

# Supporting Writing in Irish





Through the following implementation plan, the Arts Council will develop the environment for Irish language literature so that it is a central, rather than a peripheral, part of our literary and cultural life, rather than peripheral. The actions set out below are designed to enable writers of Irish language literature to enjoy the high level of support and care that distinguishes the contemporary Irish literary landscape. Irish language literature will benefit from the vibrancy and diversity that defines the overall literary infrastructure and will be created, read and enjoyed by more people across Ireland.

To achieve this, Council will require the addition of a Head of Team with responsibility for Irish language literature, with administrative and project management support. Additional funding will be required to advance the actions, and partnerships will need to be forged and sustained.

Image: Siblings Edith, 8, Theo, 6, Ned, 4, and Jasper Wilson, 3, launching the Towers and Tales children's storytelling festival at Lismore Castle  
Photographer: Brownes Photography

1

# 1. The Artist

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
1.1	Support Irish language writers in the creation of high-quality literary work.	<p>Hold specific information clinics on a regular basis to increase awareness among Irish language writers of bursaries and other supports such as Agility Award, Next Generation and Markievicz Awards.</p> <p>Hold regular information meetings and funding clinics with resource organisations, Irish language organisations and other key players.</p>
1.2	Support Irish language writers at all stages of their careers.	<p>Develop Writer-in-Residence positions specifically for Irish language writers within third level institutions for mid-career writers.</p> <p>Partner with Foras na Gaeilge to further strengthen its successful mentoring programme, with the Arts Council's support concentrating on literary writers and writing.</p> <p>Introduce an international exchange/residency with writers working in minority languages.</p> <p>Support the establishment of an MA in creative writing in the Irish language at third level.</p> <p>Identify supports available from ACNI for Irish language writers, and explore the establishment of cross-border residency/award.</p>

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
An increase in the number of Irish language writers applying for, and being supported by, Arts Council awards.	From 2023 onwards
Irish language writers have access to a wider range of supports to suit the distinct needs of their careers.	Q1 – Q4 2023
Increased opportunities for Irish language literary writers to develop their practice.	

# 1. The Artist

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
1.3	Develop a supportive working environment for Irish language writers.	<p>In partnership with strategically funded literature resource organisations, hold a series of focus groups to identify gaps in services available to Irish language writers. Develop a plan to address gaps.</p> <p>In partnership with the association of local authority arts offices resource organisations, hold a series of focus groups to identify gaps in services available to Irish language writers. Develop a plan to address gaps.</p> <p>In partnership with Ealaín na Gaeltachta, encourage the establishment of an arts-centre-based resource for writers in the form of an annual festival/conference for artists. The event would move from Gaeltacht to Gaeltacht on an annual basis and would have the potential to include/invite other artforms.</p>
1.4	Sustain and enhance the critical environment for Irish language literature.	<p>Continue to support high-quality print and online platforms for literary criticism in Irish.</p> <p>In partnership with others, create a Ciste Léirmheastóireachta/Reviewing Fund to aid with the commissioning of reviews and articles on Irish language work.</p>

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
Irish language writers are better supported and a more central part of the writing community.	Q3 2023
Resource organisations & local authorities develop stronger programmes to support Irish language writers.	2024
Increased critical engagement with Irish language literature.	Ongoing
	Q1 2024

# 1. The Artist

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
1.5	Highlight the achievements of Irish language literary writers.	Actively acknowledge and highlight the work of Irish language literary writers and the unique contribution that they make to our literary and cultural life. This would include more active engagement with Irish language writing with Arts Council initiatives, on social media, communications and in discussion with government.

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
Increased awareness and recognition of the work of Irish language writers.	From 2023 onwards

2



## 2. Public Engagement

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
2.1	Define, articulate and communicate the Arts Council's role and remit in Irish language literature so that it is clear and distinct.	<p>Develop an MoU with Foras na Gaeilge regarding our respective roles in Irish language literature.</p> <p>Develop an MoU with Ealaín na Gaeltachta regarding our respective roles in Irish language literature.</p> <p>Support relevant actions within the Reading, Writing and Speech section of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language, either through independent initiatives or in partnership with other stakeholders.</p> <p>Hold information sessions and information clinics with relevant organisations to further clarify the Council's distinct role.</p> <p>Publish statistics on the Council's investment in Irish language literature on an annual basis.</p>

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
Increased understanding of the Arts Council's remit and involvement in Irish language literature by both the sector and the broader public.	2023
Stronger, more focused applications from literature organisations.	2023
Clear outputs that demonstrate Council's unique role in Irish language literature.	Ongoing
	Ongoing
	From Q4 2023

## 2. Public Engagement

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
2.2	Increase visibility of Irish language writing among readers/audiences	<p>As part of funding agreements with strategically funded organisations, set standards in relation to inclusion of Irish language writers and writing.</p> <p>Develop an Irish language Curator-in-Residence programme for literary festivals and venues to encourage imaginative programming of Irish language events within festivals and arts centres.</p> <p>Develop/commission a resource for curators, festival directors and arts centre managers to increase Irish language literary expertise.</p> <p>Building on the success of iLDÁNA, establish a funding programme to support television, radio and podcast programmes that shine a light on Irish language literary writing.</p>
2.3	Promote better engagement with high-quality Irish language literature.	<p>Undertake research that explores readers' attitudes and interests in the area of Irish language literature, with a view to disseminating the findings to relevant stakeholders, including publishers, booksellers and libraries.</p> <p>In partnership with relevant stakeholders, pilot a campaign for the work of Irish language literature publishers in libraries and bookshops which seeks to address its visibility in libraries and shops; this should include dedicated sales representatives and media coverage.</p>

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
<p>Greater inclusion of Irish language writers and writing in events and in print.</p> <p>Greater exposure to Irish language writing for audiences.</p>	From Q3 2023
<p>Increased understanding of readers' behaviours in relation to Irish language literature.</p> <p>Increased engagement with Irish language literature by the public.</p>	

## 2. Public Engagement

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
2.4	Encourage the next generation of Irish language publishers.	In partnership with Foras na Gaeilge and/or relevant third level institutions, develop a programme of support for those who wish to pursue a career as Irish language literary editors and publishers.
2.5	Sustain excellence within Irish language literary publishing.	In partnership with Foras na Gaeilge, develop a capacity building programme for Irish language publishers that addresses areas such as staffing, succession, governance, design, marketing, publicity, sales and distribution. This could be run over a three-year period, focusing on areas such as editing and translation in year one, sales, promotion and marketing in year two, etc.
2.6	Increase visibility of Irish language writing among readers/audiences.	<p>As part of funding agreements with strategically funded organisations, set standards in relation to inclusion of Irish language writers and writing.</p> <p>Develop an Irish language Curator-in-Residence programme for literary festivals and venues to encourage imaginative programming of Irish language events within festivals and arts centres.</p> <p>Develop/commission a resource for curators, festival directors and arts centre managers to increase Irish language literary expertise.</p>

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
Readers of Irish language literature may [or can] choose from a broad range of titles, from a variety of imprints and perspectives.	Q1 – Q4 2024
Readers of Irish have access to high-quality literature.	Q1 – Q3 2024
<p>Greater inclusion of Irish language writers and writing in events and in print.</p> <p>Greater exposure to Irish language writing for audiences.</p>	From Q3 2024

3

### 3. Other MGAW Areas of Strategic Interest

	Policy Action	Deliverables/KPIs
3.1	YPCE: Increase the availability of high-quality literature in Irish for teenagers.	Increase support to publishers seeking to publish high-quality Irish language literary work for children, with a particular emphasis on older children and teenagers.
3.2	YPCE: Enhance young people's engagement with Irish language literature.	Support key resource organisations in their work to assist parents, teachers and librarians in guiding children towards high-quality literary titles in Irish.  In partnership with Foras na Gaeilge, implement recommendations from readership review that are of relevance to the AC.  Continue to ensure Irish language events/ activities as part of Laureate na nÓg.

Desired Outcomes	Timeline
Young people have better access to more high-quality literary material in Irish.  Young people are facilitated to read for pleasure in Irish.	2023 onwards
More young people are reading for pleasure in Irish.	Ongoing
Young people have more experiences with high-quality Irish language literary events.	TBC with Foras n Gaeilge
	Ongoing



**The Arts Council**

70 Merrion Square  
Dublin 2, Ireland

**artscouncil.ie**

[facebook.com/artscouncilireland](https://facebook.com/artscouncilireland)  
[twitter.com/artscouncil\\_ie](https://twitter.com/artscouncil_ie)

T +353 1 618 0200

F +353 1 676 1302

Callsave 1850 392492

