

Bòrd na Gàidhlig submission of 21 March 2022

PE1922/F - Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to abandon the expansion of Gaelic

Gaelic:

“Chan eil iarrtas air ann am meadhan na dùthcha”

Tha iarrtas follaiseach air, mar na leanas:

Aig a' Chunntas-sluaigh 2011 meadhan na dùthcha thug ùghdarrasan ionadail (i.e. Baile Dhùn Èideann, Siorrachd Dùn Breatainn an Ear, Siorrachd Rinn Friù an Ear, an Eaglais Brice, Baile Ghlaschu, Inbhir Chluaidh, Meadhan Lodainn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, Siorrachd Rinn Friù, Siorrachd Dùn Breatainn an Iar, Lodainn an Iar) cunntas air barrachd air aon chairteal (30%) den fheadhainn a tha a' fuireach ann an Alba aig an robh cuid sgìlean anns a' Ghàidhlig.

Tha iarrtas fàsmhor ann airson foghlam meadhan na Gàidhlig aig ìre sgoil-àraich, bun-sgoil agus àrd-sgoil ann an, mar eisimpleir, Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann, , le 2% de sgoilearan (bun-sgoil) ann an Glaschu ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha iarrtas fàsmhor ann cuideachd airson solar ann an àiteachan anns nach eil solar an-dràsta - m.e. Siorrachd Rinn Friù an Ear.

Tha àrd-miannan seasmhach ann airson Ionadan Gàidhlig a leasachadh anns an dà chuid Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann. Bhiodh iad seo mar àite fiosaigeach agus aithnichte anns a bheil a' Ghàidhlig ga bruidhinn le fileantaich is luchd-ionnsachaidh.

“chan eil buannachd eaconamach ri fhaighinn anns na tha na phròiseact faoin, dìomhaineach”.

Air a chaochladh, tha raon de dh'eisimpleirean ann de bhuannachdan eaconamach, lethid:

- Cosnadh ann an dreuchdan anns a bheil Gàidhlig riatanach agus Gàidhlig ion-mhiannaichte ann an ùghdarrasan ionadail meadhan na dùthcha - gu sònraichte ann am foghlam.
- Gnìomhachasan cruthachail - m.e. dreuchdan anns na meadhanan Gàidhlig - cuid dhiubh a bhios air an cumail le daoine a chaidh tro dh'fhoghlam meadhan na Gàidhlig aig sgoiltean agus oilthighean ann am meadhan na dùthcha.
- Tachartasan agus fèisean. Mar eisimpleir, thathar ag aithris gun do thog am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2019 £3.2 millean airson eaconamaidh Ghlaschu.

Tha rannsachadh air lorg gu bheil gnòthachasan sna gnìomhachasan cruthachail, turasachd, dualchas, agus san roinn biadh is deoch a' faighinn buannachd bho bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus gu bheil comas aig seo luach eaconamach mòr a lìbhrigeadh. Dh'fhaodadh seo "a bhith eadar timcheall air £82 millean agus £149 millean." (<https://www.hie.co.uk/media/3157/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>).

Thathar a' tuairmse gum biodh timcheall air 25% den luach sin ann an raointean ùghdarras ionadail meadhan na dùthcha.

Tha comas mòr na Gàidhlig air aithneachadh ann an Ro-innleachd Turasachd Gàidhlig VisitScotland airson na h-Alba (<https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>). Tha e ag ràdh gu bheil "Gàidhlig agus an cultar co-cheangailte rithe a' lìbhrigeadh cothrom làidir airson gnìomhachas turasachd na h-Alba". 'S e am Misean bunasach a bhith "a' cumail taic ri fàs eaconamaidh turasachd na h-Alba tro bhith a' toirt cothrom do bharrachd luchd-tadhail faighinn a-mach mu dheidhinn agus a' faighinn eòlas air a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar gun samhail."

Tha a' Ghàidhlig mar "Fheart Margaidheachd gun Samhail agus mar phàirt bhrìoghmhor de thuras a ghabhas luchd-tadhail a dh'Alba" a' ciallachadh gu bheil "buannachdan nach beag a dh'fhaodadh tighinn bho chànan is cultar na Gàidhlig don eaconamaidh". Tha an comas eaconamach a' sruthadh bho "shaoghal beòthail an latha an-diugh aig cultar na Gàidhlig, a' gabhail a-steach ceòl, fèisean, mar eisimpleir Celtic Connections agus Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Mòdan ionadail agus nàiseanta, litreachas, drama," cho math ri tro na meadhanan, biadh is deoch agus spòrs".. Tha Ro-innleachd Turasachd na Gàidhlig cuideachd ag ràdh gu bheil "a' Ghàidhlig spreigeach agus fàsmhor ann an Galldachd is bailtean na h-Alba".

Lorg sgrùdadh VisitScotland ann an 2016, gun bhrosnachadh sam bith ro làimh, gun robh barrachd air aon às gach triùir (34%) luchd-tadhail a' faireachdainn gun do chuir Gàidhlig, mar chànan nàiseanta na h-Alba, ris an turas aca agus gum bu mhath leotha tuilleadh fhaighinn a-mach ma deidhinn. Bha ùidh sa mhòr-chuid am measg luchd-tadhail bho thall-thairis agus daoine a bha a' tadhal airson a' chiad turas.

An lùib grunn Phlanaichean Gàidhlig aig ùghdarrasan ionadail meadhain na dùthcha tha ceumannan gus na buannachdan eaconamach a gheibhear bho thurasachd Ghàidhlig a chur am meud. Mar eisimpleir:

- Comhairle Baile Ghlaschu - “a' cumail taic ri obair buidhnean poblach eile ann a bhith ag adhartachadh turasachd agus dualchas cultarach”.
- Comhairle Inbhir Chluaidh - “Tha a' Chomhairle ag obair gus an tairgse turasachd aca a leasachadh, agus cleachdar am Plana Nàiseanta (Gàidhlig) gus fios a thoirt air an leasachadh seo”.
- Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann - “a' leantainn air a' comharrachadh cheanglaichean ris a' Ghàidhlig ann am poileasaidhean agus ro-innleachdan turasachd”.

English:

“There is no demand in the Central belt”

There is evident demand, as follows:

At the 2011 Census central belt local authorities (i.e., City of Edinburgh, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Falkirk, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire, West Lothian) accounted for more than one quarter (30%) of those living in Scotland who had some skills in Gaelic.

There is growing demand for pre-school, primary and secondary Gaelic medium education in, for example, Glasgow and Edinburgh, with 2% of pupils in primary education in Glasgow are in Gaelic-medium education. There is also growing demand for provision in areas where there is presently none - eg. East Renfrewshire.

There are longstanding ambitions to develop Gaelic Centres in both Glasgow and Edinburgh. These would be a physical space where it is

recognised that Gaelic is used as the main language provided a space for fluent speakers and learners to use their skills.

“there is no economic benefit in what is a frivolous, vanity project”.

On the contrary, there are a range of examples of economic benefits, such as:

- Employment in Gaelic essential and Gaelic desirable posts in central belt local authorities - notably in education.
- Creative industries - e.g. posts in Gaelic media - some of which will be held by people who have received Gaelic medium education at schools and universities in the central belt.
- Events and festivals. For example, the 2019 Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail (Royal National Mòd) is reported to have generated £3.2 million for Glasgow’s economy.

Research has found that businesses in the creative industries, tourism, heritage, and food and drink sectors benefit from their use of Gaelic, and that this has the potential to bring significant economic value. This “could be in the region of between £82 million and £149 million.” (<https://www.hie.co.uk/media/3157/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>). It is estimated that around 25% of that value would be in central belt local authority areas.

The significant potential of Gaelic is recognised in VisitScotland’s Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland (<https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>). This states that “The Gaelic language and its associated culture represents a compelling opportunity for the Scottish tourism industry”. The underlying Mission is “To support the growth of the Scottish tourism economy through engaging more visitors in discovering and experiencing the unique Gaelic language and its associated culture.”

Gaelic as a “Unique Selling Point differentiator and authentic part of the experience of visiting Scotland” means there “significant economic potential of our Gaelic language and culture”. The economic potential flows from “a dynamic, contemporary Gaelic cultural scene spanning music, festivals such as Celtic Connections and Fèisean, regional and national Mòds, literature, drama”, as well as through media, food and drink, and sport”. The Strategy also states that “Gaelic has an exciting and growing presence in lowland and urban Scotland”.

A VisitScotland survey in 2016 found that, with no prior promotion, more than one in three (34%) visitors felt that Gaelic, as a national language of Scotland, enhanced their visit and they would like to find out more about it. Interest was primarily amongst overseas and first-time visitors.

A number of central belt local authorities' Gaelic Language Plans include actions to increase the economic benefits from Gaelic tourism. For example:

- Glasgow City Council - "support the work of other public bodies in the promotion of tourism and cultural heritage".
- Inverclyde Council - "The Council is working to develop its tourism offer, and the National (Gaelic) Plan will be used to inform this development".
- City of Edinburgh Council - "Continue to identify links to Gaelic in tourism policies and strategies".