



Údarás na
Gaeltachta

End of Year Statement

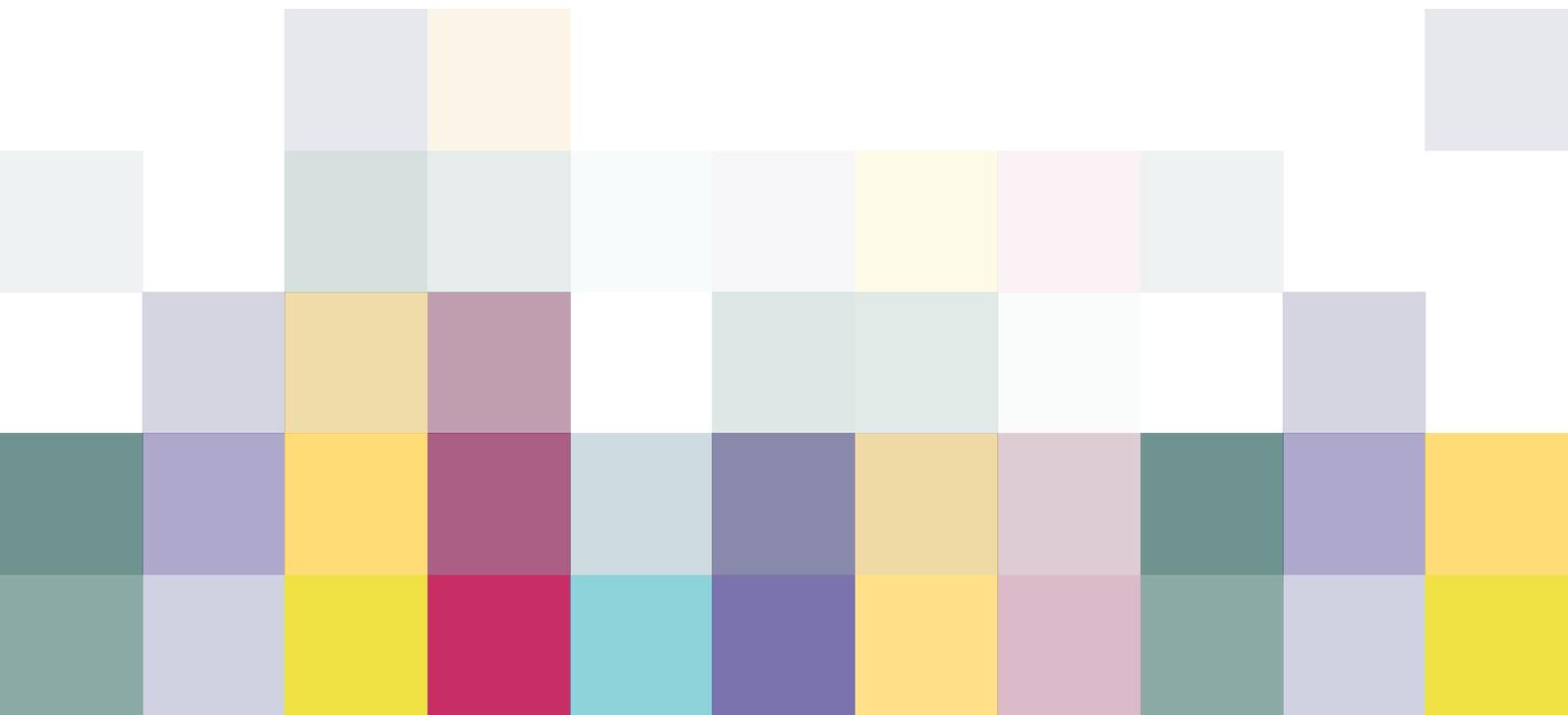
2021



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

2021 Review

- **825** new jobs created in the Gaeltacht in 2021
- Net job increase of **446** in full-time jobs in 2021
- **7,809** full-time jobs in client companies at year end
- The highest ever levels of employment in Galway, Cork and Waterford
- **379** new jobs approved in projects involving an investment of **€10.4m**
- **€13.75m** in capital provision approved for the development of Gaeltacht business infrastructure
- Language Plans prepared for each of the 26 LPAs
- 20 Language Plans being implemented with a budget of **€2.2m**
- An ambitious 5 Year Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2025 launched
- Administrative funding of **€2.816m** provided for **33** community development organisations
- gteic – **27** digital hubs in place with a significant impact on Gaeltacht communities



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Review of 2021

825 new full-time jobs were created in Gaeltacht companies in 2021, the highest number of jobs created in one year since 2008. When job reductions are taken into account, there is a net increase of 446 in overall employment – the largest annual net increase since 1996.

There were 7,809 full-time and 485 part-time jobs in companies supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2021. These figures indicate the highest level of employment ever in client companies in Galway, Cork and Waterford.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gaeltacht companies have shown good levels of stability and the region witnessed a degree of recovery in terms of employment, driven by company innovation and the considerable growth of the medical devices and medical products sectors.

During 2021, language plans were being implemented in 20 of the 26 recognised Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas (LPAs) with total investment of €2.2 million as well as 19 Language Planning Officers and four Assistant Language Planning Officers employed at year end.

A significant milestone was reached during the year which saw language plans prepared for all of the 26 LPAs along with two language plans approved for the three Gaeltacht Service Towns (GST) located in the Gaeltacht.

The gteic network was a crucial and intuitive investment in the Gaeltacht's business infrastructure and despite COVID-19 restrictions over 320 people, in excess of 180 of which are not included in employment figures, were working in the 27 digital hubs that had been developed at the end of 2021.



Looking towards 2022

Considerable strides have been made with the strategic project 'An Ghaeltacht Ghlas' (the Green Gaeltacht) in promoting photovoltaic projects in Gaoth Dobhair, An Cheathrú Rua and on our business parks. In 2022, a particular emphasis will be placed on supporting and encouraging Gaeltacht client companies to take steps in terms of renewable energy and climate change activities. The development of Ros an Mhíl as a strategic location to meet the needs of the offshore wind energy industry will continue to be supported.

A Microenterprise Strategy will be published in 2022 to support small businesses and to encourage the establishment of innovative and indigenous companies. In addition, the development of the social enterprise sector will continue in conjunction with Gaeltacht community development organisations and committees.

The gteic network will be crucial in realising the opportunities available to businesses and remote workers, in particular, the Gaeltacht Diaspora who are seeking to move home after the pandemic. Strategic infrastructure projects will also continue to be progressed including Coláiste Íosagáin, Coláiste Lurgan, Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh, Páirc na Mara and Seanospidéal an Daingin.

Specific focus will be placed on the tourism sector in early 2022 with the objective of assisting its continued recovery through the Tourism Development Scheme, which has been operating on a pilot basis in recent years.

In early 2022, particular emphasis will also be placed on young people and a new exemplary approach will be explored, in conjunction with other Gaeltacht and Irish language stakeholders, to strengthen opportunities to allow young people in the Gaeltacht to confirm their identity as a language community.

2022 will also be a decisive moment for the language planning sector as it progresses from the plan preparation phase to the implementation phase.



Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Catherine Martin, TD:

“I welcome the publication of the *Údarás na Gaeltachta 2021 End-of-Year Statement* and the significant job creation figures it outlines for Gaeltacht areas. It indicates how State investment positively affects the Gaeltacht along with the extraordinary work being carried out by *Údarás na Gaeltachta*. It also shows the resilience of the Gaeltacht who struggled with the challenges and obstacles of the pandemic and Brexit over the past two years, but where certain sectors are now going from strength to strength and as language communities reinforce their efforts to ensure the Irish language is at the centre of the community.”



The Government Chief Whip and the Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and Sport
Jack Chambers, TD:

“Today’s statement is great news for the Gaeltacht community and indicates how *Údarás na Gaeltachta* supports communities and companies located in the Gaeltacht. I was pleased to launch the Strategic Plan during the year which sets out a vision for the Gaeltacht over the next 5 years. It is an ambitious plan, a plan that will benefit the Irish speaking community, enterprise and community development in the Gaeltacht and today’s announcement shows the progress made since then and which will be seen in the future.”



Chief Executive of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh:

“Gaeltacht communities and companies deserve huge recognition for their perseverance during this pandemic. The resilience shown has resulted in an increase in Gaeltacht employment over the past year. The challenges placed on Gaeltacht businesses and communities by this pandemic and Brexit are yet to be overcome but it is a source of considerable encouragement to see greenshoots of recovery by companies including the surge in the medical device sector in the Gaeltacht.

Some of these indigenous companies are a real source of inspiration to others, those businesses that started out with just one or two employees and are now among the largest employers in the Gaeltacht.

During 2021, we presented the Gaeltacht with an ambitious strategy which looks to strengthen language and business, enable communities and place a sustainable Gaeltacht at the heart of our vision for the years ahead.

As Chief Executive, I am extremely grateful to our clients, to community development organisations, Gaeltacht communities, State colleagues and in particular to the staff and Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta for their commitment and support.”



Chair of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Anna Ní Ghallachair:

“The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta take significant encouragement from these employment figures and the progress that is evident in certain medical and scientific sectors which provide high quality job opportunities for Gaeltacht communities. We hope that other industries which have suffered in the pandemic will recover ground in 2022 and the Board will endeavour to ensure adequate resources are being provided for these sectors.

A significant milestone has been reached in terms of language planning thanks to the diligence of the Gaeltacht communities in preparing the plans. For the first time, language plans will be implemented at a community level in every Gaeltacht community in 2022 supported by direct investment in those language communities. The Irish language has now achieved full status in the EU and the Official Languages Acts has been amended and extended, providing a more positive context for the Irish language and for Gaeltacht communities in particular.”

7,809

Total

2,304

Donegal

661

Mayo

3,180

Galway

194

Meath

617

Kerry

702

Cork

151

Waterford

7,809 full-time jobs in client companies at year end

Employment in the Gaeltacht

There was a net increase of over 6% or 446 fulltime jobs in employment during 2021 and the majority of those jobs were created in Galway and Donegal. Employment levels in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Galway, Cork and Waterford Gaeltacht areas are at their highest levels in the history of the organisation. There was a 9.5% increase in employment in the Mayo Gaeltacht with the Meath Gaeltacht as the only area that experienced a decrease.

The most significant increases in employment during the year were in the medical devices, niche manufacturing and audio-visual sectors while companies in the food and drinks, traditional manufacturing and services sectors saw the majority of the job reductions.

Employment remained steady in 70% of companies, in addition to the 16% of client companies who saw an increase in employment during the year. The largest employers in the Gaeltacht, companies which receive support from Údarás na Gaeltachta, are in the services (35%), manufacturing (27%) and the food and drinks (15%) industries.

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta has approved a number of new projects which will create 379 jobs with an estimated State and private sector investment of €10.4m over the next few years. 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 €8.07m in employment, plant, training and education grants during 2021. Up to €13.75m in capital provision was approved during the year to refurbish and develop the Gaeltacht's business infrastructure in order to assist with the development of employment and new initiatives.



Chemicals/medical products €168m (22%), agriculture/fishing/marine €83m (16%) and food and drinks €69m (13%) were the highest value export sectors for Gaeltacht companies.

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 €864m in 2020 and projections in the research for 2021 suggest that Údarás client company sales could exceed the €1bn threshold for the first time in 2021.

Direct expenditure of €415m was made in the Irish economy on payroll, services and the purchase of materials. A total of €181m was paid on payroll, with €87m or 62.1% of total expenditure, spent on Irish-based services. Medical products (20%), food and drinks (19%), marine (11%) and timber products (8%) were the sectors which dominated sales.

Innovation in the Gaeltacht

Innovation is intensifying in the Gaeltacht continually and five client companies, in conjunction with other parties, had projects worth €15m 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 HiTech Health, ÉireComposites Teo, Aran Biomedical, Novelplast and Lárionad Acmhainní Nádúrtha (LAN). Coincidentally, a suite of projects was announced by LAN Teo in Cill Ulta, Co. Donegal, which could make a significant contribution to the green economy and in terms of global agriculture. ÉireComposites will create, manufacture and test objects in the Galway Gaeltacht which will be used in space exploration.

€516M

Exports made up €516m or 60% of total sales by Gaeltacht companies (10+) in 2020

32%

The EU remained the highest export market for Gaeltacht products at 32% (€164m) of total exports

24%

A total of 24% of exports were to North America and 8% to Asia

29%

The United Kingdom is still an important market for Gaeltacht companies with a value of €152m or 29% of the total

20

There were 20 Language Plans in operation with a budget of €2.27m during 2021

19

19 Language Planning Officers and four Assistant Language Planning Officers employed

€2.7M

Total investment in the 25 approved language plans

26/26

26 language plans have now been prepared for the 26 Gaeltacht LPAs and two of the three BSGs

2GST

Two language plans have been approved for the three Gaeltacht Service Towns (GST) located in the Gaeltacht

€160K

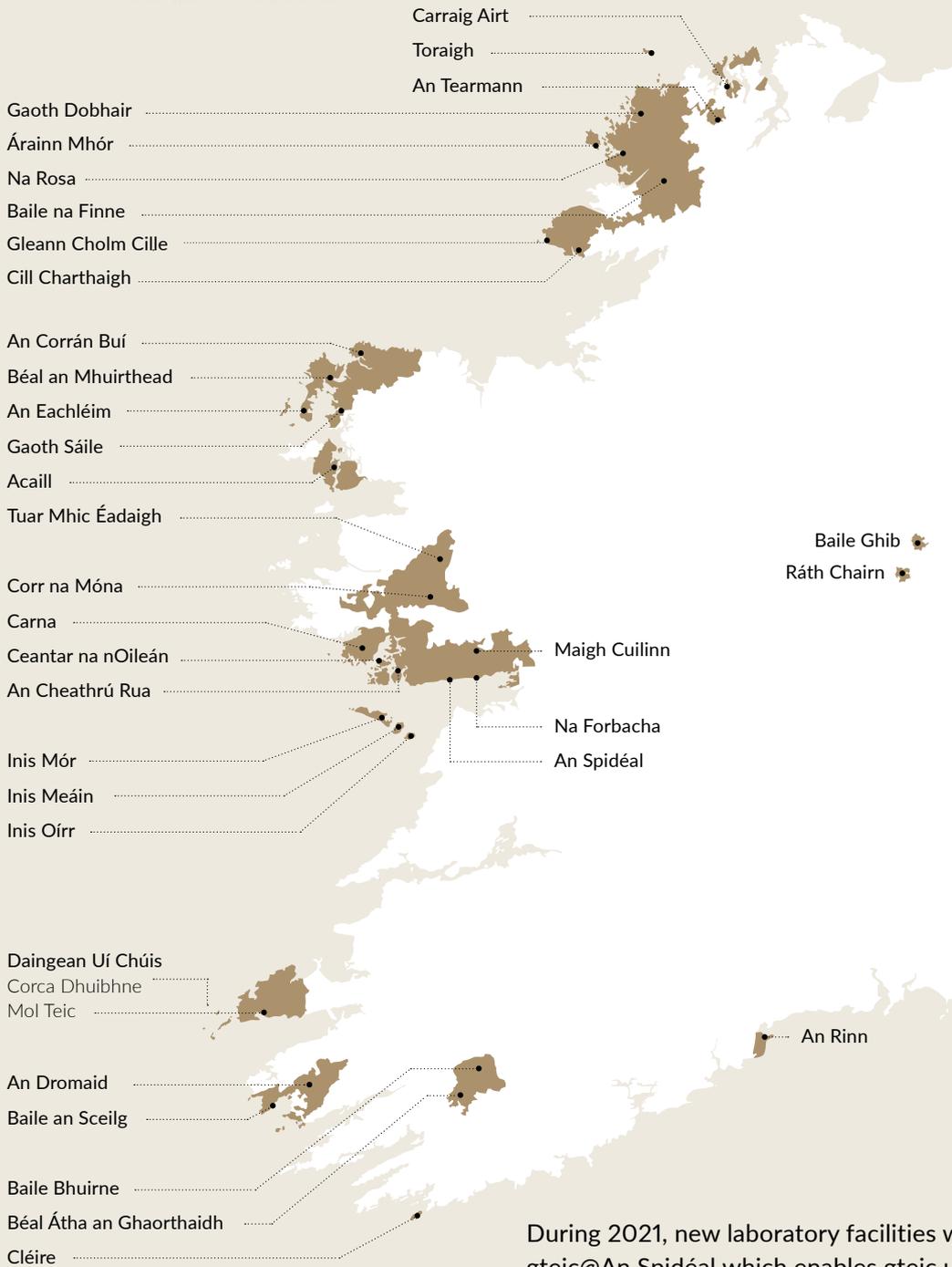
Total annual investment in the two language plans approved for two GSTs commencing in January 2022

Language Planning Activities

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the lead language planning organisations undertook virtual campaigns and events which focused on fostering connections and relationships with their communities and raising awareness in relation to the aims of the language planning process and linking with target groups in the community. Campaigns included *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta*, *Maratón na dTeaghlach*, *#SeolAnGhaeltacht*, *Rothaí na Gaeltachta*, *Oícheanta Airneáin* and *Lá Náisiúnta Filíochta* (National Poetry Day). The Language Planning Officers ran a campaign urging the State and the Government to provide State services through Irish in the Gaeltacht in anticipation of the amended legislation being drawn up during the year and which has now been signed by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. It is hoped that the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021 (which strengthens and extends the remit of the 2003 Official Languages Act) will greatly improve the quality of services in Irish provided by State companies for the community in the future.

During the year an approach was agreed upon to strengthen the link between the language planning process and the school community throughout the Gaeltacht. Cooperation between the schools and the lead language planning organisations is vital to assist with the implementation of local language plans in LPAs/GSTs. The Department of Education recommends continuous contact and cooperation between LPOs and school principals. This is another step forward in ensuring the success of the language planning process.

The gteic network has already shown that it is part of the essential infrastructure of the Gaeltacht



27
27 digital hubs are now in place in five Gaeltacht counties

320
Over 320 people working in the hubs at the end of the year, > 180 of whom are not included in the employment figures

600+
Coworking desks available in the gteic network

2022
gteic@Na Rosa, gteic@Carraig Airt, gteic@Inis Mór and gteic@Inis Meáin will open in early 2022

During 2021, new laboratory facilities were developed in gteic@An Spidéal which enables gteic users to test their products and concepts. IPSOS MRBI's model has been very successful since they established a second site in the gteic network in Mayo, employing up to 30 people between Béal an Mhuirthead and Acaill. A number of international companies have secured a presence in the gteic network, such as OCO Global in Gaoth Dobhair and HiTech Health in An Spidéal. gteic@Na Rosa, gteic@Carraig Airt, gteic@Inis Mór and gteic@Inis Meáin will open early in 2022.



Tourism

Employment in the tourism sector fell significantly in 2020, due to the COVID-19 crisis and although the situation has improved marginally throughout 2021, the sector has not made as significant a recovery as would be expected.

A series of online seminars were organised throughout the year to cater for target groups in the tourism sector, including marine tourism, visitor centres and the development of visitor experiences.

Fáilte Ireland launched the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan in whose development An tÚdarás participated and in whose implementation it will play a central role.

Two tourism centres opened in 2021 with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Seaweed Baths in the Seaweed Centre, Leitir Mealláin and Blacksod Lighthouse in An Eachléim, both of which recorded good visitor numbers.

Údarás na Gaeltachta and Gaeltacht community-based businesses participated in a Cultural Tourism Development Programme in conjunction with community-based businesses in Scotland and will seek to build on these kind of opportunities during 2022.

It is hoped to announce the Tourism Development Scheme in early 2022, which will replace the existing pilot scheme in operation since 2018. This scheme will focus on significant community-based projects (Tourism Centres and Networks) and €30,000 in support per year will be provided for 12 successful projects to employ a Tourism Officer for up to 2 years. A bespoke training programme will be provided for the network of tourism officers employed under the scheme.



Renewable Energy

During 2021, Minister Charlie McConalogue, TD, launched a report on the development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a base service and logistics centre for the renewable energy sector, which demonstrated the Harbour's suitability as a hub for the offshore renewable energy sector and that the opportunities listed could create up to 900 jobs. The recommendations of the report will continue to be implemented during 2022.

Údarás na Gaeltachta initiated research at the end of 2021 to explore the practical possibilities of greening the energy needs of their business parks and reducing their carbon footprint in the coming years. The research will focus on two business parks in Conamara and will connect with the photovoltaic project developed in conjunction with Comharchumann Mhic Dara Teo. on Páirc Ghnó na Ceathrún Rua. The aim will be to create a model of a Green Business Park for the organisation which could be recreated in other areas throughout the Gaeltacht and the country.

As part of *An Ghaeltacht Ghlas* (the Green Gaeltacht) strategic project, progress is being made on the development of a photovoltaic park project alongside the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park and discussions with stakeholders are ongoing.

Páirc na Mara

A comprehensive appeal in respect of the rejected planning application for the overall Páirc na Mara project was submitted to An Bord Pleanála during 2021 and a decision is expected in 2022.

Nua na Mara, a marine development and innovation centre (formerly MIDC Páirc na Mara), was officially established during 2021 with funding support of €2m from the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. A business development manager was employed during the year. The initiative will support marine companies who wish to set up and develop themselves in the Gaeltacht and foster the development of the blue economy throughout the Gaeltacht.



Training

Clár na gComhlachtaí –Enterprise creation among the Gaeltacht’s young generation

Cártaí Feasa from Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, in Kerry, won Údarás na Gaeltachta’s Clár na gComhlachtaí National Final 2021, which was held online last May. This was the third year an Irish winning team competed in the European Championships. 750 transition year students from each Gaeltacht county participated in the programme, which aims to foster entrepreneurship among young people.

Apprentice Scholarship Scheme

Due to COVID-19, it was a challenging year for apprenticeships. However, the number of applicants for the scheme increased with 35 new apprentices registered on the Údarás scheme by the end of 2021.

Partnership with TG4

2021 was the second year of the Digital Media Training Scheme and ten new companies were selected to participate. Through the scheme, trainee officers in different areas of the production process are offered bespoke tuition tailored to the needs of their organisation. Participants attended a specialist course run by Galway-Mayo IT (GMIT).

A development fund, called Glúin Nua, was provided to attract directors, producers and writers to create short-form material through the medium of Irish. This is a partnership between TG4, Northern Ireland Irish Language Broadcast Fund (ILBF), the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and Údarás na Gaeltachta with support from Gréasán na Meán.



Training Courses

Opportunities for courses in conjunction with third level institutions and ETBs which will benefit the Gaeltacht community are frequently availed of and in 2021 the co-funding of post-graduate research scholarships continued with NUI Galway, GMIT, Munster University (Tralee) and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Funding of the Higher Diploma in Applied Irish and Translation which is administered by GMIT in partnership with Europus Teo., continued as did the Higher Diploma in Television Production and Digital Media in Waterford Institute of Technology in conjunction with Nemeton Teo.

Graduate Scheme

This scheme takes place over a two-year period and provides graduates with the opportunity to spend time in a Gaeltacht company to enhance their skills and gain experience in a particular sector. At present, preference is given to the marine, language development and translation services, niche manufacturing and renewable energies sectors.

European projects

Eight European projects have been implemented by Údarás na Gaeltachta over the last number of years to develop renewable energies, on reversal of climate change, seafood resources and energy resources in the Gaeltacht. The Safer, Access2Sea, SW-GROW and EMPORIA4KT projects relate to value added marine proposals and the blue economy while the RegEnergy and REACT projects deal with renewable energy. The Digi2Market project will conclude in 2022 and will help 50 companies develop their marketing and sales using immersive technology.

€2.8M

Funding of €2.816m available to 33 community development organisations

€179k

A budget of €179,000 has been provided as part of Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Programme

1,014

1,014 people employed on 47 social employment schemes

€17M

The annual budget of the Employment Schemes

Community development sector

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises that community development organisations are critical to the ability of Údarás na Gaeltachta in achieving its strategic goals in partnership with the Gaeltacht communities. Údarás na Gaeltachta, in association with the DTCAGS&M, provided €2.816m in funding to 33 community development organisations to enable them to undertake a community development programme aimed at the needs of the local community and tourism projects, language planning, renewable energy and the gteic network, among others.

As part of the Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Programme, a budget of €179,000 was made available, with a specific focus on innovative projects in the areas of tourism, enterprise, and natural resource development. In 2021, 18 development organisations throughout the Gaeltacht benefited from this scheme.

An allocation of €103,454 was made available as part of a Training and Mentoring Programme to provide support to the community development sector. Expertise was provided mainly in the areas of finance, human resources, business planning, healthcare, tourism and renewable energy.

Over 1,000 employees on Social Employment Schemes

There were 1,014 participants and 49 supervisors employed on 47 schemes throughout the Gaeltacht in 2021. 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 and impact, providing work experience and training to Gaeltacht communities.

The social employment schemes continued to provide vital assistance to Gaeltacht communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the provision of essential basic services to people and creating important connections in the communities.



The Gaeltacht na hÉireann Brand

The Gaeltacht na hÉireann Brand is widely used by businesses, organisations, language planning areas and Gaeltacht associations on websites, products and promotional material. Aspects of world-class Gaeltacht products and companies were presented online throughout 2021 in comprehensive digital campaigns, including *From the Gaeltacht with Love*, *Valentine's Day 2021*, *Blas na Gaeltachta*, and *Faoi Gheasa ag an nGaeltacht*. The campaigns were run under the auspices of the 'Gaeltacht na hÉireann' brand displaying the high quality of Gaeltacht products. Furthermore, a continuous link between the community and Gaeltacht companies has been created through the Gaeltacht Directory on the organisation's website where it is possible to connect with, and purchase products from, companies. A review of the Gaeltacht na hÉireann brand was initiated during 2021 to explore ways to build on the significant progress made and bring the brand to the next stage of national and international development.

Task Forces and Forums

Uíbh Ráthach Inter-agency Task Force

Marketing campaigns carried out by the Task Force in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta to attract people to relocate to the area were particularly successful and resulted in over 130 relocation inquiries. Eight people or twenty families have moved to Uíbh Ráthach with the support of the task force. The interim report of the task force will be published in early 2022.

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, and which will be presented with an interim report in early 2022. A comprehensive submission was made to Galway County Council to include the objectives of the plan in the county development plan.

Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht

A capital provision was approved for gteic@Baile Ghib during 2021 to develop a four-desk digital hub in association with the community in the village. In addition, a design has been drawn up and a tender has been prepared for the development of gteic@Ráth Chairn where up to 11 co-working desks will be developed.

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. An extension doubling the floor area of gteic@An Cheathrú Rua was approved towards the end of 2021 as part of the commencement of the implementation of the plan.



GaeltachtDiaspora

International Business Seminars

This year's prestigious international Golden Bridges Conference was broadcast from gteic@Gaoth Dobhair, creating a live link with businesses around the world from Gaoth Dobhair. Among the expert panellists were the Chief Executive and Chairperson of Údarás na Gaeltachta as well as our clients OCO Global, Pangea and Fáisc Miotail Éireann. An international seminar was held in collaboration with the London Irish Business Society and gteic in May. An Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar, TD, Head of Facebook Ireland, Gareth Lambe, and Aoife O'Connor, IPSOS MRBI, were special guests and gave an insight to the Irish business diaspora in London into the benefits of the gteic network.

Connecting with our European neighbours

Mr. Vincent Guérend, the French Ambassador to Ireland, visited Conamara and Gaoth Dobhair as part of the Embassy's campaign 'France, your closest EU neighbour'. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited the studio of our client Ros na Rún in An Spidéal as part of a three-day State visit alongside Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins. The guests and consulates of Germany and France were given a comprehensive overview of the organisation's work and partnership opportunities in developing the Gaeltacht.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's membership in AER and ERNACT continued, giving the gteic hubs and relevant Gaeltacht bodies an ongoing opportunity to access international expertise and transnational initiatives with other European regions.

Conamara Láir's Filleadh Abhaile Campaign

Forbairt Chonamara Láir and Údarás na Gaeltachta in conjunction with Aniar TV and LORG Media had a very successful *Filleadh Abhaile* campaign in 2021. The campaign sought to encourage people to live and work in the area and to raise their family there. Local, national and international media took a great interest in the campaign which led to over 120 relocation inquiries and expressions of interest. The campaign was successful in winning the Oireachtas na Gaeilge Communications Award for Social Media Campaign of the Year 2021.



Subsidiaries/Strategic Companies

Ealaín na Gaeltachta

During 2021, Ealaín na Gaeltachta continued to provide support and funding for the arts in the Gaeltacht. The subsidiary was involved in various events such as the international conference on Irish language, Gaedhlig and Cymraeg theatre entitled Cwlwm/Ceangal III.

Through the Cothú Scheme Ealaín na Gaeltachta funded five strategic projects throughout the Gaeltacht in 2021. Support was provided for 19 Gaeltacht arts festivals. 44 Gaeltacht artists received support through the Artists Bursary Scheme and support from the Síol Scheme was provided to over 37 applicants. Funding was awarded to 17 strategic and diverse arts projects, including visual arts, literature, stage shows, youth drama and residencies through the Arts Development Scheme.

Activities of the Cuisle programme, which are provided with the support of the DTCAGS&M, were made available online and classes resumed in many regions in September 2021 with 1,634 participants attending in the Gaeltacht nationally.

The exhibition, Dath an Dóchais was launched online at www.DathanDochais.com in May 2021. This exhibition marked 40 years of support for the visual arts in the Gaeltacht.

Muintearas

Muintearas Teoranta will operate and manage gteic@Ceantar na nOileán, which was officially opened during 2021, on behalf of Údarás na Gaeltachta. There will be a particular focus on training courses in the centre and gteic@Ceantar na nOileán will also boost business and training courses, which have been at the heart of Muintearas's activities for almost two decades. Despite COVID-19 challenges, Muintearas continued their important cross-Gaeltacht work, carried out in youth, training, early education, social entrepreneurship and much more.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta is an independent structure, which is funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta to provide a management and administration service for the early years sector operating through Irish in the Gaeltacht. The organisation has faced major challenges over the past two years due to the pandemic as they supported those providing safe early years services within ever-changing lockdown restrictions.

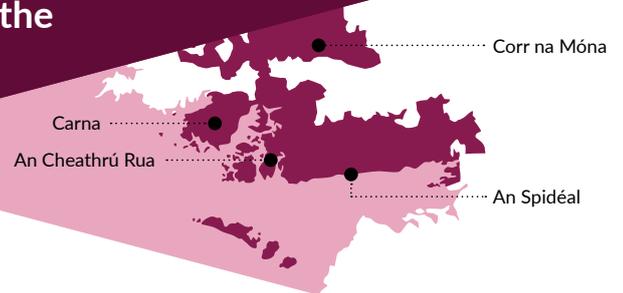
There are over 100 early years services led by Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta and the company has offices in every large Gaeltacht area, with over 140 people employed by the end of 2021.

Review by Gaeltacht Areas



3,180

At the end of 2021, there were 3,180 full-time jobs in client companies supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Galway Gaeltacht, the highest level ever in the history of the organisation.



Galway Gaeltacht

At the end of 2021, there were 3,180 full-time jobs in client companies supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Galway Gaeltacht, the highest level ever in the history of the organisation. 337 new jobs were created in client companies in 2021, the county which saw the most employment created for the second year running. When the number of jobs lost is taken into account, there is a net increase of 7.6% or 225 jobs in full-time employment on the previous year.

Most of the new jobs were created in companies operating in the medical devices, science and engineering sectors, including Freudenberg/Cambus Medical, Aran Biomedical, CLS, ÉireComposites, Zoan Nuáil Teo., Micron Clean, and HiTech Health. In addition, employment increases were observed in niche manufacturing companies as well as in the community services sector.

Significant announcements in the Galway Gaeltacht during 2021

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

- Aran Biomedical, now a leading biomaterials manufacturer in the medical device sector, announces 150 new high-quality jobs
- 40+ new highly skilled jobs to be created by Cambus Medical/Freudenberg Medical as part of a €1.9m expansion
- ÉireComposites to create 40 new jobs after signing a multi-million Euro contract with Spirit AeroSystems
- Success for the Conamara Láir 'Filleadh Abhaile' campaign with over 120 relocation inquiries
- Significant funding for HiTech Health, ÉireComposites Teo and Aran Biomedical's innovative projects under the DTIF Fund
- Funding of €500,000 approved for further development of the Seanadh Mhach Trail
- Launch of the Ros an Mhíl Harbour report which showed that 900 jobs could be created in the renewable energy sector.



New Projects

During 2021, the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved new projects which will create 108 jobs in the Galway Gaeltacht with an estimated total investment of €3.09 million when these projects are underway. Jobs will be created mainly in the medical devices, food and drink, and services sectors

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

A total of €1,002,340 in funding was provided to 12 organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2021 which completed agreed community development programmes. The co-operatives and community-based organisations provide important local services, co-ordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional area.

An Cheathrú Rua 2022-2027 Action Plan

The An Cheathrú Rua 5 Year Action Plan was launched in September 2021. This ambitious plan has been published by Comharchumann Mhic Dara in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta. The plan will seek to strengthen An Cheathrú Rua and to progress developments that will improve the area. The plan encompasses 55 recommendations under seven strategic themes: Language & Culture, Tourism, Enterprise, Arts, Services & Infrastructure, Marketing, Policy, System & Targets.

Iorras Aithneach 5 Year Development 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, which will be presented with an interim report in early 2022. A comprehensive submission was made to Galway County Council to include the objectives of the plan in the county development plan.



Language Planning

Of the 10 LPAs in the Galway Gaeltacht, language plans were approved for 9 LPAs and being implemented in 6 LPAs during 2021. 6 Language Planning Officers and two Assistant Officers are employed to implement these plans. Language plans were approved for the Oirthear Chathair na Gaillimhe LPA and Bearna and Cnoc na Cathrach LPA and it is hoped that the language plan for the Oileáin Árann LPA will be approved shortly. Ongoing discussions are underway with the language planning steering committees in the LPAs which as of yet do not have a legal community structure in place to manage the implementation of the language plans approved for them. The Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and Sport, Jack Chambers, T.D., officially launched the language plan for Ceantar na nOileán LPA during the year.

A number of online campaigns, activities and events were held online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The campaigns included *An Ghaeltacht faoi Bhláth*, *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta*, *#SeoAnGhaeltacht*, National Poetry Day and Culture Night. Attractive Irish language signage for COVID-19 were provided to businesses and organisations, a wide range of online events took place – Irish classes, fitness dancing, social evenings; a St Patrick's Day Virtual Parade; campaigns aimed at promoting pride of place and language were developed.



gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network in Galway

Five gteic digital hubs are now open in County Galway, namely gteic@An Cheathrú Rua, gteic@An Spidéal, gteic@Na Forbacha, gteic@Carna and gteic@Ceantar na nOileán. gteic hubs will open in early 2022 on Inis Mór and Inis Meáin. Up to 200 workspaces will be available throughout the Galway Gaeltacht by the end of 2022 and when social distancing restrictions come to an end.

Páirc na Mara

A comprehensive appeal in respect of the rejected planning application for the overall Páirc na Mara project was submitted to An Bord Pleanála during 2021 and a decision is expected in 2022.

Nua na Mara, a marine development and innovation centre (formerly MIDC Páirc na Mara) was officially established during 2021 with funding support of €2m from the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. A business development manager was employed during the year and the initiative will support marine companies to establish and develop themselves in the Gaeltacht and to develop the blue economy throughout the Gaeltacht.

Social Employment Schemes

415 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of the year. The Community Employment Scheme had 185 participants, the Rural Social Scheme had 134 and 76 people participated on the TÚS Scheme. These schemes are managed by 20 supervisors, administered by An tÚdarás and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

661

Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies in the Mayo Gaeltacht had 661 full-time jobs at the end of 2021.

Béal an Mhuirthead

Gob an Choire

Mayo Gaeltacht

98 new jobs were created in the Mayo Gaeltacht in 2021 – the highest number of job creations in a single year in the county since 2012. When job reductions are taken into account there is a net increase of 57 jobs or 9.5% on the previous year.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies in the Mayo Gaeltacht had 661 full-time jobs at the end of 2021.

The jobs created in 2021 were in the services, engineering and science sectors in companies such as IPSOS MRBI, Innealtóireacht Uí Thiarnáin, Coláiste Uisce, Forbairt Táirgí Iorras and Atlantic Photonic Solutions.

During 2021, the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved new projects with 31 jobs emerging in the Mayo Gaeltacht with a total investment of over €964,000 planned when these projects are underway.

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

A total of €297,510 was provided to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2021 which completed agreed community development work programmes. The co-operatives and community-based organisations provide important local services, co-ordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional area. Community organisations are administering and managing community schemes and projects throughout the Gaeltacht.

Social Employment Schemes

246 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of the year. There were 45 people on the Community Employment Scheme, 152 on the Rural Social Scheme and 39 on the TÚS Scheme. These schemes are managed by 11 supervisors, administered by An tÚdarás and funded by the Department of Social Protection.



gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network in Mayo

Minister Jack Chambers officially opened gteic@Acaill during 2021 and Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla is managing this high-quality facility on behalf of Údarás na Gaeltachta. The facility has been making significant progress since opening and proving to be very popular for remote workers.

There are now four gteic digital hubs operating in County Mayo which are gteic@Béal an Mhuirthead, gteic@An Corrán Buí, gteic@Acaill and gteic@An Eachléim and have over 170 coworking desks. These digital hubs, which provide a great opportunity for the Gaeltacht Diaspora to return home, have been developed with significant funding from the RRDF Fund.

Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh

The total cost of this project is estimated at €3.6m with funding of €2.47m approved under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, €0.5m from the Department of the Gaeltacht and €0.7m from Údarás na Gaeltachta. Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh will act as a strategic tourism facility, on an international level, along the Wild Atlantic Way in the heart of the North Mayo Gaeltacht and the main visitor centre on the Iorras Peninsula where visitors will discover the area's natural and cultural heritage. The development will support the recovery of the tourism sector in the Iorras area where over 8,000 golf visitors played on the Carne Golf Links during 2021.

An Advisory Committee, led by An tÚdarás, is overseeing the work and it is expected to turn the first sod on the proposal in early 2022.

Language Planning

The implementation of the language plan in the Maigh Eo Thuaidh LPA continued during 2021. Online events were organised as well as participating in national projects which were being run in conjunction with the other LPAs. The Maigh Eo Thiar Language Plan was approved during the year. A recruitment process to appoint a Language Planning Officer is currently underway to support the implementation of the language plan which will commence implementation in January 2022.

194

There were 194 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht at the end of 2021. While 20 new jobs were created in the Meath Gaeltacht during the year when the number of job reductions is taken into account, there was a net decrease of 21 jobs on the previous year in the county.



Meath Gaeltacht

The Meath Gaeltacht is the only Gaeltacht area in which employment fell during 2021. While 20 new jobs were created in the Meath Gaeltacht during the year when the number of job reductions is taken into account, there was a net decrease of 21 jobs on the previous year in the county. The majority of the job reductions are due to the gradual transfer of Faughan Foods' activities out of the Gaeltacht to an O'Brien Fine Foods, the company owners, facility in County Westmeath.

There were 194 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht at the end of 2021.

Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht

As part of the forum's recommendations, a community assembly was established, chaired by Údarás na Gaeltachta. The development of enterprise facilities was one of the main goals of the forum which is currently progressing. Comharchumann Ráth Chairn also has ambitious plans to renew Áras Pobail Ráth Chairn including the development of a heritage centre therein. The Comharchumann has worked extensively in setting out a draft of the design and a vision for the building in preparation of funding and support applications.

gteic@Ráth Chairn

A central location has been identified in Ráth Chairn to develop a gteic digital hub and the layout of the facility has been designed. This creative hub will provide up to 11 coworking spaces along with a meeting booth, a shared social space and two private telephone booths. Tenders for building works will be issued in early 2022 and it is expected that gteic@Ráth Chairn will be ready to welcome users before the end of 2022.



gteic@Baile Ghib

A capital provision was approved for gteic@Baile Ghib during 2021 to develop a four-desk digital hub in conjunction with the community in the village. The design and layout of the facility has been completed and is expected to be fitted and opened in Spring 2022.

Language Planning

The implementation of the language plan for the Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib LPA continued during 2021. Comharchumann Ráth Chairn Teo. is the Lead Organisation responsible for implementing the language plan in the Area. Similar to other LPAs, many of the events that took place during the year were virtual. Among the most popular items were online Irish classes and summer camps in conjunction with Muintearas.

It also took part in a number of joint campaigns with other LPAs throughout the Gaeltacht, for example *An Ghaeltacht Faoi Bhláth*, the *#SeoÍAnGhaeltacht* campaign and a campaign aimed at promoting the Irish language when decisions on planning permission for housing developments in the area were being made.

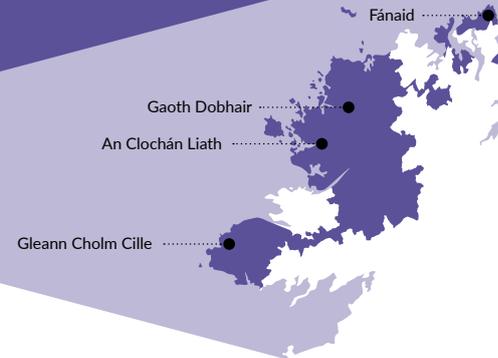
The LPA has established a strong link between the language planning process and the area's education centres – Scoil Ultain Naofa, Scoil Uí Ghramhnaigh and Coláiste Pobail Ráth Chairn – to discuss courses such as an Irish language activity programme, school-based events, after-school clubs, school links and other subjects.

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

A total of €83,156 was provided to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2021 which completed an agreed community development work programme. The co-operative provides important local services, co-ordinates community development activities and provides an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional area.

2,304

286 new jobs were created in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2021 – the largest number of jobs created in a single year in the county since 2008. When job reductions are taken into account there were 2,304 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies at the end of the year.



Donegal Gaeltacht

286 new jobs were created in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2021 – the largest number of jobs created in a single year in the county since 2008. When job reductions are taken into account, there was a net increase of 136 jobs or 6.3% in employment, resulting in 2,304 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta’s client companies at the end of the year. Randox, ProAmpac, Fáisc Miotail Éireann, Snáth Dhún na nGall, Kombucha Éireannach Teo, Pangea Effect Teo and Cora Tine Teo/Kelsius were among the companies that created jobs in 2021.

New Projects

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a number of new projects for the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2021, which will create 156 new jobs with an estimated total investment of over €3.95 million planned when these projects are up and running.

Memorandum of Understanding signed by Údarás na Gaeltachta and LYIT

Údarás na Gaeltachta and Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the year to examine opportunities for the sharing of resources to assist each of the partners to improve service provision and collaborate on the promotion and use of the Irish language in training and development activities, along with promoting community development and social enterprise in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

A total of €818,400 was made available to eleven organisations under the Community Development Programme in the region with agreed community development programmes being implemented.

Social Employment Schemes

316 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the end of the year with 120 on the Rural Social Scheme, 130 on the Community Employment Scheme and 52 on the TÚS Scheme. These schemes are managed by 14 supervisors, administered by An tÚdarás and funded by the Department of Social Protection.



Innovation in Cill Ulta

A suite of projects was announced for Lárionad Acmhainní Nádúrtha (LAN CTR in Cill Ulta, Co. Donegal, which could make a significant contribution to the green economy and in terms of global agriculture. Lárionad Acmhainní Nádúrtha CTR, an Údarás na Gaeltachta client in An Fál Carrach, Co. Donegal, is to participate in cutting edge research regarding new farming methods which could change aspects of farming not only in Ireland but worldwide.

LEADER Programme

The administration of the LEADER Transition Programme (2021-2022 in the Donegal Gaeltacht was operated by Údarás na Gaeltachta on the mainland and on Gaeltacht islands by Comhar na nOileán. 10 projects were approved under the programme in 2021 with grants totalling €296,195 (a total investment of €405,186.

Photovoltaic Project on Gaoth Dobhair Business Park

A community based renewable energy project, a 5mw photovoltaic project, located on an Údarás na Gaeltachta owned site on the edge of the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park is being discussed with the six community organisations in the parish of Gaoth Dobhair, namely:

Comharchumann Forbartha Ghaoth Dobhair; Ionad Cois Locha, Dún Lúiche; Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair; Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair; Coiste Forbartha Chnoc Fola and Forbairt Dhún Lúiche.

It is intended to establish a community-based company in due course to facilitate project development. This development would greatly enhance the local community economy and would provide a source of income for the community development sector not to mention its impact on lowering Gaoth Dobhair Business Park's carbon footprint while ensuring the park is self-sustainable and energy efficient. A capital provision of up to €42,000 was approved during 2021 to carry out planning, engineering, design and related works.



gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network in Donegal

There are 4 high quality digital hubs operating as part of the gteic network in Donegal – gteic@Gaoth Dobhair, gteic@Cill Charthaigh, gteic@An Tearmann and gteic@Árainn Mhór.

gteic@Na Rosa has developed a space for twenty people, four stand-alone offices and shared desks in An Clochán Liath. A client has already expressed an interest in locating their business in this gteic which will open in early 2022.

It is expected that gteic@Baile na Finne and gteic@Carraig Airt will be ready in the first half of the year and that the development of gteic@Toraigh and gteic@Gleann Cholm Cille will commence during 2022.

Language Planning

There are 8 Language Planning Areas (LPA) and one Gaeltacht Service Town in the Donegal Gaeltacht. By the end of 2021, language plans were being implemented in 7 LPAs, with a total investment of €750,000, with seven language planning officers and one assistant officer employed in the Donegal Gaeltacht. The implementation of the Toraigh LPA language plan commenced in the first half of the year and a language plan was approved for An Ghaeltacht Láir LPA in November. The language plan for An Clochán Liath Gaeltacht Service Town was approved in July and its implementation will begin in early 2022. The Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and Sport, Jack Chambers, T.D., officially launched the language plans for the Na Rosa LPA and the Dún na nGall Thuaidh LPA during the year.

While COVID-19 restrictions continued to prevent events being held in the LPAs, the lead language planning organisations completed a significant work programme. The *Gaelchara* scheme was very popular in most of the LPAs which supported participants to improve their Irish in an informal environment and to take part in events. Participating in a number of joint campaigns including *An Ghaeltacht Faoi Bhláth*, *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta*, *#SeoÍAnGhaeltacht*, National Poetry Day and Culture Night. Irish language plans were agreed with local schools to foster ties and strengthen links between the school community and the language planning process in the relevant areas.

617

There were 617 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of 2021. Companies in County Kerry have shown significant stability this year and employment was preserved or increased in 92% of client companies.

Daingean Uí Chúis

Baile an Sceilg

Kerry Gaeltacht

There were 617 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of 2021.

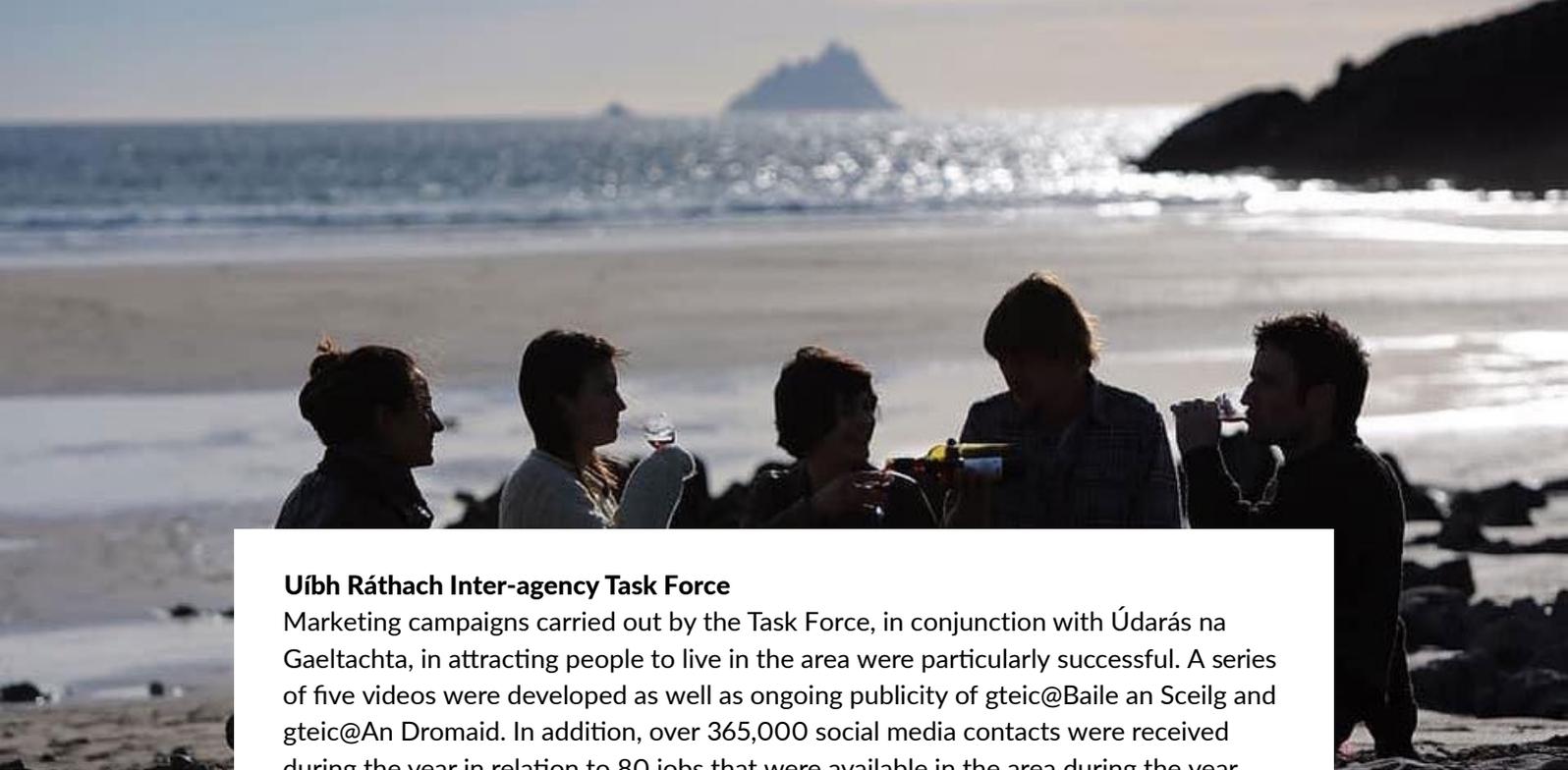
33 new jobs were created during the year in companies operating in the food and drinks, services and tourism sectors. When the number of jobs lost is taken into account, there was a net increase of 6 jobs on the previous year. Companies in County Kerry have shown significant stability this year and employment was preserved or increased in 92% of client companies.

A source of encouragement for the County is that the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a number of projects during the year which will create 80 new jobs with an investment of over €2.3m when the proposed developments are underway. The majority of the new jobs will be created in the food and drinks, tourism and science sectors.

Tourism Sector Recovery

Additions were made to the exhibits in the aquarium at Mara Beo in Daingean Uí Chúis during the year as well as an additional outdoor exhibit space where 10 Humboldt penguins charmed crowds during the summer. The centre installed new technology that is helping them deal with customers more efficiently through an advance ticket purchase facility which allows for better customer engagement and flow.

Drioglann Uisce Beatha Dhaingean Uí Chúis Teo. (Dingle Distillery) is going from strength to strength and has applied for planning permission to increase their facility in Baile an Mhuilinn in Daingean Uí Chúis with a visitor centre included in their development plans.



Uíbh Ráthach Inter-agency Task Force

Marketing campaigns carried out by the Task Force, in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta, in attracting people to live in the area were particularly successful. A series of five videos were developed as well as ongoing publicity of gteic@Baile an Sceilg and gteic@An Dromaid. In addition, over 365,000 social media contacts were received during the year in relation to 80 jobs that were available in the area during the year.

The various campaigns carried out by the Task Force from the outset led to over 130 resettlement inquiries. Eight families or twenty people have relocated to Uíbh Ráthach with the support of the Task Force to date, a source of encouragement for the future. However, the Task Force is carrying out research into the considerable housing challenge which is limiting its population growth aims. Four virtual meetings of the Task Force were held during the year and the interim report of the Task Force will be published in early 2022.

DCSIX Technology

A support package was approved to help this company develop its technology business and create employment in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht, Co. Kerry. The purpose of the company is to help its clients save and use energy efficiently by giving them an insight into how and where they use their energy and electricity. This is done by means of a technology device called Wattrics. An tÚdarás is very pleased to support a 'green' project such as DCSIX in line with the organisation's sustainability goals.

Enterprise Developments in South Kerry

In August 2020, Richard & Jackie Greene started making jam for the local market on a trial basis and founded Subh na Sceilge Teo with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta in Baile an Sceilg in 2021 to produce and sell preserve products on the market.

A support package was approved for the Táirgí Tréad Lia Baile na Sceilge Teo. company to renovate and extend the building, purchase new equipment and implement a training plan which will help preserve and create additional employment in Baile an Sceilg, Co. Kerry.



gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network in Kerry

The gteic network has been established and has been operating for a number of years in the Kerry Gaeltacht.

Mol Teic has been operating and expanding in An Cúilín in Daingean Uí Chúis for a number of years with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta. gteic@Corca Dhuibhne on the Daingean Uí Chúis Business Park has been fitted out and opened.

During 2021, Minister Heather Humphreys turned the first sod on the development of a new building worth €2m for gteic@Baile an Sceilg to enhance the centre currently managed by Comhchoiste Ghaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh. The development work has been completed on gteic@An Dromaid which is now open for business.

Seanospidéal an Daingin

Planning permission for this project was approved in 2020 and stakeholders are currently reviewing the proposal as funding applications for both the RRDF category 1 and Platforms for Growth schemes to fund the capital cost of the project proved unsuccessful. Stakeholders will look to identify new sources of funding for this proposal during 2022.

Social Employment Schemes

66 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of the year. These schemes are managed and administered by An tÚdarás and funded by the Department of Social Protection.



Language Planning

The implementation of the language plans continued as much as possible, complying with COVID-19 restrictions, in both LPAs located in the Kerry Gaeltacht, namely the Ciarraí Thiar LPA and the Ciarraí Theas LPA. A new organisation *Dúchas an Daingin Teo.* was established to undertake the implementation of the approved language plan for the Daingean Uí Chúis Gaeltacht Service Town. The organisation has now appointed a Language Planning Officer who will commence their duties in January.

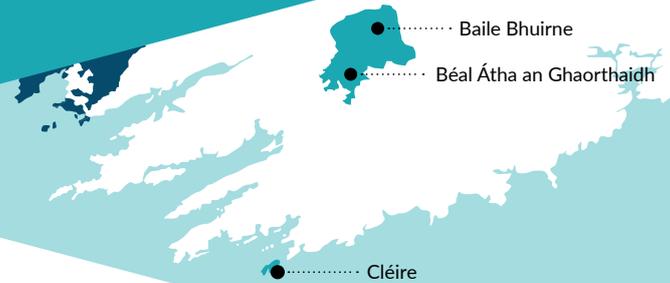
Events were organised online in these areas during 2021 including Irish classes and conversational groups, a fitness group, a course for childcare workers, art and craft clubs for children and teenagers, quizzes, reading groups, the *GaelScannán* competition, cooking workshops and much more. The community also participated in a number of joint campaigns with other LPAs throughout the Gaeltacht, for example *An Ghaeltacht Faoi Bhláth*, *Maratón na bPáistí*, *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta*, the *Gaelchara* scheme and the *#SeoÍAnGhaeltacht* campaign. Projects and videos were undertaken in conjunction with other stakeholders to raise awareness of the language planning process and the use of Irish in those areas. In the Ciarraí Theas LPA, visitors were surveyed on the importance of the Irish language with 350 responses received. As a result of the survey, a scheme was developed for the business community of the LPA to help them provide a service through Irish. The Irish-medium education system was increasingly promoted in the LPA to support schools in attracting additional students to enrol.

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

A total of €366,720 was provided to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2021 which completed agreed community development work programmes.

702

There were 702 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at the end of the year – the highest level of employment for the county in the history of the organisation. 45 new jobs were created in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2021.



Cork Gaeltacht

There were 702 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at the end of the year – the highest level of employment for the county in the history of the organisation. 45 new jobs were created in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2021. When the number of jobs lost is taken into account, there was a net increase in employment of 38 jobs. The majority of the new jobs were created in the manufacturing, engineering and food and drinks sectors.

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a number of projects for the Cork Gaeltacht during 2021, which will create 4 new jobs with an estimated total investment of over €92,000 when these projects are underway.

Táirgí Cáise Buabhaill Mhaigh Chromtha Teo. (Macroom Buffalo Cheese Products)

Táirgí Cáise Buabhaill Mhaigh Chromtha Teo. have again had another fantastic year winning 4 awards at the World Cheese Awards recently as well as two awards at the Irish Cheese Awards. Johnny and Geraldine Lynch have a herd of Italian buffalos on their farm in Cill na Martra where the cheese company has made substantial progress since with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Firebird Heating Solutions Ltd.

A significant support package was approved for Firebird this year to help the company develop its business and preserve their long-standing employment in the Múscraí Gaeltacht. The company has developed a new strategic plan to significantly change the business model and develop new heating systems and renewable products.

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

A total of €208,920 was provided to two organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2021 which completed agreed community development programmes.



Drioglann Chléire Teo

Drioglann Chléire Teo has been going from strength to strength over the past few years. The company has an excellent website which sells a range of gin products online. This year they brought a new product to market called Cask-Aged Gin which has been a success in addition to their 3 Sq Miles product and the gift box set The Coast Road developed in conjunction with three other producers on the west coast of Ireland.

Coláiste Íosagáin

A Business Development Manager was appointed for this strategic project towards the end of 2021 and will be taking up their duties in January 2022. Site works are almost complete on the grounds of Coláiste Íosagáin and the expectation is that works on the building will commence during 2022.

Cork County Council approved planning permission for the development of a Regional Development Hub on the site of Coláiste Íosagáin in 2020 and it is intended to develop gteic@Baile Bhuirne there, which will consist of up to 75 workspaces.

gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network in Cork

gteic@Cléire will open in early 2022 and the digital hub will serve islanders as well as tourists and sailing enthusiasts. The facility will be managed by Comharchumann Chléire on behalf of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo. is managing gteic@Béal an Ghaorthaidh where there are coworking spaces for 22 workers.

Language Planning

The LPA Chléire language plan was approved during the year and the lead organisation Comharchumann Chléire Teo will begin the implementation of that language plan in the new year. Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo. continued to implement the language plan for the Múscraí Language Planning Area (LPA) during the year.

The Múscraí LPA held storytelling classes, summer camps, Irish classes and Chi Kung classes through Irish. Research on welcome packages for families was developed in conjunction with Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta and Irish language posters/signs were developed for shops celebrating local shops. During Seachtain na Gaeilge, a collaboration took place between the LPO and TG4 in broadcasting an advertisement which celebrated Múscraí's sayings.

151

There were 151 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht at the end of 2021. Employment growth was in the language-based, engineering and services sectors.



Waterford Gaeltacht

6 new jobs were created in the Waterford Gaeltacht during 2021. Employment growth was in the language-based, engineering and services sectors. When job reductions are taken into account there was a net increase in employment of 5 jobs.

There were therefore 151 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht at the end of 2021.

Language Planning

Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise Teo. is the lead organisation responsible for implementing the language plan for the Na Déise LPA and progress was made in implementing some of the measures set out in the language plan during the year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions events were held virtually e.g. sean-nós dancing classes, storytelling nights and children's writing competitions were organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge. The project, *Scríobh Scéal* in conjunction with Cairde na Gaeltachta, was organised for older people in the community. People participated in projects being run on a national basis by Language Planning Officers such as *#SeoÍanGhaetaltacht*, *Rothaí na Gaeltachta* and over 70 people took part in the *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta* Competition. To raise awareness of the process, a newsletter was produced and circulated to all households in the LPA and through the services in the area and an information booklet was produced which illustrates the goals of the Language Plan.

Fiontar Pobail

The voluntary group, Fiontar Pobail, was established in 2018 with the aim of providing high quality sports and recreation facilities for the people of Gaeltacht na nDéise. An all-weather outdoor facility is being developed in Cill an Fhuarthainn in An Rinn which will host sporting, cultural, festivals and outdoor events through the medium of Irish. The group is looking to encourage and strengthen the use of the Irish language among local people, especially among the younger generations. Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a community enterprise scheme grant in 2021 to assist with the costs of agreeing the design and layout of the facility, carrying out essential pre-planning works and surveys and applying for planning permission.



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 has been recognised in Baile na nGall in An Rinn and there has been ongoing collaboration between all stakeholders for a number of years. The mechanism of transferring the land for such proposals is currently being confirmed, in the context of agreed land use conditions, the objectives and long-term language impact of the scheme, State aid rules, and the requirement that 100% of the housing developed on the organisation's property be subject to an Irish-language condition.

Co-operatives and Community-based Organisations Scheme

Total funding of €80,500 was made available to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2021 which completed an agreed community development programme. The co-operative provides important local services, co-ordinates community development activities and provides an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional area.

New tourist signs were erected in the Déise Gaeltacht during 2021, including finger post signs, information signs and maps, which inform visitors that they have arrived in a unique area where pride of place is given to the Irish language.



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