

Gá le Mórthionscnamh nua Foghlama Gaeilge d'Aosaigh

Moladh ó Ghael Linn chuig Coimisiún um Thodhchaí na Meán

Cúlra

Fondúireacht neamhpholaitiúil, neamhrialtasach is ea *Gael Linn*, a bunaíodh sa bhliain 1953. An phríomhaidhm aici ná an Ghaeilge agus a hoidhreacht a chothú agus a chur cinn ar fud Éireann uile mar theanga bheo agus mar spreagadh féiniúlachta. Tá oifigí ag Gael Linn i mBaile Átha Cliath agus in Ard Mhacha.

Sa bhliain 2014, aithníodh Gael Linn ar cheann den sé cheanneagraíocht a bheadh le bunmhaoiniú ag Foras na Gaeilge. Is iad seo feidhmeanna atá leagtha orainn mar cheanneagraíocht:

- Oideachas in Earnáil an Bhéarla- taighde agus áiteamh i leith theagasc na Gaeilge, tacaíocht do mhúinteoirí agus soláthar áiseanna.
- Oideachas d'Aosaigh-soláthar agus éileamh ar ranganna agus áiseanna a chur chun cinn.
- Deiseanna Úsáide do Dhaltaí agus do mhicléinn.

An Ghaeilge agus Ról an Choimisiúin

Tá go leor crua-cheisteanna tábhachtacha le breithniú agus le freagairt ag an gCoimisiún um Thodhchaí na Meán. Deir téarmaí tagartha an Chomisiúin go gcuireann córais meáin a fheidhmíonn go maith, an chraoltóireacht seirbhíse poiblí go háirithe, seirbhís thábhachtach ar fáil do phobal na hÉireann trí:

'Eolas, oiliúint agus siamsaíocht a chur ar fáil do phobal na hÉireann i réimsí a bhaineann le cultúr, féiniúlacht, spórt agus teanga na hÉireann agus i réimsí eile atá dúchasach d'Éirinn agus do phobal na hÉireann'.

Beimid ag súil go ndearbhóidh an Coimisiún go dtéann cur chun cinn na Gaeilge go smior sa gcraoltóireacht poiblí agus gur gá acmhainní dóthanacha a chinntiú chuige sin.

Dá réir sin, glacann *Gael Linn* leis go ndíreoidh moltaí an Choimisiúin aird go sonrach ar stádas agus ar chur chun cinn na Gaeilge sna meáin agus ar an bhfreastal is gá do na meáin a dhéanamh ar lucht labhartha agus ar fhoghlaimoirí na teanga.

Daoine Fásta agus an Ghaeilge

Is bunchloch é múineadh na Gaeilge i bpolasaí oideachais an Stáit ó bunaíodh é. Is léir ó aon anailís ar infheistíocht an Stáit sa Ghaeilge gur sa mbunscoil agus sna scoileanna dara-leibhéal, ar an mórgóir, a shealbhaíonn saoránaigh an Ghaeilge. Ina choinne sin, is beag ar fad aird ná acmhainní a dhírítear ar riachtanais na ndaoine fásta sin a roghnaíonn tabhairt faoin teanga a athfhoghlaim nó tabhairt faoina foghlaim den chéad uair. Is lú fós a dhíríonn an státchóras ar mhealladh daoine fásta chun tabhairt faoina gcuid Gaeilge a fheabhsú.

Bíonn a gcuid riachtanas féin ag daoine fásta maidir le foghlaim teanga: sa mbreis ar ranganna agus téacsleabhair, is gá tacaíochtaí breise – go háirithe tacaíocht chlos-amharc. Faraor, is beag de sin atá ar fáil don aosach atá ag (ath)fhoghlaim na Gaeilge seachas é a bheith molta di/dó féachaint/éisteacht le hábhar ar na meáin Ghaeilge – atá dírithe den chuid is mó ar dhaoine a bhfuil líofacht bainte amach acu cheana féin.

Ins na trí scór bliain ó thosaigh craoladh teilifíse in Éirinn, níl ach cúig thogra nua foghlama cruthaithe agus craolta; *Labhair Gaeilge Linn* (1967), *Buntús Cainte* (1967), *Anois is Arís* (1981), *Now You're Talking* (1995) agus *Turas Teanga* (2004). Ba mhaith ann seo iad lena linn agus is léiriú ar an spéis ag daoine i bhfoghlaim na Gaeilge go mbíonn éileamh seasta ar *Buntús Cainte* go fóill.

Ní mór a aithint, áfach, go bhfuil na seanchúrsaí as dáta agus go bhfuil géarghá anois le tionscnamh úr nuálach, il-ardán a mheallfadh agus a spreagfadh daoine fásta na linne seo.

Moladh:

Measann *Gael Linn* go bhfuil gá le agus éileamh ar mhór-thionscnamh nua foghlama Gaeilge d'aoisigh, go mbeadh ról tosaíochta ag na meáin chraolta i seachadadh an tionscnaimh seo agus acmhainní curtha ar fáil dóibh chuige.

Togra ar mhór-scála atá ag teastáil, é bunaithe ar bhonn comhordaithe, il-ardáin, tras-earnála, le páirtíocht na ngeallshealbhóirí leasmhara oideachais, cultúrtha agus poiblí. Bheadh tábhacht ar leith le brandáil mhealltach fheiceálach ar an togra.

Bheadh a leithéid ag teacht go dlúth le *Straitéis 20 Bliain an Rialtais don Ghaeilge 2010-2030*. Leagann an straitéis sin síos naoi réimse gnímh agus tá na meáin agus an t-oideachas ar dhá cheann acu sin. De bharr scála an togra atá á mholadh ag *Gael Linn* theastódh comhoibriú tras-chraoltóra agus ba mhaith, dá réir sin, dá mbeadh an togra seo molta go sonrach i dtuarascáil an Choimisiúin.

I gcruthúnas ar bhailíocht agus tráthúlacht an mholta seo, tá tionscnamh nuálach den chineál céanna fógraithe don Ghàidhlig in Albain, ag a bhfuil cur chuige cosúil go leor lena bhfuil molta againne.

<https://mgalba.com/ambitious-new-project-to-support-gaelic-learning/?lang=en>

Nóta míithe: Is foras maoinithe d'ábhar craolta i n Gàidhlig é *MG Alba* a oibríonn i bpáirt le craoltóirí raidió agus teilifíse sa tír sin.

Gael Linn (2021)

Courtesy English version:

Need for a major new Learning Irish project for Adults

Proposal from *Gael Linn*

Background

Founded in 1953, *Gael Linn* is a national organisation whose principal aim is to foster and promote the Irish language and its heritage as a living language and as an expression of identity at policy and at community level. *Gael Linn* operates on an all-island basis, with offices in Dublin and Armagh.

In 2014 it was designated as one of six ‘lead organisations’ to be core-funded by *Foras na Gaeilge*. Our range of functions in this role include:

- The teaching of Irish as a subject: research and actions regarding the policies being pursued,
- Teachers: Providing support for teachers and increasing the availability of resources.
- Irish learning by adults: to promote the provision of quality courses and resources.
- Promotion of spoken Irish among students.

The Commission and the Irish language

The Commission has been asked to consider and report on a number of complex questions and issues. The terms of reference state that “*The media provides a vital public service for our society. It is fundamental to our democracy. It underpins how people stay informed, and how they engage with Ireland’s language, culture and sport.*”

We expect that the Commission will state that the promotion of Irish is core to public service broadcasting and that adequate resources must be allocated to that end.

Accordingly, *Gael Linn* also expects that the Commission's recommendations will address specifically the status and the development of the Irish language in the media and the provision that media need to make to service users and learners of that language.

Adult Learning of Irish

The teaching of Irish has been a key pillar of the State's education policy since its foundation. Any analysis of the State's investment in Irish will show that priority has been given, in the main, to citizens learning Irish at the primary and second level of the education system. On the other hand, few resources are allocated to those who make their first (or second) attempts to learn Irish as adults. Attracting adults to improve their level of acquired Irish in adulthood is not as visible as a priority in the State system.

Adult language learning has its own specific requirements: in addition to taught classes and textbooks, additional supports are vital – particularly audiovisual aids.

Unfortunately, few such aids are available for adults seeking to (re)learn Irish – other than being encouraged to listen/view Irish language broadcast content – most of which is created for and aimed at those already fluent in Irish.

In the 60+ years since *Telefís Éireann* inaugurated indigenous television broadcasting here, only five new Irish language learning projects have been created for TV: *Labhair Gaeilge Linn* (1967), *Buntús Cainte* (1967), *Anois is Arís* (1981), *Now You're Talking* (1995) and *Turas Teanga* (2004). While these were excellent and welcome – as proven by the continuing use of *Buntús Cainte* to this day - it must be acknowledged that these courses were of their time. They are now outdated and there is an urgent need for a new, vibrant, innovative, multi-platform offering that would attract and energise today's adult learners.

Proposal:

Gael Linn is of the view that there is a need and a demand for a major new Irish language learning project for adults in which broadcast media play a lead and pivotal role and that adequate resources be ensured for its provision.

A large-scale project is required delivered on a co-ordinated, multi-platform, cross-sectoral basis involving all relevant stakeholders in the educational, cultural and public spheres. High-profile and attractive branding would be vital.

Such a project would be very much in keeping with the priorities set out in the Government's *20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*. This sets out nine key implementation areas, of which media and education are two.

The Government's Strategy requires a multi-agency cooperation with a trans-sectoral approach. Given its scale, the initiative being proposed here by *Gael Linn* would require inter-broadcaster partnerships, so we exhort the Commission to make a specific recommendation in its report about this initiative.

As evidence of the merits of the approach being put forward here, it is worth noting that a very recent initiative announced for Scots Gaelic, contains outline proposals which are broadly similar to ours.

<https://mgalba.com/ambitious-new-project-to-support-gaelic-learning/?lang=en>

Notes: *MG Alba* is a publicly funded body in Scotland that supports the creation of broadcast content in Gaelic.

Foras na Gaeilge is the North-South Language Body set up and funded by the Irish and UK Governments on foot of the Good Friday Agreement.

Gael Linn (2021)