

Gaeilge Iorrais



LIMISTÉAR PLEANÁLA TEANGA MAIGH EO THUaidH

Preasráiteas Press Release 09.01.2018	Tuilleadh eolais: gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com 085 250 3321 www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie	*Tá leagan Gaeilge den phreasráiteas seo ar fáil ar leathanaigh 3-4.
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Preparation of 7 Year Language Plan for North Mayo Gaeltacht

Under *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012* every Gaeltacht community must now prepare and implement a language plan to support and develop Irish language use in their area. If they don't do this, they could lose their Gaeltacht status. This new legislation signals a departure from the historic emphasis on geographic Gaeltacht boundaries and puts the onus on each Gaeltacht community to decide for themselves (i) whether they want to retain their Gaeltacht status (ii) and if so, whether they want to prepare and implement an Irish language plan for their area, which will involve making some commitments to Irish language use and development. Gaeilge Iorrais is responsible for overseeing this process in Maigh Eo Thuaidh (North Mayo Gaeltacht area), in consultation with local communities and various stakeholders. 7,199 people or c.70% of the Mayo Gaeltacht population live in this vast area (584.4 km²), which spans from Fód Dubh to Béal Deirg, Ceathrú Thaidhg to Dumha Thuama and everywhere in between. Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda, an independent language planning advisor, was appointed to facilitate and co-ordinate the work required.

This language planning work has consisted of two main parts to date (i) conduct research to assess the current state and status of the Irish language in North Mayo Gaeltacht (ii) prepare a specific language plan for the area based on the findings of this research. The result is a seven-year community language plan (2018-2024), which aims to improve ability in, and increase usage of the Irish language in the education system, in youth activities, in the household, and as part of public, commercial, social and recreational activities. The Gaeltacht status of the North Mayo area depends on the effective implementation of this plan. Therefore, this process and the plan itself is a very important initiative for the entire North Mayo Gaeltacht community.

The plan is the result of the most extensive piece of sociolinguistic research ever conducted in the North Mayo Gaeltacht on Irish language ability, use, attitudes and recommendations. Some 1,600 individuals (22% of the area's population) took part in the research which was conducted over the past two years and focused on four main strands (i) an extensive examination of Census statistics and other relevant data (ii) a community survey (on paper) with a random sample of the

population (iii) targeted (online) surveying of key stakeholders (iv) extensive consultation with the wider community. Huge thanks to local volunteers and scheme participants for their help distributing surveys and to all those who took part in this research.

The purpose of this language plan is to bridge gaps between the hugely favourable attitudes to the Irish language and to create more opportunities to use Irish based on demand and trends shown in the research. To achieve this goal, 34 recommendations or specific measures are proposed in 11 key areas with targets for the next 7 years. Adequate funding and human resources, as well as active community and agency participation will be required to implement the plan effectively, achieve targets and ensure community participation.

It is the vision of Gaeilge Iorrais, in co-operation with the local community and local organisations, to support and gradually increase the daily usage and knowledge of the Irish language in the North Mayo Gaeltacht and specifically to ensure that (i) there is no further decline in key Irish language statistics in the area in Census 2021 (i.e. Irish language ability and daily use, inside and outside the education system) and (ii) by the 2026 Census there will be some improvement (c.3%) in the aforementioned key Irish language statistics.

A summary draft document of the proposed measures included in the North Mayo Language Plan (2018-2024) is now available for community consultation at <http://www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie/images/consultation.pdf>. This document is available in Irish and in English. Any relevant suggestions and/or recommendations from the North Mayo Gaeltacht community are most welcome and should be **sent in writing to gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com before 5pm on Wednesday 17th January 2018.**

A public information day will be held on **Tuesday 16th January 2018 in Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead (from 3pm – 7pm)** for any person or group which would like to meet with Gaeilge Iorrais to discuss this document. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend on the day.

Our community language plan will be ready for submission to Údarás na Gaeltachta and Roinn na Gaeltachta for approval by the end of January. Following from this, a 7 year implementation programme will commence, pending plan approval and funding. *Acht na Gaeltachta* affords our community a golden opportunity to shape and sustain our linguistic and Gaeltacht future on our own terms. Is féidir leatsa difríocht mhór a dhéanamh ach is féidir linne, le chéile, an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile. Together we have the power to secure a positive future for our Gaeltacht. **(CRÍOCH/END)**

Plean Teanga Seacht mBliaana do Limistéar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh

De réir *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*, caithfidh chuile phobal Gaeltachta plean teanga a réiteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm chun tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge ina cheantar. Mura ndéantar é seo, tá baol ann go gcaillfear a stádas Gaeltachta. In áit limistéir thíreolaíochta amháin, cuireann an reachtaíocht úr béim ar rogha an phobail chun cinneadh a dhéanamh (i) an bhfuil an pobal ag iarraidh a stádas Gaeltachta a choinneáil agus (ii) má tá, an bhfuil an pobal sásta plean Gaeilge a réiteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm don cheantar, agus spriocanna teanga a bhaint amach. Tá Gaeilge Iorrais freagrach as an bpróiseas seo a stiúradh i limistéar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh, i gcomhar le pobail áitiúla agus páirtithe leasmhara. Tá cónaí ar 7,199 duine nó c.70% de dhaonra na Gaeltachta i Maigh Eo sa cheantar fairsing seo (584.4 km²), a shíneann ón bhFód Dubh go Béal Deirg, ó Cheathrú Thaidhg go Dumha Thuama agus chuile áit idir eatartu. Ceapadh an Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda mar chomhairleoir pleanála teanga neamhspleách chun an obair seo a chomhordú.

Bhí dhá chuid i gceist leis an obair phleanála go nuige seo (i) taighde a dhéanamh chun staid reatha na Gaeilge a mheas i MET (ii) plean teanga a réiteach a bheadh in oiriúint go sonrach don limistéar, bunaithe ar thorthaí an taighde sin. Plean teanga seacht mbliaana (2018-2024) de chuid an phobail atá mar thoradh, a bhfuil mar sprioc aige cur le cumas daoine sa Ghaeilge agus le húsáid na Gaeilge sa chóras oideachais, in imeachtaí don óige, sa teaghlach, mar chuid de seirbhísí poiblí, tráchtála, sóisialta agus siamsaíochta. Tá stádas Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh ag brath ar fheidhmiú éifeachtach an phlean seo, seachas ar limistéir gheografacha amháin, mar a bhí go dtí seo. Tionscadal fíorthábhachtach atá sa phróiseas agus sa phlean teanga seo do phobal uile Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh, mar sin.

Eascraíonn an plean seo ón tionscadal taighde is cuimsithí a ndearnadh riamh i nGaeltacht thuaisceart Mhaigh Eo, ar chumas sa Ghaeilge, úsáid na Gaeilge, dearcthaí i leith na Gaeilge agus moltaí do thodhchaí na Gaeilge sa limistéar. Ghlac c.1,600 duine (22% de dhaonra an limistéir) páirt sa taighde seo, a cuireadh i gcrích le dhá bhliain anuas agus a bhfuil ceithre mhórchuid ag roinnt leis, eadhon; (i) dianscrúdú ar staitisticí Daonáireamh agus ar thaighde ábhartha eile (ii) suirbhé pobail (ar pháipéar) le sampla randamach den daonra (iii)

suirbhéireacht shonraithe le spriocghrúpaí áirithe (ar-líne) (iv) comhairliúchán forleathan leis an bpobal trí chéile. Tá moladh mór ag dul do na daoine deonacha agus rannphairtithe roinnt scéimeanna a chuidigh le suirbhéanna a dháileadh, chomh maith le gach duine a ghlac páirt sa taighde trí chéile.

Iarracht ar réiteach chun teacht roimh na dúshláin atá sa phlean seo. Moltar bealaí seiftiúla chun an bhearna idir na dearcthaí dearfacha i leith na Gaeilge, cumas sa Ghaeilge agus úsáid a bhaint aisti a dhruid, trí dheiseanna soiléire úsáide Gaeilge a chur ar fáil. Chuige sin, leagtar amach 34 beart in 11 réimse difriúil mar chuid den phlean. Beidh maoiniú ceart, acmhainní daonna cuí, rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach an phobail agus na n-údarás ag teastáil chun an phlean a fheidhmiú go héifeachtach agus na spriocanna a chomhlíonadh.

Tá mar fhís ag Gaeilge Iorrais, i gcomhar le muintir na háite agus le heagraíochtaí áitiúla, úsáid laethúil agus eolas ar an nGaeilge a chothú agus a mhéadú i Maigh Eo Thuaidh de réir a chéile agus mar sprioc shonrach acu (i) nach dtiocfaidh aon laghdú eile ar chroístaitisticí teanga an limistéir i nDaonáireamh 2021 (i dtaca le cumas agus úsáid na Gaeilge) (ii) ach go dtiocfaidh feabhas (c.3%) ar na croístaitisticí sin faoi Dhaonáireamh 2026.

Tá dréacht achoimre de bhearta an phlean teanga le fáil anois do chomhairliúchán poiblí ag <http://www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie/images/consultation.pdf>. Tá an cháipéis seo le fáil as Gaeilge agus as Béarla. Fáilteofar roimh mholadh nó aiseolas ábhartha ar bith ó phobal Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh. **Seoltar moltaí i scríbhinn chuig gaeilgeinorras@gmail.com roimh 5.00i.n. Dé Céadaoin 17 Eanáir 2018.**

Reáchtálfar lá eolais do phobal an limistéir **Dé Máirt 16 Eanáir 2018 in Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead (idir 3i.n. - 7i.n.)** más mian le duine nó grúpa ar bith moltaí a phlé le Gaeilge Iorrais. Moltar coinne a shocrú le Gaeilge Iorrais roimh ré más féidir.

Sna sála air sin, beidh Plean Teanga Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh (2018-2024) réidh le cur faoi bhráid Údarás na Gaeltachta agus Roinn na Gaeltachta faoi dheireadh Eanáir 2018. Ag leanacht uaidh seo, tosóidh plean feidhmithe seacht mbliana, nuair a bheidh an plean faofa ag an Aire agus maoiniú ar fáil chun é a fheidhmiú. Cuireann *Acht na Gaeltachta* deis faoi leith ar fáil don phobal dlús a chur faoin bpleanáil teanga ar ár dtéarmaí féin. Is féidir leatsa difríocht mhór a dhéanamh ach is féidir linne, le chéile, an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile.

Críoch