



Údarás na Gaeltachta

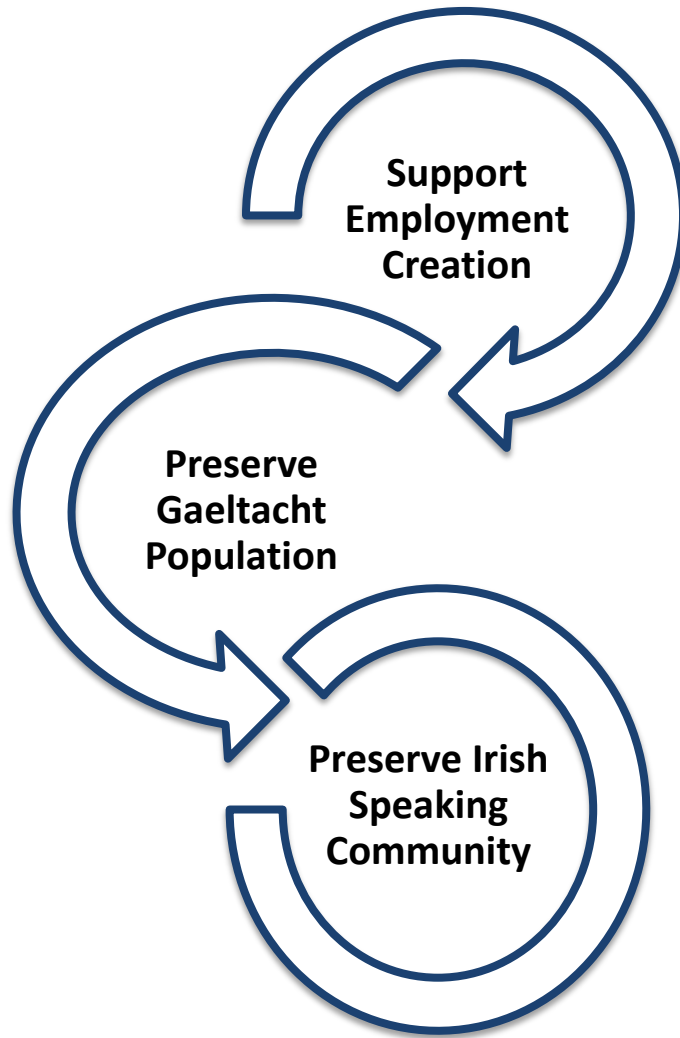
Development strategies for rural, island and Irish speaking areas of Ireland

**Presentation to the Committee of the Regions:
European Alliance Group Seminar 2017
Ajaccio, Corsica.**

**Stiofán Ó Cúláin
Chief Executive
2/4/17**

Údarás na Gaeltachta

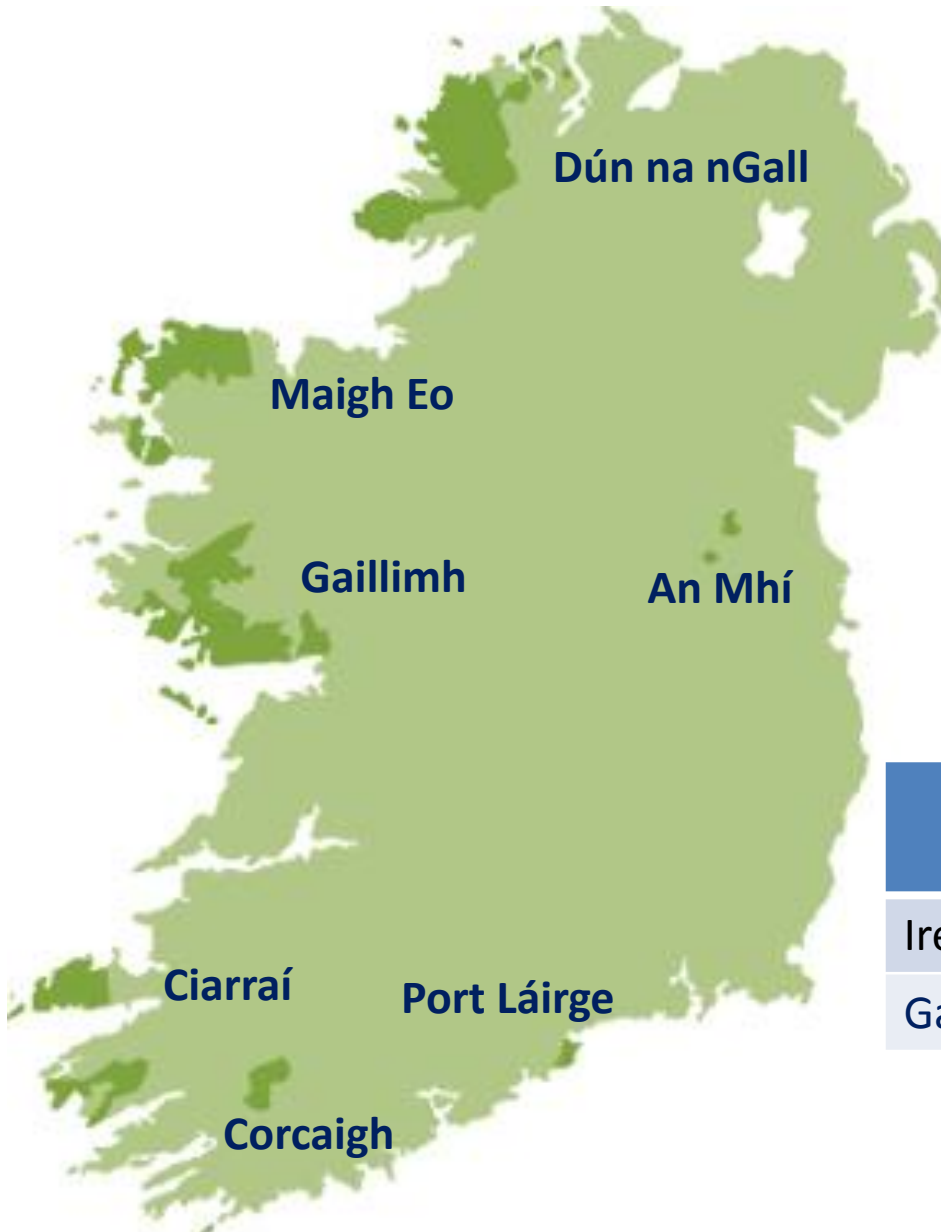
The Regional Development Authority for the Gaeltacht



Overall objective - ensure **that Irish remains the main communal language** of the Gaeltacht and is passed on to future generations

by funding and fostering a wide range of **enterprise development and job creation initiatives** and by supporting strategic language, cultural and community based activities

Location



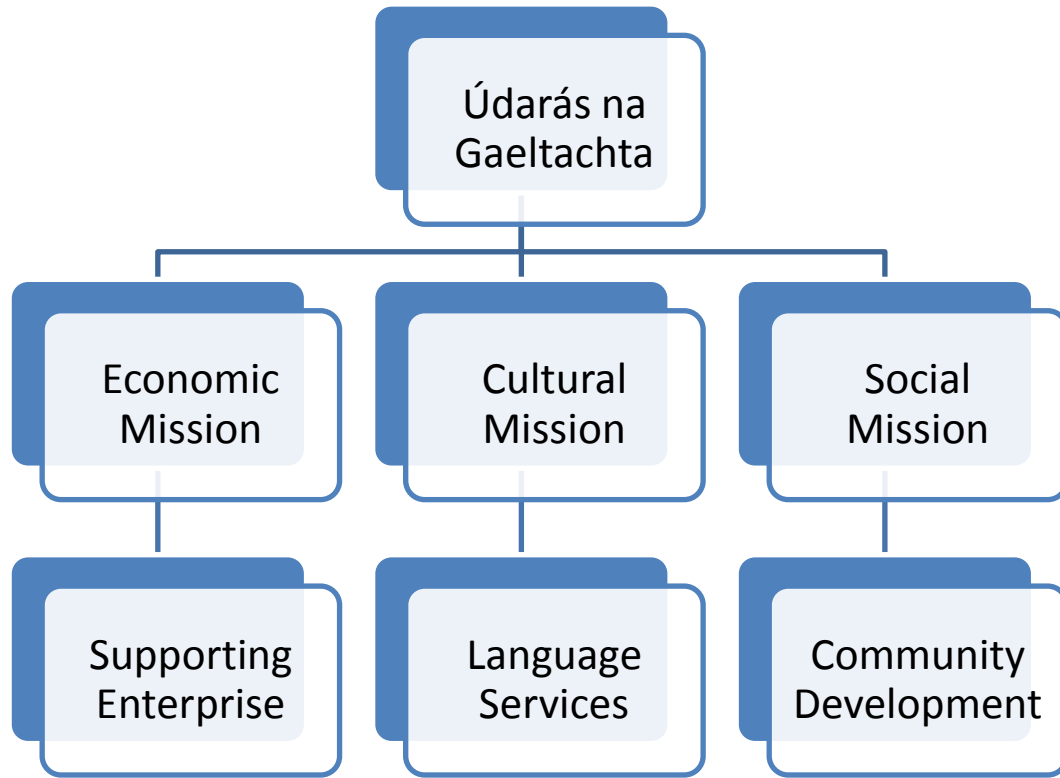
The Gaeltacht covers extensive parts of counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Kerry – all along the western seaboard – and also parts of counties Cork, Meath and Waterford.

	Population	No. of Irish Speakers	Daily Speakers
Ireland	4,558,252	1,774,437	94,034
Gaeltacht	100,716	66,238	23,621

Location



Údarás na Gaeltachta Profile



Operational Sectors

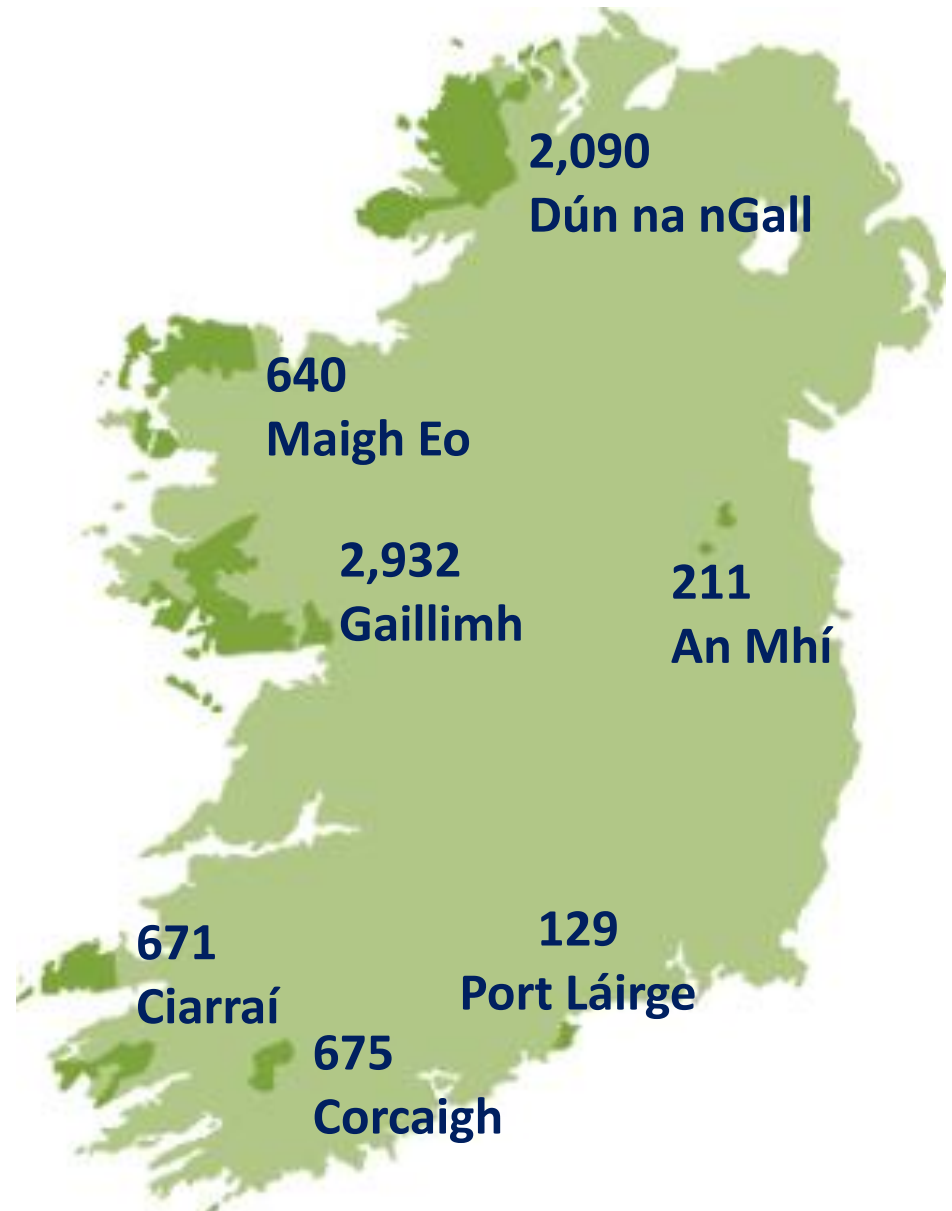
- Life sciences
- Aquaculture/Seaweed
- Food
- Business support services
- Digital sector
- Renewable energy
- Language-based enterprise
- Cultural tourism
- Social enterprise



Employment in the Gaeltacht (Dec 2016)

7,348 full time jobs &
615 part time jobs in
client companies

Up to **25%** of Gaeltacht
work force employed in
Údarás client companies



* Employment Survey 2016

Track record in Regional and Rural Development

- Support enterprises with bespoke financial offerings to drive employment creation
- Develop and provide infrastructure/property business solutions
- Optimise access to EU programmes including LEADER, Horizon 2020, Life etc.
- Focus on Rural Development through supporting Gaeltacht community development companies
- Significant role in National Enterprise, Cultural and Social Development Strategies in Regional and Rural Areas



Economic Impact of Gaeltacht Client Companies



€926m

Total Sales in
client companies



€628m

In export sales (68%
of total output)



€427m

Direct spend in
Irish economy
by client
companies



€180m

Total payroll
expenditure



€85m

In tax payments to the
Irish exchequer



Challenges for enterprise development

- Remote Rural locations with deficient infrastructure
 - Broadband
 - Access
 - Transport
 - Energy
- Capital investment cost of providing modern property solutions and business services
- People with the appropriate skillset for all sectors
- Budget restrictions
- Brexit and Geopolitical changes

Language and Cultural Activities

The Gaeltacht Act, 2012

The 20 year strategy for the Irish Language (2010 – 2030)

Language
Planning

Community
Enterprise

Social
economy

Community
development

26 Language
Planning Areas/
Communities

30 Community
Organisations
(Gaeltacht
cooperatives)

Social
Employment
Schemes –
1000
participants

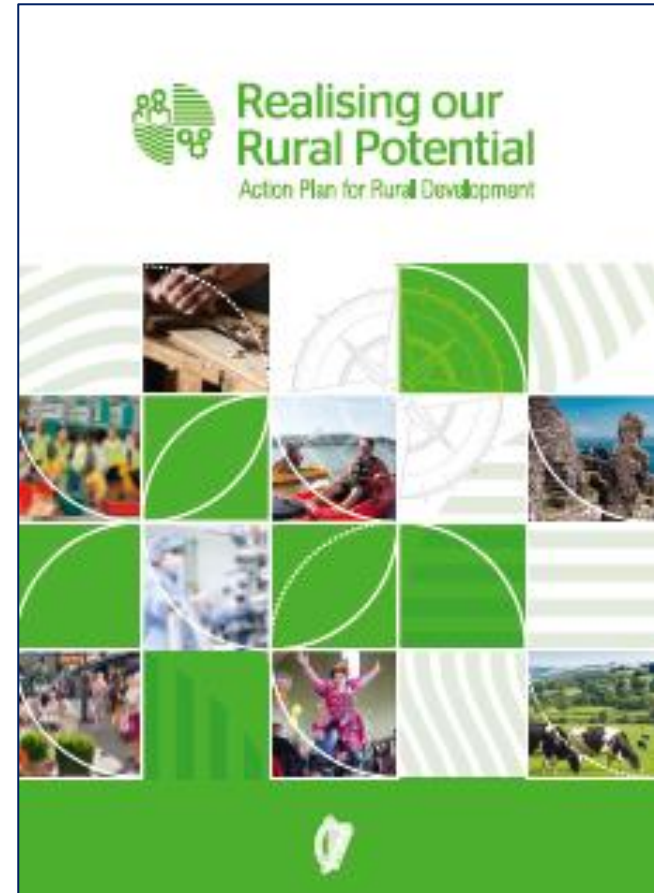
74 preschools
6 childcare centres
afterschool care–
1400+ children
44 youth clubs with
1450 members

National Action Plan for Rural Development

The objective of the Plan is to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level.

The 5 pillars supporting the plan:

- Supporting Sustainable Communities
- Supporting Enterprise and Employment
- Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential
- Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities
- Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity



National Action Plan for Rural Development

General Profile of Údarás Actions

- Support creation of **500 new jobs** per annum
- Develop advanced **property solutions** for innovative companies
- Introduce a **Marine Development** and Investment Strategy
- Implement supports for **aquaculture & seafood** processing sectors
- Develop 4 **Innovation & Digital Hubs** (Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry)
- Advance the implementation of the **Language Planning** Process in order to foster the Irish language as a key resource in the Gaeltacht
- Deliver CLÁR & **LEADER Programmes** in certain Gaeltacht areas
- Provide 500 additional places on **Social Employment Schemes**
- Provide **Renewable Energy** supports for micro enterprises via SEAI
- Develop a **Tourism Investment** and Development Strategy

Údarás na Gaeltachta - local, national & international



Case study 1 - Ionad Chultúrtha an Phiarsaigh

- Long standing strategic objective to develop a flagship cultural tourism project in Conamara.
- Based on an integrated development approach between three state bodies and the community.
- Satisfies multiple agency objectives (Tourism, Language, Community)



- Local economic benefits and stimulation of economic activity
- Base for the expansion of cultural initiatives.

Case study 2 - Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair

Purpose-built, state of the art Enterprise, Innovation and Cultural based development located on the Gaoth Dobhair Business Park

- €12 million project
- Development started Nov. 2007
- Three Floors - 1600sq.m per floor
- Supports knowledge-based enterprises and provides fully serviced workspace for start-up and early stage businesses



Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair

Ground Floor

- Local Crèche / Childcare Facility
- 18 employed – 160 children
- €1.8 million project
- Opened March 2010



- 500 sq.m Library Space & Services
- Books/Print Material
- Engage Local Community
- 4 employed
- Opened October 2011

Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair

Ground Floor

- Exhibition Space
- Local Art Exhibitions
- 250 sq.m opened April 2011
- Library & exhibition Space cost €1.1 million
- 37 Exhibitions to date



Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair



First Floor

- Innovation Centre
- Nurture New Start-Ups/ Entrepreneurs
- 27 high quality spaces
- 12 currently occupied
- 18 – 205 sq.m in area

Second Floor

- Large Enterprise Space
- Aimed at Knowledge based companies
- 2 units - 912sq.m & 726sq.m
- Flexible open plan Enterprise / Office Space



Case study 3 – Lárionad Bhaile an Fheirtéirigh

Purpose-built community, educational and cultural development located in Baile an Fheirtéirigh in west Kerry



- 1,400 sq.m project costing €3.5m in collaboration with other state bodies
- Includes Enterprise units, Irish language family support centre and preschool services, and a public playground
- Annual capacity of 2,500 students to attend courses, worth €7 million to the local economy

Case study 4 – Ionad na Dromada



- Forbairt na Dromada Teo
- Established in 1996 to counter ill effects of isolation to the area
- Collaborative community project supported and funded by Údarás



- Hostel & Tourist packages
- Child-care facilities
- Elderly Programmes
- Respite Service
- Language Classes
- Enterprise units
- Community Hall

Go raibh maith agaibh



Údarás na Gaeltachta

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