the Maigh Eo Thiar Language Plan began in 2022. A strong local committee have expressed an interest in establishing the status of lead organisation to undertake the language planning process for the Gaeltacht Service Town of Béal an Mhuirthead. Events and activities were held in both areas aimed at parents, young people, school communities and those who want to learn and improve Irish. There is an annual allocation of €200,000 for both Language Plans. Tuar Mhic Éadaigh comes under the remit of the Dúiche Sheoigheach Language Plan, and it is being implemented by Comharchumann Forbartha Dúiche Sheoigheach Teo.



**The following were among the significant developments and announcements made in the Mayo Gaeltacht during the year:**

**Solas (Scéalta an Atlantaigh):** Construction on this €3.6 million project began in 2022 and is over 60% complete. A lot of work was done on branding and SOLAS was chosen as the new brandname. Progress was also made on the relevant themes to be used in the interpretative centre and the first two walks were opened in the Fód Dubh area. Funding was approved (under the ORIS Scheme) to carry out technical research on Slí Iorrais, a 44km coastal path from Ceann Iorrais to An Fód Dubh. The Fód Dubh Lighthouse was open to the public again during the tourist season of 2022.

**Geopark – Dúiche Sheoigheach:** In partnership with Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach, an application was registered to UNESCO to achieve UNESCO Geopark status for the Dúiche Sheoigheach area in Galway and Mayo.

**Turasóireacht Iorrais:** The number of visitors coming to the An Carn Golf Course has greatly increased over the past few years as a result of their new Research and Development Programme, aimed at improving their digital marketing and international partnerships. Over 12,000 visited the golfcourse this year, an increase from c. 3,000 in 2017.

**Health And Wellness Programme:** Údarás na Gaeltachta is one of the partners in a Health and Wellbeing pilot project administered by the Health Services Executive in the Iorras and Acaill area.

**Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme:** A total of €338, 500 was provided to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2022. These organisations provide important local service, coordinating community development activities and provide a support service to the voluntary sector in their area.

**Social Employment Schemes:** 241 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of the year. There were 48 people on the Community Employment Scheme had, 151 on the Rural Social Scheme and 42 on the TÚS Scheme. These schemes are managed by 11 supervisors.

# 213

There were 213 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht at the end of the year.



## Meath Gaeltacht

Employment in the Meath Gaeltacht increased by 42 jobs during 2022. When loss of employment is taken into account, there was a net increase of 15 jobs. There was significant employment creation in the recycling, manufacturing and language sectors. There were 213 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht at the end of the year. 14 jobs were approved for the Meath Gaeltacht during 2022.

**Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht:** The period of the Meath Enterprise Forum came to an end in 2022. Progress has been made in developing gteics in Baile Ghib and in Ráth Chairn. Comharchumann Ráth Chairn has ambitious plans for the renovation of the Community Centre in Ráth Chairn, including a heritage centre. The Co-operative have prepared initial designs and are currently preparing their funding application.

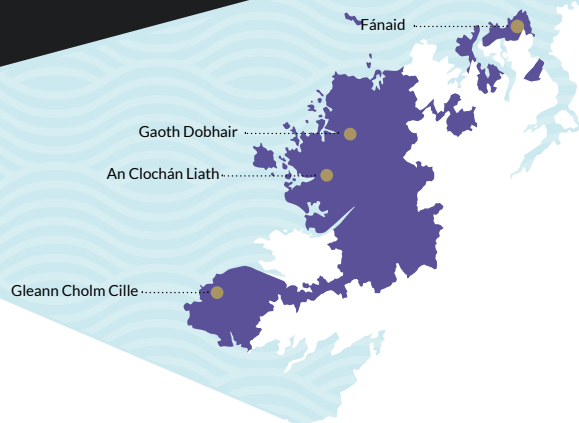
**gteic - Digital Network of the Gaeltacht:** A location has been identified for gteic@Ráth Chairn, and tenders have been issued for the construction work, which should start in 2023. A four desk digital hub in gteic@Baile Ghib should be completed in 2023.

**Language Planning:** Comharchumann Ráth Chairn is the main organization responsible for implementing the language plan in the Meath Gaeltacht. Implementation of the Language Plans of Ráth Chairn agus Baile Ghib continued during 2022.

**Cooperatives and Community Based Organizations Scheme:** Total funding of €98,000 was made available to one organization under the Community Development Program in 2022.

# 317

317 new jobs were created  
in the Donegal Gaeltacht  
during 2022.



## Donegal Gaeltacht

317 new jobs were created in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2022. When job reductions are taken into account, there was a net increase of 57 jobs, resulting in 2,426 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies at the end of the year. The Údarás na Gaeltachta board approved 88 new jobs which will come onstream in the near future.

**gteic – Digital Network of the Gaeltacht:** Four gteics were officially opened in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2022: gteic@an Tearmann, gteic@GaothDobhair, gteic@NaRosa and gteic@Carraig Art. It is expected that gteic@Baile na Finne will be completed in 2023. The construction work on the gteic@Málann Bheag, which is being developed in collaboration with Donegal County Council and the local community, is being completed. It is expected that work on gteic@Toraí will begin in 2023, a development that is being funded by the LEADER Programme with joint capital funding from the Údarás na Gaeltachta and Donegal County Council.

**Language Planning:** By the end of 2022, language plans were being implemented in the eight Language Planning Areas in the Donegal Gaeltacht, with a total annual allocation of €850,000, employing six Language Planning Officers and one assistant language planning officer. The language plans for the Gaeltacht Láir and Toraí Language Planning Areas were launched, and implementation of the plans commenced, as did implementation of the Language Plan for the Gaeltacht Service Town of An Clochán Liath. Language Planning Officers held a wide range of activities and events aimed at fostering the Irish language and focusing on specific target groups: parent and families, language learners, young people, businesses and school communities. Workshops and events were organised around sport, art, technology, the environment, drama etc.

There was a focus on language awareness, with campaigns such as Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine. Business people were encouraged to participate in the Gradaim Glór na nGael award scheme and support was offered to schools hoping to achieve recognition as Scoileanna Gaeltachta. A regional forum of Language Officers was also established to facilitate cooperation and collaboration on plans and projects in the Donegal Gaeltacht.



**An Ghaeltacht Ghlas – Photovoltaic Project:** An application for planning permission to develop a 5W solar farm in Gaoth Dobhair during 2022 was approved. This is a community project, which is being developed on a partnership basis in collaboration with six community organisations. The development of renewable energy is central to the Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategy 2021-2025. This project will make a significant contribution to the local economy, it will be a source of income for the community development sector in the area, it will reduce the carbon footprint, and it will help make Páirc Gnó Gaoth Dobhair sustainable and reduce its dependence on fossil fuel generated energy.

**The following were among the significant developments and announcements made in the Donegal Gaeltacht during the year:**

**LEADER programme:** The administration and implementation of the interim LEADER Programme (2021-2022) in the Donegal Gaeltacht, apart from the offshore islands, came under the remit of Údarás na Gaeltachta. Eight LEADER proposals were approved in 2022 with a grant of €375,802 (for total investment €523,820

**Croithlí Distillery and Visitor Centre:** The Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and Sports, Jack Chambers T.D., officially opened Croithlí Distillery, which aims to be one of the flagship tourist attractions in the area. The proposal reflects the priorities of Údarás na Gaeltachta in its Strategy 2021-2025: the emphasis on fostering and promoting entrepreneurship and the support for strategic tourism projects in the Gaeltacht, which emphasize the unique story of the Gaeltacht areas.

**The Story of Weaving:** 2022 saw the launch of an initiative to compile the history of weaving and textiles in Southwest Donegal. The first part of the project was completed this year, exploring the early history of weaving in the area; the next phase of the project will be undertaken in 2023.

**Stucaí an Screabáin:** Údarás na Gaeltachta, Ealaín na Gaeltachta & Donegal County Council, came together to commission a piece of public art for Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair, under the Percent for Art Scheme. This work celebrates the Gaeltacht community of the Northwest, especially its traditions and customs associated with work and labour, in the past and in the present.



**Visit of the Ambassador of the United States of America to Ireland:** The Ambassador of the United States of America, Claire Cronin, visited gteic@Gaoth Dobhair in May. A presentation was made to the Ambassador about the Irish language and language planning matters and also about technological developments in the Gaeltacht.

**Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh Inaugurated as Artist in Residence at gteic@Gaoth Dobhair:** Renowned musician Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh was appointed Artist-in-Residence at gteic@Gaoth Dobhair in 2022, a unique collaboration and opportunity to experience traditional Irish music in the entrepreneurial environment of gteic@Gaoth Dobhair.

**Bioeconomic Hub:** LAN CTR, in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta and other partners (University College Dublin, University of Galway and Teagasc) are working on a plan to develop a Bioeconomics Hub in Cill Ulta. Údarás na Gaeltachta received funding of €196,119 at the beginning of 2022 to develop plans for the Northwest Bioeconomic Hub and to bring the project to a stage where an application could be made for funding under Category 1 of the Fund in 2023. Bioeconomy sector, including an enterprise space, hot desks, educational and reading spaces and facilities to encourage crossborder bioeconomics.

**Ionad Óige Ghaoth Dobhair:** A Youth Centre was developed on Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair, overseen by Muintearas Teo., which provides services throughout the Gaeltacht, in conjunction with the Ionad Óige Ghaoth Dobhair Committee. A Youth Officer was appointed on a year's contract year to run the project on a pilot basis which commenced in April 2022. It is expected that the service will continue after the pilot period, if appropriate funding is confirmed.

**Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme:** A total of €927,960 was made available to 11 organisations under the Community Development Programme in the region with agreed community development programmes being implemented.

**Social Employment Schemes:** 282 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the end of the year with 121 on the Rural Social Scheme, 110 on the Community Employment Scheme and 51 on the TÚS Scheme, under the management of 13 supervisors.

# 755

There are now 755 jobs in Kerry Gaeltacht in client companies of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

## Kerry Gaeltacht

142 jobs were created in the Gaeltacht areas of Kerry during 2022. When job losses are taken into account, this is an increase of 83 jobs, a 13% increase on the previous year's employment. There are now 755 jobs in Kerry Gaeltacht in client companies of Údarás na Gaeltachta. The board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved 38 jobs for the Gaeltacht areas of Kerry in 2022.

**Language Planning:** The implementation of Language Plans continued in the two Language Planning Areas in the Kerry Gaeltacht, Ciarraí Thiar and Ciarraí Theas and in the Gaeltacht Service Town, Daingean Uí Chúis, with a total annual allocation of €350,000.

The Language Plan for Daingean Uí Chúis has received great support from the local community and local businesses. Businesses have embraced Irish language and bilingual signage, Irish language material is being widely distributed in printed booklets and on social media and the hospitality industry has greeted with enthusiasm the efforts to increase the use of Irish in hotels, pubs and restaurants. Businesses from An Daingean were the recipients of 54 awards in the Glór na nGael awards in 2022. In Ciarraí Thiar LPA, immense work has been done in partnership with Dúchas an Daingin to enhance the visibility of Irish language signage. Projects for young people, such as Club Teic and Cumann na nÓg were particularly successful.

Chiarraí Theas LPA have brought together a parents' group who meet monthly. 27 parents with little Irish took part in a Duolingo Irish competition, an innovative way to learn the language outside the classroom. Great efforts have been made to meet the challenges that arise from the broken nature of the Gaeltacht boundaries in the Uíbh Ráthach area. A new committee has been established, Nascadh Uíbh Ráthaigh, which has received funding to design a language plan for those parts of Uíbh Ráthach which are not in the Gaeltacht. LPT Chiarraí Theas will work closely with Nascadh Uíbh Ráthaigh and with the local Gaeltacht Service Town committee (Cathair Saidhbhín), in coordinating their respective language plans.

**gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network Kerry:** In 2022 gteic@andromaid was officially opened. Planning permission has been obtained and the tender process for construction has begun for a new gteic@BaileanSceilg building.

Daingean Uí Chúis

Baile an Sceilg



**The following were among the significant developments and announcements made in the Kerry Gaeltacht during the year:**

**Lárionad Forbartha Bhaile an Fheirtéaraigh:** A planning application is being prepared for this project which will include community, educational, tourism and sports facilities.

**Teach Damhsa:** Planning permission has been obtained and capital funding approved to refurbish the premises at An Ghlaise Bheag in Corca Dhuibhne. Construction work is expected to be completed in 2023.

**The White House & The Shamrock:** Two of Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies were in the White House in the United States as part of the St. Patrick's Day 2022 celebrations: they were IPI Teo., who grew the Shamrock presented to the President of the United States to mark the occasion, and Sean Daly Designs Ltd. t/a Dingle Crystal, who made the crystal bowl in which the Shamrock was presented. IPI. intends to develop a visitor centre based on the heritage of the shamrock in Baile an Sceilg, capitalizing on the recognition that the company has achieved over the years in providing shamrock to his customers around the world, including the America President and his predecessors.

**An Ghaeltacht Ghlas:** Elements of renewable energy technology have been incorporated into the Údarás na Gaeltachta buildings in An Daingean and Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh: electric car charging points; bicycle shelters and photovoltaic panels. An application has been submitted to Kerry County Council to increase the solar panels on the An Daingean offices, with a view to the building being energy independent in the future.

**Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme:** A total of €382,000 was provided to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2022 which completed agreed community development work programmes.

**Social Employment Schemes:** 61 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of the year, 29 through the Community Employment Scheme and 32 through the Rural Social Scheme.

# 695

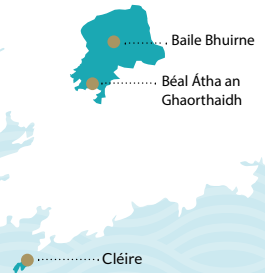
There were 695 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at the end of the year.

## Cork Gaeltacht

There were 695 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at the end of the year. Although 34 new jobs were created in 2022, a relatively high level of job losses shows a net decrease in employment of 16 jobs in the Cork Gaeltacht. We hope to build on specific sectors which are showing strong growth, such as food and drink, engineering, and niche manufacturing in the coming year.

**gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network in Cork:** gteic@Cléire opened in 2002 with 14 workspaces. The digital hub is being used by islanders and tourists alike. The facility is managed by Comharchumann Chléire. Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo. is managing gteic@Béal an Ghaorthaidh which was recently renovated and now has 20 extra workspaces.

**Language Planning:** Language plans are being implemented in the two Language Planning Areas (LPAs) in the Cork Gaeltacht, Oileán Chléire and Múscraí with a total annual allocation of €200,000. A Language Planning Officer commenced work in Oileán Chléire in July. Since then, Féile Lúnasa was held on the island with 34 events organised through Irish, Irish classes at beginner and intermediate level were organised, a connection was made with the Gaeltacht Services Town (Cork City) and a partnership was established with Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta and with the local primary school. A new taskforce has also been started on the island to explore the issue of housing provision. A new Language Planning Officer has taken up the position in the Múscraí LPA and a range of activities and events were held in the course of 2022.





**The following were among the significant developments and announcements made in the Cork Gaeltacht during the year:**

**LEADER program:** Údarás na Gaeltachta managed the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and the Interim LEADER Programme 2021-2022 for the Múscraí area, which concluded at the end of 2022. Grant aid of €77,739 was approved for Gaeltacht businesses and community groups, along with funding of €26,587 for a project under the Food Initiatives programme. The Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí (Múscraí Development Co-operative) launched a tourism action plan for the Múscraí Gaeltacht area this year, with the help of a feasibility study grant from the LEADER Programme.

**Coláiste na Mumhan:** The Béal Atha an Ghaorthaidh Development Committee has drawn up a development plan, with the help of a feasibility study grant from the LEADER Program, to develop social enterprises in the old Coláiste na Mumhan building. Plans are being made for An Irish Language Revival Museum which will focus on the heritage and history of the college.

Comharchumann Oiléan Chléire. The Cléire Co-op had a busy year in 2022, although the Summer College was not open. The following projects were completed: a new unit refurbished and to be leased to Cork County Council as a Public Library; Unit 1 renovated and adapted as a Tourism Centre for the Carraig Aonair Experience; gteic@Cléire completed and opened; planning permission is being sought for the development of social housing on the island and the Oiléan Chléire Language Plan has been agreed and is being implemented. The recycling centre has been redeveloped and a new ferry is servicing the island.

**Coláiste Íosagáin Development Centre:** A business development manager was engaged and a new business services development board was established. The new Advisory Committee will have their first meeting in January 2023. A business case was commissioned and completed on the project. A new planning application to address structural problems with part of the building has been submitted to Cork County Council.

**Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme:** A total of €234,000 was provided to two organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2022.

**Social Employment Schemes:** There were 20 people employed on the Rural Social Scheme in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2022.

# 177

There were 177 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht at the end of 2021.

## Waterford Gaeltacht

2022 was a positive year for employment in the Waterford Gaeltacht, with the creation of 23 jobs. Employment growth was in the language-based, marine, and audio-visual sectors. When job reductions are considered, there was a net increase in employment of 21 jobs. There were 177 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht at the end of 2022.

**Language Planning:** Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise Teo. is the lead organisation responsible for implementing the language plan for the Na Déise Language Planning Area and progress was made in implementing a number of the measures set out in the language plan during the year. Yoga classes and mindfulness sessions were held for primary school children. Language support was provided for parents of young children and a new project Fás sa Spás was established, which gave young children the opportunity to grow their own vegetables. A newsletter was distributed to all families in the area and a booklet was published giving information about the aims of the area's language plan.

**Affordable Housing:** Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise aims to develop an affordable housing scheme to provide houses at a reasonable price to the local community and to strengthen the sustainability of the Gaeltacht as a language entity. An Údarás na Gaeltachta owned site in An Rinn has been identified and there has been ongoing collaboration between all stakeholders for a number of years. Progress has been made on mechanism of transferring the land for a affordable housing project which would be available to the Irish speaking community. We expect that expressions of interest will be sought in the near future.

**Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme:** Total funding of €98,190 was made available to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2022.





**Údarás na Gaeltachta**  
Na Forbacha  
Co. na Gaillimhe  
H91 TY22

**[www.udaras.ie](http://www.udaras.ie)**

Phone: 091-503100  
Email: [eolas@udaras.ie](mailto:eolas@udaras.ie)

