

Údarás na Gaeltachta: 2016 Review

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**Statement issued by Anna Ní Ghallachair, Chairperson and
Steve Ó Cúláin, Chief Executive, Údarás na Gaeltachta**

- **559 jobs created in 2016**
- **Significant targets exceeded in relation to sales, exports and direct expenditure in Ireland**
 - **Over €900m in sales in two consecutive years**
 - **Over €420m in direct expenditure in Ireland**
- **36 new businesses created, with 100 employed in 2016**
- **7,963 jobs in client companies at year end**
- **Approved new projects to create more than 533 jobs, with €38m investment**
- **23 of 26 Language Planning Areas announced**
- **22 Lead Organisations preparing language plans for their respective LPAs**
- **Gaeltacht companies alert to potential Brexit impact**
- **Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara built (€4.9m investment)**

2016 Review

In 2016, a total of 559 new full-time jobs were created in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies. There were 7,963 jobs in Údarás supported companies by year end, 7,348 full-time jobs and 615 part-time jobs. When numbers of full-time jobs losses are taken into consideration, there was a net gain of 80 jobs on the previous year.

Údarás client companies have exceeded a significant economic milestone of over €900m in total sales and have contributed over €420m in direct expenditure to the Irish economy for two consecutive years.

Employment in the Gaeltacht

The Galway and Cork Gaeltachtaí saw the highest net jobs growth in 2016. It is encouraging that the

employment base in Gaeltacht companies has now stabilised and has reached its highest level in 7 years.

Gaeltacht companies are growing more competitive and increasingly focusing on export markets. This year's figures show that the food & drink, services, and medical device sectors reflected the highest net gain in employment levels, although these sectors also suffered some job losses. The traditional manufacturing sector maintained its employment level, although the majority of jobs created in this sector were cancelled out by some significant job losses.

A total of 36 businesses were set up in the Gaeltacht throughout the year and over 100 people were employed in these businesses by year end. Over a quarter of Údarás client companies experienced employment growth during 2016. According to ABSEI¹ research conducted in 2016, profit levels have been increasing steadily since 2008, with an estimated growth of 14.2% in 2015 over the previous year. In addition, during the past year Údarás na Gaeltachta has made a number of strategic investments in new infrastructural facilities which will support existing large employers undertake significant new developments and which will also help attract new projects in the future.

Údarás na Gaeltachta Chief Executive, Steve Ó Cúláin, said, "Our efforts of recent years show significant results and we have surpassed our targets for employment creation with over 500 new jobs created in the Gaeltacht annually. Údarás has shown what can be achieved if appropriate employment and rural policies are implemented and supported by the provision of adequate resources."

The Chief Executive said that the growth in client companies' markets is encouraging, "The success of our strategies is reflected in the fact that our client companies are achieving export growth, with nearly 70% of all sales now being exported. It is noteworthy that Údarás client companies spend over €425 million directly in the Irish economy.

We always welcome new businesses, both large and small. We have made significant capital investment again this year to support major employers in strengthening their position in the Gaeltacht community, and so that Údarás na Gaeltachta can provide business space for new companies. This investment will consolidate the employment base in rural Gaeltacht areas."

Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs, Seán Kyne, T.D., said "I welcome these positive employment figures from Údarás na Gaeltachta. I am delighted to see that the Government's focus on development and employment in regional and rural areas is producing results. Údarás na Gaeltachta

¹ Based on figures from the most recent annual ABSEI (Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact) Report. The ABSEI report was carried during 2016 by The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, on all development agencies.

will have a central role in implementing the Action Plan for Rural Ireland. It is encouraging to see that employment levels in the Gaeltacht are beginning to stabilise and that there is an increase in new businesses with 36 new companies setting up in 2016 and the creation of 100 jobs in these companies by the end of the year. My Department looks forward to continued cooperation with Údarás na Gaeltachta to build on these results in the context of the implementation of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language. It gives particular satisfaction that 559 new full-time jobs were created in Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2016 and that there were 7,963 jobs in Údarás supported companies by year end. That is 7,348 full-time and 615 part-time.”

Further growth in the economic impact of Údarás client companies

Gaeltacht companies have a significant effect on both the Gaeltacht economy and the wider national economy. Údarás client companies generate expenditure of €427 million, which flows directly into the national economy, on payroll, services and raw materials. In 2016, client companies had a payroll of €180 million, with an average salary of €41,000 per employee in companies with 10 or more employees.

Figures from ABSEI research conducted in 2016 show that Údarás client companies had total sales of €926 million in the previous year. Exports grew by 10.6% to €628 million, an export–sales ratio of 68%. It is significant in the context of Brexit that nearly one quarter (24.5%) of Údarás client companies’ exports are to the United Kingdom and are worth €154 million.

Over 530 new jobs approved for the Gaeltacht in 2016

Last year, Údarás na Gaeltachta approved a number of new projects which will create 533 jobs and in which an estimated total of €38 million will be invested as they are developed over the next few years. Most job approvals during 2016 were for projects in Counties Galway and Donegal, although approval numbers for Counties Kerry and Cork were also significant. Companies in the medical device, food, services and niche manufacturing sectors continue to grow and develop.

Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara built and officially opened on €4.9m budget

Údarás na Gaeltachta is proud of its leading role in the advancement and development of this project from day one in cooperation with the community of Ros Muc and the wider Conamara community. Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara is a high-quality tourist centre which is one of eight major projects undertaken as part of the 1916 Centenary Programme and Údarás is delighted to have had a central role in this historic celebration in cooperation with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Office of Public Works, Fáilte Ireland and Galway County Council. This Centre celebrates the Irish language, the cultural wealth of the Gaeltacht, the area’s

heritage and the beautiful landscape of Conamara. The Centre and its newly developed facilities will complement Pearse's Cottage as a national monument and will be an attractive destination for visitors to the Ros Muc area and to the Conamara Gaeltacht long into the future. The project had a €4.9m budget, which included €1m capital investment by An tÚdarás. Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., officially opened the Centre on Pearse's birthday, 10 November 2016.

Social Employment Schemes

Social employment schemes (Community Employment Scheme, Rural Social Scheme & TÚS Scheme), managed by An tÚdarás play an important role in providing work experience and training for the Gaeltacht community. There was a slight decline in numbers, with 976 participants and 51 foremen employed on 47 schemes throughout the Gaeltacht.²In 2016 a total of 330 new participants were placed on these schemes and 370 participants completed their scheme period.

Brexit and US Policies

Údarás na Gaeltachta will continue to participate in a coordinated cross-agency response to international affairs in 2017 in order to assess and prepare for the impact of Brexit and for any other changes in international policies. The United Kingdom is generally the first port of call for any company exporting for the first time. Nearly 25% of our client companies' export sales, valued at €154 million, are to the United Kingdom and 38%, valued at €241m, are to North America. The majority of client company export sales (87%) to North America are in modern manufacturing. Brexit may also have a major impact on the cost of client company raw materials, nearly 60% (€224m) of which are imported from or through the United Kingdom.

Client companies exporting to the United Kingdom depend heavily on this market and any uncertainty could pose difficulties for trade. Some €115 million of client company export sales to the United Kingdom come from the BMW region (Galway, Mayo, Donegal) and €39 million from the Southern and Eastern Region (Kerry, Cork, Waterford, Meath).

It is more important than ever to make strategic and adequate investment in Gaeltacht infrastructure and in the infrastructure of Údarás na Gaeltachta so that potential business opportunities, especially those involving Foreign Direct Investment, which may arise as a result of these geopolitical changes, may be fully exploited for the benefit of the Gaeltacht.

²Údarás na Gaeltachta manages and administers the *Community Employment Scheme*, the *Rural Social Scheme*, *Tús* and *Tús Nua*, funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning Activities

At the start of 2016, some 18 Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas (LPA) were engaged in the language planning process and Lead Organisations were at various stages of preparing language plans. Notices in relation to 5 further LPAs were issued in 2016 – four in July and one in November. Draft language plans for the LPAs of Gaoth Dobhair, Rann na Feirste, Anagaire and Loch an Iúir, and for the LPA of Cois Fharraige were submitted to Údarás by year end.

In late 2014 a list was published of 16 towns which may potentially be recognised as Gaeltacht Service Towns upon Ministerial approval of language plans for these towns. Three towns will be given priority initially: Letterkenny, Galway City and Daingean Uí Chúis. Following a public consultation process, an official notice was issued in relation to the language planning process in these towns during 2016 and early in 2017. A Lead Organisation has been selected to undertake this work in Daingean Uí Chúis and applications have been sought from organisations in Letterkenny and in Galway City who may be interested in being selected as Lead Organisations for the purposes of preparing a language plan. Údarás na Gaeltachta works in close collaboration with Foras na Gaeilge in the implementation of the language planning process in Gaeltacht Service Towns.

Údarás na Gaeltachta provides continuing support to Lead Organisations in the preparation of language plans in LPAs throughout the Gaeltacht by holding national and regional workshops in addition to the development and launch of an online forum to facilitate communication among participants in the language planning process.

Údarás na Gaeltachta Chair, Anna Ní Ghallachair said, “By mid-2017 all the Language Planning Areas, as well as three Gaeltacht Service Towns, will be engaged in language planning at community level. Údarás na Gaeltachta warmly welcomes the recently published Policy on Gaeltacht Education, which, when implemented, will complement and support the language planning work undertaken by the communities. A delay in implementing the Gaeltacht education policy could have negative consequences for the entire process.”

She added, “Both Údarás client companies and An tÚdarás itself have overcome significant challenges in the four years since I took on the role of Chair of the Board. The Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta is encouraged by the positive employment trends in Gaeltacht areas and although there is still much

work to do, I believe that significant progress can continue to be made, provided an tÚdarás receives the resources it needs to carry on its work, which permeates all aspects of life in the Gaeltacht.”

Focus for 2017

The Údarás na Gaeltachta Strategic Plan for 2014–2017 will come to an end this year. Údarás client companies have overcome significant challenges in the last few years, leading to a degree of stability in employment figures in the lifetime of this strategy. Notwithstanding the significant international changes in prospect, there is now an opportunity to build upon the recovery made in the Gaeltacht. It is within this context that a new strategic plan will be developed, which will set out the parameters for the work of Údarás until 2020.

For the coming year, particular efforts will be focused on attracting investment in innovation. Companies involved in innovation tend to establish themselves in areas in which there is a highly-educated and highly-skilled workforce, markets which are readily accessible, support services, including transportation, and in which there is a high standard of telecommunications and physical infrastructure. An tÚdarás believe that there are significant opportunities for innovation in all Gaeltacht areas, provided appropriate resources are available. In 2017, an tÚdarás will continue with our investment programme in the cornerstone of enterprise infrastructure through four innovation units in the regions of Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Kerry, as set out as an objective in the national Action Plan for Jobs. An tÚdarás will continue with its commitment to renewable energy and with the implementation of its energy efficiency strategy.

There will be a focus in 2017 on programmes and research projects which foster innovation and enterprise as a constant component of their development programme. As a basic principle, it is important that both new and established companies, small and large, undertake research & development programmes to ensure the stability and continued viability of their businesses. An tÚdarás will therefore support innovative programmes and initiatives.

In order for the organisation to support our client companies in dealing with the consequences of Brexit, An tÚdarás will continue detailed consultation with, and support for, companies operating, or wishing to operate, in the United Kingdom.

Údarás na Gaeltachta has set itself as an objective to significantly increase the number of small indigenous companies it supports by supplying space and by providing professional seminars for prospective entrepreneurs/owners, ensuring that the facilities and financial or service supports are available to them to develop and implement their business plans.

The development of natural resources and enterprise relating to natural resources is central to the organisation's strategy. Planning work on the Páirc Nuálaíochta Mara (Marine Innovation Park) in Cill Chiaráin, Conamara will begin in 2017. Both research and commercial activities will be conducted in this facility.

Language Planning

The language planning process in the Gaeltacht has now reached a critical juncture. A draft of two language plans in two Language Planning Areas (Gaoth Dobhair, Ranna na Feirste, Anagaire and Loch an Iúir LPA and Cois Fharráige LPA) have been submitted to Údarás na Gaeltachta and we hope to submit them to the Minister in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for approval in the coming weeks. We would like to congratulate both Lead Organisations for undertaking this complex work and bringing it to the next important stage. We applaud the effort, time and commitment of members of the Lead Organisations and subcommittees in preparing these plans.

It is hoped that 11 more language plans will be ready for submission to the Department by the end of this year. An announcement regarding the three remaining LPAs in the Galway Gaeltacht area will be made in the coming months.

The Gaeltacht community, who are working voluntarily to ensure a future for the Irish language, should be commended for their commitment and dedication. We will work with the Department in the coming year to agree on a budget for this important work.

REVIEW BY GAELTACHT REGION

Donegal Gaeltacht

135 new jobs were created in the Donegal Gaeltacht in 2016. When job losses are taken into consideration, there was a significant net gain of 23 jobs overall, which means that there were 2,090 jobs in An tÚdarás client companies at the end of the year – the highest number of jobs since 2010. New jobs were created in companies throughout the Donegal Gaeltacht including Arán Ard Teo., Ard an Rátha; Radox Teo. and Ostre'an Teo., An Clochán Liath; Kombucha Éireannach Teo., Sláinteachas & Lónadóireacht Dhún na nGall and Meastóirí Domhanda Teo., in Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair; and Cora Tine Teo., An Fál Carrach. As is evident here, the food & drink, medical devices and marine sectors experienced the greatest growth in 2016 and the largest declines were in the services, textiles and manufacturing sectors.

New Projects

An tÚdarás last year approved a number of new projects for the Donegal Gaeltacht in which 198 new jobs will be created, involving an anticipated total investment of over €6.23 million when these projects get underway. The majority of job approvals were in the food, marine and services sectors. Additionally, capital investment of €4.3 million was approved during the year for various works at Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair to continue the property redevelopment and upgrade programme, the development of storage and logistics facilities, and to carry out required health and safety works on buildings and on the Páirc Ghnó itself.

Some 16 new businesses were set up in the Donegal Gaeltacht with Údarás support in 2016 and thirty-two people were employed in these businesses by year end, including Plaisteach Bhaile na Finne Teo. in Baile na Finne, Bia Beo Natasha Teo., Kombucha Éireannach Teo. in Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair and Drioglann Shliabh Liag, to which An Bord Pleanála recently granted planning permission for a new distillery.

Enterprise Development Forum Action Plan

In 2015, an tÚdarás published the action plan, *Ag Forbairt na Fiontraíochta ar Pháirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair*, which focused on growing employment and enterprise in north-west Donegal. The plan had as its stated objective to support the creation of 300 new jobs and to invest €4.7 million in Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair over a three-year period (2015–2017).

For the past year and a half, An tÚdarás have focused particular efforts on this area and as a result:

- An investment of €3.2 million has been made in capital expenditure for the space and buildings in the Páirc Ghnó.
- Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair – a total of 8 new high-quality offices and enterprise units have been developed in the Áislann. An tÚdarás have made significant expenditure on buildings, and further developments are planned. A digital unit will be developed within the Áislann focusing on smaller technology projects. A significant upgrade was recently made to the building's broadband infrastructure. This means that work has now been concluded on the first floor following completion of the Capital Expenditure Programme.
- Approval was granted and funding made available to fill the post of Manager of Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair. The post was advertised in late 2016 and the successful candidate will take up the appointment in early 2017.
- 188 full-time jobs were approved for Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair in 2016. Some 52 of these jobs have been created and are now operating in the Páirc Ghnó.

LEADER Programme

The LEADER Programme in Donegal has now begun and it is a signal of hope that €3 million will be allocated to this programme for the Donegal Gaeltacht, including the islands. Údarás na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán (on the islands) will be administering the LEADER Programme in the Gaeltacht for the next 5-year period.

Social Employment Schemes

A total of 316 were employed on the social employment schemes in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the end of the year. These are being managed and administered by An tÚdarás and funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning

During 2016, six Lead Organisations were at various stages in their preparation of language plans for their Language Planning Areas (LPAs) in the Donegal Gaeltacht. Announcements were made during the year in relation to the LPAs for Na Rosa and An Ghaeltacht Láir. Forbairt na Rosann Teo., An Machaire le Chéile Teo. and CDP Na Rosann Teo. were selected as one Lead Organisation to undertake a language plan for the Na Rosa LPA. Submissions are being sought at the moment from organisations/local groups who would be willing to prepare a language plan for the An Ghaeltacht Láir LPA. This means that the language planning process has now begun in each LPA in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

The work in hand in relation to language planning continued in other LPAs and a draft language plan for the Gaoth Dobhair, Rann na Feirste, Anagaire and Loch an Iúir LPA was submitted to Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2016. That plan will be submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs by the end of January. It is hoped that three language plans (Donegal East LPA, Cloich Chionnaola LPA (Gort an Choirce, An Fál Carrach and Machaire Rabhartaigh) and Árainn Mhór LPA will be ready for submission to the Department by the end of 2017.

Information meetings were organised in Letterkenny in association with Foras na Gaeilge last summer to provide the public with information in relation to language planning in the town under the Gaeltacht Act 2012. The town was officially designated a Gaeltacht Service Town in November and submissions are being sought from organisations who would be willing to undertake the preparation of a language plan for Letterkenny as a Gaeltacht Service Town.

It is hoped an announcement will be made in relation to An Clochán Liath as a Gaeltacht Service Town during 2017.

Mayo Gaeltacht

A total of 31 new jobs were created in the Mayo Gaeltacht in 2016. There were 640 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of the year, a net loss of 25 jobs on the

previous year. Despite a reduction of 56 jobs in the Mayo Gaeltacht during the year, analysis of the figures shows that of these, 30 were transferred to employment on other sites outside the Gaeltacht due to the trading circumstances of one company.

Two new companies engaged in local services were established in the Mayo Gaeltacht during the year with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta and two employees were employed in these companies at year end. New jobs were created in a number of companies such as Seirbhísí Cúram Chill Chomáin Teo., Gleann na Muaidhe; Cow Comforts Ltd. and BÁCÚS UÍ DHONNCHADHA Teo. in Béal an Mhuirthead, Idoman Teo. in Tuar Mhic Éadaigh; Bioshell Teo. in Port Durlainne; Táirgí Acla Teoranta and Salann Mara Acla Teo. in Bun an Churraigh. Jobs were lost during the year in a number of companies, including Crann Iorrais Teo and Selc Éireann Teo.

During 2016, the Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta approved new projects in which up to 33 jobs will come on stream in the Mayo Gaeltacht in the future, in established companies and in companies currently being set up. These projects have a projected total investment of €2.08 million once operational.

Support was approved for Idoman Teo. in Coill an tSiáin in 2016 to undertake research & development in its manufacturing business. It is expected, through support of this kind, that development and competition between companies will be encouraged through adding to their research, development and technical innovation activities. It is also expected that this kind of support will increase the number of national and international research affiliations between companies.

Social Employment Schemes

A total of 237 people were employed by the social employment schemes in the Mayo Gaeltacht at the end of the year. These schemes are managed and administered by An tÚdarás and are funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning

In 2016 two Lead Organisations were at various stages in their preparation of language plans for their Language Planning Areas (LPAs) in the Mayo Gaeltacht (Dúiche Sheoigheach, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh and North Mayo LPA). At the beginning of the year, Gaeilge Iorras, which is under the auspices of

Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile Eachléim Teo., was chosen to prepare a language plan for North Mayo LPA. An announcement regarding West Mayo LPA was made during the year and Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla Teo. was selected to prepare a language plan for that LPT. As a result, the language planning process has now begun in each LPA in the Mayo Gaeltacht.

It is hoped an announcement will be made designating Béal an Mhuirthead a Gaeltacht Service Town during 2017.

Galway Gaeltacht

The Galway Gaeltacht saw the highest level of jobs created in Údarás client companies in 2016.

Nearly 3,000 are now employed full-time in client companies in County Galway – the highest figure since 2000.

A total of 252 new jobs were created in the Galway Gaeltacht in 2016. When the number of job losses are taken into consideration, there was a net gain of 62 jobs on the previous year. There were 2,932 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of the year.

New jobs were created throughout the year, primarily in companies functioning in the medical device, niche manufacturing, film, services and marine sectors, including Mylan Teo., Proxy Biomedical, Cambus Teo., Telegaél Teo., Meangadh Fíbin Teo. and Breizon Teo. Companies operating in the services, television and manufacturing industries experienced job losses.

New Projects

A total of 12 new businesses were established during the year throughout the Galway Gaeltacht, including Struchtúr Fad Saoil Teo., which is located in An Cheathrú Rua, Scannán Beochan Teo. in Baile na hAbhann, ProAir Teo. and Caiseal Geal Teo. in An Caisleán Gearr (Castlegar). There were 70 people employed in these new businesses at the end of the year.

A number of projects were approved throughout the year in which more than 192 jobs will be created and in which €16.2 million will be invested when the proposed developments are operational. The main proposed developments will be in medical products, food and manufacturing.

In 2016, renovated office space was provided to Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo. in An Cheathrú Rua along with space for Naíonra Leitir Móir, Naíonra Ros Muc and Naíonra Dhúiche Sheoigheach in

their respective areas thanks to an investment of €185,000 in facilities for language-based initiatives for young people. Further space was provided in Eastát Tionsclaíochta Chasla for Mylan Teo. and in Eastát Bhaile an tSléibhe for Proxy Biomedical in 2016 as a result of investment from 2015.

To consolidate and develop the medical device employment sector in the Conamara Gaeltacht, a capital investment of €1.29m was approved for Proxy Biomedical Teo. for increased space in An Coilleach, An Spidéal and in December 2016 capital investment of €2.5m was approved for the refurbishment of an Údarás factory in Eastát Tionsclaíochta na Coille Rua to provide additional space for Mylan Teo.

Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara, built and officially opened on €4.9m budget

Údarás na Gaeltachta is proud of its leading role in the advancement and development of this project from day one, in cooperation with the community of Ros Muc and the wider Conamara community. Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara is a high-quality tourist centre which is one of eight major projects undertaken as part of the 1916 Centenary Programme and Údarás is delighted to have had a central role in this historic celebration in cooperation with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Office of Public Works, Fáilte Ireland and Galway County Council. This Centre celebrates the Irish language, the cultural wealth of the Gaeltacht, the area's heritage and the beautiful landscape of Conamara. The Centre and its newly developed facilities will complement Pearse's Cottage as a national monument and will be an attractive destination for visitors to the Ros Muc area and to the Conamara Gaeltacht long into the future. The project had a €4.9m budget, which included €1m capital investment by An tÚdarás. Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., officially opened the Centre on Pearse's birthday, 10 November 2016.

Social Employment Schemes

A total of 353 were employed on social employment schemes in the Galway Gaeltacht at the end of the year. These schemes are managed and administered by An tÚdarás and are funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Aquaculture

Bradán Beo Teo. was established in 2012 to provide a strong base for the salmon farming industry in Cill Chiaráin Bay and to boost employment in the area. Bradán Beo Teo. has developed in recent years and this has been achieved in a sustainable manner while complying with environmental best practice. The company is doing well and have surpassed the annual targets every year since 2013. Organic Salmon production has increased by 63% in Cill Chiaráin Bay in the last three years. Bradán

Beo Teo. directly employs 23 people on their marine sites. The company has a significant effect on the employment in other companies in the area like Cill Chiaráin Éisc Teo, ISPG and service providers also.

Language Planning

In 2016 six Lead Organisations were at various stages in their preparation of language plans for their Language Planning Areas (LPAs) in the Galway Gaeltacht. Maigh Cuilinn LPA was announced in the course of 2016. Forbairt Pobail Mhaigh Cuilinn Teo. was selected to prepare the language plan for the Maigh Cuilinn LPA. This means that the language planning process has begun in seven of the ten LPAs in the Galway Gaeltacht area. There will be a focus on commencing the language planning process in the three remaining LPAs which are adjacent to Galway City in 2017.

The work in hand in relation to language planning continued in other LPAs and a draft language plan for the Cois Fharráige LPA was submitted to Údarás na Gaeltachta at the end of 2017. It is hoped the language plan will be submitted to the Department early in the New Year.

It is hoped that four language plans (An Cheathrú Rua LPA, Dúiche Sheoigheach and Tuar Mhic Éadaigh LPA, Ceantar na nOileán LPA and Conamara Láir LPA) will be ready for submission to the Department by the end of 2017.

Information meetings were organised in Galway City in association with Foras na Gaeilge last year to provide the public with information in relation to language planning in the city under the Gaeltacht Act 2012. An official announcement designating Galway City as a potential Gaeltacht Service Town was made at the beginning of this month and submissions are currently being sought from organisations who would be willing to undertake the preparation of a language plan for the Galway City Gaeltacht Service Town.

Meath Gaeltacht

There were 211 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Meath Gaeltacht at the end of the year. One new job was created in a client company of An tÚdarás in the Meath Gaeltacht in 2016. There was a net loss of 28 jobs in the Meath Gaeltacht, most of which resulted from the closure of Clearplas in Baile Ghib.

Apart from the collapse of Clearplas, employment was reasonably stable in client companies. Faughan Foods Ltd. is the largest employer in the area with nearly 100 employees. One new project was approved during the year in which over three new jobs will be created and in which €141,000 will be invested when the proposed developments are completed.

Language Planning

In March of last year, Comharchumann Ráth Chairn Teo. began work on preparing a language plan for the Ráth Chairn and Baile Ghib Language Planning Area (LPA). It is hoped that the language plan will be ready for submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the first quarter of 2018.

Kerry Gaeltacht

A total of 65 new jobs were created in the Kerry Gaeltacht in 2016. These jobs were created in companies operating mainly in the food and drink, services and crafts sectors. A number of small companies closed during the year and with smaller scale losses in the manufacturing sector, there was a total net growth of six jobs during 2016. There were 671 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Kerry Gaeltacht at the end of the year.

It is a positive sign that a number of projects were approved throughout the year in which over 50 jobs will be created and in which €2.4 million will be invested when the proposed developments are operational. The projects will mostly be based in the fields of manufacturing, food & drink and crafts.

Strategic Projects

An tÚdarás had a central role in the planning and consultation process of various development plans in County Kerry during 2016, including the Tourism Strategy and the Action Plan for County Kerry 2016–2022. An tÚdarás funded the Leith Triúigh Development Plan 2016–2020: ‘Mount Brandon Base Camp’ and is recognized as the lead development organisation for a number of the plan’s components. The 2016–2020 Sceilig Coastal Development Plan has been agreed between State organisations and is ready to be implemented.

Social Employment Schemes

A total of 90 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 are funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning

Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne Teo is the Lead Organisation preparing a language plan for the West Kerry LPA and Comhchoiste Ghaeltachtaí Chiarraí Theas Teo. is the Lead Organisation preparing a plan for the East Kerry LPA. The language plan preparation was extended in 2016 agus it is hoped it will be ready for submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the middle of this year.

The first official announcement seeking a language plan for the Gaeltacht Service Town (GST) was made in October under the Gaeltacht Act 2012, and Daingean Uí Chúis was designated a Gaeltacht Service Town. An Lab Teo. was chosen to prepare the plan for the Daingean Uí Chúis GST and the organisation will have two years to prepare the plan in conjunction with the public.

Cork Gaeltacht

A total of 73 new jobs were created in the Cork Gaeltacht in 2016 and, due to the stability of these jobs, this Gaeltacht area saw the lowest number of job losses this year. When the number of job losses is taken into consideration, there was a total net gain of 61 jobs. There were 675 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Cork Gaeltacht at the end of the year – the highest employment level since 2008.

There was growth in employment throughout the Múscraí Gaeltacht, in companies in the food and niche manufacturing sectors. There was a growth in employment in Baile Bhuirne, in Cill na Martra, in Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh and in Baile Mhic Íre. Folláin Teo. continued to enjoy significant growth in employment.

Another company in which there was employment growth is Táirgí Cáise Buabhall Mhaigh Chromtha in Cill na Martra. The Údarás-supported company saw its efforts rewarded with a Gold Medal at the World Cheese Awards in November 2016.

Indeed Údarás client companies in the food and drink sector in the Múscraí Gaeltacht and in all of the southern Gaeltacht had successes marked by 16 Blas na hÉireann Irish Food Awards in 2016. An

tÚdarás are proud to be able to provide support to companies in rural areas producing products to an international standard.

New Projects

Two new businesses started in the area and there were 15 employees in these companies at the end of the year. One such company is Smart Traveller Concierge which is located in Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh and which is going from strength to strength.

A number of projects were approved throughout the year in which more than 55 jobs will be created and in which €6.2 million will be invested when the proposed developments are operational. The principal proposed developments will be in the fields of food, manufacturing and services.

Support was provided to Folláin Teo. during 2016 to undertake research and development on its product range and its business manufacturing.

Social Employment Schemes

A total of 22 people were employed on social employment schemes in the Múscraí Gaeltacht in Cork at the end of the year. These schemes are managed and administered by An tÚdarás and are funded by the Department of Social Protection.

Language Planning

Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí Teo is preparing the language plan for the Múscraí Language Planning Area (LPA) and it is hoped that this plan will be ready for submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the middle of this year.

An announcement regarding Cléire LPA was made during the year. Comharchumann Chléire Teo was selected to undertake the preparation of a language plan for that LPA. This means that the language planning process has now begun in each LPA in the Cork Gaeltacht.

Waterford Gaeltacht

Two new jobs were created in the Waterford Gaeltacht during the year. However, when the number of jobs lost is taken into consideration, there was a net loss of 19 jobs. There were 129 full-time jobs in Údarás client companies in the Waterford Gaeltacht at the end of the year. Most job losses were in the film and marine sectors.

Nemeton Teo. has achieved phenomenal growth in terms of employment, profile and reputation since the company was established in 1993 and 2016 was no exception. This television production company managed to bring home two national awards during the year – Established Sport Business (Sport Industry Awards) and Gradam Gnó as Gaeilge in the All-Ireland Marketing Awards. These awards are a testament to the company’s status and the excellence of the sports product they provide to broadcasters in both Ireland and England. Nemeton broadcast over 400 hours of live sport during 2016 and the company is assisting in the training of the next generation of television crews with the Higher Diploma in Television Production being run in An Rinn by Waterford Institute of Technology in association with Nemeton Teo. and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Language Planning

Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise Teo is the Lead Organisation preparing a language plan for the Na Déise LPA. The preparatory period for this plan was extended during the year and it is hoped the language plan for the LPA will be submitted to the Minister in the middle of this year.

Ends

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