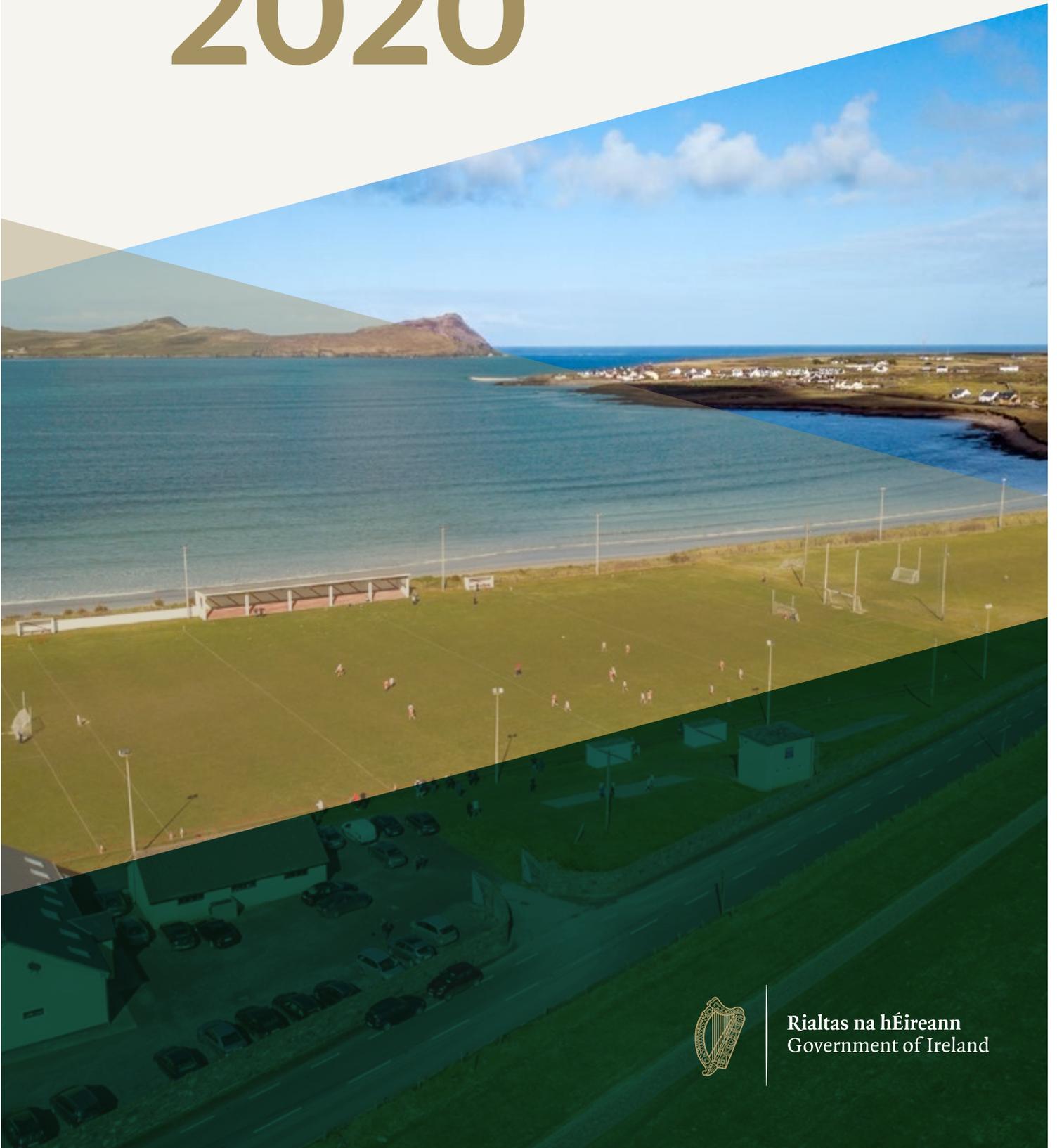




Údarás na  
Gaeltachta

End of Year Statement

2020



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# 2020

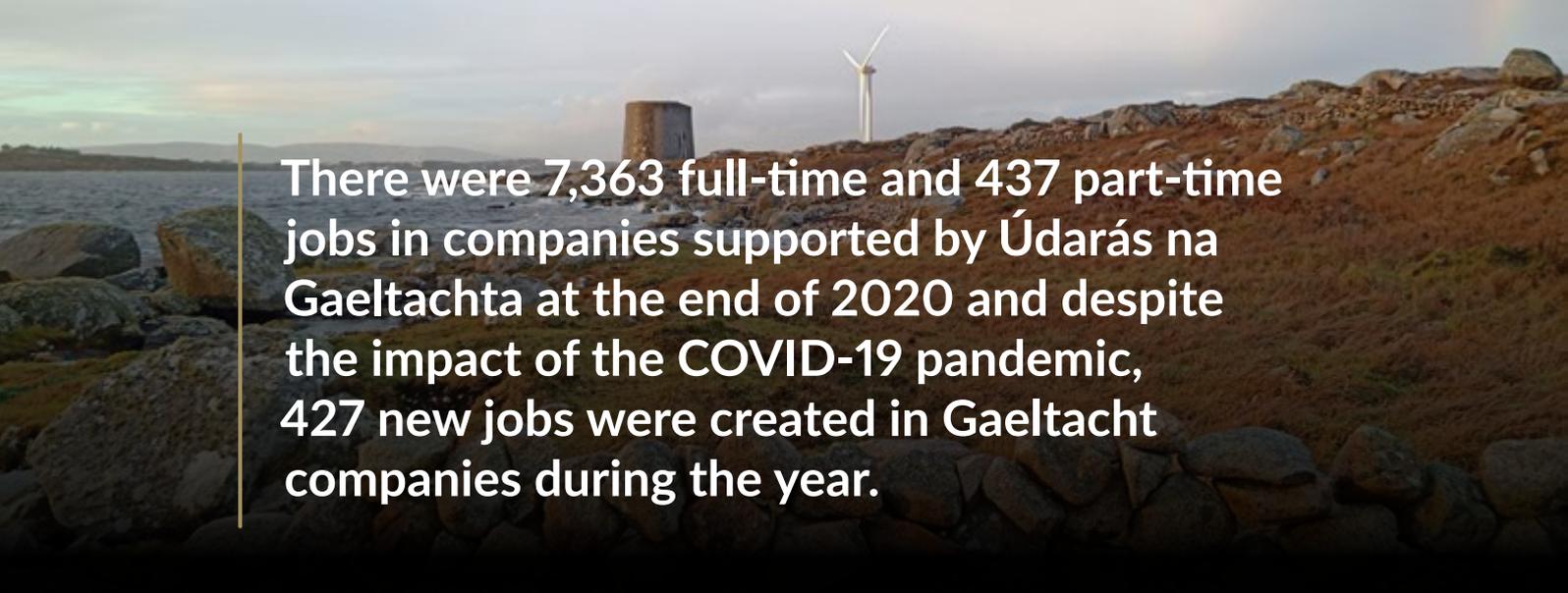
- **7,363** full-time jobs in client companies at year end
- **427** new jobs created in the Gaeltacht in 2020
- Net job reduction of **6% (481)** in full-time jobs in 2020
- Major challenges for the tourism sector and related businesses due to **COVID-19**
- **258** new jobs approved in projects involving an investment of **€13m**
- Support provided to **263** Gaeltacht companies to increase online trading
- **€7.4m** in COVID-19 supports approved for Gaeltacht companies
- **€20.3m** capital provision approved for the development of Gaeltacht business infrastructure
- A series of supports provided to Gaeltacht companies in the context of **Brexit**
- **21** Language Plans approved with a budget of **€2.28m**
- **gteic** – the Gaeltacht digital network doubled again in 2020
  - **16** gteic digital hubs opened – **13** more in development
  - Up to **450** spaces available during lockdown
  - Up to **200** people working in gteic hubs at year end

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1980 – 2020



**There were 7,363 full-time and 437 part-time jobs in companies supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2020 and despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 427 new jobs were created in Gaeltacht companies during the year.**

## Review of 2020

There were 7,363 full-time and 437 part-time jobs in companies supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2020 and despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 427 new jobs were created in Gaeltacht companies during the year.

When job reductions are taken into account, there is a net reduction of 6% (481) in overall employment. The majority of this decline has been in the tourism and related sectors.

On the other hand, among the sectors that saw growth in 2020 was the medical device sector which saw a 4% increase in employment, with over 700 people now employed in the sector in the Gaeltacht.

€7.4m of emergency supports were approved for client companies preparing for Brexit and tackling the impact of COVID-19. The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved State investment of €4.9m in employment grants, machinery, training and training programmes during 2020. Up to €20.3m in capital provision was approved during the year for the refurbishment and development of Gaeltacht business infrastructure to support employment preservation and to develop new proposals.

During 2020, language plans were being implemented in 18 of the 26 Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas (LPAs). A total of 18 Language Planning Officers and four Assistant Language Planning Officers were employed to implement these plans in their relevant areas with a total investment of €2 million.

A total of 7 language plans have been submitted for approval to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM) since the beginning of 2020 and three language plans were approved during the year.

Particular recognition was given during 2020 to the community development organisations, who provided great support to Gaeltacht communities during the COVID-19 lockdown, with services such as food and prescription delivery, pension collection, food on wheels and many more being provided by them.



## Looking towards 2021

Údarás na Gaeltachta is finalising a new Strategic Plan for the period 2021–2025. The Strategy will include the Údarás na Gaeltachta vision that Gaeltacht areas should be sustainable communities, with a strong economy where Irish is the primary community language.

Údarás na Gaeltachta recognises that this is the best way for the Gaeltacht to secure its identity as a language community. An tÚdarás aims to put together an ambitious but realistic plan that will lay the foundations for the operation of the organisation for the next five years following the crisis.

In the short term we will continue to support companies in maintaining their current employment levels and to grow and develop when the lockdown periods come to an end. The gteic network will be central to providing opportunities for remote working, especially for the Gaeltacht Diaspora looking to return home after the pandemic.

The development of strategic projects such as Coláiste Íosagáin, Seanospidéal an Daingin, Coláiste Lurgan, Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh, the gteic network and Páirc na Mara will be key projects as we look forward.

We will ensure that effective and practical supports are available to businesses to protect them from the effects of COVID-19 and Brexit. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and other Government Departments to ensure that Gaeltacht businesses and communities are at the forefront of supports. Particular focus will be placed on supporting the recovery of the tourism sector.

Renewable energy and climate change activities will be to the forefront during 2021 with pilot projects such as the Photovoltaic Park in Gaoth Dobhair Business Park, the Community Photovoltaic Project in An Cheathrú Rua and the Ros an Mhíl Harbour Energy Development Plan.



## Chief Executive of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh:

**“It has been a very difficult year in many ways but we are very pleased with the level of activity and support that Údarás na Gaeltachta has been able to provide in unprecedented circumstances. Significant investment has been made in the Gaeltacht business infrastructure and the investment being made in the language in communities is at an unprecedented level.**

There may not be a more opportune time to initiate our new Strategic Plan for the 2021–2025 period. There is no doubt that the Gaeltacht will have completely different needs over the next five years and the new strategy will have sufficient flexibility to address new challenges.

We are extremely grateful to our clients, to the community development organisations, to the Gaeltacht communities and to our State colleagues who work in partnership with us. As Chief Executive, I am extremely grateful to the staff and Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta for their dedication and support in achieving the organisation’s objectives.”



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

“There has never been a more challenging year in recent history than 2020 for communities throughout Ireland. The Gaeltacht’s response to this emergency is a source of hope and the Board is encouraged by the resilience shown to date by Gaeltacht businesses and communities. There is no doubt that additional resources will be required to achieve a sustainable recovery and subsequent development in the Gaeltacht in the coming years and an encouraging start has been made in this regard with increased and additional budgets available to Údarás na Gaeltachta for 2021.

**The years ahead will be crucial for the Gaeltacht but the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta is committed to supporting the Gaeltacht communities in linguistic, cultural, social and economic matters in every way possible and, to that end, to make the case for appropriate actions and resources.”**

# 7,363

Total

# 2,168

Donegal

# 604

Mayo

# 2,955

Galway

# 215

Meath

# 611

Kerry

# 664

Cork

# 146

Waterford

7,363 full-time jobs in client companies at year end

## Employment in the Gaeltacht

The impact of the pandemic was felt in all Gaeltacht counties during 2020 and there was a reduction in employment in each of them except Co. Meath. In line with national trends, COVID-19 had the greatest impact in the Gaeltacht in the Tourism and Food and Drink sectors. Employment in the Food sector in the Gaeltacht fell by 7.5% during 2020 and employment in Gaeltacht tourism businesses which are clients of Údarás na Gaeltachta fell by up to 30%.

However, 68% were companies in which employment remained stable, in addition to the 10.5% of client companies in which employment increased during the year. Companies in the Services (35%), Manufacturing (25%) and Food and Drink (17%) sectors are the largest source of employment in the Gaeltacht in Údarás na Gaeltachta supported companies.

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta has approved a number of new projects which will create 258 jobs which will have an estimated total State and private sector investment of €13 million over the next few years. These new jobs are dominated by companies in the Health Products, Food, Services and Specialty Manufacturing Sectors.

**Companies in the Services (35%), Manufacturing (25%) and Food and Drink (17%) sectors are the largest source of employment in the Gaeltacht in Údarás na Gaeltachta supported companies.**

# €4.53M

€4.53m was approved under the Sustaining Enterprise Fund for business continuity;

# €1.44M

€1.44m was approved in research, development and innovation supports;

# €0.43M

€0.43m was approved in business planning, economy, financial and staff training supports.

## COVID-19 & Brexit

An tÚdarás launched a **supports and information plan** at the outset of the COVID-19 crisis in March to support Gaeltacht communities and businesses, and between these supports and supports for Gaeltacht companies to prepare for Brexit, over €7.4m was approved. Over 435 Gaeltacht companies availed of the support to address financial and supply difficulties, ensure cash flow and enhance their ability to access global online sales markets.

Údarás na Gaeltachta, in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland, has approved **€6.4m** of support for companies based in the Gaeltacht focusing on business continuity, training, research and financial planning.

- **€4.53m** approved under the **Sustaining Enterprise Fund** for business continuity;
- **€1.44m** approved in research, development and innovation supports;
- **€0.43m** approved in business planning, economy, financial and staff training supports.

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved over **€1m** in supports for 413 Gaeltacht businesses through the COVID-19 Online Trading Scheme and Business Continuity Voucher, in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.

In the context of Brexit, client companies in all Gaeltacht areas were contacted on an ongoing basis with particular attention being paid to the most vulnerable client companies, where an individual strategy was agreed with the management of those companies. Údarás na Gaeltachta supported a research report during 2020 on the potential impact of Brexit on small Gaeltacht companies which made the case for Gaeltacht businesses nationally. Comprehensive communications campaigns continued with client companies to ensure that they had access to the maximum amount of information and support. A special resource hub on Brexit supports and a series of direct emails to companies has been developed. A series of Brexit seminars 'Sustaining Business during a Crisis' was organised to share relevant expertise with companies.



**The Food and Drink (19%), Medical Products (17%) Marine (11%) and Manufacturing (8%) sectors dominated sales.**

### Economic Impact of Gaeltacht Businesses

Research carried out in 2020 shows that there is a significant return on the State’s investment in the Gaeltacht. According to ABSEI research of Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies, in which ten or more people are employed, the client companies had an estimated total sales of €923m the previous year as well as direct expenditure of €437m in the Irish economy on payroll, services and the purchase of materials. They paid a total of €195 million on payroll in 2019. Of the €135 million spent on services, €83 million, or 61.4% of total expenditure, was spent on Irish-based services. The Food and Drink (19%), Medical Products (17%), Agriculture/Fishing/Marine (11%) and Manufacturing (8%) sectors dominated sales.

According to ABSEI research conducted in 2020, exports accounted for €558 million or 60% of total sales by Gaeltacht companies with 10+ employees in 2019. Most Gaeltacht goods were exported to the EU with 33% (€186m) of the total being exported there, an increase of 9% on the previous year. Exports to the United Kingdom for Gaeltacht companies increased by 3%, a significant market with a value of €159m, or 28.5% of the total. The largest sales sectors in the UK are Wood Products 24%, Paper/Printing 20% and Specialist Manufacturing 13%. A total of 22.5% of exports were to North America and 9.6% to Asia.

The highest value export sectors for Gaeltacht companies are Medical Products at €160m (29%), Agriculture/Fishing/Marine at €86m (15%) and Food and Drink at €81m (14%).

**€558M**

Exports accounted for €558 million or 60% of total sales

**33%**

33% (€186m) of Gaeltacht goods exported to the EU

**22.5%**

A total of 22.5% of exports were to North America and 9.6% to Asia



By the end of 2020, language plans had been approved for 20 LPAs out of the 26 LPAs and one Gaeltacht Service Town (GST) of the three GSTs, with a total investment of €2.28 million for the implementation of these plans.

## Language Planning Activities

By the end of 2020, language plans had been approved for 20 LPAs out of the 26 LPAs and one Gaeltacht Service Town (GST) of the three GSTs, with a total investment of €2.28 million for the implementation of these plans.

A total of 7 language plans have been submitted to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM) for the approval of the Minister of State. These are the approved draft language plans for Toraigh LPA and An tEachréidh LPA, and Oirthear Chathair na Gaillimhe LPA, Bearna and Cnoc na Cathrach LPA, Oileáin Árann LPA, Cléire LPA and Maigh Eo Thiar LPA. These are expected to be approved and implemented in the first half of 2021. Daingean Uí Chúis GST language plan was also approved. The language plans of An Ghaeltacht Láir LPA and An Clochán Liath GST are expected to be submitted to the Department in early 2021. Discussions will take place with the Béal an Mhuirthead community again regarding the appropriate steps to achieve recognition for the town as a GST.

### Implementation of language plans during 2020

Despite the restrictions of COVID-19, the language planning officers have succeeded in implementing a number of measures to promote and encourage the use of Irish in the various communities. They organised activities aimed at encouraging pride of place and inspiring memories of the Gaeltacht, encouraging and fostering the use of Irish among families, their local community and creating relationships between all the LPA communities of the Gaeltacht, such as *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Running Competition)*, *Maratón na dTeaghlach (Family Marathon)*, *#SeoÍAnGhaeltacht (This is the Gaeltacht)*, *Rothaí na Gaeltachta (The Gaeltacht Cyclist)* and *Oícheanta Airneáin (Social Evenings)* online. Online workshops were organised focusing on various themes and a conversation circle and online Irish classes were also held. Joint initiatives with other organisations were undertaken such as the Gaeltacht schools with *Maratón na bPáistí (Children's Marathon)*, *Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta with Tóraíocht Taisce do Theaghlaigh (Treasure Hunt for Families)* and the Gaeltacht business community with *Stuif na Nollag (Christmas Stuff)*.

All of the activities helped to raise awareness of the goals of the language planning process, to initiate and maintain relationships with specific target groups, to connect LPA communities and to promote the use of Irish.

# 16

16 digital hubs  
now operating in 5  
Gaeltacht counties

# 200

Up to 200 people  
working in hubs at  
year end

# 13

13 further gteic  
hubs to open in  
early 2021

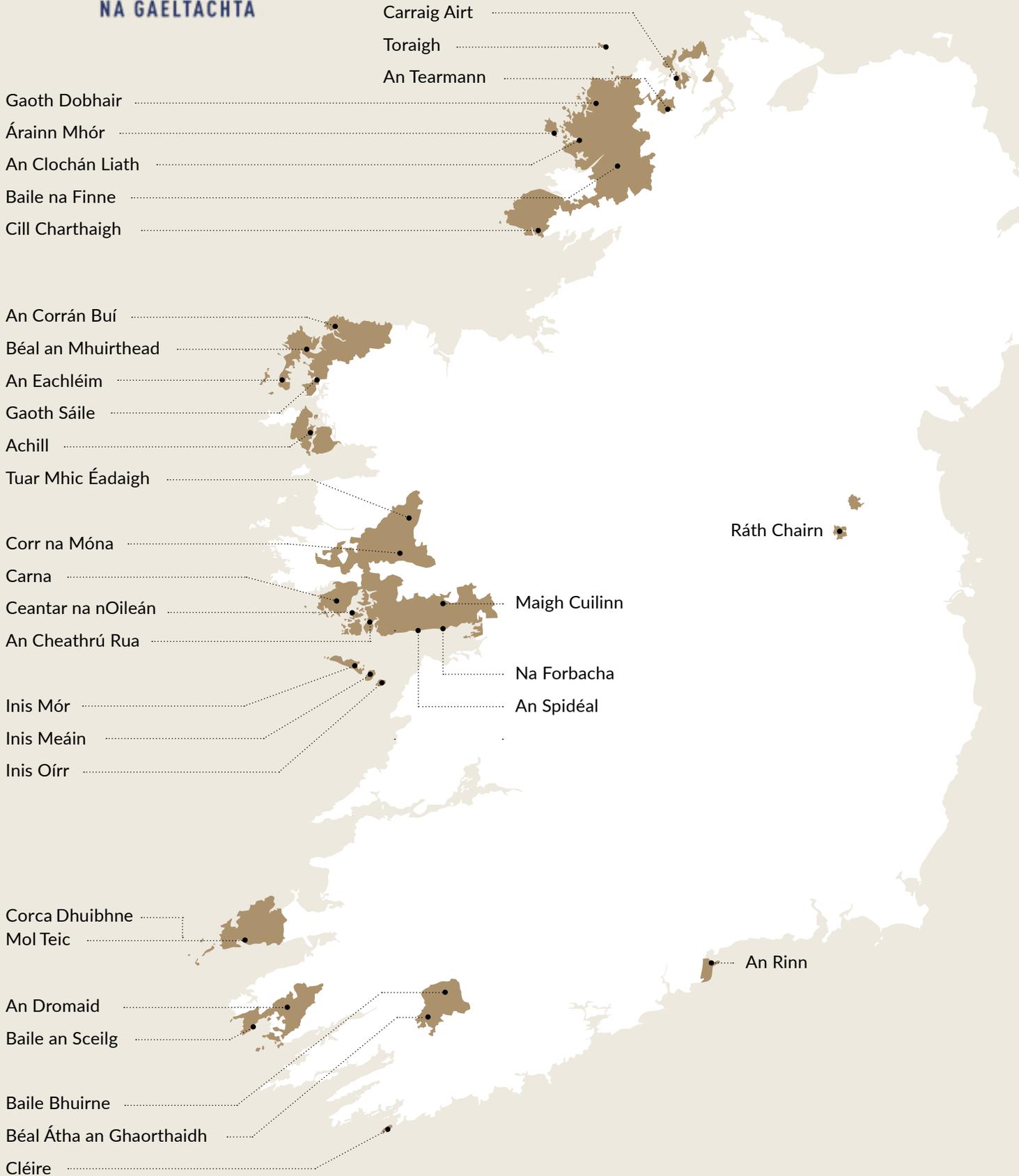


The number of gteic hubs open by the end of the year doubled in 2020. There are now 16 digital hubs operating in five Gaeltacht counties, and despite the various restrictions related to COVID-19, there were up to 200 people working in them at the end of the year:

- Gaoth Dobhair, Cill Charthaigh, Árainn Mhór, Na Dúnaibh and An Tearmann in County Donegal
- Béal an Mhuirthead, Acaill, An Eachléim and An Corrán Buí in County Mayo
- Carna, An Cheathrú Rua, Na Forbacha and An Spidéal in County Galway
- Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh in County Cork
- Baile an Sceilg, Daingean Uí Chúis (Mol Teic/Dingle Hub) in County Kerry

Between them, over 450 desk spaces are available with both offices and co-working desks, and the occupancy rates were over 62% during the lockdown. Over 660 desktop spaces have been developed and up to 700 spaces are expected to be available in 2021 when a further 13 gteic hubs are opened.

In 2020, Údarás na Gaeltachta became a full member of **ERNACT**, *European Regions Network for the Application of Communications Technology*, which will allow the gteic hubs and relevant Gaeltacht companies to access international expertise and plan transnational initiatives with a network of 9 other ERNACT regions in 7 countries across Europe and in Canada.





**A one year extension, to the value of €450,000, was approved for 15 Gaeltacht tourism development officers under the tourism development scheme.**

## Tourism

The COVID-19 crisis has put significant pressure on the tourism sector and highlighted the importance of the sector to the Gaeltacht. It is now more important than ever that Údarás na Gaeltachta continues to support the development of strategic Gaeltacht tourism facilities, including Fanad Lighthouse, Togra na hEaragaile, The Crolla Distillery, Carna Emigrants Centre, Seanospidéal an Daingin, The Seaweed Centre / Archipelago Centre and Ionad Árann. Work has begun on a major tourism project, Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh, in Eachléim in Co. Mayo during 2020.

A one year extension, to the value of €450,000, was approved for 15 Gaeltacht tourism development officers under the tourism development scheme. These officers are working to develop visitor centres and marketing networks as well as specific recovery plans. Údarás na Gaeltachta organised online workshops during the summer of 2020 to enable businesses to take advantage of the domestic market and to develop and sell tourism experiences, products and services online.

In partnership with the Laurentic Forum in Donegal, a transatlantic tourism seminar was organised between Newfoundland and Ireland, with strong Gaeltacht representation which proved to be a valuable tourism networking event.

### Gaeltacht Tourism Development Scheme

- Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair
- Slí Chorca Dhuibhne
- Comhchoiste Ghaeltachtaí Chiarraí Theas
- Ionad Deirbhile, An Eachléim
- Turasóireacht Chontae Dhún na nGall
- Carna Emigrants Centre, Carna
- Ionad Cois Locha Teo, Dún Lúiche
- Cósta Gaelach Chonamara & Árann
- Comhaontas Turasóireachta Chorca Dhuibhne
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Leitir Mealláin Seaweed & Heritage Centre
- Ionad Árann, Inis Mór
- Joyce County Geopark
- Sliabh Liag, Co. Donegal
- Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr



## Strategic Projects

Substantial progress was made during 2020 on a number of key Gaeltacht projects. Work began on the **Coláiste Íosagáin** site, where a Regional Development Hub is being developed with the support of funding from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). Planning permission has been obtained for the **Seanospidéal an Daingin** project which will be a significant central resource for the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht and funding applications have also been made for various national programmes. A contractor will be appointed for the construction of **Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh** in early 2021 which will be very important for the tourism offering in Iorras. Údarás na Gaeltachta is committed to continuing the significant progress made in 2020 on the preparation of a plan and drawings for an **Education and Youth Centre (Coláiste Lurgan)** in Indreabhán, in conjunction with the DTCAGSM, Coláiste Lurgan and other stakeholders.

## Significant support given to the Gaeltacht community development sector in 2020

Údarás na Gaeltachta, in conjunction with DTCAGSM, provided **administrative funding of €2.37m** to 33 community development organisations during 2020, to enable them to undertake a community development programme focused on the needs of the local community, tourism, language planning, renewable energy and the gteic network, among other projects.

Údarás na Gaeltachta launched a **governance and best practices manual** to support Gaeltacht community development organisations, and organised online workshops in furtherance of their goals.

The **Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Programme** was established in 2020, a training and mentoring programme to enable Gaeltacht community development organisations improve their business development skills.

Community development organisations have been instrumental in the support provided to Gaeltacht communities during the most challenging part of the lockdown, in the provision of Meals on Wheels services, food and prescription delivery services, pension collection and many other services.

# €8M

€8m of capital funding approved under the Jobs Stimulus Program

# 45

45 refurbishment, redevelopment & upgrade projects identified

# 25

25 projects started before the end of 2020

## Infrastructure Improvements

An additional capital allocation of €8m was approved for Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2020, as part of the Government's jobs stimulus programme, to upgrade part of the organisation's property portfolio. 45 projects were identified for this funding, including building refurbishment works, wastewater treatment plants, roof repairs and roof insulation. A total of 25 of the projects were started before the end of 2020 and 7 were completed.

## Renewable Energy

With sustainability as an ongoing priority for Údarás na Gaeltachta, a feasibility study for the development of a **Photovoltaic Park** at Gaoth Dobhair Business Park was commenced in 2020.

A **community photovoltaic project** was undertaken in conjunction with Comharchumann Mhic Dara Teo. in An Cheathrú Rua Business Park, creating a model for other Gaeltacht community development organisations that wish to develop such projects.

A major feasibility study was also undertaken for the development of **Ros an Mhíl Harbour** as a service and logistics hub for the renewable energy sector, to maximise the potential of marine energy.

## Páirc na Mara

Údarás na Gaeltachta submitted a planning application for Páirc na Mara to Galway County Council in June 2020. Additional information and details requested by the Planning Authority are currently being prepared as part of the process and are expected to be submitted in early 2021. Over 26 expressions of interest were received from companies interested in locating their businesses in the marine park and discussions have taken place with private investors about their own development needs.



## Training

### ***Clár na gComhlachtaí – Fostering Entrepreneurship among the younger generation***

Rí na bhFocal, from Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne in Kerry, won the Údarás na Gaeltachta 2020 Clár na gComhlachtaí National Championship which was held online last May. This is the second year that the winning team from Ireland has competed in the European Championship. 750 transition year students from all Gaeltacht counties took part in the programme which aims to foster an entrepreneurial spirit among young people.

### ***Apprenticeship Scholarship Scheme***

Because of COVID-19, it has been a challenging year for apprenticeships. Candidates for the Spring and Summer campaign were interviewed in August, at a time when restrictions were eased. As a result, 27 apprentices are now registered and started in their various trades.

### ***Partnership with TG4***

Ten companies providing production material for TG4 took part in the new Digital Media training development programme for the first time. Through the scheme participants were trained in various areas of the production process and participants attended a specifically tailored course run by Galway-Mayo IT (GMIT).

As part of the ongoing development of the second year of the course, a Commissioning Fund has been developed to encourage directors, producers and writers to create short-form content through the medium of Irish, entitled Glúin Nua. This is a partnership between TG4, the 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***

Development opportunities are being identified on an ongoing basis with third level institutions and Education and Training Boards that will benefit the Gaeltacht community and in 2020 postgraduate research scholarships were co-funded with NUI Galway and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Funding was continued for the Higher Diploma in Applied Irish and Translation, which is administered by GMIT in partnership with Europus Teo. and the Higher Diploma in Television Production and Digital Media with Waterford Institute in association with Nemeton Teo.

A Masters in Marine Innovation at GMIT was co-funded as well as a new Scholarship Programme for a Masters in Research in conjunction with Smartbay, SEAI and the Marine Institute which will provide a series of post-primary educational resources in the field of marine renewable energy. The tourism officers based in Gaeltacht tourism projects are attending a specially tailored course in IT Tralee and Letterkenny IT.

In conjunction with the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board, a range of training courses in Aquaculture, Seaweed and Boat Building were held in Iorras Aithneach and an Animation Course (audio visual) was held in An Spidéal.

### ***Graduate Scheme***

Under the Graduate Scheme programme graduates were given the opportunity to spend a period of time in a Gaeltacht company to enhance their skills and experience in a specific sector. The scheme takes place over a 2-year period, and at present preference is given to the following sectors:

- The Marine Sector
- The Language Development and Translation Sector
- The Niche Manufacturing Sector
- The Renewable Energy Sector

# 972

972 participants on 47 social employment schemes

# €17M

Annual budget of Community Employment Schemes

# 8

European research projects being implemented in the Gaeltacht

# €2.38M

Funding from European funds over the period of the projects



## Over 1,000 employed on Social Employment Schemes

The social employment schemes provided vital support to Gaeltacht communities during the COVID-19 lockdown periods creating essential links with people at risk and supporting the provision of essential basic services to people who were self-isolating or cocooning.

There were 972 participants and 49 supervisors employed on 47 schemes throughout the Gaeltacht in 2020. The social employment schemes (Community Employment Scheme, Rural Social Scheme & TÚS Scheme), managed by Údarás na Gaeltachta, funded by the Department of Social Protection, have an important role in providing work experience and training for the Gaeltacht community.

## European Projects

Údarás na Gaeltachta implemented a wide range of European projects in 2020 for the development of renewable energy, climate change, seafood and energy resources in the Gaeltacht. The European projects **LECo**, **RegEnergy** and **REACT** deal with renewable energy. **SAFER**, **Access2Sea**, **SW-GROW** and **EMPORIA4KT** focus on value-added marine projects and the blue economy. The **Digi2Market** project aims to help 50 companies develop their marketing and sales outside their own regions, using immersive technology.



## Gaeltacht na hÉireann Brand

During 2020, the *Gaeltacht na hÉireann* brand continued to grow and was used by over 500 businesses, organisations, language planning areas and Gaeltacht associations.

Top-class Gaeltacht products and companies were introduced to the world online as part of the 40th anniversary of *Údarás na Gaeltachta* in 2020. The **Gaeltacht Craft EXPO** and **Gaeltacht Food & Drink Expo 2020** were held to celebrate Craft, Food and Drink products and companies. Both Expos were run under the auspices of the 'Gaeltacht na hÉireann' brand, linking the brand to the best of Gaeltacht products. Furthermore, a **Gaeltacht Directory** has been developed on the organisation's website where one can link directly with Gaeltacht companies and purchase products from them under the banner of the brand. The directory will be expanded during 2021. A comprehensive digital campaign '**From the Gaeltacht with Love**' was completed just before Christmas 2020, encouraging customers to support Gaeltacht companies and to purchase from them online.

## Taskforces and Forums

### *Uíbh Ráthach Interagency Taskforce*

A full-time Research Officer has been appointed to implement the research-based policies in the action plan. Marketing campaigns run by the Taskforce in conjunction with *Údarás na Gaeltachta* to attract people to live in the area have been very successful. As a result, up to 90 enquiries are being dealt with currently.

### *Iorras Aithneach 5-Year Action Plan*

The year 2020 was the second year of the *Iorras Aithneach* Action Plan, and good progress has been made in implementing its actions, thanks to the partnership between the various local committees who comprise the plan's Monitoring Advisory Committee. An independent review of planned activities for the next three years is underway.

### *Meath Enterprise Forum*

Foundations were laid in 2020 for the Enterprise Forum, paving the way for the development of a gteic hub in *Ráth Chairn* for 2021, as well as supporting *Comharchumann Ráth Chairn* in developing its tourism aims. A new structure has also been put in place to facilitate business enquiries for County Meath.

### *The An Cheathrú Rua 5-Year Action Plan*

Work began on developing a 5-year action plan for *An Cheathrú Rua* in conjunction with *Comharchumann Mhic Dara*, whose aim is to increase employment opportunities in the area. It is hoped the Action Plan will be launched in Spring 2021, with the plan being implemented by the cooperative, along with *Údarás na Gaeltachta*.



## Gaeltacht Diaspora

### ***Strengthening the connection with Scotland***

During 2020, Údarás na Gaeltachta, through the Scottish Government Office in Ireland in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs, was invited to submit proposals for the development of a new Bilateral Policy between Ireland and Scotland. Scottish Government Minister Mike Russell and Scottish Government officials visited Údarás na Gaeltachta in January 2020, where a range of relevant sectors were discussed, including the four that are designated for cooperation in the intergovernmental document currently in preparation. In the Bilateral Policy which has since been published, specific reference is made to Údarás na Gaeltachta as a central party in the links between the two countries, and Údarás na Gaeltachta are to investigate developments with regard to gteic, language planning and rural development in conjunction with the Irish Government, the Scottish Government and the University of Highlands and Islands (Oilthigh na Gáidhealtachd agus nan Eilean).

### ***Aghaidh ar an Áise (Focus on Asia)***

Údarás na Gaeltachta undertook to develop a strategic link with Asia, with an online conference in conjunction with Asia Matters, Aghaidh ar an Áise (Focus on Asia), to provide businesses with an insight into Asian markets and opportunities available for Gaeltacht companies.

### ***Boston***

The Gaeltacht was at the heart of the Golden Bridges event again this year with the Irish business community, governments, communities, academics and members of the diaspora speaking at the 'Golden Bridges' event which usually takes place in Boston but was held online in November. Our client companies R.A. Pacáist, Radox and Sliabh Liag Distillers were part of various panels of guest speakers to discuss innovation, tourism and the crisis.



## Subsidiaries

### Ealaín na Gaeltachta

Ealaín na Gaeltachta funded **5 strategic projects** for Gaeltacht arts through the Cothú scheme in 2020. Support was provided to 24 Gaeltacht arts festivals, with 11 festivals succeeding in going ahead online. The number of applications for the artists' bursary scheme increased by 80% and support was provided to **57 Gaeltacht artists** in conjunction with the Arts Council and Creative Ireland.

Over 35 applicants were supported to set up **small one-off events/projects** and funding was provided for **16 strategic arts projects**, including visual arts, literature, stage shows, youth drama and residencies through the Arts Development Scheme. Over 2,800 children throughout the Gaeltacht attended **Cuisle** classes, a three-year programme of activities in the traditional arts for young people provided with funding support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The international project, **Óró**, was developed for Galway 2020, in celebration of the Irish language and minority language community identity across Europe. Artists from Ireland, Scotland, the Basque Country and other countries were involved in the major new work performed in An Cheathrú Rua for a week in September 2020.

Funding was approved during the year for public art projects at Gaoth Dobhair Business Park, for Bád Eddie in Gaoth Dobhair and for a statue of Máirtín Ó Cadhain in An Spidéal in Conamara.

### Muintearas

A central role was played by Muintearas in supporting local communities by providing various services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organisation is also looking ahead to future developments, seizing new opportunities for remote working, and during the year there has been progress in the preparation of a gteic digital hub in Tír an Fhia, Co. Galway, which opens in early 2021. The organisation continued its important cross-Gaeltacht work in youth affairs, training, early education, social enterprise and much more.

### Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta puts in place the infrastructure to provide early years services in Irish, in the Gaeltacht, and provides administrative, support and training services for those services.

Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta is the nationally recognised early years service provider throughout the Gaeltacht. It operates over 100 early years services and has offices in all major Gaeltacht areas. Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta is an independent structure funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta to provide management and administration support for Gaeltacht early years services operating through Irish in the Gaeltacht.

# Review by Gaeltacht Area



# 2,955

182 jobs were created in the Galway Gaeltacht in 2020. There is a net decrease of 4.3% which means there were 2,955 full-time jobs in Údarás' client companies at the end of 2020.



## Galway Gaeltacht

182 jobs were created in the Galway Gaeltacht in client companies supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2020, the county which saw the most employment created. When the number of jobs lost is taken into account, employment is down by a net decrease of 4.3% on the previous year, meaning that there were 2,955 full-time jobs in client companies of Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2020.

New jobs have been created in companies operating in a wide range of sectors, including Aran Biomedical, Freudenberg/Cambus Medical, Viatrix (Mylan), HID Global, Telegael Teo. and ECC Teo. The majority of job losses were in the Tourism, Film and Food and Drink sectors. A certain percentage of job losses are considered to be directly linked to lockdown periods and are expected to return as soon as public health restrictions are lifted.

### Údarás na Gaeltachta COVID-19 Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support through the COVID-19 support schemes, the Online Trading Scheme and the COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher in the

Galway, Mayo and Meath Gaeltacht areas as follows:

- €482,692 approved for 198 businesses,
- 118 applications approved under the Online Trading Scheme,
- 80 Business Continuity Vouchers approved.

The majority of the support was approved for companies in the tourism, services and food and drink sectors.

### Significant announcements for the Galway Gaeltacht in 2020

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a support package of over €1.9m for building refurbishments for Cambus Medical/Freudenberg Medical Europe GmbH to significantly expand the company's facilities in An Spidéal which will create over 40 new jobs.



A feasibility study into developing Údarás na Gaeltachta's lands around Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a service and logistics hub for the renewable energy sector has commenced in order to maximise the potential of marine energy.

### **Páirc na Mara**

Údarás na Gaeltachta submitted a planning application for Páirc na Mara to Galway County Council in June 2020. Additional information and various details requested by the Planning Authority are currently being prepared as part of the process and are expected to be submitted in early 2021. Over 26 expressions of interest were received from companies interested in locating their businesses in the marine park and discussions have taken place with private investors about their own development needs.

Údarás na Gaeltachta's Lá na Mara (Marine Day) was held for the second year in 2020. National and international marine experts shared their expertise and experience in natural resource sustainability. Topics included how seafood farming could help climate action and seaweed harvesting standards to ensure sustainability, among others.

### **Iorras Aithneach 5-Year Development Action Plan**

Good partnership and co-operation between all stakeholders has led to progress in the implementation of the Plan. A Monitoring Advisory Committee representing the community operates in conjunction with Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo. on a wide range of activities.

Progress has been made on job creation, tourism facilities, building upgrades, maritime affairs, training courses and discussions with the Local Authority. An interim report is being prepared and a review of the plan and of the progress made over the past two years is being conducted. An independent consultant has been appointed to support a review of the plan and its development proposals for the next three years.

### **gteic – The Gaeltacht Digital Network in Conamara**

Four gteic digital hubs are now open in County Galway, namely gteic@An Cheathrú Rua, gteic@An Spidéal, gteic@Na Forbacha and gteic@Carna. gteic hubs will be opening in early 2021 in Tír an Fhia, Inis Mór and Corr na Móna. It is estimated that almost 200 workspaces will be available throughout the Galway Gaeltacht by the end of 2021 when all hubs are open and social distancing restrictions lifted.



### **Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme**

A total of €908,482 in funding was provided to 12 organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. More than any other year they provided important local services, co-ordinated community development activities and provided an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional areas. During the year the 12 community development and other community organisations participated in the Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Programme (CFS-G) training and mentoring workshops.

### **Social Employment Schemes**

There were 370 people employed on social employment schemes in the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of the year. There were 170 people on the Community Employment Scheme, 141 on the Rural Social Scheme, 43 on the Tús Scheme and 16 on the Tús Nua Scheme. These schemes are managed by 20 supervisors, administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Although 2020 was a challenging year, the schemes successfully made progress on two tourism projects. The Slí Chonamara initiative, a coastal walk stretching from An Spidéal to Ros an Mhíl, was revived. Furthermore, an additional loop has been added to the Seanadh Mhacha road trail, an old bog road in Leitir Mucú which is approximately 9km in length, and which has been developed as a walking/cycling route.

During 2020 many of the schemes' participants were active in the community as essential workers, assisting local authorities, development organisations and local committees to provide essential services to vulnerable people in their areas.



### **Tourist Information Centre**

The second phase of the development of the Leitir Mealláin Seaweed Centre was completed at the end of 2020. Comhar Chuigéal (funded by FLAG BIM) has installed two rooms as seaweed baths for the community and for visitors. Networking events and tourism product/service development workshops were organised in conjunction with Cósta Gaelach Chonamara & Árann to support tourism businesses.

Tourism officers are employed under Údarás na Gaeltachta's management development scheme in strategic projects in the County; Carna Emigrants Centre, Cósta Gaelach Chonamara & Árann, Áras Éanna (Inis Oírr) and Joyce County Geopark.

### **Language Planning**

Language plans were being implemented in 6 LPAs with a total investment of €700,000. A total of 6 Language Planning Officers and two Assistant Officers are employed to implement these plans. The implementation of language plans in Maigh Cuilinn LPA, Cois Fharráige LPA and Ceantar na nOileán LPA commenced during the year.

A total of 4 language plans for An tEachréidh LPA, Oirthear Chathair na Gaillimhe LPA, Bearna and Cnoc na Cathrach LPA and Oileáin Árann LPA were submitted to the Department for approval. The language plan for An tEachréidh LPA was approved, with an allocation of €100,000, and steps will be taken in early 2021 to put in place a structure for the implementation of the plan.

Events were held in which many members of the public took part such as the *Caifé Cultúir*, *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Running Competition)* and *Maratón na dTeaghlach (Family Marathon)* for example. Online workshops which focused on specific themes were organised and a ciorcal comhrá and online Irish classes were also held.

# 604

There were 604 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of 2020. A total of 45 new jobs were created in the Mayo Gaeltacht – figures that were slightly higher on 2019.

Béal an Mhuirthead

Gob an Choire

## Mayo Gaeltacht

There were 604 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of 2020. A total of 45 new jobs were created in the Mayo Gaeltacht – figures that were slightly higher on 2019. When the fall in employment is taken into account, there was a net reduction of 10.5% from the previous year. Three-quarters of the fall in employment is in the tourism or related sectors. It is expected that these jobs will be restored when public health restrictions are eased at the end of the pandemic.

The majority of jobs created in the Mayo Gaeltacht in 2020 were in the engineering and manufacturing sectors.

During 2020, the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved new projects which will see 44 new jobs being created in the Mayo Gaeltacht in the future with a total investment of €1.34 million planned for these projects when they are underway.

### Údarás na Gaeltachta COVID-19 Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support through the COVID-19 support schemes, the Online Trading Scheme and the COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher in the Galway, Mayo and Meath Gaeltachta areas as follows:

- €482,692 approved for 198 businesses,
- 118 applications approved under the Online Trading Scheme,
- 80 Business Continuity Vouchers approved.

The majority of the support was approved for companies in the tourism, services and food and drink sectors.



### **Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh**

Áras Scéalta an Atlantaigh will be the main attraction for visitors to the Iorras Peninsula in the North Mayo Gaeltacht, where they will learn all about the area's nature and cultural heritage. The development will support the recovery of the tourism sector in the Iorras area.

An Advisory Committee, led by Údarás na Gaeltachta, is overseeing the work and the building design process has been completed with the development of the internal interpretation commenced also. This will result in a significant extension to Ionad Deirbhile. A project manager and tourism officer have been appointed for the project and an interpretation consultant will be employed to develop the visitor experience.

### **gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network**

Construction work on gteic@Béal an Mhuirthead, gteic@An Corrán Buí, gteic@Acaill and gteic@An Eachléim has been completed with an investment of €960,000 made to date. gteic@Béal an Mhuirthead has been expanded and is attracting enterprise projects to the town. The other 3 gteic hubs are ready to operate when the current lockdown restrictions are lifted where there will be desk space for over 150 people.

### **Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme**

A total of €276,100 in funding was provided to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. They provide important local services, co-ordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional areas. During the year the 4 community development organisations in County Mayo participated in the Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Programme (CFS-G) training and mentoring workshops.



### **Social Employment Schemes**

There were 229 people employed on social employment schemes in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of the year. There were 44 people on the Community Employment Scheme, 154 on the Rural Social Scheme, and 31 on the Tús Scheme. These schemes are managed by 11 supervisors, administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

A 5km walking route was developed in the Poll an tSómais area, as well as the Iorras Head Walk where a boardwalk was constructed on the loop. Under the community involvement scheme, footpaths were constructed in Inbhear and a car park and some landscaping were developed in the area. In the Béal an Mhuirthead area footpaths were constructed and a new wall was erected alongside the footpath on Bóthar an Chladaigh.

During 2020 many of the scheme participants were active in the community as essential workers, assisting local authorities, development organisations and local committees to provide essential services to vulnerable people in their areas.

### **Language Planning**

The implementation of the language plan continued in the Maigh Eo Thuaidh LPA where emphasis was placed on virtual activities aimed at language awareness, fostering relationships with the local community and promoting the Irish language. Events organised included *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta* and *Maratón na dTeaghlach*, the #SeoÍAnGhaeltacht awareness campaign, the *Maratón na bPáistí* project with Gaeltacht schools and the online campaign aimed at local business people, *Stuif na Nollag*.

A draft language plan for Maigh Eo Thiar LPA has been submitted to the Department for approval. Discussions will take place with the Béal an Mhuirthead community again regarding the appropriate steps to achieve recognition for the town as a GST.

# 215

The Meath Gaeltacht is the only Gaeltacht area which experienced a net increase in employment during 2020. At the end of 2020, there were 215 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht.



## Meath Gaeltacht

The Meath Gaeltacht is the only Gaeltacht area which experienced a net increase in employment during 2020. At the end of 2020, there were 215 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht. When the number of jobs lost is taken into account, there was a net increase of 2% on the previous year in the county. There was stability in companies in the Meath Gaeltacht in sectors in which employment was falling nationally.

### Enterprise Forum for the Meath Gaeltacht

As part of the forum's recommendations, a community assembly was established, chaired by Údarás na Gaeltachta, which met at the beginning of 2020 and set priority actions.

To this end, a dedicated communications mechanism has been put in place within the organisation to facilitate business enquiries for County Meath.

Comharchumann Ráth Chairn, with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta, is making progress in developing its tourism aims so that the tourism opportunities available in the Meath Gaeltacht can be availed of.

### gteic@Ráth Chairn

A site has been identified in Ráth Chairn for the development of a gteic hub and the budget assessment process for the development commenced in late 2020. gteic@Ráth Chairn is expected to open in Autumn 2021.



### **Language Planning**

The implementation of the language plan continued in Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib LPA. The focus was on organising virtual and online events to encourage the use of Irish and to foster relationships with and between members of the public. An example of such activities was the 'An Mhí faoi Bhláth' campaign. The opportunity for gardening, to see plants grow and to create a multi-sensory connection with the Irish language was a heartening development. Vegetable seeds were made available to the public and videos were shared in Irish which gave instructions on how to prepare the ground and plant these seeds. The community, both learners and speakers of Irish, learned and practiced the vocabulary and idioms associated with growing vegetables and working the field.

### **Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme**

A total of €76,870 in funding was provided to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. They provide important local services, co-ordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector.

During the year the community development organisation in County Meath and other community organisations participated in the training workshops provided to them as part of the Gaeltacht Social Enterprise Programme (CFS-G).

# 2,168

114 new jobs were created in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2020. When the number of job losses is taken into account, there was a net decrease in employment of 6.8%, which meant that there were 2,168 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies in the county at the end of the year.



## Donegal Gaeltacht

114 new jobs were created in the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2020. When the number of job losses is taken into account, there was a net decrease in employment of 6.8%, which meant that there were 2,168 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta's client companies in the county at the end of the year. Companies across the Donegal Gaeltacht where jobs were created in 2020 included Earagail Éisc, Randox, Tionscail GPE Teo, Bá Dhún na nGall and Beachóga Dhún na nGall Teoranta. Employment declines during 2020 were mainly in the Tourism and Food and Drink sectors.

### New Projects

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a number of new projects for the Donegal Gaeltacht during 2020 which will create 38 new jobs and an estimated total investment of over €1.63 million when these projects are underway.

### Údarás na Gaeltachta COVID-19 Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support through the COVID-19 support schemes, the Online Trading Scheme and the COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher in the Donegal Gaeltacht as follows:

- €271,163 approved for 112 businesses,
- 71 applications approved under the Online Trading Scheme,
- 41 Business Continuity Vouchers approved.

Most companies to whom support was granted were in the tourism, food and drink and manufacturing sectors.

### Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme

A total of €735,900 in administrative funding was provided to 11 organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. A new community based company has been established in the Fánaid area – Comhar Fhánada and Gleann Bhairr CTR which will go live in 2021.



### **Social Employment Schemes**

There were 284 people employed on social employment schemes in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the end of the year with 130 on the Rural Social Scheme, 10 on Tús Nua, 113 on the Community Employment Scheme and 31 on the TÚS Scheme. The schemes are administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

### **LEADER Programme**

The current LEADER Programme 2016–2020 was completed at the end of the year and a total grant budget of €1.764m was approved which invested in 49 project proposals under the themes: Broadband, Rural Tourism, Services focused on Peripheral Communities, Environment, Enterprise Development and Rural Towns. Discussions are currently ongoing regarding arrangements for interim funding for the 2021 Programme.

### **gteic – Gaeltacht Digital Network**

Despite COVID-19 restrictions gteic@GaathDobhair grew and developed during the year due to the completion and availability of the newly-developed second floor. Up to 300 workspaces will be available in gteic@Gaath Dobhair when lockdown restrictions are eased. Furthermore, gteic@An Tearmann, gteic@Na Dúnaibh, gteic@Cill Charthaigh and gteic@Árainn Mhór are being developed. A further four gteic hubs are expected to open in Donegal in 2021 in Carraig Airt, Baile na Finne, An Clochán Liath and Toraigh.

### **Development of a new Bilateral Policy between Ireland and Scotland**

During 2020, Údarás na Gaeltachta, through the Scottish Government Office in Ireland in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs, was invited to submit proposals for the development of a new Bilateral Policy between Ireland and Scotland. Scottish Government Minister Mike Russell and Scottish Government officials visited Údarás na Gaeltachta in January 2020, where a range of relevant sectors were discussed, including the four that are designated for cooperation in the intergovernmental document currently in preparation. In the Bilateral Policy which has since been published, specific reference is made to Údarás na Gaeltachta as a central party in the links between the two countries, and Údarás na Gaeltachta are to investigate developments with regard to gteic, language planning and rural development in conjunction with the Irish Government, the Scottish Government and the University of Highlands and Islands (Oilthigh na Gáidhealtachd agus nan Eilean).



### **Language Planning**

By the end of 2020, language plans were being implemented in six of the 8 LPAs in Donegal, with a total investment of €650,000. A total of six language planning officers and one assistant officer were employed in the county.

Na Rosann LPA language plan was approved at the beginning of the year and the implementation of language plans in the Tuaisceart Dhún na nGall LPA, the Dún na nGall Theas LPA and Na Rosann LPA commenced during the year. The draft language plan for the Toraigh LPA was submitted to the Department and the plan was approved in December with an allocation of €100,000 and it is hoped to begin implementation of this plan in the first half of 2021. Preparation of language plans continued for the Gaeltacht Láir LPA and An Clochán Liath Gaeltacht Service Town.

Many online events/activities were held which fostered relationships and connections between the Gaeltacht communities, between learners, native speakers and non-Irish speakers and other target groups in the community earmarked by the language plans.

# 611

There were 611 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Kerry Gaeltacht at year end. Employment has been maintained in most other sectors and the loss of employment is therefore considered to be temporary.

Daingean Uí Chúis

Baile an Scailg

## Kerry Gaeltacht

A total of 32 new jobs were created in the Kerry Gaeltacht in 2020 in companies operating in the Services, Information Technology and Manufacturing sectors. The lockdown restrictions during 2020 left their mark on the Tourism sector which saw decreases in employment, mainly in that sector and related sectors, resulting in a 12% drop in employment in the county this year.

There were, therefore, 611 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Kerry Gaeltacht at year end. Employment has been maintained in most other sectors and the loss of employment is therefore considered to be temporary.

In addition to this, a number of projects were approved during the year which will create 20 new jobs with an investment of over €580,000 when the proposed developments are underway.

### Údarás na Gaeltachta COVID-19 Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support through the COVID-19 support schemes, the Online Trading Scheme and the COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher in the Kerry, Cork and Waterford Gaeltacht areas as follows:

- €248,574 approved for 103 businesses,
- 74 applications approved under the Online Trading Scheme,
- 29 Business Continuity Vouchers approved.

The majority of companies for whom support was approved were in the Tourism, Food and Drink and Manufacturing sectors.



### **Seanospidéal an Daingin**

Kerry County Council has recently approved the planning application for the Seanospidéal an Daingin masterplan. The plan was developed with funding from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and Údarás na Gaeltachta. An application has now been made under category 1 of the same fund as well as an application under Fáilte Ireland’s Platforms for Growth funding programme for the next phase of the project.

### **An Teac Damhsa**

The Teach Damhsa in An Ghlaise Bheag has received planning permission to carry out works to the building, which will make the old factory a pleasing and comfortable space. Consultancy work has progressed and the tender process for the refurbishment work has commenced. The roof of this factory was refurbished earlier in 2020.

### **Milseoga Uí Mhurchú Teoranta**

The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta has approved a support package for Milseoga Uí Mhurchú’s ice cream company in Corca Dhuibhne which will help them develop new products and create 15 new jobs over the next 5 years.

### **Drioglann Uisce Beatha Dhaingean Uí Chúis Teo**

The company was at the forefront of producing and distributing hand sanitiser nationally when the pandemic began in March. The company has received a licence this year enabling them to sell their alcohol products online. Public health restrictions hampered their guided tours, which were in high demand. They launched new whiskey products throughout the year and added to the huge number of awards they have accumulated in recent years. The Distillery employs 21 people full time in Baile an Mhuilinn in Daingean Uí Chúis.

### **gteic - The Gaeltacht Digital Network in Kerry**

Three gteic hubs were open and operational in the Kerry Gaeltacht and will provide up to 60 workspaces during 2021 when lockdown restrictions are lifted. Mol Teic/Dingle Hub was established and has been operating in An Cúilín in Daingean Uí Chúis for a number of years with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta. gteic@Corca Dhuibhne in Daingean Uí Chúis Business Park has been completed and opened. gteic@Baile an Sceilig was set up during the year in South Kerry and is being managed by Comhchoiste Ghaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh. gteic@An Dromaid is expected to open in early 2021 in light of arrangements for broadband which are currently being finalised. Planning permission has been applied for to develop a new facility for gteic@Baile an Sceilig.



### **Uíbh Ráthach Interagency Taskforce**

A full-time Research Officer has been appointed to implement the research-based policies in the action plan. Four meetings of the Taskforce were held during the year, the majority of which were online due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The marketing campaigns run by the Taskforce in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta in the summer and at Christmas to attract people and families to live in the area proved a great success. As a result, up to 90 enquiries are being dealt with currently. A new website has been launched and a marketing company has been appointed to implement a marketing plan for the area.

Research was carried out during the year on homes available for rent/sale, workspaces available in the area and mobile phone coverage in the area. Work began on an audit of CCJ (Communities Creating Jobs) in the various communities.

### **Social Employment Schemes**

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

### **Language Planning**

The implementation of the language plans continued as far as possible under COVID-19 restrictions in the two areas located in the Kerry Gaeltacht, namely the Ciarraí Thiar LPA and the Ciarraí Theas LPA. Many online events/activities were held which fostered relationships and connections between Gaeltacht communities, including learners, native speakers and non-Irish speakers. Connections have been forged with communities in the other LPAs across the country. Two Language Planning Officers and one Assistant Language Planning Officer are employed to oversee the implementation of these plans.

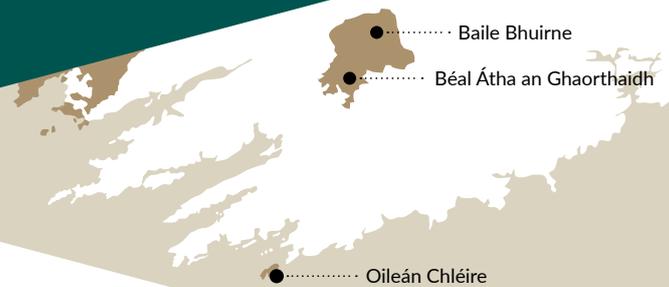
At the end of the summer it was announced that the language plan for Daingean Uí Chúis Gaeltacht Service Town had been approved and that up to €80,000 would be provided under the process to support the implementation of that language plan. Discussions have begun with a voluntary committee, Dúchas an Daingin, regarding the appropriate approach and systems of work that will be involved in implementing the Daingean Uí Chúis GST language plan.

### **Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme**

A total of €338,200 in administrative funding was provided to four organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. They provide important local services, coordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional areas.

# 664

There were 664 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at year end. 23 new jobs were created in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2020. When the number of job losses is taken into account, net employment decreased by 5%.



## Cork Gaeltacht

There were 664 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at year end. 23 new jobs were created in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2020. When the number of job losses is taken into account, net employment decreased by 5%. The decline in employment was mainly in the Tourism sector and in the Food and Drink sector along with small decreases in Engineering and Manufacturing.

### Údarás na Gaeltachta COVID-19 Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support through the COVID-19 support schemes, the Online Trading Scheme and the COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher in the Kerry, Cork and Waterford Gaeltacht areas as follows:

- €248,574 approved for 103 businesses,
- 74 applications approved under the Online Trading Scheme,
- 29 Business Continuity Vouchers approved.

The majority of companies for whom support was approved were in the Tourism, Food and Drink and Manufacturing sectors.

### Coláiste Íosagáin

It is encouraging that work began on the Coláiste Íosagáin site at the end of 2020. After this first phase most of the site works and works outside the building will be completed. Cork County Council has granted planning permission to Údarás na Gaeltachta to develop a Regional Development Hub on the beautiful Coláiste Íosagáin site during 2020 to support enterprise creation. A contractor will be appointed and development work on the buildings will begin in the first half of 2021.



### **gteic – The Gaeltacht Digital Network in Cork**

There is space for 22 workers in gteic@Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh which is managed by Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo. Despite a reduction in space due to public health restrictions, half of the available space was being used on a regular basis. It is intended to develop gteic@Baile Bhuirne, with up to 75 workspaces, in Coláiste Íosagáin and funding has been sought for this development under the REDF scheme. gteic@Cléire is being developed on Údarás na Gaeltachta's Industrial Estate on Cléire. The space will be divided into two parts with 4 dedicated work desks in one section and space that can accommodate up to 10 temporary users in the remaining space.

### **Paxxus**

The Paxxus company in Baile Bhuirne was significantly expanded during 2020. Furthermore, they forged valuable alliances with a company in America in order to serve new markets. They employ 28 people full time in packaging for the medical sector in particular.

### **Social Employment Schemes**

There were 21 people employed on social employment schemes in the Múscraí Gaeltacht at the end of the year. These schemes are managed and administered by Údarás na Gaeltachta and are funded by the Department of Social Protection.

### **Language Planning**

Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo. is responsible for implementing the language plan for the Múscraí Language Planning Area (LPA. Progress was made on the implementation of measures set out in the language plan including the creation of a new brand, Stór Mhúscraí and the launch of various campaigns and competitions, including the 'Stuif na Nollag' initiative aimed at promoting Múscraí Gaeltacht products. Maratón na bPáistí was held in the area in which 290 children from 5 schools in the Múscraí LPA took part.

### **Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme**

A total of €180,320 in administrative funding was provided to two organisations under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. They provide important local services, co-ordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional areas.

# 146

There were 146 full-time jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht at year end. 24 jobs were created in the Waterford Gaeltacht during 2020. When the number of job losses is taken into account, there has been a net decrease of 2% in employment.



## Waterford Gaeltacht

24 jobs were created in the Waterford Gaeltacht during 2020. There was an increase in employment in the Engineering and Language-based Services sectors. When job reductions in the Fish Farming, Tourism and Food sectors are taken into account there has been a net decrease of 2% in employment in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht. The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a number of projects for the Waterford Gaeltacht during 2020 in which 3 new jobs will be created and a total investment of over €420,000 is planned when these projects are underway.

### Údarás na Gaeltachta COVID-19 Supports

Údarás na Gaeltachta approved support through the COVID-19 support schemes, the Online Trading Scheme and the COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher in the Kerry, Cork and Waterford Gaeltacht areas as follows:

- €248,574 approved for 103 businesses,
- 74 applications approved under the Online Trading Scheme,
- 29 Business Continuity Vouchers approved.

The majority of companies for whom support was approved were in the Tourism, Food and Drink and Manufacturing sectors.

### Victory for Students of the Higher Diploma in Television Production

Students of the Higher Diploma in Television and Media Production, run by Nemeton Teo. in conjunction with WIT and Údarás na Gaeltachta, had success in two categories in the national student media competition for the first time in 2020.

In total, eight students from the course received nominations in three categories in the SMEDIAS (Student Media Awards for films with a high standard of imagination and creativity).



### **New research in revitalising rural business communities**

Údarás na Gaeltachta announced co-funding of new research in conjunction with Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), in mid-2020 to look at ways to harness digital technologies to support peripheral and rural businesses in the Gaeltacht with connection and development. As part of the proposed 4 year PhD activity research, the researcher will be embedded in the Waterford Gaeltacht and Waterford Institute of Technology.

### **Language Planning**

Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise Teo. is the Lead Organisation responsible for implementing the language plan for Na Déise LPA. Progress was made on the implementation of some of the measures set out in the language plan. For example, a new youth and family support group has been set up to run and develop events, services and resources through Irish for parents and their children and for young people in the area.

### **Co-operatives and Community-Based Organisations Scheme**

A total of €71,280 in administrative funding was provided to one organisation under the Community Development Programme in 2020 which delivered on agreed community development programmes. They provide important local services, co-ordinate community development activities and provide an advisory service to the voluntary sector in their functional areas.



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