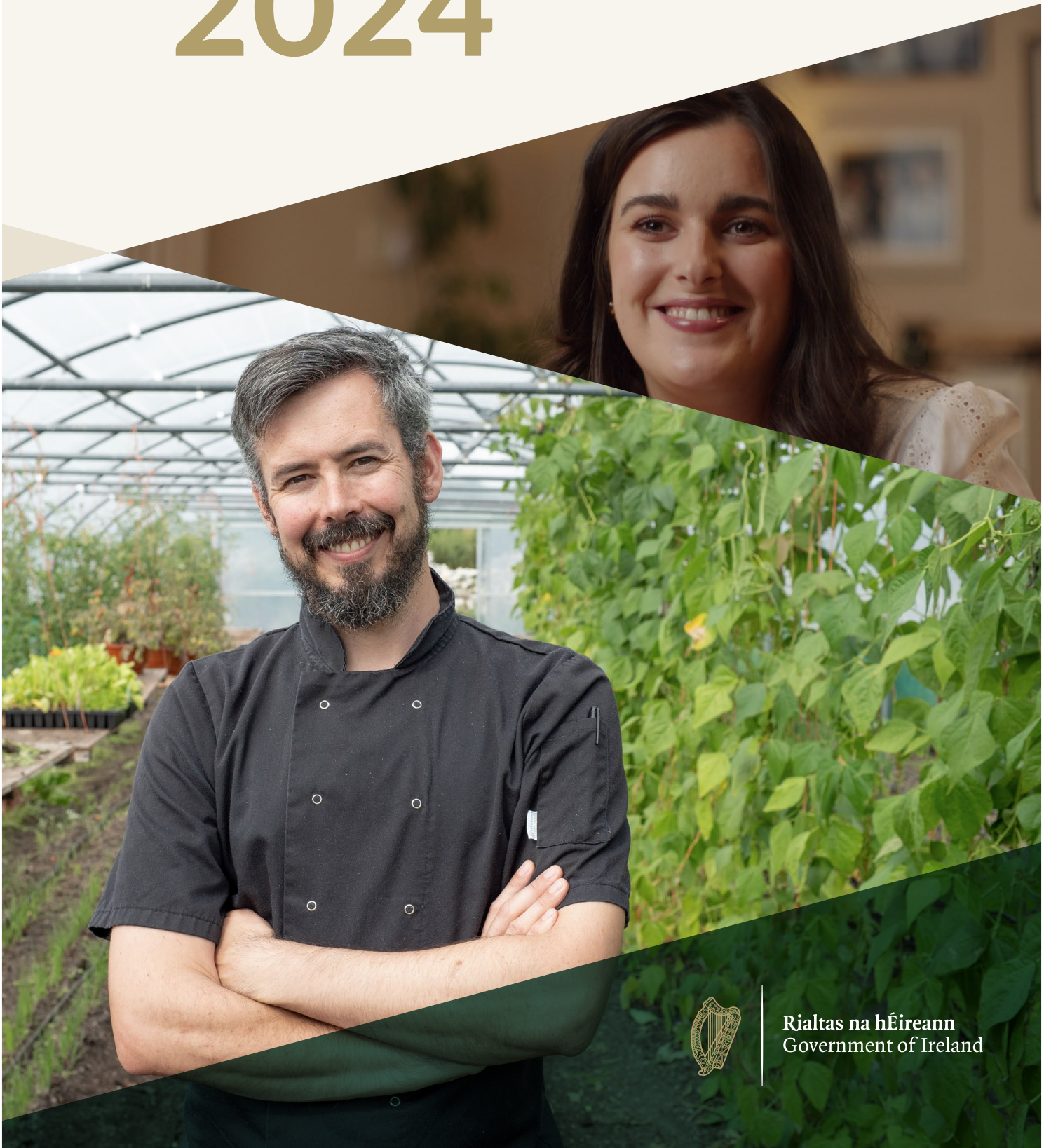




Údarás na
Gaeltachta

End of Year Statement

2024



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Key Figures for 2024

- **869** new jobs created in the Gaeltacht in 2024
- Net increase of **217** jobs
- **9,743** jobs in client companies at year end
- Increase in the level of employment in **five** Gaeltacht counties
- **211** new jobs approved by the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta
- **28** Language Plans with **36** jobs implemented with a budget of **€3.9m**
- **gteic** – **465** people working in the **29** digital hubs of the digital network
- **GAIRM** – Pioneering new postgraduate programme commenced with ten graduates
- **CUMASÚ** – New programme for **150** female Gaeltacht entrepreneurs with **41** participants in 2024
- **Apprentice Scheme** – **34** apprentices registered in 2024
- **Five sites for affordable housing identified to date as part of Údarás na Gaeltachta's housing policy** – with planning support and permission in place for four houses in Corca Dhuibhne



Business Highlights

1. Historical Sales



€1.098 BILLION

Total sales worth €1.098 billion during 2024, the highest figure in Údarás na Gaeltachta's history

That equates to significant growth in comparison with a figure of €1.051 billion which was recorded in 2023

2. Progress in the Export Sector



€658 MILLION

Our client companies were responsible for exports worth €658 million

That is evidence of significant progress made in comparison with exports worth €637 million in 2023

3. Sustainable Growth



4.4% ↗

Total sales have grown sustainably since 2001

The 2024 figures shows an increase of 4.4% in comparison with the previous year

4. Long-term Success



28% ↗

In comparison with 10 years ago (2014), total sales have increased by 28%

These results are evidence of the fact that the organisation is stable and sustainable

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2024 Annual CEO Statement

A Year of Digital Transformation and Community Growth

2024 marked a pivotal moment in advancing Ireland's linguistic and cultural heritage into the digital age as Údarás na Gaeltachta began laying the groundwork for the Irish language's digital future, building upon our successful legacy in media development.

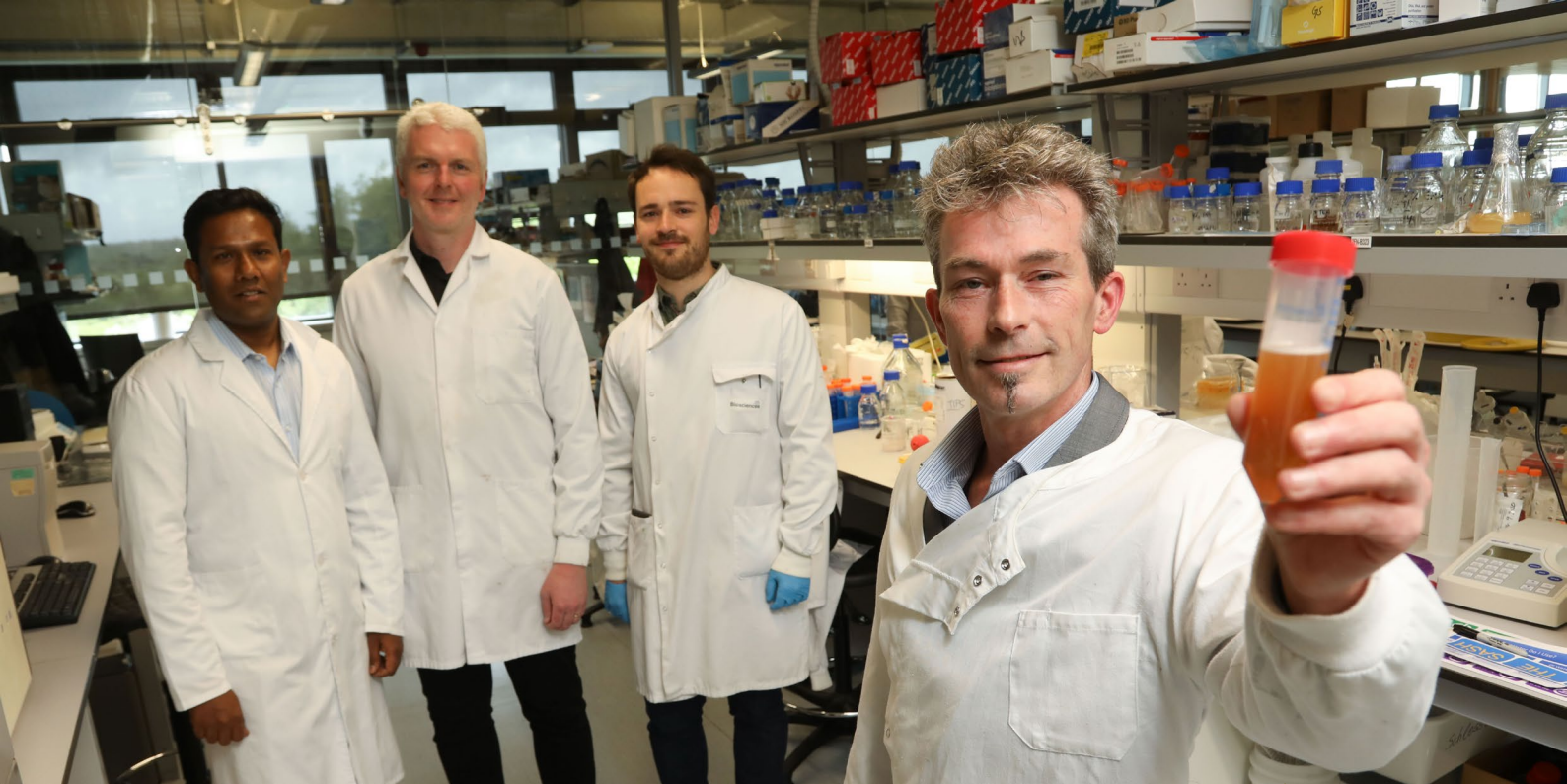
Looking Back to Move Forward

The strategic foresight of Údarás na Gaeltachta in the 1990s established the bedrock of today's thriving Irish language media sector. By investing early in training, infrastructure, and production companies across Gaeltacht regions, an ecosystem was created that has flourished beyond expectations. The success of this approach is exemplified by companies like Telegael, now an Emmy Award-winning studio, and Nemeton, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

Recent research highlights the growing strength of the Irish language in our communities, with 58% of employees in client companies speaking Irish. The media sector leads in using Irish as a working language, demonstrating the success of our integrated approach to language preservation and economic development. The 2022 census revealed encouraging growth in Irish speakers, particularly in regions like the Déise Gaeltacht, which showcases the importance of media companies supported by the Údarás such as Nemeton and RedShow which are based there.

Pioneering Artificial Intelligence

The increasing capacity, and use, of artificial intelligence in Ireland is likely to be an inflection point in the use of technology, similar to the transformation of the media industry over since the 1990s. There is an opportunity to position the Irish language and Údarás na Gaeltachta to lead in AI development, particularly in applications that preserve and promote cultural and linguistic heritage. Údarás na Gaeltachta is the lead agency to develop a statewide solution to develop a platform agnostic speech to speech capacity in Irish by the end of 2026. The intention is that this development will serve as a model for minority language preservation worldwide.



↑
Declan Clarke, Managing Director cellNUA on site at the Bioscience Building following successful validation trials with researchers from CÚRAM University of Galway.
3 September, 2024

Employment and Economic Growth

2024 saw unprecedented employment levels in client companies, 9,743 employed – the highest in the history of Údarás na Gaeltachta. This represents a net increase of 217 jobs, with growth across five Gaeltacht counties. The continued growth contrasts with the competitive nature of the employment market with 196 open positions across client companies at the end of 2024. The female entrepreneurship initiative, ‘Cumasú,’ has successfully engaged 41 female entrepreneurs across seven Gaeltacht counties. Sales across Údarás client companies were valued at €1.098 billion with exports making up a significant €658m of that total given current global economic uncertainties.

Community Development and Education

Our commitment to community extends across multiple initiatives:

- 135 early years services supporting 2,214 children
- A €3.9m budget towards the ongoing implementation of 28 Language Plans
- 15 dedicated tourism officers developing cultural tourism
- Comprehensive support for 33 community cooperatives

The impact of educational programs is significant, with research showing that one in four Irish people have attended a Gaeltacht summer college. The 2022 census revealed 1.9 million Irish speakers nationwide, underlining the vital role of Gaeltacht regions in preserving and promoting our linguistic heritage.



Future Focus

While celebrating these achievements, ongoing challenges should be acknowledged including but not limited to affordable housing. A key focus for 2025 and beyond is developing integrated solutions that combine housing, community facilities, and enterprise development. This holistic approach will seek to ensure language, economic and social development.

Acknowledgments

The success of the initiatives outlined here reflects the ongoing dedication of the Údarás na Gaeltachta team and the support of stakeholders. I would like to highlight in particular the work of both Mary Uí Chadhain and her successor, Siobhán Ní Ghadhra. Their leadership and commitment to the work of Údarás along with that of the Department of the Gaeltacht and the Board, continues to drive the mission forward.

Údarás na Gaeltachta is unique in its role to support An Ghaeilge as the community language in Gaeltacht areas through community and economic supports. The successes in 2024, many of which are outlined here provide a strong foundation for both facing the challenges and capitalising on the opportunities that lie ahead.

↑
Yvonne Shields O Connor,
CEO Irish Lights, Tomás Ó
Siocháin, CEO of Údarás na
Gaeltachta, and Josephine
O Driscoll, Manager Wild
Atlantic Way Fáilte Ireland.
21 October, 2024

Employment

217 extra people were employed in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies at the end of 2024 in comparison with the end of 2023.

Donegal Gaeltacht ↓3%
Total Employment: 2647
New Jobs: 192

Mayo Gaeltacht ↑8%
Total Employment: 1044
New Jobs: 117

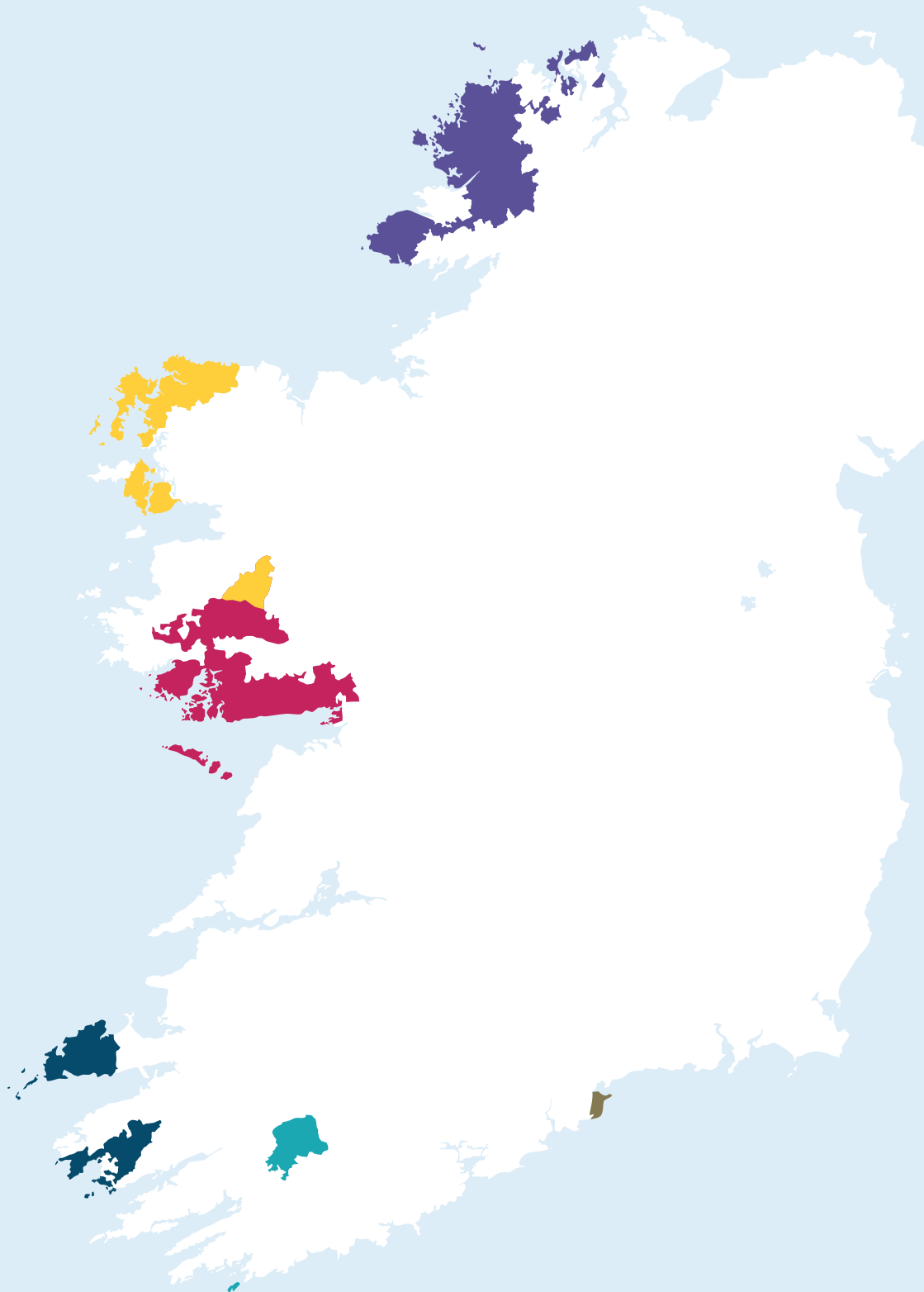
Meath Gaeltacht ↑6%
Total Employment: 253
New Jobs: 20

Galway Gaeltacht ↑4%
Total Employment: 3774
New Jobs: 354

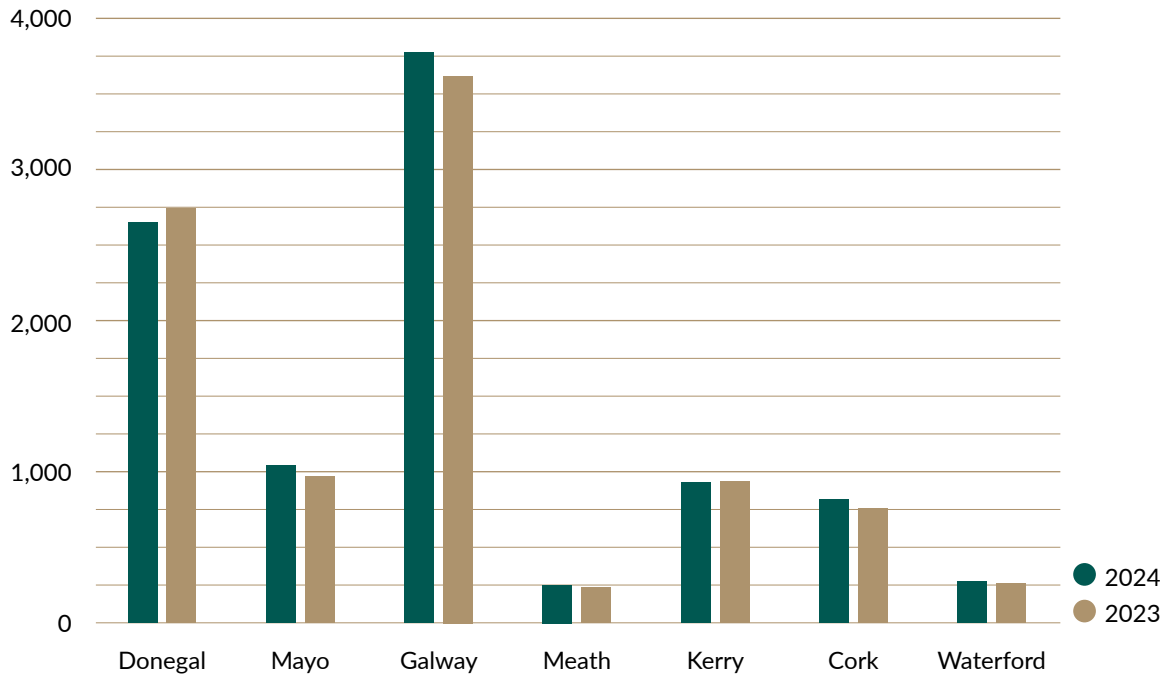
Waterford Gaeltacht ↑4%
Total Employment: 274
New Jobs: 30

Kerry Gaeltacht —
Total Employment: 932
New Jobs: 59

Cork Gaeltacht ↑8%
Total Employment: 819
New Jobs: 97



Employment in the Gaeltacht

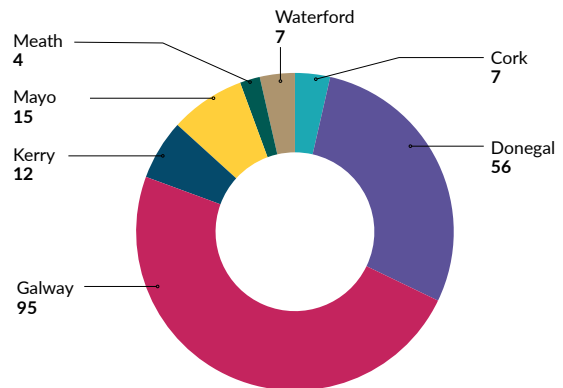


9743

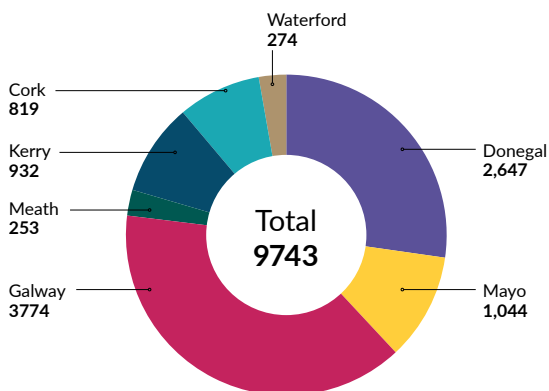
There were 9743 people employed in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies at the end of 2024



Vacancies 2024



Employment results by County



196

Vacancies in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies at the end of 2024



↑
Iasc Inis Mór,
14 October, 2024

Language Planning

- 28 language plans being implemented (26 Language Planning Areas & 2 Gaeltacht Service Towns)
- €3.9m provided to implement those language plans
- 36 Language Planning Officers employed by 29 language planning lead organisations
- Work being done by a local committee to prepare a language plan for the Gaeltacht Service Town of Béal an Mhuirthead
- The language planning lead organisations continued implementing the action programme with the aim of fulfilling the targets laid out in their language plans and in their work programmes.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is working on a review of the implementation of the language plans in 10 LPA and of the language planning process. An independent consultant is in the process of preparing a review report for the Department and Údarás na Gaeltachta understands that the report will be published in the coming months.
- In order to support Údarás na Gaeltachta with the work being done by it and by the Language Planning Officers to encourage the use of Irish among business owners in the Gaeltacht, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provided funding to Údarás na Gaeltachta during the year to develop and provide two new three year support programmes in 2025.

The aim of the *Irish Language Support Programme for Businesses*, a 3 year support programme worth €1.9m, will be to promote Irish in Gaeltacht businesses in the retail, hospitality and tourism sectors. The aim of the programme is to attract and enable businesses in those sectors to be proactive as regards the use of Irish and to provide a service to the Gaeltacht community, to visitors and to tourists also.

The *Client Companies Irish Development Scheme*, a 3 year support programme worth €1.3m, is based on supporting Údarás na Gaeltachta clients, which have created a high number of jobs, to sustain and encourage the use of Irish in the business and among the employees. This programme will be based on enabling the use of Irish, enabling understanding of the Gaeltacht culture and language and creating further links between employees working in the client companies and the services through Irish which are available in various community domains.

Údarás na Gaeltachta is currently making arrangements to ensure that both of those programmes can be provided to the business sector in 2025.

During the year, proposals were supported that were based on sustaining the use of Irish and strengthening that use among young people in the Gaeltacht. The aim of those innovative proposals was to promote positive language use habits regarding Irish among young people in the Gaeltacht by developing and creating new opportunities and 'spaces' for them to create a link and to sustain relationships based on subjects that they have a particular interest in and to create relationships between teenagers all over the Gaeltacht. Accordingly, support was provided for activities such as Aistear na nGael, Preab san Úr, Dorn san Aer and Ard-Fheis na nÓg during the year.

The language planning process is a repetitive process that will be renewed at the end of every 7 year implementation period. Between August and December 2025 the language planning implementation process in 8 LPA will come to an end. The language planning lead organisations in those LPAs with need to prepare new language plans for the next seven year period for Ministerial approval.

Údarás na Gaeltachta is working on an approach that can be used instead that will form the basis of the support provided to the language planning lead organisations to prepare new language plans for their area. Once the model and approach for the preparation of the language plans for the next 7 year implementation period is agreed, Údarás na Gaeltachta will then support the language planning lead organisations and the Language Planning Officers to prepare and complete the language plan that will be approved by the Minister.



↑
Minister of State Thomas Byrne officially opens gteic Baile Ghib and gteic Ráth Cairn, accompanied by Bríd Óg Ní Chonaire, Manager of Comharchumann Ráth Chairn 15 July, 2024.
15 July, 2024

gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network

The gteic network is now functioning as part of the basic business and community infrastructure in the majority of the Gaeltacht areas and the work done to develop the range of services will be continued in 2025.

- 29 gteic in 6 counties (Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork & Meath)
- 869 work spaces
- 465 people working in gteic centres
- 3 new gteic centres opened, as well as phase 1 of gteic@Uíbh Ráthach in 2024.
- 4 gteic centres are being developed at the moment

The gteic network is providing valuable services and resources to businesses, community committees, tourists and the Gaeltacht community in general. As well as providing work spaces of a high standard, the network provides services such as meeting rooms, business events and a wide-ranging training programme to the community.

During the year:

- 60 entrepreneurs and business people attended a series of training course in gteic centres in Gaoth Dobhair, Béal an Mhuirthead, Corca Dhuibhne and in the Údarás na Gaeltachta Main Office in Na Forbacha.
- Conferences, workshops and training sessions were organised in the network about various subjects such as Immersive Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Disruptive Technology, Finance, Tax and Marketing.
- The gteic network was identified as an example of best practice in the Interreg CODIL proposal and work is being done to transfer the network model to other regions in Europe.
- Work continued on the training programmes for gteic managers that commenced in 2022
- Significant progress was made in relation to the development of a new strategy for the network



Tourism

Údarás na Gaeltachta is making significant progress as regards tourism development, in conjunction with national and local stakeholders. The main developments are outlined below:

Visitor Centres

- Building works have commenced on Ionad na nImlirceach in Carna
- Plans are being designed for a visitor centre in Oileáin Árann agus in Oileán Chléire

Geopháirc Dhúiche Sheoigheach

Údarás na Gaeltachta is co-operating with Geopháirc Dhúiche Sheoigheach & Lochanna an Iarthar, which encompasses Gaeltacht areas in Galway and in Mayo. An application is being made for UNESCO status – if the application was successful this would be the first ever UNESCO geopark in the Gaeltacht.

Lighthouses

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Commissioners of Irish Lights in October to develop proposals based on lighthouses.

Tourism Officers Scheme

- The scheme was reviewed in 2024
- Funding was provided for 2025
- Opportunities for 15 Tourism Officers will be advertised in December 2024
- The scheme will be aimed at the development of tourism centres and experiences through community organisations

↑
Tomás Ó Siocháin,
CEO of Údarás na
Gaeltachta and
Miriam Kennedy,
Head of Wild
Atlantic Way, Fáilte
Ireland pictured in
the former Aran
Islands Heritage
Centre in Cill Rónáin,
Inis Mór, Co. Galway
13 September, 2024



Community Development Sector

Údarás na Gaeltachta understands that community development organisations are extremely important as regards Údarás na Gaeltachta ability to fulfil strategic targets in conjunction with Gaeltacht communities.

Community Development Organisations

The Community Development Unit works with 33 co-operatives in the Gaeltacht areas.

During the year a new co-operative was opened in Donegal – Forbairt Pobail Trí Bhaile CTR.

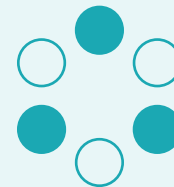
A total provision worth €7.13m was provided under the Community Development, Language Development & Community Development Fund, which is the same as the amount provided in 2023.

Social Enterprise Proposals

In 2024, the Údarás na Gaeltachta Community Development Unit provided funding for 17 social enterprises, and €206,245 was provided for the development of proposals in the Gaeltacht to improve employment, community services and the funding stream being provided for community development organisations.



Feargal Ó Coighligh (Secretary General of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media), Tomás Ó Síocháin, CEO of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Dr. Aodhán Mac Cormaic, Director of Irish Language Affairs in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with Siobhán Ní Ghadhra, Chairperson of Údarás na Gaeltachta at her first board meeting in Na Forbacha.
28 June, 2024



€7.13 MILLION

A total provision worth €7.13 million was provided for the Community Organisations Running Costs Grant.

Gradaim na Gaeltachta

63 application for Gradaim na Gaeltachta were received.

Prizes were awarded to winners in 7 different categories of community-based organisations and in one category for community committees at an event which was held in Óstán Chois Fharraige at the end of November

Almost 1,000 people employed on Social Employment Schemes

953 participants and 45 foremen/forewomen were employed in 47 schemes in the Gaeltacht in 2024. The social employment schemes have an important role and effect (Community Employment Scheme, Rural Social Scheme & TÚS Scheme), that is being managed by Údarás na Gaeltachta and being funded by the Department of Social Protection, providing work experience and training opportunities to the Gaeltacht community.

Údarás na Gaeltachta European Projects 2024

Údarás na Gaeltachta played a significant role in a wide range of European projects during 2024, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable development, digital innovation, tourism and community development. An tÚdarás participated in ten European projects with a budget of €2.9m, addressing the critical challenges of our time and creating new opportunities for the development of the Gaeltacht.

Green Energy and Sustainability Projects

There are four significant proposals focusing on clean energy and sustainability:

The LEAP project, under Horizon Europe, is working with communities in Connemara and the Aran Islands to facilitate the transition to green energy. This is in line with national and European climate change targets.

An EU Cleaner Energy Unit scheme is targeting island communities, as part of an ambitious EU initiative to move 30 islands to renewable energy by 2030. The six Gaeltacht islands are involved in this project and are working on various energy projects in their own islands.

Under Interreg Atlantic Area, Satcomm is developing innovative systems to generate and share renewable energy among communities.

The E6 project is addressing the challenge of electronic waste, promoting the principles of the circular economy by extending the life cycle of electronic equipment.

Digital and Innovation Projects

There are two proposals focusing on digital transformation:

Data2Sustain is providing support to local businesses in their digital transformation, focusing on important areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and high-performance computing.

Interreg Europe-funded Codil is responding to the impact of COVID-19 on regional innovation ecosystems, developing new policies and attracting digital investment.

Tourism Projects

Two projects are focusing on tourism development:

Glow 2.0 is developing opportunities in dark skies tourism and fostering new opportunities for tourism businesses at quiet times of year.

ST3ER is focusing on improving the competitiveness of tourism companies by transitioning to more sustainable digital systems and practices.

Community Development Projects

There are two projects focusing on community development:

EmpowerUS is strengthening the resources of the community development sector, enhancing the capacity of local communities. The MERSE is supporting social entrepreneurship in rural areas, developing new business models for this sector. These projects demonstrate Údarás na Gaeltachta's commitment to sustainable and innovative development in Gaeltacht areas, drawing on European funding and expertise to create new opportunities for Gaeltacht communities.



Training

CUMASÚ – A New Program for Gaeltacht Women Entrepreneurs

The CUMASÚ program was launched in 2024 to support 150 Gaeltacht women entrepreneurs over three years. Funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta and run by the Innovation Hubs of Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and Munster Technological University's (MTU) Rubicon Centre, it is available in all Gaeltacht areas.

Two Streams:

1. **Cumasú START:** For new businesses, focuses on developing basic business skills and self-confidence.
2. **Cumasú GROW:** For more established businesses, focuses on leadership, sales, and business development.

Currently, 41 women are participating in the program, delivered through the Gaeltacht gteic network. This is the first national program of its kind aimed at Gaeltacht women entrepreneurs, and the first collaboration between ATU and MTU on such a project.

↑
At the launch of EMPOWER Camasú at, An Spidéal were Minister of State Dara Calleary, with (front l-r) Suan Ní Curnáin, Údarás, Maria Staunton, ATU iHub and Empower Camasú manager, Dr Orla Flynn, President of ATU, Rónán Mac Con Iomaire Údarás and Barbara Ó Shea, iHub . (Back l-r) Seán Ó Coistealbha, Údarás, Michelle Lee, iHub, Páid Ó Neachtáin Údarás, Noreen D'Arcy, MC, Clíona Standún. 3 May, 2024

GAIRM

The pioneering programme, GAIRM, is now proceeding and the first cohort of participants commenced working on this two-year long programme in October 2024. The programme is aimed at applicants who are fluent in Irish and have completed a Level 9 NFQI degree in various subjects such as business, technology, accounting, planning, project management, science, social science, and communication. Ten people are taking part in the programme, and they are based in Gaoth Dobhair, Na Forbacha, Béal an Mhuirthead, Baile Átha an Ghaorthaidh and in An Daingean. Over the course of the two years, the participants will gain valuable experience in various areas within Údarás na Gaeltachta, including management, working with Gaeltacht companies and community development.

A central part of the programme is that the participants are completing a *'Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Professional Practice in Management Development'* (Level 9) in conjunction with the Atlantic Technological University. This course was designed as a new course and it is specifically targeted at GAIRM participants to allow them develop their management skills. They will concentrate on modules in the following fields – Management, Social Enterprise, Language and Community, Adding Value, Analysis Skills, Regional and Rural Development, Proposal Management, Financial Management, Strategic Management, Governance and Centralisation of Ethics, Digital Transformation, and Sustainable Development and “Green Transition” practices.

The main aim of this programme is to enable the next generation of managers and to train them and ensure that they gain valuable experience and an academic qualification. Údarás na Gaeltachta will continue to monitor programme progress and to provide support to the participants for a two-year period.

Apprenticeship Scheme

During 2024, 34 people were registered as part of the apprenticeship scheme and they are concentrating on various industries. Among those, 33 men and one woman registered. A publicity campaign will be organised in 2025 to emphasise those opportunities. A public call was advertised twice during 2024. At the first attempt, those opportunities were advertised in Spring and those campaigns targeted people who had completed their education journey, and they were advertised again during the summer targeting people who were about to complete the Leaving Certificate. The apprentices were concentrating on the following industries.



↑
Traditional Connemara sailing vessels, the Galway hookers, sailing on Galway Bay

Gaeltacht na hÉireann

Diaspóra na Gaeltachta

The Gaeltacht Diaspora proposal is a central element of the Údarás na Gaeltachta 2021–2026 Strategy. There is a strong Gaeltacht diaspora around the world which is of significant value as regards networking, enticing people home, investment and so on. Údarás na Gaeltachta has made significant progress regarding work relating to the Diaspora, and Údarás na Gaeltachta is mentioned for example in the Ireland-Scotland Bilateral Policy, and regarding the strong links between the Gaeltacht areas and the United States, as well as the east coast of Canada.

The Gaeltacht Diaspora Centre, as part of Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach in Carna, Co. Galway, continued to develop a significant work programme relating to the Gaeltacht diaspora, by organising events based on the close ties between the Gaeltacht and various different aspects of American and British societies, and societies further afield.

A new cultural exchange programme between the Connemara Gaeltacht and Nova Scotia in Canada was set up in order to develop the language link between both areas. Two people from Nova Scotia spent three months in Connemara learning about the language and culture, and the intention is that two people from Connemara will travel to Canada in 2025.

The link between the Gaeltacht and Canada was further developed as part of the Laurentic Forum, during which a delegation did a presentation and study on the tourism sector based on lighthouses, and three people from Gaeltacht lighthouses initiatives attended.

In the United States, Údarás na Gaeltachta continued to develop the link between the Gaeltacht and Boston, Údarás na Gaeltachta took part in the Golden Bridges international conference in Boston, and the tourism, cultural and business networks were further developed. The link between the Gaeltacht in Acaill and Cleveland in America was further strengthened, as a result of a business visit organised by a contingent from Acaill to Cleveland, and the Corca Dhuibhne peninsula continued to participate in the The Big E event in Springfield, Massachusetts, in order to promote the cultural and economic links between Ireland and west Massachusetts.

Údarás na Gaeltachta and Ealaín na Gaeltachta has created a link with George Mason University, Virginia, USA. Lecturers and students visited Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2019, 2023 and in 2024. The academic director of the MA in Arts Management course spent a week in the Donegal Gaeltacht during Féile an Earagail 2024 to witness the rich and varied arts that are part of life in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

Further efforts were made to strengthen the strong link between Scotland and the Gaeltacht, the Donegal Gaeltacht in particular. The visit of the Údarás na Gaeltachta management team, after receiving an invitation from Iomairt na Gaeidhealtachd's nan Eilean, in the Hebrides, has resulted in a memorandum of understanding being prepared between both organisations at present.

Údarás na Gaeltachta also received an invitation from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, a local government on the Islands in the Northwest of Scotland and from the Harris Tweed Authority, to visit the islands and to make a presentation about the links between Ireland and Scotland, in particular the cultural and language links, and to describe the work being done by Údarás na Gaeltachta. Tours were also organised to the workplaces on the islands and opportunities to explore were discussed relating to co-operation as regards training themes, mentoring, marketing through Irish and Gàidhlig and the PGI status, protected Geographical Indications relating to the tweed industry.

In England, as part of the relationship with the London Irish Business Society (LIBS) in 2024, Údarás na Gaeltachta took part in the organisation of the annual programme of events.



Subsidiary Companies / Strategic Companies

MIDC Páirc na Mara CGA

MIDC Páirc na Mara CGA was opened in 2024 as an Údarás na Gaeltachta subsidiary company to support the sustainable development of marine resources in the Gaeltacht. Both companies are concentrating on two primary areas: supporting small and medium enterprises in the marine sector, and research and development of new technologies in the blue economy. An agreement has been signed between Údarás na Gaeltachta and the University of Galway which will greatly enhance the company's research and development capability, in particular through the development of a marine research centre in the University building in An Crumpán, Carna. This centre will have a central role in the vision of Páirc na Mara and it will also provide opportunities to researchers and to entrepreneurs in the marine sector. Two jobs were advertised in 2024 and it is hoped that people will be appointed and ready to start working in 2025. A training programme is being planned in conjunction with third level institutions in order to develop marine skills in the community.

Seirbhísí Forbartha Gnó DAC

Seirbhísí Forbartha Gnó was founded in 2017 as an Údarás na Gaeltachta subsidiary company to manage the development of Coláiste Íosagáin. In 2018, a claim was made under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development scheme being organised by Enterprise Ireland and the company was awarded €2.7 million to progress the project. Included in the grant was funding to employ two people, a Business Development Manager and a Training & Enterprise Manager. At this stage, one of the posts have been filled by Cathal Ó Conaill who was appointed Business Development Manager at the beginning of 2022. The company has appointed a co-operative advisory group to direct the project, and among those taking part in the group are University College Cork, Munster Technological University, Cork Education & Training Board, and Cork County Council. In 2023, an application was made under the Rural Regeneration and Development (RRDF) scheme to provide further funding and €3.27m was awarded to the company under this scheme. When this funding is included it is evident that significant progress has been made and the construction company is on site at the moment working in Phase 1 which will be completed at the beginning of 2026 at a cost of around €8.6m. Further significant work will be required after that as 1,700 square metres of land will still need to be developed as part as Phase 2.

↑
Tomás Ó Síocháin, Chief Executive of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, President of University of Galway, and Máire Geoghegan Quinn, Chairperson of the University Authority. 27 June, 2024



↑
Tomás Ó Síocháin, Chief Executive of
Údarás na Gaeltachta, attending the Ealaín
na Gaeltachta event

Ealaín (na Gaeltachta) Teoranta

The organisational capacity of Ealaín na Gaeltachta has developed significantly over the last number of years. The Ealaín na Gaeltachta 2023–2027 strategic plan was launched and significant progress has been made in relation to implementation in 2024. The Ealaín na Gaeltachta strategy is based on promoting participation in the arts and increasing participation among young people and the community in general; supporting Gaeltacht artists to sustain and develop their practices and occupations; and to strengthen the arts infrastructure in the Gaeltacht.

A significant sector highlight during 2024 was the official opening of Teac Dańsa in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht on the 7th of September. This new centre, which is based in An Ghlaise Bheag, will function as a dance and theatre centre of international standard which is rooted in the traditions and culture of the place. This project is in line with Ealaín na Gaeltachta's vision as regards development of the arts in the Gaeltacht and it is evidence of the importance of investment in innovative cultural projects at a high standard.

Ealaín na Gaeltachta continued with its work programme and providing support to a wide range of artistic activities in the Gaeltacht through various funding schemes. Funding worth €1.71m was provided for 268 art initiatives during 2024. The activities of the Cuisle programme continued with support from RTCEGS&M, and 4,983 young people attended classes in the Gaeltacht under the guidance of 88 teachers.

Muintearas Teoranta

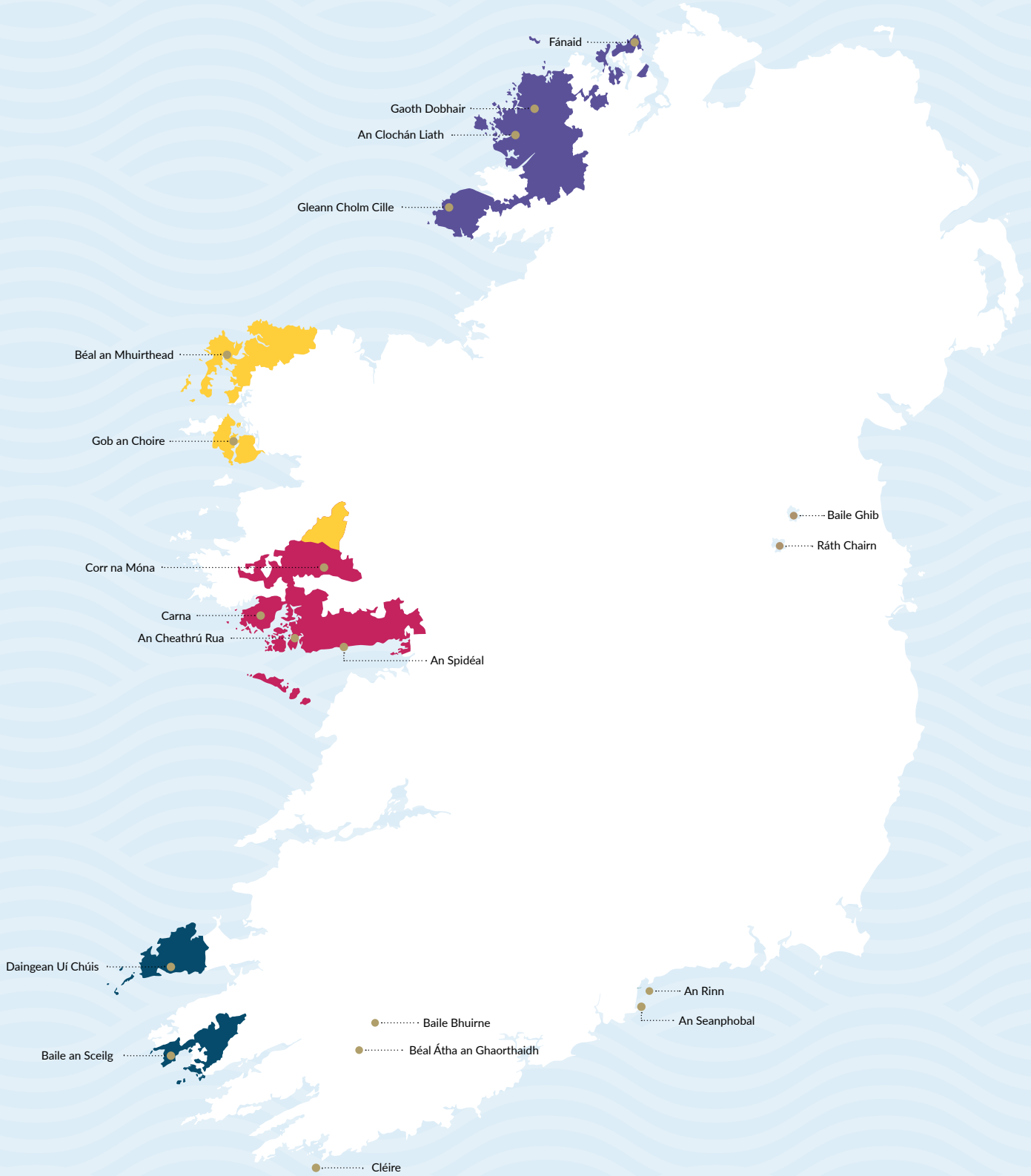
Muintearas Teo. is a subsidiary company of Údarás na Gaeltachta. Muintearas provides youth services and social enterprise services. During 2024, Muintearas continued to organise the Language Assistants Scheme in 104 schools and to organise the Exercise and Sports Programme in 17 schools – funded by the Department of TCGASM. Muintearas organised the Summer Camps Scheme and €270,000 was provided to groups and committees to organise 167 Summer Camps during the summer. 36 youth clubs are registered with Muintearas Teo and youth centres are functioning in some Gaeltacht LPA. The organisation is supporting two Crèches and an afterschool service in Tír an Fhia and in Gaoth Dobhair. Muintearas provides social enterprise services locally in Tír an Fhia, through gteic and the community café – An Chlúid. Muintearas is an education centre that is also registered as a QQI centre. The company employed 144 people in 2024.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta

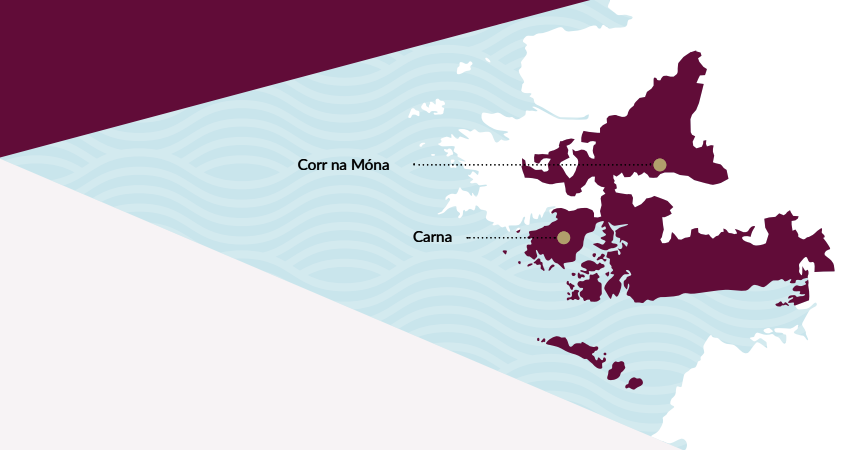
Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta (CNNG) is an independent company receiving funding from Údarás na Gaeltachta to provide a management and administration service to early years services functioning through the medium of Irish in the Gaeltacht. CNNG has 248 people employed at the moment. 234 people are employed in the early years services and 14 people are employed in the company.

During the 2024/2025 school year, 2,214 children are attending 135 early years services being provided under the auspices of Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta. That equates and increase of 231 children and 5 extra services since the year before. It is envisaged that 2-3 extra services will be provided during 2025/2026, depending on Tusla registration for those services.

Review based on Gaeltacht Areas



Galway Gaeltacht



Tourism

Funding worth €2,410,000 was approved for Ionad Árann from Fáilte Ireland resources during the year and the design work has already commenced.

The construction work began on a new Tourism Experience, which will be based on the Immigrants' story, in Carna.

Research commenced on a Tourism Experience that is planned as part of Ionad Domhanda na Gaeilge in An Cheathrú Rua and work is continuing on the further development of Ionad na Feamainne i Leitir Mealláin.

Phase 2 of Siúlóidí Sheanamhach was completed and a total investment of approximately €770,000 has been made over the last number of years with support from ORIS funding.

Community Enterprises

Significant progress has been made as regards Community Enterprises during 2024.

Youth and Education Centres

Údarás na Gaeltachta was awarded planning permission to build a Youth and Education Centre in Indreabhán, and the detailed design process has commenced.

Maigh Cuilinn Community Centre.

Údarás na Gaeltachta was awarded €6m during the year from the Community Centre Investment Fund to develop a new Community Centre in Maigh Cuilinn and there will also be a gteic centre located there. The detailed design process has commenced.



Enterprise Development

52 micro-enterprise initiatives were supported during the year to help them develop their business.

A craft business in Galway that is starting a business was supported to attend Showcase in January and a stand was made available for that business, and another craft business that had products on show was shown at the Údarás na Gaeltachta stand.

Údarás na Gaeltachta provided €346,762 to develop a food preparation kitchen in Ros Muc to help develop the food micro-enterprises in the area.

The Green Sector

Work continued to develop the Saolré project in Casla and it is assumed that this project will be developed significantly in 2025. The European E6 project provides expertise for this project and continuous benchmarking is being done with similar projects around Europe.

The Digital Sector

Support was provided to 25 small enterprises during the year to help them improve their websites.

Preliminary work was completed during the year regarding how to digitise community development and social enterprise processes, and research in this area is being done.

Community Development

During the year a partnership commenced with Galway County Council to develop a Centre of Town Plan for An Cheathrú Rua, and the work has commenced.

Work continued on the implementation of the An Cheathrú Rua Action Plan and the Iorras Aithneach Action Plan and among the initiatives which were progressed during the year was Ionad Domhanda na Gaeilge and the An Clochar project in Carna.

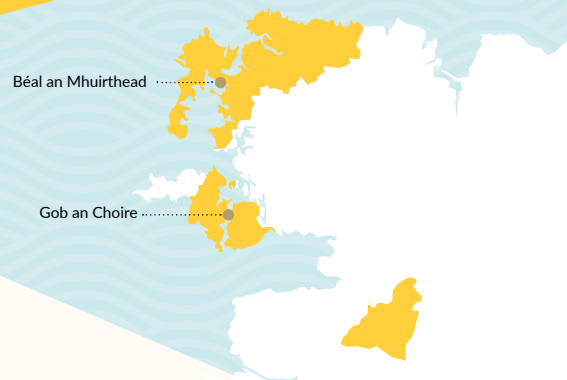
A grant was provided for the Páirc na bhForbacha Committee to undertake a feasibility study regarding the preparation of a Masterplan for the site in Cnocán an Bhodaigh, Na Forbacha.

Language Planning

Language plans are being implemented in the ten Language Planning Areas in the Galway Gaeltacht during 2024. An annual investment worth €1.56m is being provided

for the implementation of language plans in the Galway Gaeltacht and 14 Language Planning Officers jobs are linked to those plans. Irish language events in the four Areas close to Galway City increased during the year and co-operation continued between the Language Planning Officers in those areas to provide new activities to the Irish Language community in those areas and to support those who wanted to improve their language ability. In certain LPA for example, Irish courses were organised and over 100 people attended Irish classes during the year in that area.

Mayo Gaeltacht



Tourism

The SOLAS project was opened during the year, a project which attracted investment of €4m. The project had a successful season in 2024 and a management and operations team has been appointed and it is providing local employment.

An application was made during the year for UNESCO status for the Geopark and a continuous programme of work is being implemented to ensure that that status is achieved.

The technical study on Slí Chósta Iorrais was completed and the walkways that could potentially be developed as part of the Slí Chósta have been designed.

Training and development events for the tourism industry were organised to help them gain advantages from the Dark Sky and to develop new packages

Community Enterprises

Support was provided to Cill Chomáin Care Services to develop a new tourism facility in Ros Dumhach. They hope to lodge a planning permission application in 2025.

The An Chorr Chloch Community Committee was awarded planning permission to further develop the Community Centre.

Enterprise Development

20 micro-enterprise initiatives were supported during the year to help them develop their business.

A craft business from Mayo was supported to start functioning as a business, attend Showcase in January and a stand was made available.

Planning work related to the Centre and Social Enterprise project which will be based on the development of products from Acaill in Bun an Churraigh in partnership with Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla commenced.



Ar an stráice fealltach seo de chósta an Atlantaigh, tá tragóid agus bua feicthe ag muintir Leithinis an Mhuirthead agus na holléain amach ón gcósta, tríd chuid de na tráthanna is sainiúla ar domhan.

On this treacherous stretch of Atlantic coastline, the people of the Mullet Peninsula and its offshore islands have witnessed tragedy and triumph through some of the world's most defining moments.

↑
SOLAS – New tourism hub
and visitor experience
1 May, 2024

The Green Sector

Work continued on the Glow 2.0 initiative to help develop the opportunities relating to the Dark Sky.

Research is being done on the opportunities that relate to locating Saolré services in the new Community Centre in An Chorr Chloch.

An information session regarding the Corncrake initiative was organised for farmers partaking in the Rural Social Scheme regarding best practices to preserve the Corncrake.

The Digital Sector

Support was provided to 3 small enterprises during the year to help them improve their websites.

Support was provided to 6 companies during the year to complete research on their digital processes and to identify development opportunities through the Data2Sustain initiative. 5 companies proceeded to the second step and to concentrate on initiatives such as record management systems online to enable paperwork processes, and the use of “LoRa” technology to decrease water waste. This work is evidence of how innovation and technology can help to ensure sustainability.

Further technical research was done on a space that might be suitable for a geic centre in Tuar Mhic Éadaigh.

The design work for the restoration and expansion of the geic centre in Béal an Mhuirthead commenced.

Community Development

Work commenced on a project this year to refurbish the old gteic centre in Béal an Mhuirthead in conjunction with Mayo County Council and the Old gteic Centre Trust.

6 local committees were supported under the Community Enterprise Scheme.

Training courses were organised during the year for foremen and forewomen who were taking part in Rural, Social, Community Development and TÚS schemes.

Language Planning

Two Language Planning Areas and Gaeltacht Service Towns have been identified for the Mayo Gaeltacht. Language plans will be implemented in the two Language Planning Areas in Mayo during the year. An annual investment worth €300,000 is being provided for the implementation of language plans in the two LPA in Mayo and 3 Language Planning Officer jobs are linked to those plans. The newly founded language planning lead-organisation, Pobal Feasta CTR, was trying to find a consultant to support it to prepare a language plan for BSG Béal an Mhuirthead during the year and it is hoped that progress will be made in relation to this work in 2025.

The implementation period of the North Mayo LPA language plans will come to an end during 2025 and it will be necessary to prepare new language plans for the area during the year.

Meath Gaeltacht



Tourism

Meetings were organised during the year with the Heritage Committee regarding An Talamh Bán project.

Enterprise Development

3 micro-enterprise initiatives were supported during the year to help them develop their business.

The Digital Sector

The gteic centre in Ráth Chairn was opened during the year

The gteic centre in Baile Ghib was opened during the year

Significant progress was made in relation to the micro-enterprise infrastructure in the two Gaeltacht areas in County Meath in 2024 when two gteic centres were opened on the same day, once centre in Ráth Chairn and another centre in Baile Ghib. The Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, Thomas Byrne, opened both centres, and a large crowd attended both events to celebrate the progress being made in those communities.

Community Development

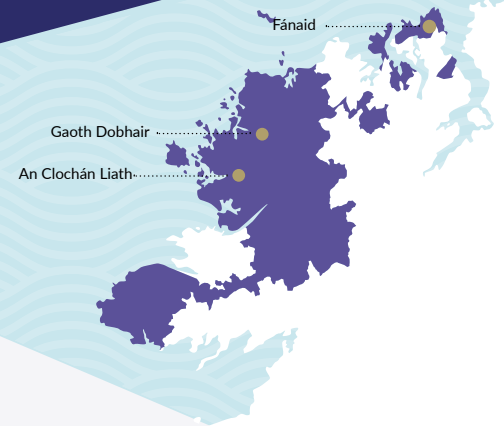
Support was provided to the Ráth Chairn Co-operative to implement the Community Development Programme.

Language Planning

The Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib LPA language plan implementation was progressed through the employment of a new LPO in that area. Comharchumann Ráth Chairn Teo. is the lead organisation responsible for the implementation of the language plan in that area and funding worth €120,000 was provided for the implementation of the language plan.

The implementation period of the Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib LPA language plans will come to an end during 2025 and it will be necessary to prepare a new language plan for the area during the year.

Donegal Gaeltacht



72 jobs were approved in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2024; which means that there were 2,647 people working in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in Donegal at the end of 2024.

Enterprise Sector

The following were among the enterprise initiatives which support was approved for during 2024:

Cairéil Mhic Giolla Teoranta

Cairéil Mhic Giolla Teoranta manufactures concrete products and it has two facilities in Gaoth Dobhair and one facility in Míin Uí Bhaoil, Croithlí. It is providing products to the Irish market and to the UK market. Significant investment was made in the company during 2024 with support from Údarás na Gaeltachta. It is anticipated that the number of people employed in the company will increase from 31 to 52 as a result of this investment.

Tithe Beaga Teoranta

Tithe Beaga Teoranta is a newly opened business which has developed a modular house / micro house manufacturing business in Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair. It is anticipated that 10 posts will be created by this company over the course of time as a result of this investment.

CEH Teoranta

This is a newly founded company concentrating on modular house manufacturing. Specially designed wooden frames are made to build houses or buildings for various uses as part of this initiative, including a complete house made from a wooden structure or a wooden structure inside and an external cover made of bricks or other materials such as steel or plastic. It is anticipated that up to 20 people will be employed in the business, including fulltime and part-time employees once the business will be full operational.



↑
Fanad Lighthouse

€5.7 Million Investment for Kelsius in Falcarragh

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a significant investment of €5.7 million for Kelsius, the main employer in Falcarragh. The investment will focus on renovating and expanding the company's building (1,987m²).

This renovation will greatly increase the company's production capacity and create new employment opportunities in the area. This is an important step in the economic development of Falcarragh.

Seirbhísí DLAN Teo

A support package for a business plan was provided to Seirbhísí DLAN Teo during 2024. This company was founded in Anagaire in 2022. DLAN specialises in rebuilding / renovating heavy machinery. There are two aspects to the business development:

- Refurbishment and resale of heavy excavation machinery of a high standard, for exportation and
- Design and manufacture of equipment/machinery for diggers – hydraulic thumbs and digging buckets.

It is hoped that 20 jobs will be created in this company over the course of time as a result of this investment

Community Employment Schemes

281 people were employed as part of community employment schemes in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the end of the year and 113 people were taking part in the Rural Social Scheme, six people were taking part in Tús Nua, 125 were taking part in the Community Development Scheme and 37 were taking part in the TÚS Scheme. The schemes are being administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

The LEADER Programme

The new Údarás na Gaeltachta LEADER programme commenced in 2024 in conjunction with the Donegal Local Community Development Committee. These are the themes of the new Programme, which will run until 2027:

- Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation
- Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion
- Sustainable Development and Climate Change

The LEADER programme is to be included in the main intervention measures under the Future of Rural Ireland.

The Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

Total funding worth €1,009,598 was provided to 11 organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2024 to enable them to implement a community development programme in their functional area, based on the needs of the local community.

Funding was provided for the community development sector, including funding and voluntary organisations through the Social Enterprise Scheme and the Údarás na Gaeltachta Community Enterprise Scheme in 2024 also.

A new community based company, 'Forbairt Pobail Trí Bhaile CTR', was founded in the Baile na Finne area in conjunction with the development committees in the area in 2024. The new company will commence business in 2025.

Gradaim na Gaeltachta

Gradaim na Gaeltachta is a competition for community based initiatives which is run by Údarás na Gaeltachta to recognise the valuable and interesting initiatives being promoted throughout the Gaeltacht and the significant work being done by community development organisations in the Gaeltacht. A substantial number of community development organisations from the Donegal Gaeltacht took part in the competition in 2024. The Cnoc Fola Development Committee was awarded the main prize in the Voluntary Committees category, Áislann Chill Chartha was awarded the main prize in 'The Gaeltacht Social Services Initiative' category and Lárionad Acmhainní Nádúrtha was awarded the main prize in the 'Youth' category.



↑
The tweed manufacturing
industry in Donegal

gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network

Work continued on the Digital Hub Network development programme during 2024. Work was completed at gteic@ Bhaile na Finne and the centre is now open and operating. Work continued on gteic Thoraí in 2024 and it is hoped that this development will be completed early in 2025.

Trading Online Scheme

The aim of the Trading Online Scheme is:

- increase the number of Gaeltacht businesses trading online, and
- increase the number of Gaeltacht businesses online

9 applications under the Scheme were approved for businesses in the Donegal Gaeltacht in 2024

Diaspora – Link with Na hOileáin Thiar and Edinburgh, Scotland

There is a strong link between the Tír Chonaill Gaeltacht and Scotland, the west of Scotland in particular, it is a significant aspect of their diaspora.

Link with Na hOileáin Thiar

Údarás na Gaeltachta also received an invitation from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, a local government on the Islands in the Northwest of Scotland and from the Harris Tweed Authority, to visit the islands and to make a presentation about the links between Ireland and Scotland, in particular the cultural and language links, and to describe the work being done by Údarás na Gaeltachta. Tours were also organised to the workplaces on the islands and possibilities were also discussed relating to further co-operation as regards training themes, mentoring, marketing through Irish and Gàidhlig and the PGI status, protected Geographical Indications relating to the tweed industry.



Edinburgh

An invitation was also received from the Irish Consulate in Scotland to travel to Edinburgh, to take part in a workshop to promote the Donegal tweed industry and to examine the Protected Geographical Indications being sought for Donegal Tweed. Tweed and weaving business for Donegal took part in the workshop including: Magee 1866, Molloy & Son and Snáth Dhún na nGall Teo. Development partners from the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Education and Training Board and Donegal County Council also took part in the tour.

Gaoth Dobhair Development Plan

Work commenced on the development of an integrated development plan for Gaoth Dobhair parish in 2024. The Gaoth Dobhair Integrated Plan Working Group completed the work in conjunction with Hosty Consulting with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta. The vision of the Working Group was to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the parish of Gaoth Dobhair which will ensure that the best use possible is made of the natural, cultural and human resources of the parish. Committees, organisations and the parish community were given an opportunity to take part in the process through a public consultation process. It is hoped that the plan will be published at the beginning of 2025.

The Textile Story in South West Donegal

Údarás na Gaeltachta, in conjunction with Áislann Chill Charthaigh, organised a public event in Cill Charthaigh about the history and development of the Textile Industry in South West Donegal as part of the Enterprise Week in March 2024. The changes that occurred in the textile industry in Cill Charthaigh and in the South West over a period of approximately 120 years were discussed. The way the industry developed over the years was discussed as well as the challenges that were overcome.

A short film was made about the history of tweed which was shown for the first time on the night also. As part of the film local people who used to work and who still work in this sector were interviewed – they describe the story of weaving and of tweed in the area.

A significant number of people are employed in textiles businesses in the Southwest at the moment and the sector is going from strength to strength.

Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair

The redevelopment of Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair commenced in 2024 and significant investment has been made in the local lighting system.

Planning Permission – Ionad Fiontraíochta na Carraige

Údarás na Gaeltachta received planning permission for the development of a multi-use enterprise centre in An Charraig in Southwest Donegal in 2024. The centre will cater for a mixture of manufacturing enterprise space, craft space and office space, approximately 370 m2 in total will be developed in conjunction with Coiste Forbartha na Carraige on a two hectare site under the ownership of the Committee (under the care of trustees), at the edge of the Údarás na Gaeltachta site where Ionad Fiontraíochta Shliabh Liag is located.

Companies Programme – Donegal

Three secondary schools from Donegal took part in this programme during 2024 – Pobalscoil na Rosann, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair and Gairmscoil Chú Uladh. ‘Duán’, a fishing gear product from Pobalscoil na Rosann, and the mini-company called ‘GaelOpoly’ (a board game based on the Irish language, tourism and the County’s history) from Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair were invited to take part in the National Competition.

The National Final of the Companies Programme was held in Na Forbacha and seven teams from six Gaeltacht schools took part. Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair was awarded the Innovation Award for ‘GaelOpoly’.



Clannad Bursary Scheme

In August 2024, Údarás na Gaeltachta announced that the following bursary, “Clannad – Caoga Bliain Faoi Bhláth”, worth €30,000, was awarded to Daniel De Buitléir, a Gaeltacht artist. The bursary was awarded to recognise the significant impact Clannad had on the promotion of the Irish language for more than 50 years, and it will enable the artist to create new works of art through Irish over a three-year period. The members of Clannad are hopeful that the bursary will inspire a new generation of artists to create works through Irish and promote the Irish language and Irish culture at an international level, and that it is evidence of Údarás na Gaeltachta continuous commitment to the lively, creative future of the Irish language and the culture of the Gaeltacht.

↑
Kevin Ó Flatharta, Marketing Executive of Údarás na Gaeltachta; Moya Brennan and Pól Brennan, members of the famous band Clannad; Daniel De Buitléir, scholarship recipient; and Danielle Nic Pháidín, Arts Facilitator with Ealaín na Gaeltachta at the scholarship presentation event. 13 August, 2024

Language Planning

Language plans are being implemented in 8 Language Planning Areas in the Donegal Gaeltacht as well as An Clochán Liath GST. The language planning lead-organisations are continuing with work that is aimed at fulfilling the objectives of those plans. Last year, funding worth €1.14m was provided for that work, and 10 Language Planning Officer jobs were linked to those language plans.

The Language Planning Officers support each other through regional forums

organised by Údarás na Gaeltachta. This gave the Language Planning Officers the opportunity to co-operate on a number of common projects in various language planning areas such as the ‘Buy local for Christmas’ campaign, language-based events and plenty of socialisation opportunities through the medium of Irish for every age group. The important role that the Language Planning Officers have was portrayed during the year when they co-operated and supported Gaeltacht schools to achieve recognition as Gaeltacht Schools under the Gaeltacht Education Policy.

The implementation period of the Cloich Chionnaola LPA, Gaoth Dobhair LPA, Rann na Feirste, Anagaire and Loch an Iúir LPA and Árainn Mhór LPA came to an end during 2025 and it will be necessary to prepare language plans for those areas during the year.

Kerry Gaeltacht



↑
Dún Chaoin

Tourism

The Pobal Fuinnimh Inbhuanaithe (PFI) Turasóireacht agus Fáilteachas Chorca Dhuibhne Energy Masterplan was launched

The Pobal Fuinnimh Inbhuanaithe (PFI) Turasóireacht agus Fáilteachas Chorca Dhuibhne Energy Masterplan was launched on the 23rd of October in Díseart in Daingean Uí Chúis.

Tourism plays an extremely important role in the economy in Corca Dhuibhne. In light of that fact, the PFI was founded in March 2023 to support cleaner and more sustainable practices in the sector. Due to the fact that this is first PFI that is totally dedicated to tourism and hospitality in Ireland, the aim of this initiative is to develop a clear, sustainable way for businesses in the sector and to provide information to enable other areas to act. Basically, the Energy needed for tourism on the peninsula equates 29,913 MWh – an enormous amount that costs €5.9 million per year. The aim of the PFI is that the energy use will be more effective, benefitting the environment as well as the local economy. The initiative is a joint enterprise between Dingle Hub, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland, Kerry County Council and the Corca Dhuibhne Tourism Alliance.

Corca Dhuibhne Shining at The Big E

Co. Kerry and the Corca Dhuibhne Peninsula did extremely well at The Big E event in Springfield, Massachusetts, recently. Údarás na Gaeltachta has an important role in this exhibition, and in the promotion of the cultural and economic links between Ireland and West Massachusetts. Údarás na Gaeltachta emphasised the importance of the Gaeltacht and the business and investment opportunities available in those areas.

Enterprise Development

Solar Beo Teo

Solar Beo Teo. were awarded a grant to undertake a feasibility study to support the company to assess the possibilities associated with developing a software and technology business in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht in Co. Kerry.

A initiative to develop further facilities in Baile an Fheirtéaraigh:

A planning permission application was lodged with Kerry County Council in December 2023 for the proposed development in Baile an Fheirtéaraigh. Included in the proposed development are education facilities, accommodation, community hall and other community developments, and funding has been approved to complete the design through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. Planning permission for the initiative was refused in March but they are hoping to lodge a new planning permission application with Kerry County Council before the end of March 2025.

The Uíbh Ráthach Taskforce

This is a cross-sectoral group that was founded under the chairmanship of Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2017 to concentrate on the continuous population decline in Uíbh Ráthach. In conjunction with national and regional state organisations, as well as educational institutions, public and local business representatives are involved with the Taskforce.

2024 Highlights

- 20 families are after relocating to the area to date with the support of the Taskforce
- The second three year Action Plan is now being implemented
- A roadmap for affordable housing projects for Uíbh Ráthach was launched under the guidance of the community on 14.02.24
- Representatives from the Taskforce health sub-committee met with the Minister for Health on 06.03.24 in Dáil Éireann to discuss the GP crisis with him
- Work is continuing with the HSE to strengthen the mental health services available in the area

The Digital Sector

Uíbh Ráthach gteic

The building works were completed in September, and during the final quarter of the year efforts were concentrated on purchasing the necessary equipment, including, video-conferencing facilities and keyless access. A business development manager was appointed in August 2024 and a campaign has begun to attract users to the gteic centre. Included in the steps completed so far are:

- Live profile on Connected Hubs
- Accounts created on social media and in use
- An information sheet has been printed and distributed in Uíbh Ráthach
- An open day was organised for the Uíbh Ráthach community as part of the St. Michael Pattern Day 29.09.24
- A Remote and Blended Working Day was organised in conjunction with Grow Remote 13.11.24
- A meeting of the Digital Hub Network in Kerry was held on site 26.11.24
- A day of events was organised for local companies and businesses 03.12.24
- A public procurement process has been implemented to develop and implement a marketing plan for the gteic centre
- Direct contact has been made with some companies and state organisations regarding the use of the facility.

Gteic@CorcaDhuibhne

gteic@CorcaDhuibhne is open and fully operational and being managed by Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne Teo. Funding was allocated earlier in the year to develop the gteic centre and to renovate the unit above the gteic centre and individual offices, and to provide offices suitable for two and three people as part of the work. It is hoped that the renovation works will be completed before the end of the summer in 2025 and as a result, there will be approximately 25 extra spaces available in the gteic centre.

Trading Online Scheme:

12 applications under the Trading Online Scheme were approved for businesses in the Kerry Gaeltacht to implement new e-commerce websites or to improve their sites.



Community Development

Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne Teo. has received planning permission to develop a housing initiative in Baile an Fheirtéaraigh to deal with the lack of accommodation available for summer colleges in the area. Planning permission has been received for four semi-detached three storey houses and there will be five bedrooms in each house and 12 Irish learners in every house. The intention is to rent the houses to people who will cater for Irish learners who are undertaking Irish courses.

Forbairt na Dromoda Teo – named for the Gaeltacht Award under the Gaeltacht Social Services Initiatives.

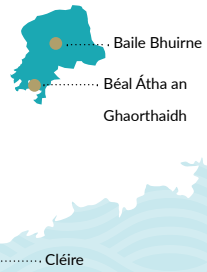
An Dromaíid Cancer Care Support Service – the aim is to make life easier for cancer patients and to decrease worries regarding transport. The transport service is in high demand already and 21 voluntary drivers are providing this service.

Language Planning

Language plans are being implemented in two Language Planning Areas in Kerry; West Kerry LPA and South Kerry LPA, and the Daingean Uí Chúis Gaeltacht Service Town. Four Language Planning Officer jobs are linked to those language plans and an annual investment of €420,000. The language planning lead-organisations continued working on the various activities programmes which were allowing them to fulfil their language plan aims in the appropriate areas. Fóram Chiarraí was founded some time ago to identify and implement opportunities for co-operation between the organisations and the Language Planning Officers who are responsible for implementing the language plans in the county. Further representatives began working with the Forum during the year and a Language Planning Officer was appointed for the first time to implement language plans in the Trá Lí GST and in the Cathair Saidhbhín GST.

The implementation period of the West Kerry and South Kerry LPA will come to an end during 2025 and it will be necessary to prepare new language plans for those areas.

Cork Gaeltacht



Tourism

Cléire Visitor Centre

Arising from the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Údarás na Gaeltachta and Fáilte Ireland in 2022 to work together in order to develop tourism in the Gaeltacht, both organisations have signed a Partnership Agreement for the period 2024 – 2029 to allow Údarás na Gaeltachta to seek co-funding from Fáilte Ireland for community-based capital initiatives. Five Gaeltacht initiatives were chosen under this agreement, including the Visitor Centre on Cléire which is based on the Carraig Aonair Experience. The Co-operative had completed some work previously to develop the initiative and to customise the Unit which is leased from Údarás na Gaeltachta, but through input from Fáilte Ireland it is intended to invest a further €1,039,005 in the initiative. This investment will be used for interpretive services, toilets, management fees and other work around the site. Capital worth up to €1,039,005 was approved at an Údarás na Gaeltachta Bord meeting on 26/07/2024 (minutes 4561/2, Initiative 78) and funding worth €831,204 or 80% of the total cost will be provided by Fáilte Ireland.

Comharchumann Forb. Mhúscraí Teo – Grá Mhúscraí

The Co-operative is implementing a Tourism Development Plan and co-operating with the Múscraí Tourism Working Group. The Múscraí Gaeltacht brand has been developed, alongside a new website including an events section and new Digital maps; a new information sheet and map, three festivals have been developed in the area, Féile Naomh Gobnait, a Walking Festival and Féile Lachtaín Naofa.



Enterprise Development

Kombeara Teoranta:

Kombeara Teoranta, is a new company producing Kombucha. Production commenced in an Údarás na Gaeltachta unit in Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh at the end of 2024 and it is hoped that the products will be available at the beginning of 2025.

Campas Íosagáin:

In September 2024, the Cahalane Bros construction company began working on Phase 1 of the Coláiste Íosagáin initiative. Minister Patrick O'Donovan launched the initiative officially on the 25th of October. It is hoped that the work on phase 1 will be completed before the end of the first quarter of 2026 and that Campas Íosagáin will open shortly after that. A plan has been prepared for Phase 2 and a planning permission application is being prepared.

Empower – a business course for women commenced in Cork in conjunction with ATU, MTU and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

The Digital Sector

gteic@CampasÍosagáin:

As part of the development stage, an enterprise and training space, approximately 1,720 square metres, will be provided. The gteic centre is part of Phase 1, and during this phase work spaces and office facilities will be provided divided into work desks and private offices and it is hoped that it will be ready to open before the end of the second quarter of 2026.

↑
Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan, TD (Centre), are Tomás Ó Siocháin, Údarás Na Gaeltachta, and Dan Barry, Regional Director for the South and South East, Enterprise Ireland, in Baile Mhúirne, Co Cork to announce the commencement of Údarás na Gaeltachta's €8 million transformation of Coláiste Íosagáin.



Community Development

Cléire Library

Cork County Council Chief-Executive, Moira Murrell and Cork County Mayor, re-opened Cléire Library officially in October. The new library is based in an Údarás na Gaeltachta unit in the Cléire Industrial Estate after spending a long number of years operating from a portacabin beside the harbour. Comharchumann Chléire had a central role in the renovation and adaptation of the unit to make it suitable for use as a library. The Island community are extremely happy with the bright, modern space which is now available beside the Digital Hub on the island. They now have access to library services, computers, printing facilities and WiFi just like every other library being provided by Cork County Council.


Clós Spraoi Chléire

The board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a long-term lease agreement from Comharchumann Chléire Teo. on a 164 m² site beside the Co-operative's offices to develop a playground. It is anticipated that this development will cost €254,000. The Department of Rural & Community Development has approved a grant worth €228,355 at a rate of 90% recently under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to help complete the work and they have collected approximately €70,000 through fundraising activities and philanthropy. "Clós Spraoi an Róis Bhuí" is the name chosen for the play ground. Planning permission has been granted for this development and it is hoped that it will be open before the end of 2025.

Language Planning

They are implementing language plans in the two Language Planning Areas in County Cork – the Múscraí LPA and the Cléire LPA. Those language plans provide for an investment worth €240,000 and two jobs as Language Planning Officers. Included in the language plans work programmes' are various aspects of life, with a particular emphasis on young people's needs' and families needs', supports for the school community, and the provision of social opportunities through Irish for the entire community.

Waterford Gaeltacht



An Rinn
An Seanphobal

Tourism

- A tourism plan, *Waterford Destination & Experience Development Plan*, is being developed for Waterford County and the Déise will be included through policies and activities for the Déise Gaeltacht.

Enterprise Development

- It is hoped that planning permission will be approved in 2025 for a new enterprise unit, approximately 500m², that is to be built in Baile na nGall, An Rinn. VHA consultants are preparing plans for an enterprise unit and the outline design has been completed.
- Nemeton Teoranta: Nemeton Teo., the sports production company, celebrated 30 years on the road this year. The company is based in An Rinn in the Déise Gaeltacht since the mid-nineties and the company is now well-known, renowned for the quality of it's work and the highly qualified team employed by it.

The Digital Sector

It is envisaged, in the plan being prepared at the moment regarding the new enterprise unit, that geic requirements will be included in the proposal.

Community Development

Community Enterprise:

Community Enterprise was founded in September 2020 and there is now a particular remit for an outdoor leisure facility, which would cater for activity and social needs, of both young and old, families, local groups, schools and sports clubs and for the local community's cultural needs in general. The committee decided to develop an all-weather pitch beside Páirc Uí Shíothcháin and significant progress has been made. Funding worth €20,000 has been made available for the Údarás na Gaeltachta Social Enterprise Scheme.

Housing Initiative:

An Údarás na Gaeltachta site in Baile na nGall, Co. Waterford is among one of the sites being considered by Údarás na Gaeltachta as part of a pilot housing project. Of course, this site has been identified for a long time as a site which is suitable for housing and the Co-operative have done a lot of work on this initiative to date. VHA Consultants have completed a preliminary study on the site and work is continuing with the stakeholders to find the best way the proceed with this initiative.

Language Planning

Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise Teo is the lead-organisation responsible for the language plan for the Déise Language Planning Area. Funding worth €120,000 is being made available to this LPA and one Language Planning Officer job is linked to it. The families in the LPA and the young people were effectively supported during the year. 11 teenagers took part in Aistear na nGael in 2024 with the support of the Language Plan. The LPO succeeded in attracting people to take part in Irish language events and the regular co-operation with voluntary associations and committees in the area continued.

Effective co-operation is occurring between the language planning officers in the five LPA and the GST in the Southern region and every other organisation and agency supporting the language at a local and national level.

The implementation period of the Déise LPA language plans will come to an end during 2025 and it will be necessary to prepare new language plans for the area.



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