



**Teach Your Cat**



**GUERNESIAIS**

## Introduction

The BIC Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages (IML) work sector is led by the Welsh Government and focusses on nine languages: Cornish, Gaelic, Guernesiais, Irish, Jèrriais, Manx, Scots, Ulster-Scots, and Welsh. Each IML language is at a different stage in terms of the number of speakers and social use, but working together within the BIC provides Member Administrations with an opportunity to share emerging good practice, seek inspiration and nurture new connections and relations with others who work in the same field. The importance of learning from each other and collaboration formally or informally cannot be underestimated – it validates efforts and allows an opportunity to inform each other’s policy work.

This paper summarises the activities of the BIC IML Languages work sector in delivering its agreed Forward Work Plan since the last Ministerial meeting held in 2019. As part of this delivery, the group devised a series of visits to allow officials from the eight BIC Member Administrations to engage with relevant initiatives.

## Response to Covid-19

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, from March 2020 the work sector met virtually, inviting guest speakers to present their work to maintain momentum and share best practice while travel was not possible.

In response to the pandemic, the work sector recognised that while people spent more time at home, many turned to language learning in their spare time. The group developed a wide range of online resources to support individuals across the BIC’s Member Administrations to become more familiar with, and develop their skills in, IML languages.

### These included:

- A dedicated webpage to promote and highlight online resources to support the learning of IML languages, which was publicised and promoted by Member Administrations.



- A Spotify playlist showcasing the rich variety of music available in the BIC’s IML languages and to promote these languages on an international stage.




- A factsheet on the BIC’s nine IML languages to raise awareness of the languages and to give a flavour of the linguistic diversity.



## Phrases Sheets

A series of phrase sheets on various themes, published to promote specific events including the European Day of Languages, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), or to coincide with work sector site visits.

These phrase sheets showcase the BIC's IML languages, allowing readers to see the similarities and differences while also engaging with basic words and phrases in all languages.



**British-Irish**  
COUNCIL

Awricht
Shw mae' / Su' mae / Helò

Bannaghtyn Diu
Fair faa ye

### Greetings in the BIC Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages

English	Jèrriais	Irish	Guernesiais	Welsh	Scottish Gaelic	Scots	Kernewek (Cornish)	Manx	Ulster-Scots
Hello	Bouónjour	Dia duit	Warro	Shw mae' / Su' mae' / Helò	Halò	Awricht	Dydh da	Bannaghtyn Diu	Fair faa ye
Good morning	Bouónjour à matin	Móra duit ar maidin	Baonjour	Bore da	Madainn mhath	Guid mornin	Myttin da	Moghrey mie	Guid moarnin
Good afternoon	Bouónjour	Tráthnóna maith	Baonjour	Prynhawn da	Feasgar math	Guid efernuin	Dohajydh da	Fastyr Mie	Guid efernuin
How are you?	Comment qu'tu'es?	Conas atá tú?	Coume tchi qu 'l'affaire va?	Sut wyt ti?	Ciamar a tha thu?	How ye daein?	Fatla genes?	Kys ta shiu?	Whit about ye?
Great!	Mangnifique!	Iontach!	Monifique!	Gwych!	Sgoinneil!	Braw!	Splann!	Yindyssagh!	A'm bravely!
My name is...	Man nom est...	Áine is ainm...	J'ai naam...	Fy enw i yw...	Is mise...	Ah'm cawed...	Ow hanow yw...	Ta'n ennym orrym...	The' caa me...
Thank you	Mércie bein des fais	Go raibh maith agat	Merci bian	Diolch	Tapadh leibh	Thanks awfie	Meur ras	Gura mie ayd	Thenks
You're welcome	I' n'y'a pon d'tchi	Tá fáilte romhat	L'affaire est bian	Croeso	'S e do bheatha	Nae bather aava	Wolkom os ta	She dty vea	Nae bather
Cheers	Santé	Sláinte	Sàntaì	Iechyd da	Sláinte	Here's tae us	Yeghes da	Slaynt Vie	Guid luck
Goodbye	À bétót	Slán leat / Slán agat	És aoutes jours	Hwyl fawr	Mar sin leibh / Tioraidh	See ye efter	Duw genes	Slane Eu	Ta ta noo

Halò
Bouónjour

Dia duit
Dydh da

Warro
European Day of Languages – 26 September 2023
HELLO

**British-Irish COUNCIL**

International Mother Language Day – 21 February 2023

English	Irish	Jèrriais	Guernésiais	Welsh	Scottish Gaelic	Scots	Kernewek (Cornish)	Manx	Ulster-Scots
Music	Ceol (an ceol)	La musique	La musique	Cerddoriaeth	Ceòl	Music	Ilow	Kiaull	Music
Poetry	Fíliocht (an fhíliocht)	La poésíe	La pouésíe	Barddoniaeth	Bàrdachd	Poetry	Bardhonieth	Bardaght	Rhymín'
Singing	Amhránaíocht (an amhránaíocht)	La chant'tie	La chânterie	Canu	Seinn	Singin	Kana	Singal	Singin'
Dancing	Damhsa / rince (an damhsa/an rince)	La dans'sie	La danserie	Dawnsio	Dannsa	Dancin	Donsya	Daunsin	Dancin'
Culture	Cultúr (an cultúr)	La tchultuthe	La tchulture	Diwylliant	Cultar	Cultur	Gonisogeth	Cultoer	Culture
Storytelling	Scéalaíocht (an scéalaíocht)	La racont'tie	La caonterie	Dweud stori	Seanchas	Storytelling	Hwedhla	Skealaght	Yairn tellin'
Performance	Taispeántas (an taispeántas)	La jouéthie	La vétchie	Perfformiad	Taisbeantas	Performance	Performans	Cloie	Shew
Festival	Féile (an fhéile)	Eune fête	Énne faête	Gwyl	Fáis	Fest	Gool	Feailley	Festival
Instrument(s)	Uirlis (an uirlis)	Un instrument	Énn instrument (D's instruments)	Offeryn(nau)	Ionnramaid (ean)	Instrument	Daffar ilow	Greie-kiaultee	Instrument(s)
Local Instrument	Bodhrán (Irish frame drum)	Eune chifournie (Hurdy-Gurdy)	Énne chifournie (Hurdy-Gurdy)	Telyn deires (Welsh triple harp)	Plob-mhör (Bagpipe)	Clarsach (Celtic harp)	Kroder kroghen (Crowdy-crawn)	Fiddyl (Fiddle)	Begpipes (Bagpipes)

**BIC: Music & Culture Key Words**

**British-Irish COUNCIL**

European Day of Languages - 26 September 2021

English	Cornish	Gaelic	Guernésiais	Irish	Jèrriais	Manx	Scots	Ulster-Scots	Welsh
Climate change	Chanjan an hin	Atharrachadh na gnáth-shíde	Lé chángement du climat	Athru aeráide	Lé chángement du climat	Caghlaa yn emshyraght	Climate chynge	Climate altherin	Newid hinsawdd
Global warming	Tommheans ollysel	Bláthachadh na cruinne	L'Écaoufferie Globale	Téamh domhanda	La cauff'thie globale	Chlow ny Cruinnee	Global (yirdly) warmin	Worl' wairmin	Cynhesu byd-eang
Endangered species	Eghen beryllys	Beathach an cunnart (singular) Beathaichean an cunnart (plural)	L's espacées en dangier	Speicis i mbaol	L's espécies m'nicies	Keint-cretoor ayns gae (Singular) Keintyn-cretoor ayns gae (plural)	Threitent speshies	Species gat dangersum scairse	Rhywogaethau sydd mewn perygl
Extinct	Difeudhys	À bith	Dépéri	Diothaithe	Péthinmé	Currit mow	Dee'd aff	Dee'd oot	Diflanedig
An environmentalist	Kerghynedhor	Neach-árainmeachd	Enn enviraonementaliste	Gníomhaí timpeallachta	Eune envithonn' mentaliste	Fer-coadee yn theihll dooghysaght	A Enverronmatist/ Uphauder(s) o wir environment	An environmentalist	Amygcheddwr
Renewable energy	North nowedhadow	Cumhachd Ath-nuadhachail	Pouvoaer r'nouv'labl'ye	Fuinneamh in-athnuaithe	Pouwer r'nouv'labl'ye	Bree aanoagh	Replinishable energy (eldin)	Renewable energy	Ynni adnewyddadwy
Carbon footprint	Ól troos karbon	Lorg carbóin	La maerque à tcherbaon	Lorg carbóin	L'empreinte dé'tcherbaon	Ynyyd-coshey carbon	Carbon fitprent	Carbon fitprent	Ól troed karbon
Sea level rise	Ugheilheans nível an mor	Árdachadh íre na mara	La haoucherie au livé d'la maire	Árdú leihéid na mara	La haúchthie du nivé d'la mé	Yrjaghey yrjid ny marrey	Sea spate	Risin' sea watter levels	Cymydd yn lefel y môr
Global average temperature	Tempredh kreskek ollyssel	Teothachd chuiheasach na cruinne	La température mouoyanne du maonde	Meán teocht domhanda	La tempéthatuthe mouoyenne du monde	Tempreilys meanagh ny cruinnee	Global (yirdly) arage temperature	Worl'wide average temperature	Tymheredd cyfartlog byd-eang
Fossil fuels	Keunys menhes	Connaidhean-fosail	Les fouaíteumes fossiles	Breosla iontaise	Les fouailles fossiles	Connaghyn-fossyl	Fossil eldin	Fossil fuels	Tanwyddau ffosil
Net Zero	Ylyn Mann	Cothromachadh Carboin	Érian Naette	Foirgneamh neodrach ó thaosh fuinnimh	Lé zéro net	Corrymid Charbon	Tot Zero	Net Naethin	Sero-net

**BIC Member Administrations: Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages (IML) - 11 Phrases**

Les preunnié années





Les premières années

Na tráth-bhladhnaichean

An bledhynnyow a-varr

Na luathbhlianta

Y blynyddoedd cynnar

English	Irish	Jèrriais	Guernesiais	Welsh	Scottish Gaelic	Scots	Kernewek (Cornish)	Manx	Ulster-Scots
The early years	Na luathbhlianta	Les preunnié années	Les premières années	Y blynyddoedd cynnar	Na tráth-bhladhnaichean	Thon early years	An bledhynnyow a-varr	Ny bleeantyn d'eash saa	The earlie years
Children	Leanaí	Les Moussees	L's Éfants	Plant	Clann	Weans/ bairns	Fleghes	Paítçhyn	Weans
Language development	Forbairt teanga	Lé développement d'la langue	Lé dév'loppement d'la langue	Datblygiad iaith	Leasachadh càinain	Leid development	Displegyans yeth	Bishaghey tushtey glare	Leid forderin
Learning experience	Taithí foghlama	L'expéthiencie d'apprenrie	L'espériencie d'apprenrie	Profiad dysgu	Eòlas ionnsachaidh	Lairmin expairience	Prevyans dyski	Keeyal kionnit trooid ynsagh	Lairmin experience
Childcare	Cúram Leanaí	La souongn'nie des moussees	Lé souogn és éfants	Gofal plant	Cúram cloinne	Childcare <sup>1</sup>	Floghwith	Goaill kiarail jeh paítçhyn	Bieldin o' weans
Developing the whole child	Forbairt an linbh ina iomláine	Lé développement du mousse entchi	Lé dév'loppement d'l'éfant entchiaer	Datblygu'r plentyn cyfan	Slán-leasachadh na páiste	Developin the hale wean/ bairn	Displegya an flogh dien	Bishaghey clane y phaitçhey	Forderin the hale wean
Positive relationships	Caidrimh dhearfacha	Les 'l'iations positives	Les parentâges qui válent	Perthnasau cadarnhaol	Cáirdeasan aigheach	Guid relationships	Keskowethyan-sow posedhek	Mooinjeyrysny miey	Positive relationships
Child centred	Leabh lármach	Concentré sus l'mousse	Fixai sus l'éfant	Canolbwntio ar y plentyn	Stéidhichte air clann	Wean/bairn centrit	Flogh y'n kres	Mychione y phaitçhey	Wean centred
Playful learning	Foghlaim trí spraoi	L'apprenrie enjouardée	L'apprenrie en jouerie	Dysgu drwy chwarae	Ionnsachadh cleasail	Playfu lairmin	Dyskans gwariek	Gynsagh trooid cloie	Plyfu lairmin
Outdoor learning	Foghlaim faoin aer	L'apprenrie en d'houors	L'apprenrie en touors	Dysgu yn yr awyragored	Ionnsachadh a-muigh	Ootside lairmin	Dyskans yn-mes	Gynsagh çheu-mooie	Lairmin ootby

<sup>1</sup> There is no corresponding translation in Scots for 'Childcare'.

Ny bleeantyn d'eash saa

**BIC: IML and Early Years  
Key Words and Phrases**

**THE EARLY YEARS**

## Forward Work Plan Implementation

At the last IML Languages Ministerial meeting in 2019, Ministers agreed the work plan for the IML languages work sector, which has continued to be implemented through to 2023. This plan focussed activity on social language use, the importance of the early years in language acquisition, and the all-important role of infrastructure, technology and economic impact.

### Deliverable 1: Supporting the Social Use of IML Languages

At the 2019 IML Languages Ministerial meeting, Ministers discussed the importance of supporting the social use of languages as a central shared priority in sustaining and supporting IML languages, and agreed to include this as a focus in all future work programmes for the work sector.

A thriving language is a language that is used, and promoting the social use of IML languages is key to increase the use of languages in as many aspects of life as possible.

As part of the 2019-2023 work plan, the work sector focussed on three key aspects of social use:

- Social use of IML languages by children;
- The role of culture in supporting social use of IML languages; and
- Identifying linkages with the creative industries work sector to support language use.

#### Prosiect 2050

In considering supporting the Social Use of IML languages, the work sector invited Dr Jeremy Evas, Head of Prosiect 2050, Welsh Government, to present the Government's "verbal" strategy. It is a positive style of communication based on extensive insights and critical discourse analysis. It attempts to draw everyone closer to the language,

wherever they are on their language journey. A workshop was subsequently held that allowed the work sector to draft text under the principles of the new "voice". All Member Administrations have since used the principles in their own materials to create a more welcoming and inclusive tone.

#### The Guernsey Language Commission

The States of Guernsey voted to establish and fund a Guernsey Language Commission for three years. In June 2023, Commissioners were appointed and have started to work in earnest. This has gained a high level of engagement and interest from people in Guernsey. The Government recently resolved to adopt Guernesiais as an official language

and this resolution should provide a platform for developing provision in public services and beyond. The new Commission aims to make a difference to the future of Guernsey's language, whilst recognising that it is starting from a very base and has much to learn from other administrations.

## Social use of IML languages by children

In promoting the social use of IML Languages, the importance of establishing languages use amongst children and young people as early as possible is recognised, so that they are confident and willing speakers in all walks of life. Providing opportunities to use the language beyond formal educational

settings is imperative to this aim. As part of the 2019-2023 work programme, the work sector considered a number of initiatives underway across administrations to encourage and promote the use of IML languages amongst children.

### Urdd Gobaith Cymru

The work sector visited one of Urdd Gobaith Cymru's residential centres in Cardiff Bay. The 'Urdd' is a national voluntary Welsh language youth organisation, partly funded by the Welsh Government. It was established in 1922 to provide opportunities through the medium of Welsh for children and young people to develop personal and social skills that will enable them to make a positive contribution to the community. It currently has over 55,000 members between 8-25 years old.

The site visit focussed on the Urdd's work in the field of formal apprenticeships, the Urdd Eisteddfod, and its five residential centres across Wales. The visit reinforced the importance of creating exciting and varied opportunities to use the Welsh language beyond formal school settings and motivated members to consider what could be possible within their own administrations.



Urdd



Within this topic, the work sector's discussions have focussed on the importance of creating engaging and diverse activities to enable children to encounter IML languages in an interactive and interesting way. A number of administrations are considering how best to engage a diverse range of audiences in promoting the social use of language, in particular amongst young people. A presentation from the Government of Ireland provided an overview of the approach taken

by the Department of Foreign Affairs in developing a suite of interactive digital resources aimed at engaging young people through the medium of Irish at key times during the year. This has inspired other administrations including the Scottish Government to consider how best to utilise IML languages in their internal and external online presence, particularly for their diaspora, and young people living abroad.

### Aelwyd Bro Taf

Whilst in Cardiff, the work sector also visited Aelwyd Bro Taf – an evening club where children and young people's talents and confidence are nurtured through the medium of Welsh whilst learning the traditional arts of dance, stepping, cerdd dant (a unique tradition of singing lyrics over harp melody) and song. The Aelwyd provides an opportunity to learn new skills, to enjoy unique Welsh culture, to gain confidence in performance and to make new friends beyond the school boundaries. It is a space for children and young people to use their Welsh language skills socially in a

fun environment outside of a formal school setting. It also provides an opportunity for young Welsh-speakers to volunteer as coaches at the Aelwyd further embedding the language as a part of their social lives.

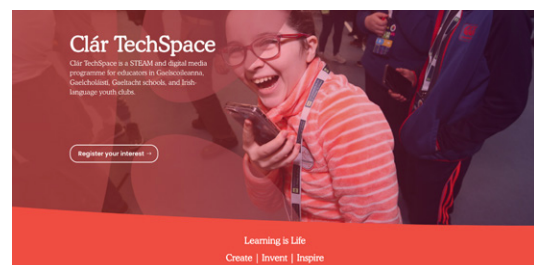


### Clár TechSpace

During a visit to Connemara, Ireland, the work sector had the opportunity to learn about TechSpace, which operates as a national network of digital media spaces in youth centres and schools. It brings digital creativity and STEM activities and skills to young people through the medium of the Irish language. The network helps young people to create digital and technological material as they engage in activities such as digital film, web design, mobile app development and robotics.

Under the direction of trained instructors and mentors, young people enhance their computer competency, while improving their

self-confidence and social skills through the medium of Irish. It provides a safe and innovative space to use the language for the children and young people and encourages continued use of the language for the mentors and educators.





## Misneachd Project

In support of Scottish Government's aims to support young people in Gaelic medium education outside of school in sports, debates, traditional music, drama and more. One of the e-Sgoil projects, Misneachd, has this aim. Misneachd, meaning confidence, is e-Sgoil's provision of bespoke, small group support for Gaelic medium pupils. The aim of Misneachd is to increase learner confidence in Gaelic. Misneachd's impact was recognised in February 2023 when the e-Sgoil Team won the Learning Award at the Scottish Gaelic Awards. 110 pupils have been involved in Misneachd

in session 2022 – 2023. These learners were from 15 schools spread across seven local authorities (Argyll and Bute/Comhairle nan Eilean Siar/The Highland Council/Edinburgh City/Glasgow City/Angus/Refrewshire). Learners, the schools' teachers and e-Sgoil teachers were all involved in tracking the development of learner confidence in Gaelic. Recent tracking shows that: Almost all learners engaged with Misneachd stated that it improved their confidence, and all school staff reported that Misneachd improved their pupils' confidence.

## Urdd Gobaith Cymru's Peace and Goodwill Message

The young people of Wales have been broadcasting an annual [message of peace and goodwill](#) on 18 May since 1922 via the Urdd to encourage and inspire humanitarian and international activity. For the first time in its history, the work sector arranged for the message to be translated into all nine BIC IML languages in 2020, and has continued every year since. The message has covered the following themes during this period: responding to Covid-19, equality for women, the climate emergency and anti-racism. Translating the message into all BIC languages ensures that these languages share the world stage with larger languages and proves that our indigenous and minority languages can remain relevant to young people today. The practice of broadcasting the message in all IML languages is now standard practice and will continue in future years.



Urdd

## The role of culture in supporting social use of IML languages

The use of IML languages is intrinsically linked to culture, identity, community and family. In this context, providing an enabling environment for culture and artistic output which incorporates IML languages is important. The work sector has engaged with and considered a number of initiatives underway across the administrations aimed at supporting artists to work with, and through, IML languages.

In autumn 2022, the Government of Ireland convened the first in-person meeting of the work sector since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, aimed at examining the policy approaches required to support artists to develop work in their IML languages.

This meeting brought officials and artists from across the BIC administrations together for the first time to jointly consider how culture and art can provide a basis for IML language use and learning.

This visit was a unique opportunity for the work sector to engage with artists directly, while also engaging with a range of initiatives underway to support artists to develop work in the Irish language. Visiting artists and officials also met with many Irish speakers and locals who discussed the definite, if not easily measured, social benefits of living within a bilingual community.

The visit has created a new creative network that continues to collaborate and produce artistic output. The visit also inspired the BIC Secretariat and the work sector to use the BIC's nine IML languages in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. In collaboration with the Scottish Poetry Library, a poetry anthology was developed drawing together poems themed on the natural environment in each IML language. It was published during the BIC Summit hosted by the Government of Jersey in June 2023.

*now the sun  
breaks through*

Poems to mark the  
25th anniversary of the  
Belfast/Good Friday Agreement

 British-Irish  
COUNCIL

25  
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Scottish  
**Poetry**  
Library



## Teach Your Cat Guernesiais Book

The Teach Your Cat/Dog book series by illustrator Anne Cakebread has been translated into 18 languages to date. The Guernsey Language Commission worked with Welsh publishers Y Lolfa to produce a Guernesiais version of this popular book. The translations

are by language consultant Yan Marquis and the illustrations have been subtly styled to suit Guernsey. An [online video](#) has been produced to help readers with pronunciation. The book has been very popular so far with locals and visitors.



## Cornish Language Residency

In summer 2022, Cornwall Council and Endellienta Arts held a Cornish language residency as a chance for four Cornish performers to spend a week learning Cornish and writing music. Cornish is often used in theatre and song and the aim is to run the residency each year so that more artists can build up their confidence in performing in Cornish. At the end of the week, there was a concert of the residency work in the nearby church ranging from songs for children, to electronica to an Ave Maria in Cornish. Singer-songwriter Will Keating went on to attend the BIC visit hosted by the Government

of Ireland in Connemara in Autumn 2022, to share ideas about how to introduce Cornish to young people in schools through music.



## Identifying linkages with the creative industries work sector to support language use

Promoting the social use of IML languages, particularly through cultural and artistic initiatives, has been further enabled through engagement and collaboration with the BIC Creative Industries work sector. The work of the Creative Industries activity sector reflects the increasing global recognition of the economic and social potential of the creative

industries and this group has therefore focused on providing supporting environments from which more creative endeavours flourish. There are clear and direct linkages between these aims, and those of the IML languages work sector, particularly in the context of BIC Member Administrations.

### Celtic Media Festival

BIC has developed a partnership with the [Celtic Media Festival](#) and has sponsored the festival in recent years. In 2023, the BIC produced a panel discussion for the festival programme showcasing the experience of documentary makers in producing feature length documentaries with a focus on the impact of indigenous languages to these experiences. This partnership will continue to develop in years to come, given the direct link to the work of a number of BIC work sectors, including Creative Industries and IML languages.



**Celtic  
Media  
Festival**

The International  
Summit of Sound  
and Screen



### TG4 (Television station) visit

During a visit to Connemara, Ireland, officials and artists from across the BIC administrations visited TG4 and Raidió na Gaeltachta (Ireland's Irish language TV and radio stations). During this visit, a new initiative from a TG4, Fís Éireann / Screen Ireland and Coimisiún na Meán – Ireland's new commission for regulating broadcasters

and online media, and supporting media development was discussed to develop original feature films in the Irish language. This scheme supported the production of Oscar-nominated Irish film *An Cailín Ciúin*.



## Cultural Collaboration between Guernsey and Jersey

During the making of a documentary by Little River Pictures about Jèrriais, the filmmakers Tom and Annigna Kennedy travelled to Guernsey to highlight the close links between the indigenous languages of the islands, both being descended from the Norman language and, therefore, mutually intelligible. The documentary makers met members of the Guernsey Language Commission, and Guernsey Eisteddfod Committee, as well as learners and native speakers of Guernesiais. As part of the same visit, Little River Pictures also captured the recording of an album of traditional music featuring songs in Jèrriais and Guernesiais performed by the band Lihou. The visit is

indicative of increased cooperation between the islands and a strong desire to support each other's work in the future.



## Deliverable 2: Exploring role of the early years in IML

The early years are fundamental to a child's life chances, and at a time when their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development is most open to influence, both positive and negative. Consequently, the work sector has sought to consider how best to promote the use of indigenous, minority and lesser-used languages within early years provision. This focus led the IML languages work sector to collaborate with the BIC Early Years work sector to further consider this area.

This collaboration led to the hosting of a joint virtual event in 2021, to discuss and consider shared challenges and opportunities in early years language acquisition. Over one hundred delegates attended the event, with a diverse range of representatives from all eight BIC Member Administrations, comprising a cross section of both the public and community sectors as well as academia. Delegates heard a range of experience and perspectives, with the aim of sharing expertise, good practice and new evidence. The webinar also provided an opportunity to seek inspiration and build new connections with others who work in the same field.

The webinar programme focussed on three key topics linked to the importance of IML language acquisition in the early years:

- The cognitive benefits of learning languages in the early years;
- Supporting engagement with the IML/Early Years workforce; and
- Best practice in supporting parents of Early Years children in IML.

Following this event the IML Languages and Early Years work sectors developed a report on the emerging themes and conclusions, which was presented to Ministers at the IML Ministerial Virtual Meeting and BIC Summit in Cardiff in November 2021.

The work sector has also considered a range of initiatives underway across the BIC administrations to support IML language use in the early years, and given the importance of this topic, the work sector proposes to continue collaboration with the Early Years work sector Work Plan.

### Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal Late Immersion Centre

Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal Late Immersion Centre is a Welsh language latecomers immersion centre in Cardiff, which enables children to enter Welsh-medium education later than reception year. At the centre, they learn Welsh intensively for a term and go from having very little or no Welsh to being confident speakers ready to enter mainstream provision. It is a unique and world-leading model and enables children to attend a Welsh-medium school even if they have not been exposed to the language during the early years. It means that it is never too late for

parents to decide to send their children to Welsh-medium education.

During its visit, the work sector learned about the skills used to immerse the pupils and the aftercare provided once the pupils leave the centre at the end of term. The support provided for parents so that the learning can continue at home even when the parents aren't confident Welsh-speakers, was also discussed.



## Deliverable 3: Collaboration on IML language infrastructure, technology and economic impact

Language acquisition and language use are the cornerstones of language planning. In order to increase both elements, a strong and sustainable linguistic infrastructure is required to underpin all policies, strategies and activities. As part of this work plan, the work sector chose to focus on:

- Exploring opportunities for expansion of the eSgoil model;

- Identifying suitable forums for IML language related technology; and
- The importance of the economy on language revitalisation.

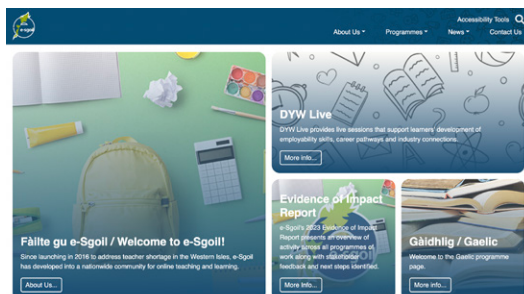
This activity has enabled the work sector to better understand technology and its impact on IML languages while identifying and sharing best practice in relation to linguistic infrastructure and technology.

### eSgoil

In June 2022, the work sector met virtually with Angus MacIennan, Headteacher of eSgoil to receive an update on their work to support Gaelic learning across Scotland, and in other parts of the world. The work sector had previously visited the project in Stornoway, and this was an opportunity to learn about some innovations introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular innovation in learning and teaching, curriculum design and school day planning. The programme's vast economic benefits were also highlighted, along with the flexibility provided.

The work sector also heard from Llifton Ellis, E-sgol, Head of Strategy in Wales who spoke about how the initiative has been adapted for adoption in Wales, as a direct result of shared learning and collaboration through the British-Irish Council. He outlined how

the model was used to provide catch up lessons to pupils during the pandemic and is still being used as a means of providing additional revision for pupils.



[www.e-sgoil.com](http://www.e-sgoil.com)



## Linguistic infrastructure

Linguistic infrastructure plays a key role in ensuring that IML languages have the appropriate support to survive, develop and thrive. During the course of this work plan, the work sector has considered a variety of linguistic infrastructure projects underway across the administrations, touching areas such as dictionaries, terminology, place names and corpora.

The work sector had the opportunity to engage with the work of Foras na Gaeilge, which is responsible for the development of Irish language lexicography and terminology. Foras na Gaeilge presented the project underway to develop comprehensive and modern dictionaries which facilitate and consolidate the use

of the Irish language in all areas of contemporary life. During these discussions, work sector officials considered a range of shared challenges and opportunities associated with this work, including how to deal with terms that are now dated and/or potentially offensive and; how to develop interactive online resources; and standardisation processes. This consideration has encouraged some BIC administrations whose linguistic infrastructure is less developed to form a sub-group to consider progress and share best practice and learning from other administrations. Consideration of linguistic infrastructure will continue to be a key focus for the work sector.

### Welsh Language Corpus

During a visit to Cardiff, Dr Dawn Knight, Principal Investigator for the [National Corpus of Contemporary Welsh \(CorCenCC\)](#), Cardiff University, gave a presentation on her work to develop and maintain a corpus of the Welsh Language. The Corpus is a freely accessible collection of multiple language samples, gathered from real-life communication and stored as an electronic database.

The group heard how it can be used to see how Welsh words and phrases are used in

real-life situations, and is therefore a useful language resource for Welsh speakers, Welsh learners, researchers and indeed anyone who is interested in the language. The CorCenCC corpus was also an example of the importance for any language of ensuring that standardised, tagged corpora are available for use through open source licences, whether by individuals or larger IT companies, and their importance in creating and maintaining digital infrastructure.

### Buidhean Obrach Acadamaidh Gàidhlig/Gaelic Academy Working Group

Although Scotland does not have a Gaelic language academy, there are a number of groups that contribute to the richness and relevance of the Gaelic language. These groups meet together under the heading of Buidhean Obrach Acadamaidh Gàidhlig (BOAG) / Gaelic Academy Working Group, which is managed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This working group is an effective way for linguistic infrastructure bodies to work together and co-operate.

The working group includes a focus on place names, translation, media definitions, technology, nature terms, speech to text, terminology, grammar, curriculum terms and orthography. The BOAG also includes local authorities and larger bodies such as the BBC, Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, MG ALBA, universities and the Faclair Gàidhlig, historical dictionary project.



## Technology

Technology has the power to change the language that our friends, families and communities speak and this is why we must ensure technology can speak, utilise and understand IML languages to support the ongoing use and acquisition of these languages in modern life. It also provides an enabling environment to support the ongoing development of linguistic infrastructure, hosting online resources for use, whilst also enabling

collaboration on the development of these resources. In considering a range of initiatives underway, the work sector has discussed what can and must be done in considering the opportunities and implications for their IML languages. As referenced earlier, during Covid-19 the group developed a wide range of online resources to support to use of their IML languages.

### Welsh Language Technology Action Plan

The [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#) invests in synthetic voice or speech to text developments, machine translation and artificial intelligence to ensure that the Welsh language secures its place within new technological developments so that the language remains current and relevant and is used.



## The importance of the economy on language revitalisation

Throughout its activity, the work sector has also considered the importance of the economy in supporting the use, acquisition and revitalisation of IML languages. This consideration has been furthered throughout the full range of activities of the work

sector, including focus on cultural and creative outputs, and the creation of enabling environments to support the mainstreaming of IML languages through economic activity.

## Gteic Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta

Gteic Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta is a network of 30 innovation and digital hubs developed by Údarás na Gaeltachta in locations throughout Ireland's Gaeltacht areas. They act as focal points for the promotion and support of enterprise, innovation and remote working in rural Gaeltacht areas.

In Autumn 2022, the work sector visited the Digital and Innovation Hub [gteic@An Spidéal](#) in Galway. The hub provides the Gaeltacht community, both at home and abroad, an opportunity to return to or live in their home area by providing remote

bolsters and assists these unique language communities and helps them to face the challenges of rural depopulation.

The attraction of existing companies has brought wealth to the area in the form of high quality employment to people within the Spidéal area. These companies also increase the value of the local economy through engaging with local service providers and businesses. [gteic@An Spidéal](#) supports the creation of employment in the Gaeltacht and this in turn, supports the preservation and growth of the Irish language through providing high quality employment opportunities to the Gaeltacht community.





# British-Irish

COUNCIL





*now the sun  
breaks through*

Poems to mark the  
25th anniversary of the  
Belfast/Good Friday Agreement

