



*Dialogue on Language
Diversity, Sustainability
and Peace*

The Role of the University in meeting the needs
of Linguistic Communities - An Irish Case Study.

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An Ghaei I ge – The Irish Language

✚ Constitutional Status

'The Irish language as the national language is the first official language.'

✚ 2002 Census data

Irish speakers: 1,570,894 (42%)

% Using Irish on daily basis: 9%



<i>Support Activities</i>	Organisational Structure and Effectiveness				
	Language Planning Process				
	Human Resource Management				
	Research				
	Corpus Planning				
	Convergent Planning				
<i>Primary Activities</i>	The nurturing of positive attitudes towards the language	Increasing the level of ability in the language	Increasing the level of language usage	Nurturing and strengthening the language community	Increasing level of organic inter-generational language transmission



Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

National University of Ireland, Galway

- 1845 – Established as Queen's College, Galway
- 1908 – Constituent College of the National University of Ireland, Galway
- 1997 – Constituent University of The National University of Ireland
- Faculties: Arts, Commerce, Science, Engineering, Medicine & Health Sciences, Law, & Celtic Studies
- 2004: 13,300 students
1,600 staff



Commitment to Irish language

- University College Galway Act, 1929
- Location on periphery of Gaeltacht
- Activities in support of Irish language:
 - Courses through the medium of Irish
 - Courses in spoken Irish for staff and students
 - Administrative services available through the medium of Irish
 - Language centres in Gaeltacht areas
 - Courses in spoken Irish for adults



Strategic Review 2000

- ✚ Reasons for review:
 - ✚ Move towards strategic planning within Irish Universities
 - ✚ Recognition of need to adopt more focused and holistic approach to the development of Irish-medium university studies



Considerations underpinning review

- ✚ Focus on role of University in society
- ✚ Needs of Gaeltacht/Irish speaking community in regard to third-level sector
- ✚ Developments within the Gaeltacht



Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge

✚ Mission:

“Through academic and research activities to demonstrate and inspire leadership in the Irish speaking community, within the Gaeltacht and elsewhere, and contribute to the social, cultural, economic and linguistic development of that community and of the country as a whole.”

✚ Goal:

“The sustainable development, management and delivery of university courses, research, services and related activities through the medium of Irish.”



Focus for development of An tAcadamh

- ✚ Range of Academic Programmes
- ✚ Promotion of Research activities in related areas
- ✚ Development of expertise and consultancy services
- ✚ Development of Irish-medium campus



Developments to date

- ✚ Development of Irish-medium campus
 - ✚ Áras na Gaeilge – Irish-medium centre on NUI, Galway campus
 - ✚ An Cheathrú Rua
 - ✚ Carna
 - ✚ Gaoth Dobhair



Academic Programmes

- ✚ Irish Language (Spoken Irish)
- ✚ Translation studies
- ✚ Information technology
- ✚ Communication studies
- ✚ Education



Research & Consultancy work

- ✚ Language planning
- ✚ Archival work
- ✚ Communication industry
- ✚ Translation