

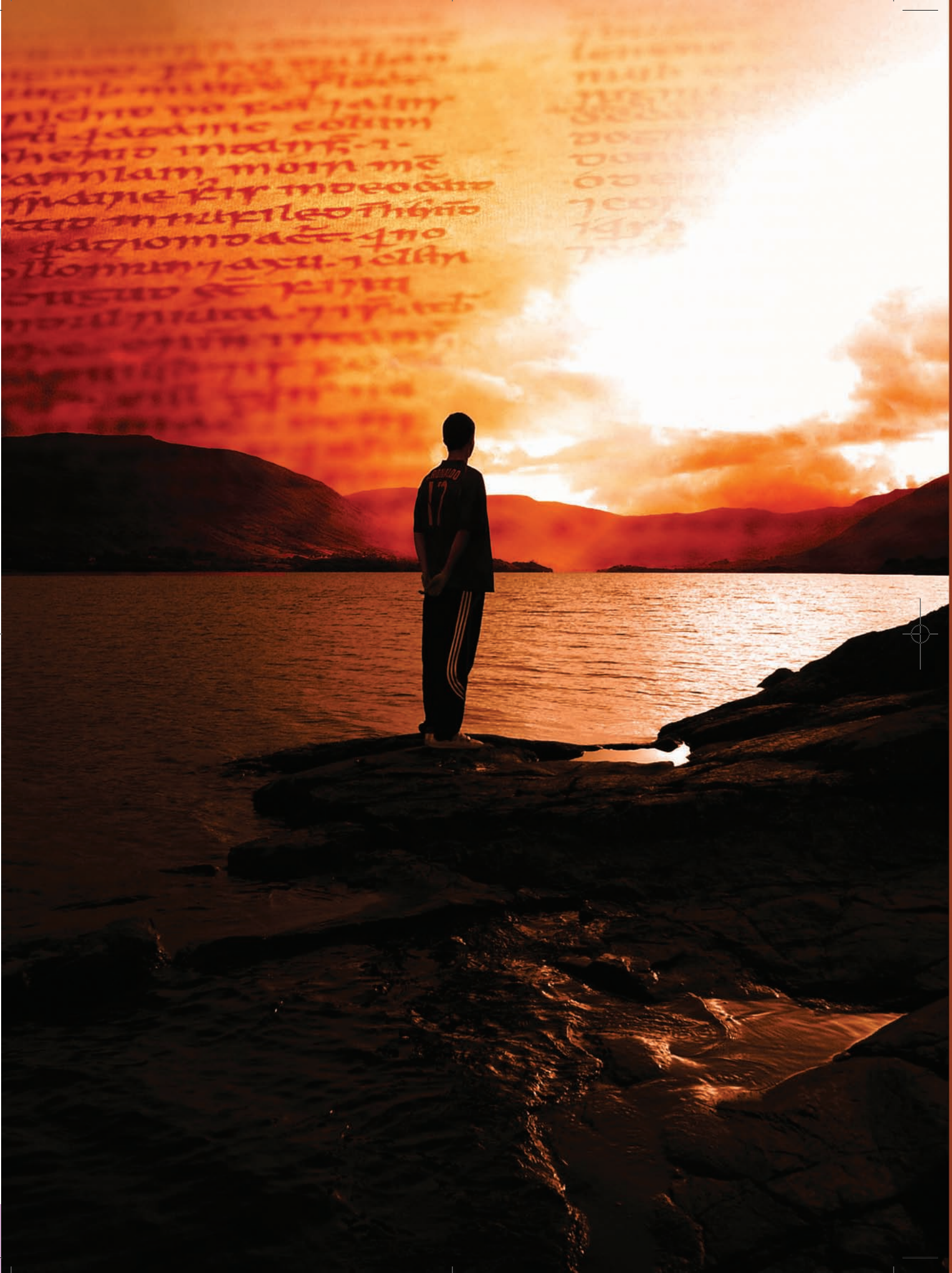


RIALTAS na hÉIREANN  
GOVERNMENT of IRELAND



RÁITEAS I LEITH  
NA GAEILGE 2006

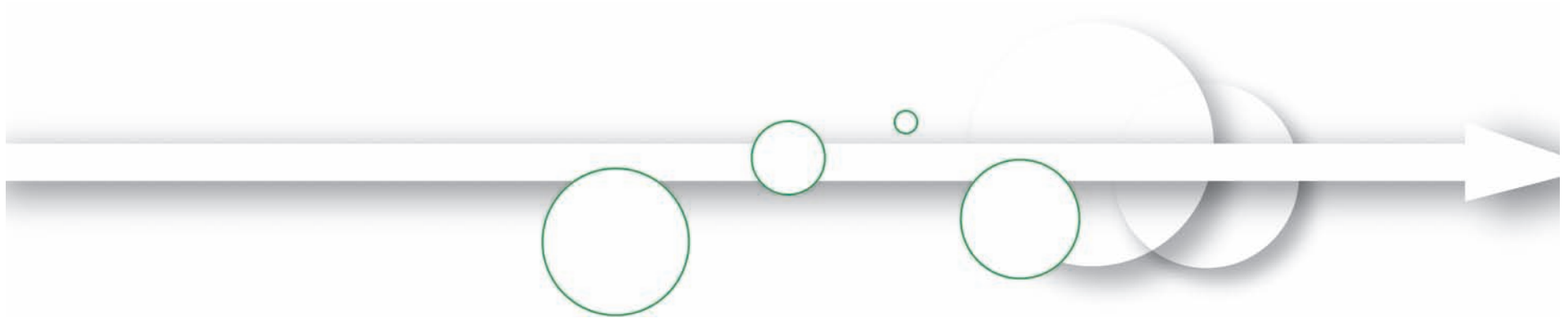
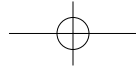
STATEMENT ON THE  
IRISH LANGUAGE 2006





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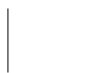
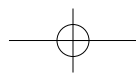
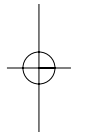
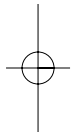
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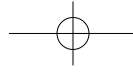


# PREAMBLE

The Government affirms its support for the development and preservation of the Irish language and the Gaeltacht by this statement. The Government believes that the Irish language is of particular importance for the people, society and culture of Ireland. As a spoken community language, Irish is unique to this country and is, therefore, of crucial importance to the identity of the Irish people and to world heritage.

This statement of policy will form the basis on which a series of actions to benefit the Irish language and the Gaeltacht will be developed. A twenty-year strategy for the Irish language will be developed based on the objectives set out in this document.



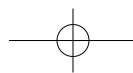
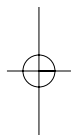
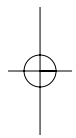


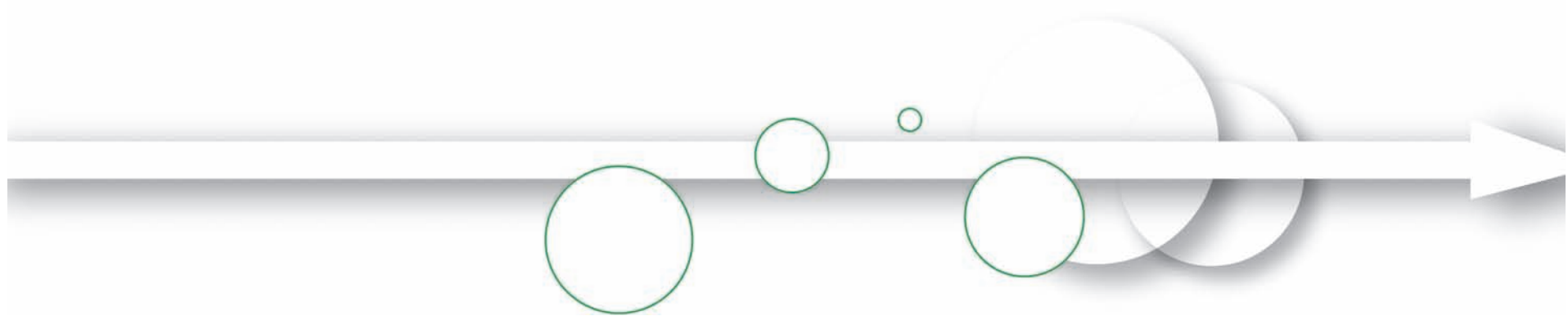
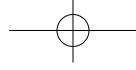
RÁITEAS AN RIALTAIS I LEITH  
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# RÉAMHRÁ

Dearbhaíonn an Rialtas a thacaíocht d'fhorbairt agus do chaomhnú na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta tríd an ráiteas seo. Creideann an Rialtas go bhfuil tábhacht ar leith ag baint leis an nGaeilge do phobal, do shochaí agus do chultúr na hÉireann. Baineann an Ghaeilge leis an tír seo amháin mar theanga labhartha pobail agus tá buntábhacht ag baint léi mar sin d'fhéiniúlacht phobal na hÉireann agus d'oidhreacht dhomhanda.

Úsáidfear an ráiteas polasaí seo mar bhunchloch do shraith ghníomhaíochtaí chun leasa na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta. Cuirfear straitéis fiche bliain don Ghaeilge le chéile bunaithe ar na cuspóirí atá leagtha amach sa cháipéis seo.





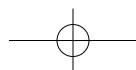
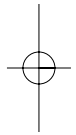
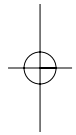
## VISION

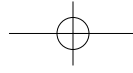
The last hundred years has seen a flowering of literature and other art forms through the medium of Irish, such that Irish is now a fully fledged modern European language.

The objective of Government policy in relation to Irish is to increase on an incremental basis the use and knowledge of Irish as a community language.

Specifically, the Government aim is to ensure that as many citizens as possible are **bilingual** in both Irish and English.

The aim of Government policy is also to strengthen the Gaeltacht as an Irish-speaking community and to increase the number of families living within the state who use Irish as the daily language of communication.

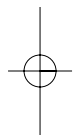




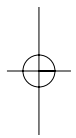
RÁITEAS AN RIALTAIS I LEITH  
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# FÍS

Tá bláthú tagtha ar litríocht agus ar chineálacha eile ealaíon trí mheán na Gaeilge le céad bliain anuas, sa chaoi is gur teanga iomlán nua-aimseartha Eorpach í an Ghaeilge anois.

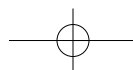


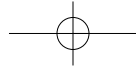
Is í aidhm pholasaí an Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge ná úsáid agus eolas ar an nGaeilge a mhéadú mar theanga phobail ar bhonn céimiúil.



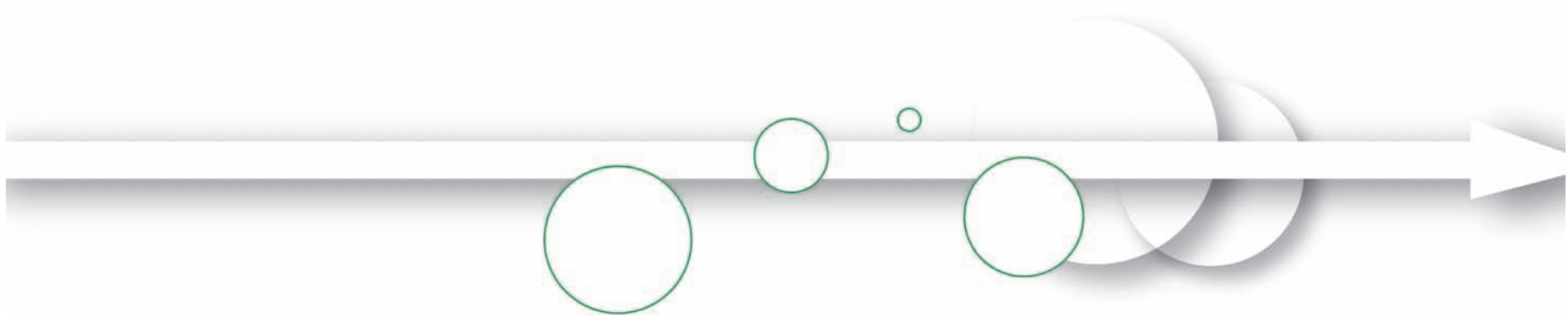
Is aidhm ar leith de chuid an Rialtais í a chinntiú go bhfuil an oiread saoránach agus is féidir **dátheangach** i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.

Is í aidhm pholasaí an Rialtais freisin an Ghaeltacht a neartú mar phobal labhartha Gaeilge agus chomh maith leis sin, líon na dteaghlach, atá ina gcónaí laistigh den Stát a bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar theanga laethúil chumarsáide acu, a mhéadú.

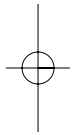




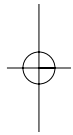
## FÍS VISION



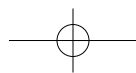
The Government also aims to ensure that in public discourse and in public services the use of Irish or English will be, as far as practical, a choice for the citizen to make and that over time more and more people throughout the State will choose to do their business in Irish.

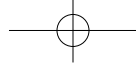


It is the aim of the Government to ensure that Irish becomes more visible in our society, both as a spoken language by our citizens and also in signage, literature etc.



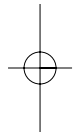
The Government also recognises the tremendous advantage to its citizens of fluency in English, the most widely used language in international affairs. The Government commits to ensuring that this advantage is retained through the development of a bilingual society, where as many people as possible can use Irish and English with equal ease and facility.



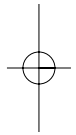


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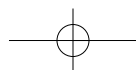
Is mian de chuid an Rialtais í freisin a chinntiú go mbeidh úsáid na Gaeilge nó an Bhéarla mar rogha ag an saoránach, chomh fada agus is féidir, i ndioscúrsa poiblí agus i seirbhísí poiblí agus de réir a chéile go ndéanfaidh níos mó daoine ar fud an Stáit cinneadh a ngnó a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge.

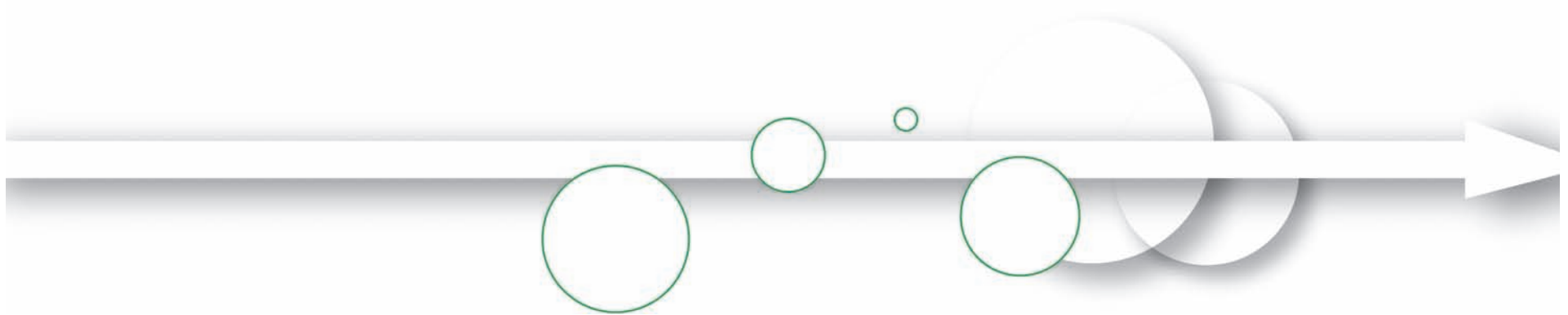
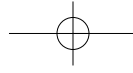


Is í aidhm an Rialtais a chinntiú go mbeidh an Ghaeilge níos infheicthe sa sochaí againn, mar theanga labhartha ag ár gcuid saoránach maraon le bheith le feiceáil ar chomharthaí, i litríocht srl.



Aithníonn an Rialtas an buntáiste mór freisin dá gcuid saoránach líofacht Béarla a bheith acu, an teanga is mó úsáide i ngnóthaí idirnáisiúnta. Geallann an Rialtas go gcinnteoidh siad go gcoinneofar an buntáiste seo trí shochaí dhátheangach a fhorbairt ina mbeidh an oiread daoine agus is féidir in ann Gaeilge agus Béarla a úsáid chomh héasca lena chéile.

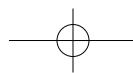
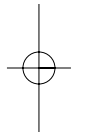
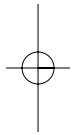


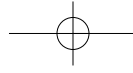


# CONTEXT

The modern-day context of the Irish language is as follows:

1. Ireland is a bilingual State in which Irish is the first official language according to Article 8 of the Constitution of Ireland.
2. In the context of our European heritage, Irish is the oldest spoken literary language in Europe.
3. According to the 2002 Census of Population, 43% of the population of Ireland have the ability to speak Irish.
4. Irish is the main community and household language of 3% of the country's population, residing mostly in the Gaeltacht.
5. According to surveys and opinion polls, most of the population believes that Irish is of particular importance for themselves personally and/or for the country as a whole.
6. Irish has official and working language status at EU level with effect from 1 January 2007.



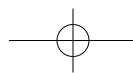
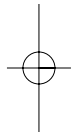
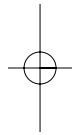


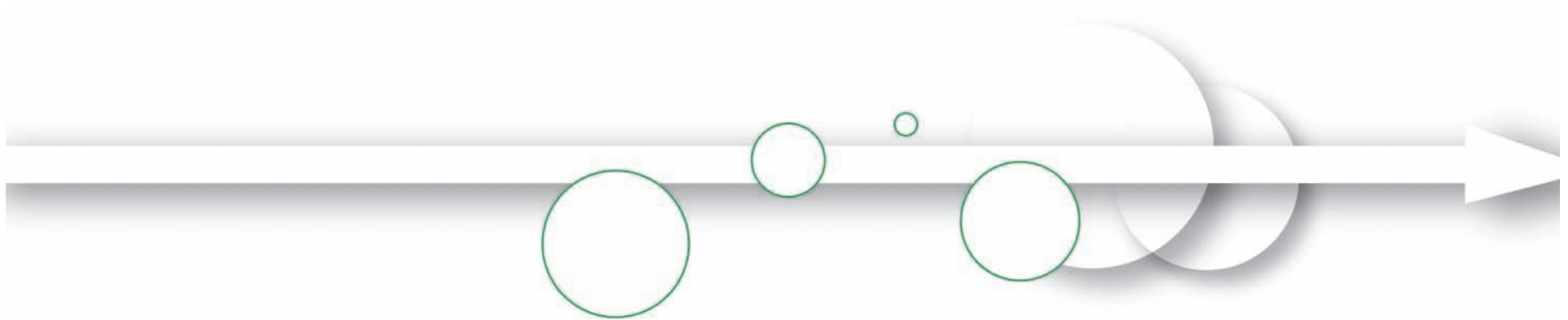
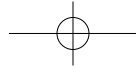
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# COMHTHÉACS

Seo a leanas comhthéacs nua-  
aimseartha na Gaeilge:

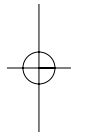
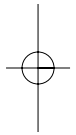
1. Is Stát dátheangach í Éire arb í an Ghaeilge an chéad teanga oifigiúil í de réir Ailt 8 de Bhunreacht na hÉireann.
2. Is í an Ghaeilge an teanga labhartha liteartha is ársa san Eoraip i gcomhthéacs ár n-oidhreacht Eorpaí.
3. Tá sé ar chumas 43% de phobal na hÉireann Gaeilge a labhairt de réir Dhaonáireamh 2002.
4. Úsáideann 3% de dhaonra na tíre, a bhfuil cónaí ar a bhformhór sa Ghaeltacht, an Ghaeilge mar phríomhtheanga chumarsáide agus teaghlaigh.
5. Creideann formhór an phobail go bhfuil tábhacht ar leith leis an nGaeilge dóibh féin go pearsanta agus/nó don tír i gcoitinne de réir suirbhéanna agus pobalbhreitheanna.
6. Tá stádas ag an nGaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil agus mar theanga oibre ag leibhéal AE le héifeacht ón 1 Eanáir 2007.



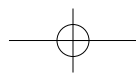


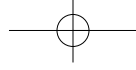
## OBJECTIVES

A series of policies and actions will be prepared based on the following set of basic principles, to add to the existing support system for Irish:



The special status given to the Irish language in the Constitution and in legislation such as the Official Languages Act 2003, the Education Act 1998, the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Broadcasting Act 2001, will be upheld.



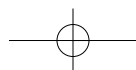
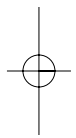
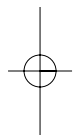
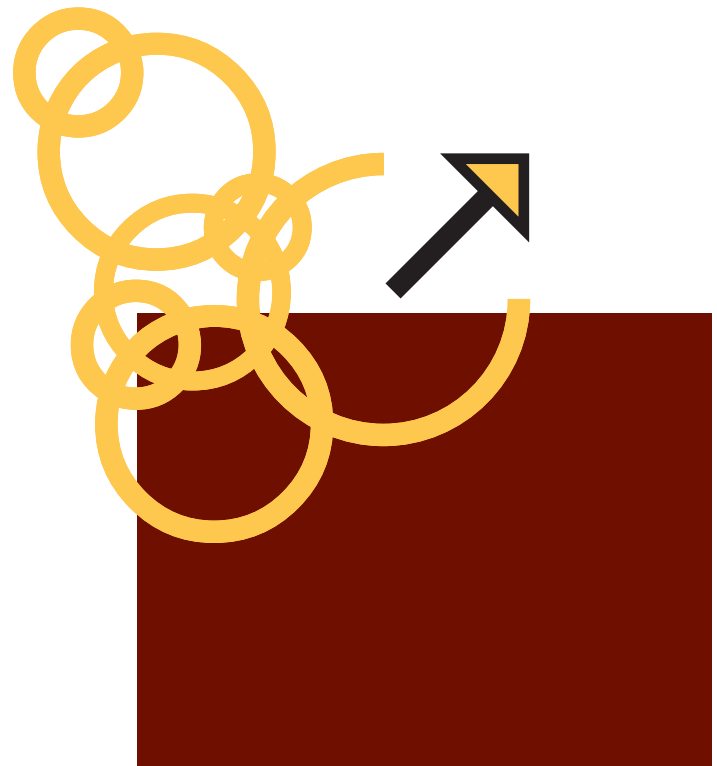


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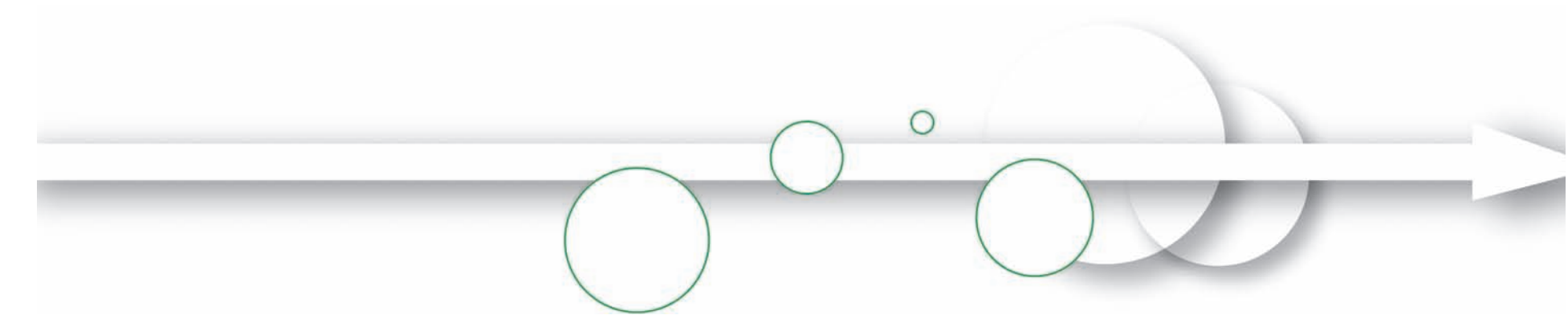
## CUSPÓIRÍ

Réiteofar sraith polasaithe agus gníomhaíochtaí bunaithe ar na bunphrionsabail seo, le cur leis an gcóras tacaíochta atá ann cheana féin don Ghaeilge:

Seasfar leis an stádas faoi leith atá ag an nGaeilge sa Bhunrecht agus i ndlíthe na tíre ar nós Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, An tAcht Oideachais 1998, An tAcht um Phleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 agus An tAcht um Chraolacháin 2001.



## Cuspóirí Objectives



2.

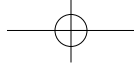
The Official Languages Act will be fully implemented. The right of the public to use Irish in dealings with the State and with other bodies will be developed and the appropriate arrangements to deliver this will be put in place.

3.

The Irish language community inside and outside the Gaeltacht will be given encouragement and support to transmit Irish to the next generation as a living household language. Towards this end, a wide range of services in Irish will be provided.

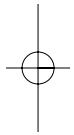
4.

The Gaeltacht will be given special support as an Irish-speaking area.



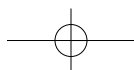
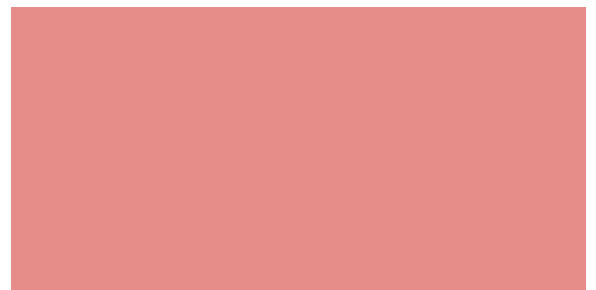
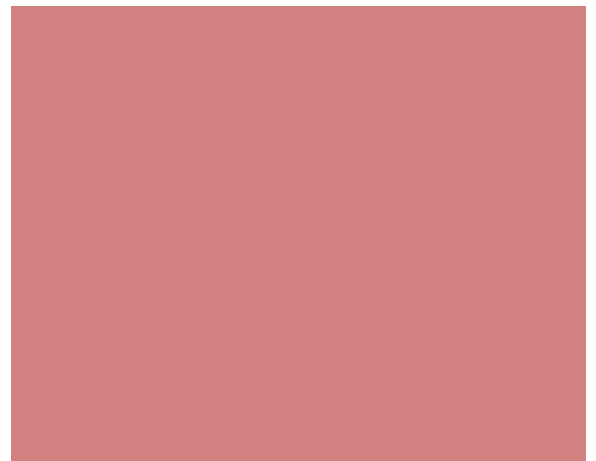
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Cuirfear Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i bhfeidhm go hiomlán. Forbrófar cearta an phobail an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus iad ag plé leis an Stát agus le dreamanna eile agus déanfar socruithe cuí chun é seo a chur i bhfeidhm.



Tabharfar spreagadh agus tacaíocht do phobal na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht agus lasmuigh de, an Ghaeilge a thabhairt don chéad ghlúin eile mar theanga teaghlaigh. Chuige sin, cuirfear réimse leathan seirbhísí ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Tabharfar tacaíocht ar leith don Ghaeltacht mar cheantar labhartha Gaeilge.



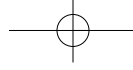
## Cuspóirí Objectives



Irish will be taught as an obligatory subject from primary to Leaving Certificate level. The curriculum will foster oral and written competence in Irish among students and an understanding of its value to us as a people. This will be supported by enhanced investment in professional development and ongoing support for teachers, as well as in provision of textbooks and resources, and in support for innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

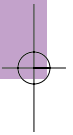
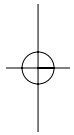


A high standard of all-Irish education will be provided to school students whose parents/guardians so wish. Gaelscoileanna will continue to be supported at primary level and all-Irish provision at post-primary level will be developed to meet follow-on demand.

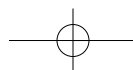
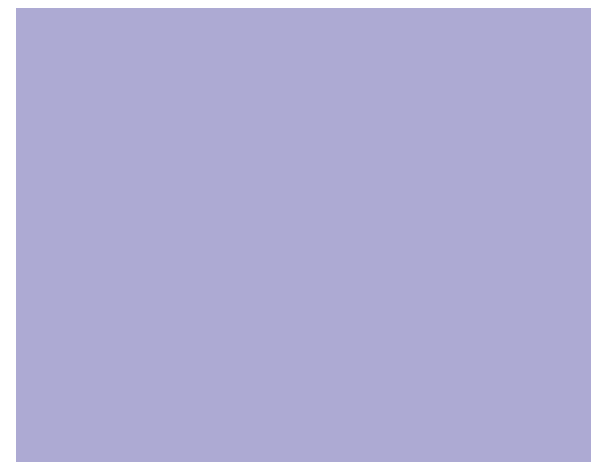


RÁITEAS AN RIALTAIS I LEITH  
NA GAEILGE 2006  
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON  
THE IRISH LANGUAGE 2006

Déanfar an Ghaeilge a theagasc mar ábhar riachtanach ó leibhéal na bunscoile go leibhéal na hArdteistiméireachta. Cuirfidh an curaclam ar chumas na ndaltaí an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus a scríobh go cruinn, chomh maith le tuiscint a thabhairt dóibh ar fhiúntas na teanga dúinn mar phobal. Chun na críche seo, déanfar infheistíocht fheabhsaithe i bhforbairt phroifisiúnta agus i dtacaíocht leanúnach do mhúinteoirí maraon le i soláthar téacsleabhar agus acmhainní, agus i dtacaíocht do mhodhanna nuálacha teagaisc agus foghlama.



Cuirfear oideachas lán-Ghaeilge ar ardchaighdeán ar fáil do dhaltaí scoile arb é mian a dtuismitheoirí/gcaomhnóirí é. Leanfar leis an tacaíocht do Ghaelscoileanna ag leibhéal na bunscoile agus déanfar forbairt ar sholáthar lán-Ghaeilge ag leibhéal na h-iarbhunscoile chun freastal ar éileamh de réir mar is gá.



## Cuspóirí Objectives

7.

Irish language pre-school education will continue to be supported and third-level education through Irish will be further developed.

8.

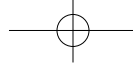
The State will continue to support Foras na Gaeilge in the context of the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999.

9.

High quality broadcast services through the medium of Irish will be ensured, especially through the continuous development of RTÉ, Raidió na Gaeltachta and TG4.

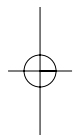
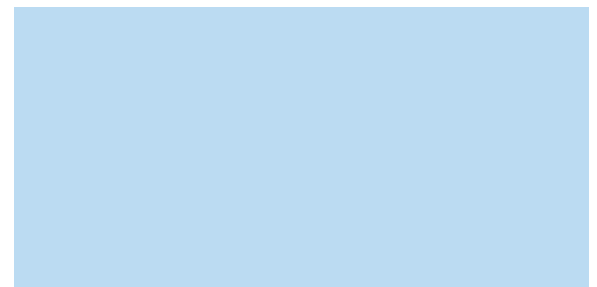
10.

Every assistance and support will be given to the European Union in implementing the decision to make Irish a working and official language in the EU from 1 January 2007.

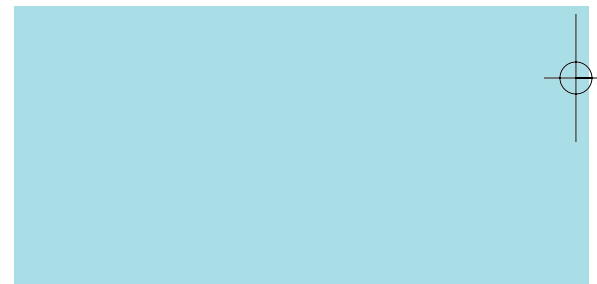


RÁITEAS AN RIALTAIS I LEITH  
NA GAEILGE 2006  
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON  
THE IRISH LANGUAGE 2006

Leanfar leis an tacaíocht a thugtar don réamhscolaíocht Ghaeilge agus déanfar breis forbartha ar an gcóras oideachais tríú leibhéal trí mheán na Gaeilge.



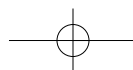
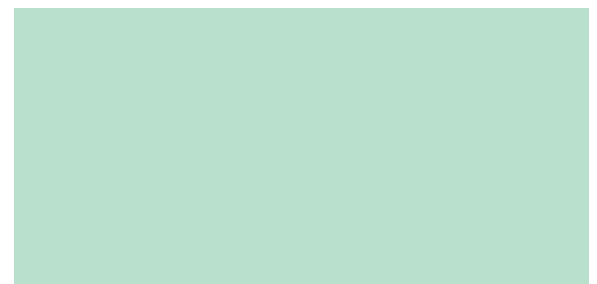
Leanfar leis an tacaíocht a thugann an Stát d'Fhoras na Gaeilge de réir an Achta um Chomhaontú na Breataine-na hÉireann 1999.



Déanfar cinnte de go bhfuil seirbhísí cuimsitheacha craolacháin ar ardchaighdeán ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge, go mór mhór trí fhorbairt leanúnach a dhéanamh ar RTÉ, ar Raidió na Gaeltachta agus ar TG4.



Tabharfar gach cúnamh agus tacaíocht don Aontas Eorpach i bhfeidhmiú an chinnidh an Ghaeilge a bheith ina teanga oibre agus ina teanga oifigiúil san AE ón 1 Eanáir 2007.



## Cuspóirí Objectives

11.

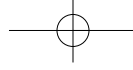
In order to promote Irish nationally and to preserve and strengthen it in the Gaeltacht, the work being done by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and by agencies and bodies which come under its aegis, such as Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge will continue to be reinforced.

12.

The use of the Irish language by the Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces will be continued and developed.

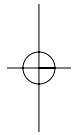
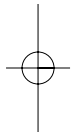
13.

The Government recognises the vital role of the Irish language voluntary sector and will continue to support it.

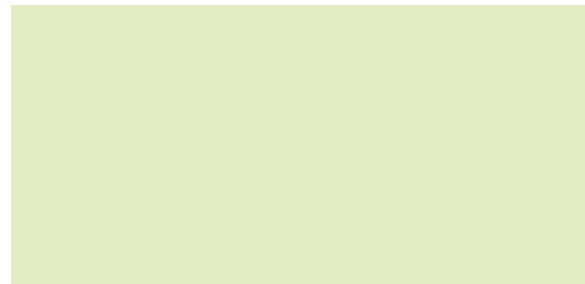


RÁITEAS AN RIALTAIS I LEITH  
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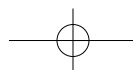
Leanfar le treisiú na hoibre atá ar bun ag An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta agus ag na gníomhaireachtaí agus na comhlachtaí a thagann faoina scáth, ar nós Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta agus Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn go náisiúnta agus chun í a chaomhnú agus a threisiú sa Ghaeltacht.



Leanfar agus déanfar forbairt ar úsáid na Gaeilge sa Gharda Síochána agus sna Fórsaí Cosanta.



Aithníonn an Rialtas an ról fíorthábhachtach atá ag an earnáil dheonach Ghaeilge agus leanfar ag tabhairt tacaíochta di.



## Appendix – CURRENT SUPPORT SYSTEM

While the Government has given the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs special responsibility for the Irish language and the Gaeltacht, every Department of State and public body has a responsibility in their own area in the context of the Official Languages Act 2003, which is being implemented on a phased basis.

Irish is supported primarily through:

## Aguisín – CÓRAS TACAÍOCHTA REATHA

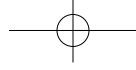
Cé go bhfuil freagracht faoi leith tugtha ag an Rialtas don Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta i leith na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta, tá freagracht ina réimse cúraim féin ar na Ranna Stáit uile agus ar gach eagraíocht phoiblí i gcomhthéacs Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, atá á chur i bhfeidhm go céimiúil.

Tugtar tacaíocht don Ghaeilge go príomha trí:



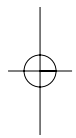
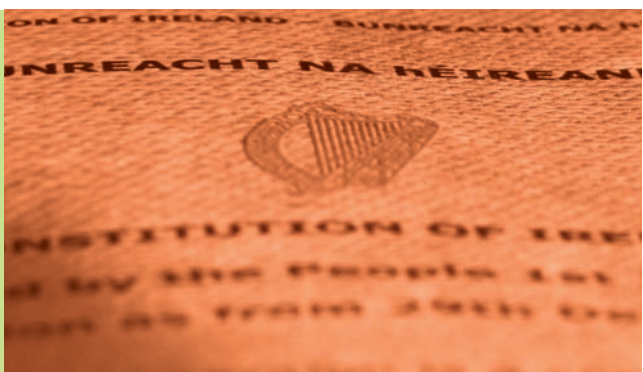
**a** An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, agus na comhlachtaí faoina scáth, mar shampla: Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta agus Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the bodies coming under its aegis such as: Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge.



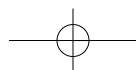

**b** An córas oideachais.  
The education system.

**c** An creatlach reachtaíochta.  
The legislative framework.



**d** Na meáin.  
The media.

**e** Príomheagraíochtaí  
deonacha Gaeilge.  
Main voluntary Irish  
language organisations.





The Department of  
Community, Rural and  
Gaeltacht Affairs, Foras na  
Gaeilge, Údarás na  
Gaeltachta and Bord na  
Leabhar Gaeilge.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail,  
Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta,  
Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na  
Gaeltachta agus Bord na  
Leabhar Gaeilge.

**Department of Community, Rural and  
Gaeltacht Affairs ([www.pobail.ie](http://www.pobail.ie))**

The Department of Community, Rural and  
Gaeltacht Affairs has responsibility for  
increasing the use of Irish throughout the  
country and for fostering and  
strengthening Irish as the first language  
of households and communities in the  
Gaeltacht. This is done through the  
development of State policy and through  
a wide range of schemes of practical  
support.

**An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe  
agus Gaeltachta ([www.pobail.ie](http://www.pobail.ie))**

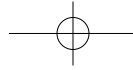
Is í an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe  
agus Gaeltachta an Roinn Stáit atá  
freagrach as úsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú  
ar fud na tíre agus as cothú agus láidriú  
na Gaeilge mar phríomhtheanga ag  
teaghlaigh agus ag pobal na Gaeltachta.  
Déantar é seo trí fhorbairt pholasaí Stáit  
agus trí réimse leathan scéimeanna a  
thugann tacaíocht phraiticiúil.

**Foras na Gaeilge  
([www.forasnagaeilge.ie](http://www.forasnagaeilge.ie))**

Foras na Gaeilge is an agency of the  
North/South Implementation Body, The  
Language Body, and has responsibility  
for the promotion of Irish throughout  
the island of Ireland. The Language  
Body was established in accordance

**Foras na Gaeilge  
([www.forasnagaeilge.ie](http://www.forasnagaeilge.ie))**

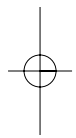
Is áisinteacht de chuid na Comhlachta  
Feidhmithe Thuaidh/Theas, An Foras  
Teanga í Foras na Gaeilge, a bhfuil  
freagracht uirthi an Ghaeilge a chur  
chun cinn ar fud oileán na hÉireann.  
Bunaíodh An Foras Teanga, faoi réir  
Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta i 1999,



with the Good Friday Agreement in 1999, to promote Irish and Ulster-Scots.

**Údarás na Gaeltachta ([www.udaras.ie](http://www.udaras.ie))**

Údarás na Gaeltachta was established in 1980 as a regional development authority for the Gaeltacht. Údarás na Gaeltachta is tasked with an economic development role, i.e., to create sustainable jobs and to attract investment to the Gaeltacht regions as well as support for community, cultural and language development activities, working in partnership with local communities and organisations.



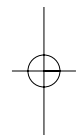
**Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge ([www.leabhar.ie](http://www.leabhar.ie))**

The aim of Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge is to support writers and publishers in providing Irish-language reading material for the public.

chun an Ghaeilge agus an Ultais a chur chun cinn.

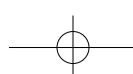
**Údarás na Gaeltachta ([www.udaras.ie](http://www.udaras.ie))**

Bunaíodh Údarás na Gaeltachta i 1980 mar ghníomhaireacht fhorbartha réigiúnach don Ghaeltacht. Tá Údarás na Gaeltachta luaite le ról forbartha eacnamaíochta, is é sin, poist inmharthana a chruthú agus infheistíocht a mhealladh go dtí na réigiúin Ghaeltachta chomh maith le tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghníomhaíochtaí forbartha pobail, cultúrtha agus teanga, i bpáirtíocht le pobail agus le heagraíochtaí áitiúla.



**Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge ([www.leabhar.ie](http://www.leabhar.ie))**

Is í aidhm Bhord na Leabhar Gaeilge ná tacú le scríbhneoirí agus foilsitheoirí chun ábhar léitheoireachta i nGaeilge a chur ar fáil don phobal.





## Department of Education & Science. ([www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie))

The Department of Education & Science is responsible for policy development, planning, provision, quality assurance and evaluation at all levels of education. Irish is taught as an obligatory subject for all pupils in primary and second level schools, except where pupils have been given exemptions on the basis of a learning disability or having previously studied abroad. The study of Irish is promoted through a national curriculum and is supported by Teacher Guidelines and in-service training for teachers. Students in junior and senior cycle may follow a programme at three levels – Foundation, Ordinary or Higher Level, and students in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme follow a programme in Communicative Irish. There is also a network of Irish medium primary and second level schools (Gaelscoileanna) as well as Irish medium schools in Gaeltacht areas. A range of courses

## An Roinn Oideachais & Eolaíochta. ([www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie))

Tá an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta freagrach as forbairt polasaí, as pleanáil, as soláthar, as dearbhú cáilíochta agus as measúnú ag gach leibhéal oideachais. Múintear an Ghaeilge mar ábhar riachtanach do gach dalta i mbunscoileanna agus i scoileanna dara leibhéal, ach amháin nuair a thugtar díolúine do dhaltaí ar bhonn mhíchumas foghlama nó toisc go raibh siad ag staidéar thar lear roimhe sin. Cuirtear léann na Gaeilge chun cinn trí churaclam náisiúnta agus tacaítear leis trí Threoirínite do Mhúinteoirí agus trí oiliúint inseirbhíse do mhúinteoirí. Is féidir le daltaí sa tsraith shóisearach agus shinsearach clár a leanúint ag trí leibhéal – Bunleibhéal, Gnáthleibhéal nó Ardleibhéal, agus leanann na daltaí i gclár na hArdteistiméireachta Feidhmí clár i nGaeilge Chumarsáideach. Tá gréasán de bhunscoileanna agus de scoileanna dara leibhéal Gaeilge (Gaelscoileanna) ann freisin, chomh

taught through Irish are also provided at third level. In addition, the third-level sector has a specific role in providing pre-service training of teachers to equip them to teach in primary and second-level schools. The Department also supports youth work activities provided through the medium of Irish in the form of annual grant-in-aid to Irish language voluntary youth organisations e.g. Feachtas and Ógras.

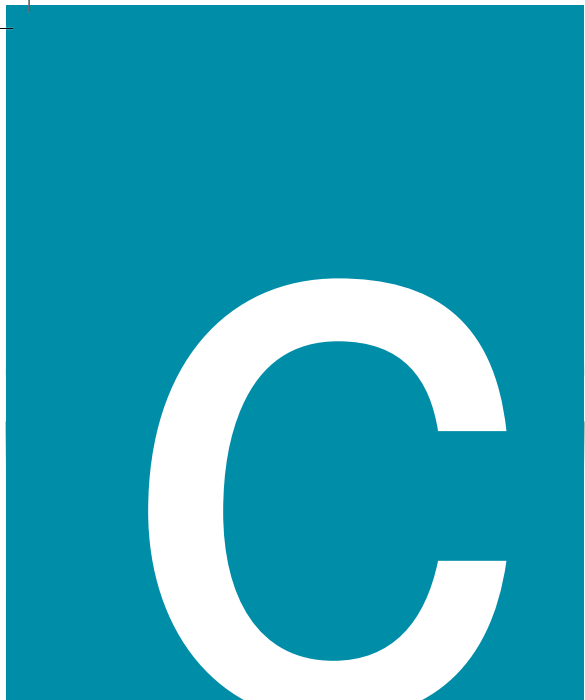
#### **An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta ([www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie))**

An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta was established in 2002 under the provisions of Section 31 of the Education Act 1998. Its functions include (i) the planning and co-ordination of provision of textbooks and teaching resources through Irish, (ii) advising on promotion of education through Irish in schools generally and in Irish medium schools, (iii) providing support services to Irish medium schools and (iv) engaging in research. An Chomhairle's website contains a comprehensive directory of resource materials now available to support teaching and learning through Irish.

maith le scoileanna Gaeilge i gceantair Ghaeltachta. Cuirtear réimse cúrsaí ar fáil ag an tríú leibhéal freisin a mhúinteoir trí mheán na Gaeilge. Lena chois seo, tá ról faoi leith ag an earnáil tríú leibhéal i soláthar oiliúint réamhsheirbhíse d'ábhair mhúinteora d'fhonn iad a inniúlú le múineadh i mbunscoileanna agus i scoileanna dara leibhéal. Tacaíonn an Roinn le gníomhaíochtaí óige chomh maith a chuirtear ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge i bhfoirm deontais i gcabhair ar bhonn bliantúil d'eagraíochtaí óige deonacha Gaeilge m.sh. Feachtas agus Ógras.

#### **An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta ([www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie))**

Bunaíodh An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta in 2002 faoi fhorálacha Alt 31 den Acht Oideachais 1998. I measc a cuid feidhmeanna tá (i) pleanáil agus comhordú sholáthar téacsleabhar agus áiseanna teagaisc trí mheán na Gaeilge, (ii) comhairliú faoin oideachas a chur chun cinn trí mheán na Gaeilge i scoileanna i gcoitinne agus i scoileanna Gaeilge, (iii) soláthar seirbhísí tacaíochta do scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus (iv) taighde a dhéanamh. Tá eolair cuimsitheach d'ábhar acmhainne atá ar fáil anois chun tacú le múineadh agus le foghlaim trí mheán na Gaeilge ar láithreán gréasáin na Comhairle.



## The Legislative Framework.

### **The Constitution ([www.irlgov.ie](http://www.irlgov.ie))**

The status of Irish is set out in Article 8 of the Constitution of Ireland, where it is stated "The Irish language as the national language is the first official language". The English language is recognised as a "second official language" in the same Article.

There are over 50 pieces of legislation which contain provisions covering various aspects and matters which have the objective of supporting Irish and its status as a language. The following is a general description of recent legislation which is of particular importance.

### **Official Languages Act 2003**

This is the first piece of legislation which sets out a statutory process to ensure satisfactory provision of public services in Irish to the public. The Act will be used to achieve a significant improvement on a phased basis, over a period, in the level of services through Irish provided by the State. This Act led

## An Chreatlach Reachtaíochta.


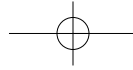
### **An Bunreacht ([www.irlgov.ie](http://www.irlgov.ie))**

Tá seasamh na Gaeilge leagtha amach in Airteagal 8 de Bhunreacht na hÉireann, áit a ndeirtear "Os í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta is í an phríomhtheanga oifigiúil í". Aithnítear an Béarla mar "theanga oifigiúil eile" san Airteagal céanna.

Tá breis agus 50 píosa reachtaíochta a chuimsíonn gnéithe agus ábhair éagsúla le forálacha faoi leith luaite iontu a bhfuil mar chuspóir acu tacú leis an nGaeilge agus lena stádas mar theanga. Seo a leanas cur síos ginearálta ar an reachtaíocht is déanaí a bhfuil tábhacht faoi leith bainteach leis.

### **Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003**

Is é an tAcht seo an chéad phíosa reachtaíochta ina leagtar síos próiseas reachtúil chun a chinntiú go gcuirfear soláthar sásúil de sheirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge ar fáil don phobal. Úsáidfear an tAcht chun feabhas suntasach céimiúil a bhaint amach, thar tréimhse, ar leibhéal na seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a



to the establishment of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga to protect people's rights under the Act.

**An Coimisinéir Teanga  
([www.coimisineir.ie](http://www.coimisineir.ie))**

The principal responsibilities of An Coimisinéir Teanga are to monitor the manner in which public bodies comply with the provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003.

An Coimisinéir Teanga is also charged with investigating complaints and he has also the duty of making advice available to the public regarding their language rights and of advising public bodies regarding their responsibilities under the Act.

**Education Act 1998**

As well as Section 31 of the Act under which An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta was established (see above) the Act contains other important references to the Irish language. It states for example that every person involved in the implementation of the Act shall have regard to the following objects:

"to contribute to the realisation of national policy and objectives in relation to the extension of bilingualism in Irish society and in particular the

chuirfidh an Stát ar fáil. De thoradh an Achta sin a bunaíodh Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga chun cearta an phobail faoin Acht a chosaint.

**An Coimisinéir Teanga  
([www.coimisineir.ie](http://www.coimisineir.ie))**

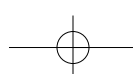
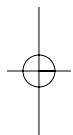
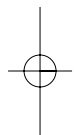
Is iad na príomhchúraimí atá ar An gCoimisinéir Teanga ná monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an mbealach a bhfuil forálacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 á gcomhlíonadh ag comhlachtaí poiblí.

Tá ar an gCoimisinéir Teanga gearáin a fhiosrú agus tá dualgas air freisin comhairle a chur ar fáil don phobal maidir lena gcearta teanga agus comhairle a chur ar na comhlachtaí poiblí maidir lena ndualgais faoin Acht.

**An tAcht Oideachais 1998**

Chomh maith le hAlt 31 den Acht faoinar bunaíodh an Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (féach thuas) tá tagairtí tábhachtacha eile san Acht don Ghaeilge. Deirtear ann mar shampla go mbeidh ar gach éinne a mbeidh baint acu leis an Acht a chur i ngníomh aird a bheith acu ar:

"cuidiú le baint amach cuspóirí agus polasaithe náisiúnta i ndáil le leathadh an dátheangachais i sochaí na hÉireann agus go háirithe go mbainfí úsáid níos



## An Chreatlach Reachtaíochta The Legislative Framework

achievement of greater use of the Irish language at school and in the community" and

"to contribute to the maintenance of Irish as the primary community language in Gaeltacht areas".

**Planning and Development Act 2000**  
The Planning and Development Act 2000 includes various provisions which address the linguistic needs of the Gaeltacht.

### **Ministers and Secretaries Act (Amendment) 1956**

This Act gives the Government power to designate areas which are substantially Irish-speaking as Gaeltacht areas with a view to preserving and extending the use of Irish as a spoken language.

### **British-Irish Agreement Act 1999**

This is the Act under which the Language Body was established (see above).

### **Broadcasting Act 2001**

The Broadcasting Act places a duty on the national broadcaster RTÉ to provide a wide range of programmes through Irish.

mó as an nGaeilge ar scoil agus sa phobal" agus

"cuidiú leis an nGaeilge a choinneáil mar phríomhtheanga an phobail sna limistéir Ghaeltachta".

### **An tAcht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000**

Tá forálacha éagsúla san Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 a thugann aghaidh ar riachtanais theangeolaíochta na Gaeltachta.

### **An tAcht Airí agus Rúnaithe (Leasú) 1956**

Tugann an tAcht seo cumhacht don Rialtas ceantair ina labhraítear an Ghaeilge go forleathan a aithint mar cheantair Ghaeltachta d'fhonn úsáid na Gaeilge mar theanga labhartha a chaomhnú agus a leathnú.

### **An tAcht um Chomhaontú na Breataine-na hÉireann 1999**

Is é an tAcht seo an reachtaíocht faoinar bunaíodh an Foras Teanga. (féach thuas).

### **An tAcht Craolacháin 2001**

Faoin Acht Craolacháin tá dualgas ar an gcraoltóir náisiúnta RTÉ réimse leathan clár a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge.



## The Media

### **Broadcast Media ([www.rte.ie](http://www.rte.ie) and [www.tg4.ie](http://www.tg4.ie))**

The State established an Irish language television station in 1996 – TG4. The station provides a wide range of programmes in Irish and its audience has grown continuously since its establishment. RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta is on air since 1972. It provides a service not only to the Gaeltacht population but also to the Irish language community nationally. As well as these two stations, Irish can be heard on RTÉ (Radio and Television) as well as many of the commercial and community stations throughout the country.

### **Newspapers and periodicals ([www.nuacht.com](http://www.nuacht.com); [www.foinse.ie](http://www.foinse.ie))**

In terms of the print media, the first daily newspaper in Irish, Lá, was launched in April 2003 and the weekly Irish language newspaper, Foinse, is available every Saturday. As well as that periodicals such as An tUltach, Saol and Comhar are published. The Irish Times has three weekly columns in Irish.

## Na Meáin

### **Meáin Chraolta ([www.rte.ie](http://www.rte.ie) agus [www.tg4.ie](http://www.tg4.ie))**

Bhunaigh an Stát stáisiún teilifíse Gaeilge i 1996 – TG4. Cuireann an stáisiún réimse leathan clár ar fáil i nGaeilge agus tá fás leanúnach ar a lucht féachana ó bunaíodh an tseirbhís. Tá RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta ar an aer ó 1972. Tugann sí seirbhís ní amháin do mhuintir na Gaeltachta ach do phobal na Gaeilge go náisiúnta. Chomh maith leis an dá stáisiún sin, bíonn Gaeilge le cloisteáil ar RTÉ (Raidió agus Teilifís) agus ar go leor de na stáisiúin tráchtála agus pobail ar fud na tíre.

### **Nuachtáin agus tréimhseacháin ([www.nuacht.com](http://www.nuacht.com); [www.foinse.ie](http://www.foinse.ie))**

Maidir leis na meáin chlóbhuailte, seoladh an chéad nuachtán laethúil Gaeilge, Lá, i mí Aibreáin na bliana 2003 agus bíonn an nuachtán seachtainiúil Gaeilge, Foinse ar fáil gach Satharn. Chomh maith leis sin foilsítear tréimhseacháin ar nós an tUltach, Saol agus Comhar. Tá trí cholún i nGaeilge san Irish Times in aghaidh na seachtaine.

## Na Meáin The Media

**The Internet and IT  
([www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie)) ([www.gaelport.com](http://www.gaelport.com))**  
Websites such as Beo and Gaelport provide information and entertainment to the Irish-speaking community and foster a stronger link between Irish speakers whether in Mayo or in Melbourne.

**An tIdirlíon agus TE  
([www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie)) ([www.gaelport.com](http://www.gaelport.com))**  
Cuireann suímh idirlín ar nós Beo agus Gaelport eolas agus siamsaíocht ar fáil do lucht labhartha na Gaeilge agus cothaíonn siad nasc níos láidre idir cainteoirí Gaeilge, bíodh siad i Maigh Eo nó i Melbourne.

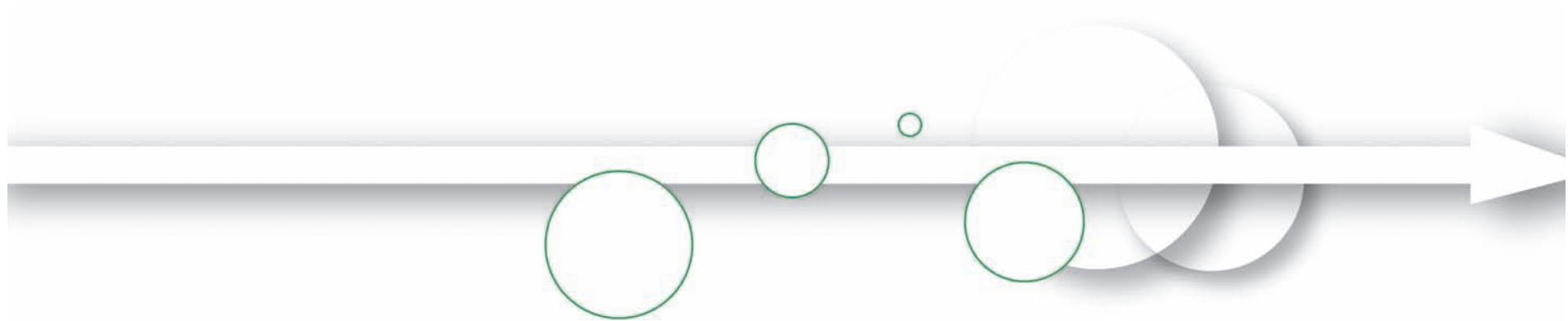


## The Main Voluntary Irish Language Organisations

The voluntary Irish language organisations have a central role in the promotion of Irish. These organisations include Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Gael-Linn, Coláiste na bhFiann, Glór na nGael and Comhlúadar.

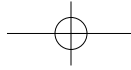
## Na Príomh- eagraíochtaí Deonacha Gaeilge

Tá ról lárnach ag na heagraíochtaí deonacha Gaeilge i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge. I measc na n-eagraíochtaí sin tá Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Gael-Linn, Coláiste na bhFiann, Glór na nGael agus Comhlúadar.



ORGANISATION	ROLE	WEBSITE
Conradh na Gaeilge	Promotion of Irish language in all aspects of life	<a href="http://www.cnag.ie">www.cnag.ie</a>
Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge	Support for the Irish language as a living language and development of ability to speak it	<a href="http://www.gaelport.com">www.gaelport.com</a>
Gael-Linn	A Foundation that promotes the language in the culture and business sectors	<a href="http://www.gael-linn.ie">www.gael-linn.ie</a>
Coláiste na bhFiann	Clubs to provide opportunities for members to enjoy leisure activities through medium of Irish	<a href="http://www.colaistenabhfiann.ie">www.colaistenabhfiann.ie</a>
Glór na nGael	A national competition with language preservation and development as central objectives	<a href="http://www.glornagael.ie">www.glornagael.ie</a>
Comhluadar	Provision of support for parents who wish to raise their children through Irish	<a href="http://www.comhluadar.ie">www.comhluadar.ie</a>
An Taibhdhearc	National Irish-language theatre	<a href="http://www.antaibhdhearc.com">www.antaibhdhearc.com</a>
An tOireachtas	Festival of native Irish language art and culture	<a href="http://www.antoireachtas.ie">www.antoireachtas.ie</a>
An Cumann Scoildrámaíochta	Promotion of school drama in Irish	
Gaelscoileanna	Co-ordination organisation for all-Irish schools	<a href="http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie">www.gaelscoileanna.ie</a>
Eagraíocht na Scoileanna Gaeltachta	Umbrella and support group for Gaeltacht schools	
Ógras	Irish language Youth Organisation linked to Conradh na Gaeilge	<a href="http://www.ogras.ie">www.ogras.ie</a>
Feachtas	Summer camps and other activities through Irish organised for young people	<a href="http://www.feachtas.ie">www.feachtas.ie</a>
Concos	Freastalaíonn breis is 25,000 dalta ar choláistí Gaeilge gach Samhradh	<a href="http://www.concos.ie">www.concos.ie</a>

There are other organisations which focus more on aspects of Irish culture than on the language itself, such as the Gaelic Athletic Association and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. These organisations have a very important role arising from their ability to promote the language as part of their primary role.



RÁITEAS AN RIALTAIS I LEITH  
NA GAEILGE 2006  
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON  
THE IRISH LANGUAGE 2006

Eagraíocht	RÓL	SUÍOMH IDIRLÍN
Conradh na Gaeilge	An Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i ngach réimse	<a href="http://www.cnag.ie">www.cnag.ie</a>
Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge	Bá agus tacaíocht don Ghaeilge mar bheotheanga agus cumas inti a neartú agus a bhuanú	<a href="http://www.gaelport.com">www.gaelport.com</a>
Gael-Linn	Fondúireacht a shaothraíonn don Ghaeilge sna réimsí cultúra agus gnó	<a href="http://www.gael-linn.ie">www.gael-linn.ie</a>
Coláiste na bhFiann	Clubanna chun deis a thabhairt dá mbaill am saor a chaitheamh go tairbheach trí Ghaeilge	<a href="http://www.colaistenabhfiann.ie">www.colaistenabhfiann.ie</a>
Glór na nGael	Comórtas náisiúnta le forbairt agus caomhnú teanga mar spriocanna lárnacha	<a href="http://www.glornagael.ie">www.glornagael.ie</a>
Comhluadar	Tacaíocht a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí a gcuid páistí a thogáil le Gaeilge.	<a href="http://www.comhluadar.ie">www.comhluadar.ie</a>
An Taibhdhearc	Amharclann náisiúnta na Gaeilge	<a href="http://www.antaibhdhearc.com">www.antaibhdhearc.com</a>
An tOireachtas	Na healaíona dúchais trí mheán na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh	<a href="http://www.antoireachtas.ie">www.antoireachtas.ie</a>
An Cumann Scoildrámaíochta	Cur chun cinn na scoildrámaíochta i nGaeilge	
Gaelscoileanna	Eagraíocht chomhordaithe na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge	<a href="http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie">www.gaelscoileanna.ie</a>
Eagraíocht na Scoileanna Gaeltachta	Scáthghrúpa agus grúpa tacaíochta do scoileanna Gaeltachta	
Ógras	Eagraíocht Óige Gaeilge atá bainteach le Conradh na Gaeilge	<a href="http://www.ogras.ie">www.ogras.ie</a>
Feachtas	Campaí samhraidh agus gníomhaíochtaí eile a eagrú do dhaoine óga trí mheán na Gaeilge	<a href="http://www.feachtas.ie">www.feachtas.ie</a>
Concos	Over 25,000 students attend Irish Colleges every Summer	<a href="http://www.concos.ie">www.concos.ie</a>

Tá eagrais eile a dhíríonn isteach níos mó ar ghnéithe den chultúr Gaelach ná ar an teanga féin, ar nós an Cumann Lúthchleas Gael agus Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Tá ról an-tábhachtach ag na heagrais seo de bharr go bhfuil ar a gcumas an teanga a chur chun cinn mar chuid den phríomhról atá acu.

