

Lèirmheas air Toraidhean Nàiseanta 2023**Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig****31 Cèitean 2023**

Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig na bhuidheann phoblach neo-roinneil aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Is e a' phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba a tha an urra ri leasachadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig.

'S e amas a' Phlana Cànain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid "a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine ann am barrachd shuidheachaidhean". Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a' fòcasadh air:

- Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.
- Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.
- Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.

Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo gu bith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt gu buil na buannachdan eaconomach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. 'S e amas a' Bhùird gum faicear is gun cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras nàiseanta.

Tha Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus an càch air feadh na dùthcha. Aig Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha comas air choreigin sa Ghàidhlig aig 87,100 neach ann an Alba (mu 1.7% den t-sluaigh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh sin nan luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig. Tha iarrtas a' fàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig, le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconomach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ga leudachadh air feadh na dùthcha. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is an dàrna leth de na 32 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan bun-sgoile. Tha a-nis còrr is 5,600 sgoilearan san roinn thar foghlam Tràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoil agus Àrd-sgoil. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas, bidh feum ann air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.

Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànain Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh air an app bhon a thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air chur gu mòr ri

goireasan do dh'ìnbhich a tha ag iarraidh a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.

Fhuair “Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan a’ Phobaill a thaobh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba”¹ gu bheil, bho 2012:

- A’ cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gur urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.
- A’ cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gur urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig a thuigsinn air dhol an-àirde bho 25% gu 41%.

A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine den bheachd gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig glè chudromach no meadhanach cudromach do dhualchas cultarail na h-Alba.

Chan eil iomradh sam bith air a’ Ghàidhlig an dara cuid sna Toraidhean Nàiseanta làithreach no sna taisbeanairan a gheibhear airson gach toradh. Fhad ‘s a tha sinn a’ tuigsinn gum feum an toradh a bhith leathann a thaobh raon-ùghdarras, tha sinn ag iarraidh gum bi so-mhaoinean dualchas sònraichte neo-stuthach na h-Alba, gu h-àraid cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig, air an aithneachadh agus air an comharrachadh.

Tha sinn air na h-atharrachaidhean a leanas a mholadh do Thoraidhean a’ Choileanaidh Nàiseanta (air an soilleireachadh ann am fìor-dhubh) san earrann a leanas.

Tha an obair aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ co-thaobhadh ri Frèam-obrach a’ Choileanaidh Nàiseanta agus tha i a’ cur ri grunn toraidhean làithreach. Gheibhear tuairisgeul air prìomh eisimpleirean dhiubh seo gu h-ìosal agus gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh sna [Aithisgean Bliadhna is Cunntasan againn](#)

Coimhearsnachdan

A’ fuireach ann an coimhearsnachdan a tha in-ghabhalach, cumhachdaichte, ath-leumach agus sàbhailte.

*Thathar a’ toirt cumadh do na coimhearsnachdan againn le inbhe is feartan **is cànanan** nan àitichean sa bheil sinn a’ fuireach agus nan daoine am measg am bi sinn a’ fuireach. San toradh seo, feumaidh sinn aithneachadh, ma tha deagh shunnd agus slàinte gu bhith againn mar nàisean, gum feum sinn na stòrasan is àrainneachdan ionadail a dhìon agus àladh.*

’S e am modh-obrach againne gum bu chòir gum bi ionnsachadh agus cur air adhart a’ chànain freagarrach do shuidheachaidhean sòisealta agus eaconamach nan diofar

¹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

choimhearsnachdan. Mar sin, bidh am modh-obrach diofaraichte eadar, mar eisimpleir, àitichean dùthchail far a bheil Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn agus bailtean is mòr-bhailtean na h-Alba.

Bidh an taic a bheir Bòrd na Gàidhlig don Ghàidhlig agus an dòigh sa bheil e ga cur air adhart a' cur ri in-ghabhalachd agus a' dìon a' chànain mar stòras ionadail. Le bhith a' brosnachadh leasachadh a' chànain, bithear a' neartachadh dearbh-aithne na sgìre agus mothachadh air àite. Bidh seo a' cuideachadh dhaoine gus ceangal a dhèanamh le, agus tuigse fhaighinn air, àitichean agus traidiseanan an àite far a bheil iad a' fuireach.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt seachad gach bliadhna maoinachadh luach barrachd air £1.6 millean do bhuidhnean a bhios a' cuideachadh gus cleachdadh, ionnsachadh agus inbhe na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus mar sin a' cuideachadh le lìbhrigeadh Plana Corporra BnG. Bidh mòran de na buidhnean seo ag obair taobh a-staigh choimhearsnachdan agus bidh oifigearan aca a bhios a' lìbhrigeadh agus a' toirt taic do ghnìomhachdan ann an cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig. Tha na com-pàirtichean seo a' gabhail a-steach Comann na Gàidhlig (oifigearan òigridh air feadh Alba), Ceòlas (tachartasan is seirbheisean cànan is cultair ann an Uibhist), Fèisean nan Gàidheal (caochladh ghnìomhachdan ealain airson na h-òigridh sa Ghàidhlig air feadh Alba), An Comunn Gàidhealach (a' toirt taic do mhòdan ionadail (fèisean/farpaisean) agus a' stiùireadh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail gach bliadhna).

Tron sgeama Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd, bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt taic do phròiseactan, clasaichean agus tachartasan gach bliadhna airson choimhearsnachdan ann an sgìrean a bhathar a' meas gu traidiseanta mar theis-mheadhan na Gàidhealtachd, a bharrachd air ann an ionadan bailteil.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt comhairle, taic agus stiùireadh ro-innleachdach air foghlam Gàidhlig ann an raon de shuidheachaidhean, nam measg

- Slighean gu Dreuchdan Teagaisg
- Ro-sgoil tron Àrd-sgoil
- Foghlam Adhartach agus Àrd Ìre
- Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig
- Dàta Foghlaim
- Ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig mar inbheach

Cultar

Tha na cultaran cruthachail, beòthail, eadar-mheasgte againn gan cur an cèill agus gam mealadh fad is farsaing leis na cànanan tùsail againn air an dìon, air taic fhaighinn agus air an comharrachadh.

Tha fèisean againn a tha cliùiteach air feadh an t-saoghail, tha gnìomhachasan ciùil agus film againn agus tha stòras beairteach againn de sheanchas agus de dh'ealain lèirsinneach a tha a' sìneadh air ais ceudan de bhliadhnaichean. San toradh seo, tha sinn ag onorachadh, a'

comharrachadh agus a' toirt taic don tàlant chruthachail againn na iomadachd mhìorbhaileach uile.

Tha ealainean is cultar na Gàidhlig rim faotainn air feadh Alba, agus iad nam pàirt mhòr de dhearbh-aithne chultarach na h-Alba. Bidh a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ri beartas cultar na h-Alba agus a' leudachadh iomadachd na dùthcha.

Tha iomadh cruth dualchasach agus ùr-nosach de dh'ealainean na h-Alba a' tarraing air cultar na Gàidhlig, ged nach bi iad uile air an toirt seachad sa chànan. Mar eisimpleir, bidh iomadh còmhlan-pioba is còmhlan folk, buidhnean dannsa Gàidhealach, geamaichean Gàidhealach agus cèilidhean a' tarraing air cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt taic do chultar na Gàidhlig tro mhaoinachadh leantainneach airson bhuidhnean com-pàirteachais leithid Fèisean nan Gàidheal, a bhios a' ruith còrr is 45 Fèisean ionadail air feadh na h-Alba a tha a' toirt a-steach ceòl Gàidhlig agus teagasg ealain. Tha sinn cuideachd a' maoineachadh gnìomhachdan is tachartasan cultarach sònraichte, m.e. na tachartasan a bhios mar phàirt de Sheachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week), am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail, agus FilmG (farpais filmichean goirid).

Bidh gnìomhachdan cultarach Gàidhlig a' tàladh barrachd is luchd-còmhnaidh ionadail. Bidh iad a' brosnachadh luchd-turais – an dà chuid bhon dùthaich seo agus bho thall thairis – gu bhith a' tadhal air coimhearsnachdan ionadail.

Eaconomaidh

Eaconomaidh a tha co-fharpaiseil gu cruinneil, tionnsgainneach, in-ghabhalach agus seasmhach

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cumail orra a' cur na Gàidhlig air adhart mar so-mhaoin eaconamach. Gu sìmplidh, bidh a' Ghàidhlig a' leudachadh agus a' cur ri luach eaconomaidh na h-Alba.

Sheall rannsachadh, a chaidh a ghabhail os làimh le Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean, gum faodadh luach as coltaiche na Gàidhlig mar so-mhaoin a bhith suas gu £149 millean². Thathar air shealltainn gu bheil companaidh nam meadhanan MG Alba a' cruthachadh cosnadh de dheagh chàileachd, gu h-àraidh ann an sgìrean far a bheil àireamhan sluaigh ìosal, agus buaidh aige luach 340 dreuchdan co-ionann ri làn-ùine ann an Alba³. Sheall rannsachadh a rinneadh ann an Glaschu⁴ gu bheil, co-ionann ri làn-ùine, còrr is 700 dreuchdan ann mar thoradh air a' Ghàidhlig agus gu bheil i luach £21 millean cinneas an làn-luach (GVA) gach bliadhna.

² <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/3157/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

³ <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=57783&p=0>

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cumail orra a' dèanamh na h-argamaid airson tasgadh ann an coimhearsnachdan far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig ga bruidhinn gus taic a thoirt do dh'fhàs is leasachadh eaconamach. Tha sin a' gabhail a-steach taic do ghnothachasan, ceumannan gus òigridh a bhrosnachadh a bhith a' cumail orra a' fuireach sa choimhearsnachd ionadail aca, agus deagh bhun-structar leithid taigheadas agus còmhdhail.

Tha eaconamaidh fhallain, gu h-àraid ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach agus dùthchail far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig ga bruidhinn, riatanach don àm ri teachd airson na Gàidhlig. Airson cànan a tha soirbheachail, tha feum ann air coimhearsnachdan a tha soirbheachail.

Tha turasachd Ghàidhlig mar so-mhaoin luachmhor do dh'eaconamaidh na h-Alba, agus tha i mar phàirt chudromach do dhearbha-aithne chultarach na dùthcha. Tha an gnìomhachas a' fàs, agus luath, agus thathar an dùil gun cum i orra a' fàs sna bliadhnaichean ri thighinn.

- Dh'aithris VisitScotland gun robh an àireamh de luchd-tadhail a bha a' sireadh susbaint Ghàidhlig air an làrach-lìn aca air a dhol suas 72% thairis air na ceithir bliadhna mu dheireadh, le binnean sònraichte rè àm a' ghlasaidh shluaigh ann an 2020.
- Tha barrachd is 1.5 millean neach air an clàradh mar luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig air Duolingo, agus tha ceudan de mhiltean a' faighinn cothrom air na stòrasan SpeakGaelic.
- Ann an 2022, bhathar a' meas gun robh còrr is 1.2 millean neach-tadhail a thàinig a dh'Alba aig an robh ùidh ann an cultar is cànan na Gàidhlig.
- Tha cultar na Gàidhlig beairteach agus ioma-dhòigheach agus tha e dlùth-cheangailte ri cruth-tìre agus sgeulachdan na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean.

Foghlam

*Foghlamaichte gu math **sa Bheurla agus/no sa Ghàidhlig**, sgileil agus comasach air cur ris a' chomann shòisealta.*

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt taic do phàrantan is luchd-cùraim a tha ag iarraidh foghlam Gàidhlig airson an cuid chloinne agus dhaibhsan a tha airson solar foghlam Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh san sgìre aca. Tha sin a' gabhail a-steach foghlam bogaidh sna Tràth-bhliadhnaichean agus Cùram-chloinne, Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann am bun-sgoiltean is àrd-sgoiltean agus foghlam luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig ann am bun-sgoiltean is àrd-sgoiltean. Tha seo ga leudachadh do Ghàidhlig ann am Foghlam Àrd Ìre agus Adhartach agus ann an ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig mar inbheach.

Gheibhear an seo beagan eisimpleirean sònraichte a tha a' sealltainn mar a dh'fhaodas foghlam Gàidhlig buannachd a thoirt do dh'oileanaich:

- Faodaidh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig oileanaich a chuideachadh gus dearbh-aithne làidir a leasachadh, a bharrachd air faireachdainn gu bheil iad a' buntainn ri àite.

- Faodaidh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig oileanaich a chuideachadh gus na sgilean cànan aca a leasachadh gach cuid sa Ghàidhlig agus sa Bheurla.
- Faodaidh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig oileanaich a chuideachadh gus na sgilean aca a leasachadh a thaobh breithneachadh agus fuasgladh cheistean.
- Faodaidh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig oileanaich a chuideachadh gus an cruthachalachd agus mac-meanmna a leasachadh tro bhith a' faighinn cothrom air cultar is ealain na Gàidhlig.

Gheibhear an seo beagan eisimpleirean sònraichte a tha a' sealltainn mar a tha luchd-bruidhinn is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a' cur ris a' chomann shòisealta:

- Faodaidh luchd-bruidhinn is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a bhith ag obair ann an caochladh raointean, a' gabhail a-steach foghlam, turasachd, na h-ealainean, agus gnothachas.
- Faodaidh luchd-bruidhinn is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig cuideachadh gus cultar is cànan na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart.
- Faodaidh luchd-bruidhinn is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig cuideachadh gus drochaidean a thogail eadar diofar chultaran ann an comann sòisealta ùr-nodha ioma-chultarach.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt taic do fhoghlam Gàidhlig ann an iomadh diofar dhòigh.

- A' foillseachadh agus a' cur air adhart Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig
- A' toirt seachad maoinachadh do chròileagan Ghàidhlig agus do ghnìomhachdan tràth-bhliadhnaichean agus do ghnìomhachdan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig taobh a-muigh na sgoile.
- A' toirt taic do leasachadh stòrasan is stuthan teagaisg sa Ghàidhlig tro bhith a' toirt taic do chom-pàirtichean leithid Stòrlann, MG Alba (SpeakGaelic), Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, Giglets.
- Ag obair còmhla ri tidsearan agus proifeiseantaich foghlaim eile gus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san t-seòmar-teagaisg a bhrosnachadh.
- A' toirt seachad maoinachadh airson trèanadh do luchd-teagaisg Gàidhlig agus proifeiseantaich foghlaim eile.

An Àrainneachd

A' cur luach air an àrainneachd againn, a' gabhail tlachd innte, ga dìon agus ga meudachadh.

*Tha na so-mhaoinean seo ... riatanach don eaconamaidh againn, **don chànan againn**, don chultar againn, don dòigh-bheatha againn agus do shunnd nan ginealaichean ri teachd.*

Tha a' Ghàidhlig deatamach airson tuigse fhaighinn air na h-ainmean agus air a' chultar a tha ceangailte ri iomadh cruth-tìre agus làrach eachdraidheil.

Chaidh a h-uile cruth-tìre ann an Alba a chumadh le daoine. Bha mòran dhiubh nan luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig, a thug ainmean do dh'àitichean is feartan-tìre topografach. Tha an ceangal eachdraidheil seo, agus an dualchas beò, nam pàirtean a tha a cheart cho cudromach airson an àrainneachd a thuigsinn agus a dhìon, agus airson cur ri sunnd is tlachd a gheibh daoine às an àrainneachd nàdarra.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt taic gu cunbhalach do phròiseactan agus gnìomhachd a tha a' cur air adhart beòshlaint sheasmhach agus meas air an àrainneachd nàdarra is eachdraidheil againn. Bidh na pròiseactan seo a' gabhail a-steach cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig san obair aca. Tha eisimpleirean a' gabhail a-steach:

- Ionad Ath-fhiadhachaidh Dhùn Dreagain, pròiseact a tha ag obair gus an àrainneachd nàdarra ath-aiseag
- Druim nan Linnnean – eag-taigh-tasgaidh air an Eilean Sgitheanach
- Urras Ceann a Tuath na Hearadh

Slàinte

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cumail orra ag obair gus aire dhaoine àrdachadh air mar a dh'fheumas solar slàinte is cùram sòisealta cothroman a chur air adhart airson Gàidhlig a chleachdadh. Tha e deatamach gum bi cothrom aig a' mhòr-shluagh agus euslaintich le Gàidhlig air seirbheisean slàinte agus taic fhaighinn tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Mar eisimpleir, thathar ag aithneachadh sa chumantas gum faod luchd-labhairt dùthchasach cànan a dhol air ais gu ìre mhòr no uile gu lèir dhan chànan mhàthaireil aca nuair a thig seargadh-intinn orra an toiseach. Dh'fhaodte gun cleachd iad, seach faclan, mar eisimpleir, sa Bheurla, faclan den aon chiall ann an cànan as aithne dhaibh nas fheàrr. Ann an cuid de shuidheachaidhean, 's e a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdas iad, agus dh'fhaodte gun toir seo fìor dhroch bhuaidh air daoine an uair sin mura h-eil Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn leis a' mhòr-chuid de dhaoine mun cuairt orra.

Thathar ag aithneachadh sa chumantas gum faod an comas bruidhinn sa chànan thaghte agad (m.e., sa Ghàidhlig) a' cur gu mòr ri sunnd aig amannan tinneis no iomagain.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air taic a thoirt seachad airson caochladh pròiseactan a tha a' toirt taic do shunnd inntinneil agus corporra. Nam measg, bha:

- Sonas FC (Clubaichean ball-coise tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig)
- Spòrs Gàidhlig (spòrs is gnìomhachdan eile air a' bhlàr a-muigh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig)
- Alzheimers Scotland – A' toirt taic do bhuidhnean air an Eilean Sgitheanach agus ann an Loch Aillse
- Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (a' brosnachadh tar-chur agus conaltradh eadar na ginealaichean)

Còraichean a' Chinne-daonna

A' toirt spèis do chòraichean a' chinne-daonna, gan dìon agus gan coileanadh, agus a bhith beò saor bho leth-bhreith

Tha sinn a' nochdadh ar gealltanais do na prionnsapalan seo ... (a' gabhail a-steach) ... sna frèamaichean-obrach deamocratach, institiuideach agus laghail trom bi sinn a' cur smachd an gnìomh.

'S e prionnsapal fìor chudromach airson luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig agus airson na beag-chuid dùthchasaich aig a bheil Gàidhlig bho thùs gu bheilear ag aithneachadh na Gàidhlig fon toradh seo, oir tha bun-stèidh chànanach aig còraichean daonna, seach stèidh chultarail a-mhàin.

Bu chòir gu bheilear a' dèiligeadh ri luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig le urram agus spèis, le cothromachd agus in-ghabhalachd. Tha seo ceangailte ri amas Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 gus "inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tèarainte mar chànan oifigeil na h-Alba aig a bheil spèis co-ionnan ris a' Bheurla".

Bu choir gu bheil a' chòir air cultar, mar a thathar ga cur an cèill ann an Artagail 27 ann am Foirgheall UNESCO air Còraichean a' Chinne-daonna, ga gabhail a-steach san toradh a tha ceangailte ri cultar a gheibhear gu h-àrd.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig gu cunbhalach a' freagairt ri aithrisean mearachdach no leth-bhreitheach sna pàipearan-naidheachd mu luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig no gnìomhachdan sa chànan. Tha sinn cuideachd a' freagairt ri iomadh co-chomhairleachadh poblach gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil guth is còraichean luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig gan cluinntinn aig an ìre as àirde.

Eadar-nàiseanta

Fosgailte, ceangailte agus a' dèanamh cur-ris deimhinneach gu h-eadar-nàiseanta

Tha eachdraidh fhada ann an Alba, sa bheilear a' gabhail uair, de dh'iomlaid innleachdail, chultarach, eaconamach ... a' cur air adhart ar n-àite san t-saoghal agus a' doimhneachadh ar dàimhean le daoine eile.

Tha cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a' brosnachadh cheanglaichean le coimhearsnachdan is buidhnean ann an Èirinn, ann an Èirinn a Tuath agus ann an Canada. Tha iad sin a' nochdadh choitcheannachdan sna h-ealainean, ann an cultar, ann an dualchas agus na meadhanan. Tha gnìomhachdan a' gabhail a-steach iomairt Colmcille, a tha ag amas air conaltradh agus co-obrachadh a bhrosnachadh eadar coimhearsnachdan cànanain Gàidhlig na h-Alba agus na h-Èireann.

A bharrachd air sin, bidh cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a’ tàladh ùidh eadar-nàiseanta agus a’ cur na dùthcha air adhart air feadh an t-saoghail. Mar sin, bu chòir gu bheilear ag aithneachadh na Gàidhlig mar phrìomh phàirt den toradh seo.

Bidh na gnìomhachdan eadar-nàiseanta a bhios Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ gabhail os làimh, no a’ maoineachadh, a’ cuideachadh gus:

- A’ Ghàidhlig adhartachadh mar phàirt chudromach de dhualchas, cultar agus dòigh-beatha na h-Alba agus làthaireachd eadar-nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a chur am meud.
- An comas a th’ aig a’ Ghàidhlig a thoirt gu buil mar so-mhaoin eaconamach, a bhios a’ toirt cosnadh agus teachd a-steach do dhaoine fa leth a tha ag obair tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ maoineachadh bhuidhnean com-pàirteachais a bhios a’ gabhail os làimh gnìomhachdan eadar-nàiseanta tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Bidh luchd-ciùil agus seinneadairean Gàidhlig a’ cleasachd thall thairis, agus tha iad nan tosgairean cultarach airson na h-Alba. Mar eisimpleir, tha Julie Fowlis, Capercaille, Breabach agus Mànran air chleasachd ann an caochladh dhùthchannan, nam measg na Stàitean Aonaichte, Canada, Àstralia agus air feadh na Roinn Eòrpa. Tha an ceòl aca air cultar na Gàidhlig a chur an aithne luchd-èisteachd nas farsainge, agus tha iad air aire dhaoine àrdachadh air Alba mar cheann-uidhe cultarach.

Tha deichean de mhiltean de luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, mura h-e ceudan de mhiltean, ann air feadh an t-saoghail. Tha an luchd-ionnsachaidh seo air an tarraing don chànan airson caochladh adhbharan, a’ gabhail a-steach sàr-obair a’ chànain, an eachdraidh bheairteach aice, agus an ceangal a th’ aice ri Alba. Tha an àireamh de luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a’ fàs, agus tha sin mar theist do tharraing chruinneil a’ chànain is a’ chultair.

Sunnd

Tha sgrìobhainn a’ cho-chomhairleachaidh a’ toirt fa-near gu bheil Frèam-obrach a’ Choileanaidh Nàiseanta mar “fhrèam-obrach sunnd” airson Alba.

Tha an tabhartas a thig bho chleachdadh is ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ga shìor-aithneachadh mar thaic do shunnd. Tha sin a chionn ’s gum bi cànan is cultar a’ cruthachadh fèin-mheas, a’ brosnachadh fèin-mhisneachd, a’ mìneachadh fèin-aithne agus a’ leasachadh maitheas na beatha. Bidh seo a’ meudachadh sunnd luchd-cleachdaidh, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taice na Gàidhlig – aig a bheil moit mhòr às a’ Ghàidhlig agus a cultar. Bidh a’ Ghàidhlig a’ cur ri, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a’ smaointinn agus a’ faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beatha. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air rannsachadh a choimiseanadh gus measadh a bharrachd a dhèanamh air na buannachdan agus cothroman a dh’fhaodadh a bhith ann airson Alba agus sunnd bho chànan is cultar.

Faodaidh cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig cuideachd a chur ri sunnd sna dòighean a leanas:

- Faodaidh a' Ghàidhlig daoine a chuideachadh gus ceangal a dhèanamh ris a' choimhearsnachd aca. Ann an coimhearsnachdan far a bheilear a' bruidhinn na Gàidhlig, is tric gu bheil dlùth-cheangal ann ri càch a chèile agus gu bheil daoine taiceil, nì a dh'fhaodas buannachd a thoirt seachad airson slàinte inntinneil is chorpóra.
- Faodaidh a' Ghàidhlig daoine a chuideachadh le bhith ag ionnsachadh mu eachdraidh is cultar na h-Alba. Faodaidh seo faireachdainn de mhoit is dearbh-aithne a thoirt do dhaoine.
- Faodaidh a' Ghàidhlig daoine a chuideachadh gus na sgilean cànan aca a leasachadh. Faodaidh seo faireachdainn coileanaidh agus fèin-mheas adhbharachadh.
- Faodaidh a' Ghàidhlig daoine a cheangal ri nàdar. Thathar air shealltainn gun tig buaidh dheimhinneach air slàinte inntinneil agus chorpóra à caitheamh ùine ann an nàdar.
- Faodaidh a' Ghàidhlig daoine a chuideachadh gus sgilean ùra ionnsachadh, an saoghal fhaicinn ann an dòigh eadar-dhealaichte agus an cruthachalachd a leasachadh. Faodaidh seo faireachdainn coileanaidh agus barrachd fèin-mheas adhbharachadh.

Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ris na toraidhean ath-ùraichte, a bu chòir a bhith a' toirt aithne nas fheàrr do chànan is cultar na Gàidhlig ann an Alba. Feuch gun cuir sibh fios thugainn ma tha ceist sam bith agaibh no ma tha sibh a' sireadh soilleireachadh.

National Outcomes Review 2023

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response

31 May 2023

Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.

The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23⁵ is “that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations”. This will be achieved by focusing on:

- Increasing the use of Gaelic.
- Increasing the learning of Gaelic.
- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through fully realising the social and economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national asset.

Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic and social benefits.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland’s 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake for the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Scottish Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The launch of SpeakGaelic in September 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language.

⁵ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland”⁶ found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.
- The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.

Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland’s cultural heritage.

There are no specific references to the Gaelic language in either the current National Outcomes nor in the indicators for each one. Whilst we understand that the outcome need to be broad in scope we would ask that Scotland’s unique intangible cultural heritage (ICH) assets, particularly our Gaelic language and culture, are recognised and celebrated.

We have made recommendations for changes to the NP Outcomes (highlighted) in bold in the following section.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s work is aligned to the National Performance Framework and contributes to a number of the current Outcomes. Key examples of these are described below and further information is provided in our [Annual Reports and Accounts](#)

Communities

Live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

*Our communities are shaped by the quality and character **and languages** of the places we live in and the people we live among. In this outcome we recognise that to be healthy and happy as a nation we must nurture and protect our local resources, environments and all who live in them.*

Our approach is that learning, and promotion of the language should suit the social and economic circumstances of different communities. Thus, the approach differs between, for example, Gaelic-speaking rural areas and those in Scotland’s towns and cities.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s support to and promotion of the Gaelic language in local communities contributes to inclusiveness and protects the language as a local resource. Encouraging the development of the Gaelic language strengthens an area’s identity and sense of place. This helps people connect with and understand the places and traditions of where they live.

⁶ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides over £1.6M per annum in funding for organisations⁷ that help promote Gaelic usage, learning and status and help deliver BnG's Corporate Plan. Many of these organisations work within communities and have officers who deliver and support activity in Gaelic language and culture. These partners include Comann na Gàidhlig (youth officers across Scotland), Ceòlas (language and cultural events and services in Uist), Fèisean nan Gàidheal (various Gaelic youth arts activities across Scotland), An Comunn Gàidhealach (supporting local Gaelic Mòds (festivals/competitions) and managing the annual Royal National Mòd).

Through the Bòrd na Gàidhlig community funding scheme (Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd) we annually support community projects, classes and events for communities in traditional Gaelic heartlands as well as in urban centres.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig's provides advice, support and strategic guidance on Gaelic education in a range of areas including:

- Routes to Gaelic Teaching
- Pre-school through to Secondary School
- Further and Higher Education
- Statutory Guidance on Education
- Education Data
- Learning Gaelic as an adult

Culture

*Are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely **with our indigenous languages protected, supported and celebrated***

We have world renowned festivals, music and film industries and a rich seam of storytelling and visual art which stretches back hundreds of years. In this outcome we honour, celebrate and support our creative talent in all its wonderful diversity.

Gaelic arts and culture can be found across Scotland - they are a major part of Scottish cultural identity. Gaelic adds to the richness of Scottish culture and contributes to the country's diversity.

Many traditional and new forms of Scottish arts draw upon Gaelic culture although not all will be expressed in the Gaelic language. For example, many pipe band, folk bands, Highland dancing groups, Highland Games and cèilidhs will draw upon Gaelic culture and heritage.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports Gaelic culture through ongoing funding of partner organisations such as Fèisean nan Gàidheal which runs over 45 local Fèisean across Scotland which incorporate Gaelic music and arts tuition. We also fund specific culture activities and events-

⁷ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/funding/delivery-partners/>

e.g., those that form part of Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week), the Royal National Mòd, and FilmG (short film competition).

Gaelic cultural activities attract not only local residents. They encourage tourists - both domestic and international - to visit Scotland and its local communities.

Economy

A globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy

Bòrd na Gàidhlig continues to promote Gaelic as an economic asset. Put simply, Gaelic contributes and adds value to the Scottish economy.

Research undertaken by Highlands and Islands Enterprise showed the potential value of Gaelic as an asset could be up to £149 million⁸. The media company MG ALBA has been shown to create good quality employment, particularly in areas of low population, with a total impact of 340 FTE jobs in Scotland⁹. Research in Glasgow¹⁰ shows that Gaelic is responsible for over 700 FTE jobs in the city and over £21 million Gross Value Added per annum.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig continues to make the case for investment in Gaelic speaking communities to support economic growth and development. That includes business support, measures to encourage young people to remain in their local community, and good infrastructure such as housing and transport.

A healthy economy, particularly in island and rural Gaelic-speaking communities, is vital to the future of Gaelic. A thriving Gaelic language requires thriving communities.

Gaelic tourism is a valuable asset to the Scottish economy, and it is an important part of the country's cultural identity. The industry is growing rapidly, and it is expected to continue to grow in the years to come.

- VisitScotland has reported a 72% rise in website visitors seeking out Gaelic content over the last four years, with a particular peak during the 2020 lockdown.
- Over 1.5 million people registered in learning Gaelic on Duolingo and hundreds of thousands accessing the SpeakGaelic resources.
- In 2022, there were an estimated 1.2 million visitors to Scotland who were interested in Gaelic culture and language.
- Gaelic culture is rich and diverse and intrinsically linked to the landscape and stories of the Highlands and Islands.

⁸ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/3157/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

⁹ <https://mgalba.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EIA.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=57783&p=0>

Education

Well educated in English and/or Gaelic, skilled and able to contribute to society

Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports parents and carers who want Gaelic education for their children and those who would like to see provision established in their area. That includes Gaelic immersion education in Early Learning and Childcare, GME in primary and secondary schools and Gaelic learner education in primary and secondary schools. This is extended to Gaelic in Higher and Further Education and adult Gaelic learning.

Here are a few specific examples of how Gaelic education can benefit students:

- Gaelic-medium education can help students develop a strong sense of identity and belonging.
- Gaelic-medium education is can help students develop their language skills in both Gaelic and English.
- Gaelic-medium education can help students develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Gaelic-medium education can help students develop their creativity and imagination through accessing Gaelic culture and arts.

Here are a few specific examples of how Gaelic speakers and learners can contribute to society:

- Gaelic speakers and learners can work in a variety of fields, including education, tourism, the arts, and business.
- Gaelic speakers and learners can help to promote Gaelic culture and language.
- Gaelic speakers and learners can help to build bridges between different cultures in a modern multi-cultural society.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports Gaelic education in many ways.

- Publishing and promoting the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education.
- Providing funding for Gaelic-medium playgroups and early years' activities and for Gaelic-medium activities outwith schools.
- Supporting the development of Gaelic-language teaching resources and materials through supporting partners such as Stòrlann, MGALBA (SpeakGaelic), Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, Giglets.
- Working with teachers and other education professionals to promote the use of Gaelic in the classroom.
- Providing funding for training for Gaelic teachers and other education professionals.

Environment

Value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment

*These assets...(are)...essential to our economy, **language**, culture, way of life and the wellbeing of future generations.*

The Gaelic language is vital to understanding the names and culture associated with many landscapes and historic sites.

All landscapes in Scotland have been shaped by people. Many of them were Gaelic speakers who gave names to places and topographic features. This historical connection, and the living tradition, are an equally important part of understanding and protecting the environment and contributing to people's sense of wellbeing and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig regularly supports projects and activity which promote sustainable living and respect for our natural and historical environment. These projects incorporate Gaelic language and heritage into their work. Some examples include:

- Dundreggan Rewilding Centre is a project that is working to restore the natural environment.
- Druim nan Linn-tean – Skye Eco museum
- North Harris Trust

Health

Bòrd na Gàidhlig continue to work to raise awareness of the need for health and social care provision to include opportunities for using Gaelic. It is essential that the Gaelic speaking public and patients have access to health services and support through the medium of the Gaelic language.

As an example, it is generally recognised that native language speakers can revert largely or wholly to their mother tongue upon the onset of dementia. They may replace words (say, in English) with the equivalent in a language more familiar to them. In some cases, this will be Gaelic, and people can then face severe negative impacts if Gaelic is not spoken by most people around them.

It is also generally recognised that being able to converse in one's chosen language (e.g., Gaelic) can be a great contributor to wellbeing at times of illness or distress.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has supported various projects which supports mental and physical wellbeing. These include:

- Sonas FC (Soccar clubs through Gaelic medium)
- Spòrs Gàidhlig (outdoor sports and activities through the medium of Gaelic)
- Alzheimers Scotland – Supporting groups in Skye and Lochalsh

- Comunn Eachdraidh Nis/Ness Historical Society (encouraging intergenerational transmission and engagement)

Human Rights

Respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination

We demonstrate our commitment to these principles...(including)...in the democratic, institutional and legal frameworks through which we exercise power.

This is an extremely important principle for Gaelic speakers and the indigenous minority language of Gaelic should be recognised with this outcome as human rights have a linguistic basis rather than simply a cultural one.

Users of the Gaelic language should be treated with dignity and respect, fairness and inclusivity. This reflects the aim of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 in “securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language”.

The right to culture as expressed in Article 27, UNESCO Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be included in the outcome relating to culture above.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig regularly responds to inaccurate or discriminatory reporting in the press on Gaelic speakers or activities. We also respond to numerous public consultations to ensure that the voice and rights of Gaelic speakers are heard at the highest level.

International

Are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally

Scotland has a long and proud history of intellectual, cultural and economic exchange.... promoting our place in the world and deepening our relationships with others.

Gaelic language and culture fosters links with Gaelic-speaking communities and organisations in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Canada. These reflect commonalities in arts, culture, heritage and media. Activities include the Colmcille programme which aims to foster communication and collaboration between the language communities of Scottish and Irish Gaelic.

Additionally, Gaelic language and culture attracts international interest and promotes the nation across the world. Therefore Gaelic should be recognised as a key part of this outcome.

The international activities Bòrd na Gàidhlig undertakes, or funds, serve to:

- Promote Gaelic as a significant part of Scotland's heritage, culture and way of life and increase an international presence for the language.
- Realise the potential Gaelic as an economic asset, providing employment and income for individuals working in the Gaelic medium.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig funds partner organisations who undertake international activities through the medium of Gaelic.

Gaelic musicians and singers perform abroad and are cultural ambassadors for Scotland. For example, Julie Fowlis, Capercaille, Breabach, and Mànran have performed in a variety of countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and across Europe. Their music has helped to introduce Gaelic culture to a wider audience and has raised awareness of Scotland as a cultural destination.

There are tens if not hundreds of thousands of Gaelic learners around the world. These learners are drawn to the language for a variety of reasons, including its beauty, its rich history, and its connection to Scotland. The growing number of Gaelic learners is a testament to the global appeal of the language and culture.

Wellbeing

The consultation document notes that the National Performance Framework is Scotland's "wellbeing framework".

The contribution of using and learning Gaelic is increasingly recognised in supporting wellbeing. That is because language and culture create self-esteem, nurture self-confidence, define identity and improve quality of life. This increases wellbeing for Gaelic users, learners, and supporters - who have great pride in the language and culture. Gaelic contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has commissioned research to further quantify the benefits and opportunities for Scotland and wellbeing from the language and culture.

Gaelic language and culture can also contribute to wellbeing in the following ways:

- Gaelic can help people to connect with their community. Gaelic-speaking communities are often close-knit and supportive, which can be beneficial for mental and physical health.
- Gaelic can help people to learn about Scottish history and culture. This can give people a sense of pride and identity.
- Gaelic can help people to develop their language skills. This can lead to a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem.
- Gaelic can help people to connect with nature. Spending time in nature has been shown to have a positive impact on mental and physical health.
- Gaelic can help people to learn new skills, see the world in a new way, and to develop their creativity. This can lead to a sense of accomplishment and increased self-esteem.



We look forward to the refreshed outcomes having a clearer recognition of Gaelic language and culture in Scotland. Please get in touch if you have any questions or wish to seek clarification.