

Preasráiteas Press Release 12.02.2019	Tuilleadh eolais: gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com 085 250 3321 www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie	*Tá leagan Gaeilge den phreasráiteas seo ar lgh. 3-4.
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Language Planning Officer appointed in North Mayo Gaeltacht

Under *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012* every Gaeltacht community must now prepare and implement a language plan to support and develop Irish language use in their area. If they don't do this, they could lose their Gaeltacht status.

Gaeilge Iorrais is responsible for overseeing this process in Maigh Eo Thuaidh (North Mayo Gaeltacht area), in consultation with local communities and various stakeholders. 7,199 people or c.70% of the Mayo Gaeltacht population live in this vast area (584.43km²), which spans from Fód Dubh to Béal Deirg, Ceathrú Thaidhg to Dumha Thuama and everywhere in between. Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda has recently been appointed as language planning officer in this Gaeltacht area to facilitate and co-ordinate the work required.

Ní Dhúda compiled the seven year language plan (2018-2024) for this area, which will underpin her work as language planning officer. This plan is based on the most extensive piece of sociolinguistic research ever conducted in the North Mayo Gaeltacht on Irish language ability, use, attitudes and recommendations. Some 1,600 individuals (22% of the population) took part in the research which was conducted during 2016-2018.

The purpose of the language plan is to bridge gaps between the hugely favourable attitudes to the Irish language and to create more opportunities to use Irish based on the demand and trends shown in the research. To achieve this goal, 34 recommendations or specific measures are proposed in 11 key areas with targets for the next 7 years. For the first time ever, mar sin, the North Mayo Gaeltacht has a targeted language plan, dedicated steering committee and language planning officer to oversee the development of Irish language use and activities. However, this is only one piece of the pobal and more community participation from each of the five parishes in the area will be vital to ensure a positive future for the Irish language in this Gaeltacht. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

It is the vision of Gaeilge Iorrais, in co-operation with the local communities and organisations, to support and gradually increase the daily usage and knowledge of the Irish language in the North Mayo Gaeltacht, in the education system, in youth activities, in the household, and as part of public, commercial, social and recreational activities. The Gaeltacht status of the North Mayo area depends on the effective implementation of this plan, which requires both individual and community participation, instead of geographical boundaries alone, as was previously the case. Therefore, this process and the implementation of the plan is a very important initiative for the entire North Mayo Gaeltacht community.

An allocation worth up to €100,000 over a 12 month period will be available to Gaeilge Iorrais to employ a language planning officer and begin implementation of the North Mayo Language Plan. To date, nine language planning officers have been appointed under this new language planning process outlined in *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*. It is hoped that all 26 language plans will be completed throughout all Gaeltachtaí by 2020.

Ní Dhúda has academic qualifications (BA, MA, Ph.D) in the Irish language and Language Planning. She has extensive experience working in this sector, most recently in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge and Coláiste UISCE. She has also published material on this topic, *Roghanna: Lámhleabhar Eolais faoin bPleanáil Teanga*, an information handbook about language planning, for example. Coupled with this, she has been very involved in Irish language initiatives at a local level in recent years.

As language planning officer, Ní Dhúda will be responsible for commencing the implementation of the language plan. Her main aims for year one include establishing a programme of activities for the youth and their parents, building on the work of Gaeltacht schools and naíonraí, as well as launching an information and participation campaign.

This process affords our community a golden opportunity to shape and sustain our linguistic and Gaeltacht future on our own terms. Is féidir leatsa difríocht mhór a dhéanamh ach is féidir linne, le chéile, an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile ar son na Gaeilge. Together we have the power to secure a positive future for our Gaeltacht.

Any relevant suggestions and/or recommendations from the North Mayo Gaeltacht community are most welcome. If you would like to hear more about this process or get involved, please give us a shout on 085 250 3321, email us at gaeilgeinorras@gmail.com or check out our website www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie or our Facebook page. **(CRÍOCH/END)**

An Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda ceaptha ina hoifigeach pleanála teanga ag Gaeilge Iorrais

Tá an Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda ceaptha ina hoifigeach pleanála teanga ag Gaeilge Iorrais, an coiste stiúrtha pleanála teanga i dTuaisceart Mhaigh Eo atá faoi scáth Chomharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile.

Bhí Ní Dhúda ina comhordaitheoir ar an taighde agus an comhairliúchán go léir a bhain le plean teanga a réiteach do limistéar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh, an limistéar pleanála teanga is mó sa tír, faoi *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*. Scríobh sí an plean teanga don limistéar bunaithe ar an taighde sochtheangeolaíochta is mó agus is cuimsithí a rinneadh riamh ann, ar chumas sa Ghaeilge, úsáid na Gaeilge, dearcthaí i leith na Gaeilge agus moltaí do thodhchaí na Gaeilge sa limistéar. Ghlac c.1,600 duine (22% de dhaonra an limistéir) páirt sa tionscadal taighde seo.

Tá €100,000 thar thréimhse bliana á chur ar fáil do Gaeilge Iorrais chun oifigeach pleanála teanga a fhostú agus chun tús a chur le feidhmiú an phlean i Maigh Eo Thuaidh. Tá naonúr oifigeach pleanála teanga fostaithe go dtí seo faoin gcóras pleanála teanga a tugadh isteach faoi *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*. Tá plean teanga le cur i bhfeidhm i 26 limistéar pleanála teanga sa Ghaeltacht mar chuid den phróiseas sin.

Tá cáilíochtaí acadúla den scoth bainte amach ag Ní Dhúda sa Nua-Ghaeilge agus sa Phleanáil Teanga (BA, MA agus PhD san áireamh). Tá go leor taithí aici ag obair sa réimse seo, in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge agus i gColáiste UISCE, mar shampla. Tá foilseacháin éagsúla i gcló aici ar an ábhar freisin, *Roghanna: Lámhleabhar Eolais faoin bPleanáil Teanga*, ina measc. Anuas air sin, tá taithí na mblianta aici ag plé le cúrsaí teanga agus pobail ar an talamh sa Ghaeltacht.

Beidh sé de dhualgas ar Ní Dhúda tús a chur le feidhmiú Phlean Teanga an cheantair mar chuid den ról seo. Plean teanga seacht mbliana (2018-2024) de chuid an phobail atá i gceist, a bhfuil mar sprioc aige cur le cumas daoine sa Ghaeilge agus le húsáid na Gaeilge sa chóras

oideachais agus lasmuigh de, in imeachtaí don óige, sa teaghlach, mar chuid de sheirbhísí poiblí, tráchtála, sóisialta agus siamsaíochta. Tabharfar tosaíocht i mbliain a haon do chlár gníomhaíochtaí trí Ghaeilge a chur ar bun don óige agus do thuismitheoirí/teaghlaigh, chomh maith le feachtas feasachta agus fóram tacaíochta a fhorbairt don phróiseas.

Tá stádas Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh ag brath ar fheidhmiú éifeachtach an phlean seo agus ar rannpháirtíocht an phobail sa phróiseas, seachas ar limistéir gheografacha amháin mar a bhí go dtí seo. Tionscadal fíorthábhachtach atá sa phróiseas agus sa phlean teanga seo do phobal uile Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh, mar sin.

Tá mar fhís ag Gaeilge Iorrais borradh a chur faoi úsáid na Gaeilge i Maigh Eo Thuaidh de réir a chéile, le tacaíocht agus rannpháirtíocht an phobail. Tugann an próiseas seo deis iontach dúinn bonn níos láidre a chur faoin nGaeilge sa cheantar agus chun cur le todhchaí na Gaeilge ann ar bhealach rannpháirteach agus comhordaithe.

Is féidir linn an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile ar son na Gaeilge.

Coinnigh súil ar ár leathanach Facebook 'Gaeilge Iorrais' agus ar www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie don nuacht is déanaí. Bí i dteagmháil linn ag gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com nó (085) 250 3321, más mian leat níos mó eolais a fháil faoin bpróiseas sa limistéar seo, chun spéis a chlárú linn nó chun moltaí ábhartha a roinnt linn. Ba mhór againn cloisteáil uait. Cuirfear fáilte mhór roimh dhuine ar bith ar mian leis nó léi a bheith rannpháirteach sa phróiseas linn.