

# Céard é an Scéal?

Tuairimí an Phobail  
i leith na Gaeilge

*Anailís Bhliantúil 2*

**2016**

Public Opinions  
on the Irish Language

*Annual Analysis 2*



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## 1. Achoimre Fheidhmeach

Rinneadh an taighde seo idir mí Eanáir agus mí Mheán Fómhair 2016 le léargas a fháil ar thuairimí an phobail i leith na Gaeilge agus i leith na gceisteanna a bhaineann léi. Ba réimse oibre leathan é seo, áit a ndearnadh taighde ar ábhair éagsúla agus le daoine le suimeanna agus le naisc éagsúla le pobal na Gaeilge. Baineadh úsáid as meascán de thaighde cainníochtúil agus cáilíochtúil san obair seo, agus tá forbairt déanta ar léargas domhain, cuimsitheach a chur ar fáil ar na dearchtaí agus na tuairimí atá ag an phobal faoin Ghaeilge dá bharr.

Seo a leanas na hábhair a bhí faoi chaibidil le linn an taighde seo:

- Seirbhísí do dhaoine óga
- Seirbhísí do theaghlaigh atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge
- Féiniúlacht agus an Ghaeilge
- Acht na Gaeilge
- Foghlaim na Gaeilge i measc daoine feasta
- Seirbhísí Gaeltachta
- Lipéadú dátheangach

Rinneadh an taighde seo leis na tuairimí atá ag pobal na hÉireann i leith na Gaeilge agus i leith na bpolasaithe a bhaineann léi a mheas. Le linn an phróisis, léirigh an obair chainníochtúil agus cháilíochtúil go bhfuil an pobal go ginearálta an-bháúil don Ghaeilge, agus nach maireann an dea-thoil seo i measc phobal na Gaeilge amháin. Tá tacaíocht leathan ann i measc aoiseanna, inscní, cúlraí eacnamaíochta agus cumais teanga éagsúla do sheirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge a chur ar fáil, agus chun cearta phobal na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta a chosaint. Creideann an mhórchuid den phobal gur chuid lárnach dár gcultúr í an Ghaeilge, agus gur chóir go ndéanfaí freastal ceart ar riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta dá réir.

Léiríonn na staitisticí síos fríd na tuairisce go n-aontaíonn an mórfhobal gur chóir do na rialtais an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus tacaíocht cheart a thaispeáint di. Tá sé seo soiléir ó na torthaí maidir le seirbhísí Gaeltachta a chur ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge, lipéadú dátheangach, an tacaíocht atá ann d’Acht Gaeilge ó thuaidh, agus go leor rudaí eile. Léirítear tacaíocht do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge i ngach téama a ndearnadh plé air mar chuid den saothar seo.

Ar bharr na staitisticí agus na bhfigiúirí a bailíodh sa suirbhé, rinneadh plé níos doimhne ar na ceisteanna seo i sraith d’fhócasghrúpaí le daoine le táithí éagsúil ar shaol na Gaeilge.

### Noda a úsáidtear sa cháipéis seo:

AB: Lucht ardbhainistíochta agus meánbhainistíochta, riaracháin agus proifisiúnta  
C1: Lucht maoirseachta, cléireacha, bainistíochta sóisearaí, agus proifisiúnta  
C2: Lucht saothair oilte  
DE: Lucht saothair breacoilte agus neamhoilte, dífhostaithe, agus fostaíocht den ghrád is ísle  
GTEST: Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann um Staitisticí agus Taighde  
RCEF: An Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta

## 1. Executive Summary

This research was undertaken between January and September 2016 with a view to obtaining an overview of public opinions regarding the Irish language and issues surrounding it. There was a broad scope to this work, and research was carried out on various topics and with subjects who had varying levels of interest in, and contact with, the Irish language. Both quantitative and qualitative research was used in this work, and a comprehensive, substantive overview has been developed on the views and opinions the public currently have on the Irish language.

The following titles highlight the areas which were discussed during this research:

- Services for young people
- Services for families raising their children through Irish
- Identity and the Irish language
- The Irish Language Act
- Adult learners of Irish
- Gaeltacht services
- Bilingual labelling

This research was undertaken to assess the opinions that the Irish public have regarding the Irish language and Irish language policies. During the process, both the qualitative and quantitative work showed that the public, in general, are very favourable towards Irish, and that this view is also held beyond the Irish-speaking community. Broad support exists amongst all age groups, genders, economic backgrounds and linguistic abilities for the provision of services through Irish, and for the protection of Irish-language rights and the Gaeltacht. The majority of the public believe that the Irish language is an integral part of our culture, and accordingly that the rights of the Irish-speaking and Gaeltacht communities should be properly upheld.

Statistics throughout the report show that the majority of the community agrees that the government should promote and support Irish. This is clear from the results regarding the provision of Gaeltacht services through the medium of Irish, bilingual labelling, support for an Irish-Language Act in the north, and more. Support for the promotion of Irish is evidenced in every theme which was discussed whilst undertaking this work.

In addition to the statistics and the figures collected in the survey, a more detailed discussion took place amongst the focus-groups which were formed of people drawn from different backgrounds with varying experiences of the Irish-language world.

### Abbreviations used in this document:

AB: Senior and middle management, administration and professional  
C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior management and professional  
C2: Skilled labour  
DE: Semi-skilled and unskilled, unemployed and lowest grade employment  
GTEST: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
RCEF: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

## 1.1. Príomhthorthaí ó Shuirbhé Millward Brown 2016

#	Ráiteas	Theas nó Thuaidh	Aontaíonn	Ní aontaíonn	Níl a fhios / Gan freagra			
1.	"Ba chóir go mbeadh tacaíocht ar fáil do theaghlaigh atá ag tógáil a gclainne trí Ghaeilge"	Theas	61%	9%	30%			
		Thuaidh	26%	54%	20%			
2.	"Mothaím go bhfuil nasc láidir idir an Ghaeilge agus m'fhéiniúlacht phearsanta"	Theas	46%	29%	24%			
		Thuaidh	26%	54%	20%			
3.	"Mothaím go bhfuil nasc láidir idir teanga na Gaeilge agus féiniúlacht na tíre seo"	Theas	59%	20%	21%			
		Thuaidh	44%	37%	19%			
4.	"Níl go leor deiseanna do dhaoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh den chóras oideachais fhoirmiúil"	Theas	62%	10%	28%			
		Thuaidh	41%	23%	26%			
5.	"Creidim gur chóir go spreagfaí lipéadú dátheangach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla sa tír seo"	Theas	63%	10%	27%			
6.	"Tá mé go hiomlán ar an eolas faoi na seirbhísí atá ar fáil dom ón stát / rialtas trí Ghaeilge, ionas gur féidir liom mo chuid gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge más mian liom"	Theas	45%	25%	26%			
		Thuaidh	23%	53%	25%			
7.	"Creidim gur chóir go mbeadh gach seirbhís stáit ar fáil trí Ghaeilge do mhuintir na Gaeltachta"	Theas	63%	10%	27%			
8.	"Ba chóir go gcuirfí Acht Gaeilge i bhfeidhm, ionas gur féidir le daoine seirbhísí a fháil trí Ghaeilge más maith leo iad a úsáid"	Thuaidh	40%	30%	30%			
9.	"Tá mé muiníneach as mo chumas Gaeilge labhartha"	Theas	30%	54%	16%			
		Thuaidh	8%	85%	7%			
10.	"Tá mé muiníneach gur féidir liom an Ghaeilge a thuigbheáil"	Theas	37%	46%	17%			
		Thuaidh	10%	81%	8%			
11.	"Tá suim agam Gaeilge/tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim"	Theas	33%	47%	21%			
		Thuaidh	20%	68%	12%			
12.	"An rogha is fearr liom ar an liosta chun tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim"		Grúpa Comhrá	Ranganna Oíche	Cúrsa Ar Líne	Cúrsa Gaeltachta	Eile	Níl a fhios / Freagra ar bith
		Theas	30%	30%	19%	6%	1%	14%
		Thuaidh	49%	71%	37%	26%	5%	2%

## 1.1. Main Results from 2016 Millward Brown Survey

#	Statement	North or South	Agree	Disagree	Don't know / No Answer			
1.	"There should be support available for families raising their children through Irish"	South	61%	9%	30%			
		North	26%	54%	20%			
2.	"I feel there is a close link between the Irish language and my personal identity"	South	46%	29%	24%			
		North	26%	54%	20%			
3.	"I feel there is a close link between the Irish language and the identity of this country"	South	59%	20%	21%			
		North	44%	37%	19%			
4.	"There are not enough opportunities for young people to use their Irish outside the formal education system"	South	62%	10%	28%			
		North	41%	23%	26%			
5.	"I believe that bilingual labelling should be encouraged in Irish and in English in this country"	South	63%	10%	27%			
6.	"I am fully aware of the services that are available to me from the state / government in Irish, so that I can conduct my business through Irish if I so wish."	South	45%	25%	26%			
		North	23%	53%	25%			
7.	"I believe that every state service should be available in Irish to the Gaeltacht community"	South	63%	10%	27%			
8.	"An Irish-Language Act should be established, so people can access services through Irish if they wish"	North	40%	30%	30%			
9.	"I am confident of my ability in spoken Irish"	South	30%	54%	16%			
		North	8%	85%	7%			
10.	"I am confident that I can understand Irish"	South	37%	46%	17%			
		North	10%	81%	8%			
11.	"I have an interest to learn more Irish / more Irish"	South	33%	47%	21%			
		North	20%	68%	12%			
12.	"My preferred options on the list to learn more Irish"		Conversation Group	Night Classes	On Line Course	Gaeltacht Course	Other	Don't know / No Answer
		South	30%	30%	19%	6%	1%	14%
		North	49%	71%	37%	26%	5%	2%

## 2. Réamhrá

Chuir Conradh na Gaeilge tús leis an tsraith *Céard é an Scéal? Tuairimí an Phobail i leith na Gaeilge* i 2015 le léargas a fháil ar thuairimí an phobail i leith na Gaeilge. Go príomha, tá an taighde seo á dhéanamh ag Conradh na Gaeilge chun;

- Riachtanais agus tosaíochtaí phobal na Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta a aibhsiú agus a chur chun cinn;
- Constaicí maidir le fás agus forbairt na Gaeilge sa mhórphobal a aithint agus plean oibre a dhreachtú dá réir; agus
- Tuairimí an mhórphobail i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge a mheas.

Leis an eolas seo, beidh Conradh na Gaeilge in ann stocaireacht níos éifeachtaí agus níos tomhaiste a dhéanamh ar son phobal na Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta leis na húdaráis, le heagraíochtaí poiblí, agus sa saol poiblí i gcoitinne. Ar a bharr sin, beidh an t-eolas seo le húsáid ag eagraíochtaí agus ag soláthraithe seirbhísí Gaeilge chun pleanáil agus seachadadh seirbhísí a dhírú ar mhianta an phobail.

Is próiseas comhairliúcháin leanúnach í an tsraith seo, a bhfuil mar aidhm aici spás a thabhairt don phobal ionchur a bheith acu sa chomhrá maidir le todhchaí na Gaeilge. Déantar an taighde seo ar bhonn bliantúil chun na réimsí difriúla atá ann i saol na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta a chlúdach, agus le tuiscint níos doimhne a fhorbairt i dtaca le riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta fud fad na tíre. Chomh maith leis sin, tá súil againn go dtugann an taighde seo go leor eolais bhreise do na ceanneagraíochtaí eile agus do ghrúpaí Gaeilge trí chéile, eolas ar féidir leo a úsáid le cur lena gcuid oibre.

Leis na torthaí is cruinne agus is soiléire a shaothrú ón taighde seo, rinneadh taighde cainníochtúil agus taighde cáilíochtúil leis an phobal. Mar gheall air seo, tá léiriú soiléir ann maidir le dearthaí an phobail ar na téamaí áirithe a clúdaíodh i dtaighde na bliana seo, ach nuair a chuirtear an t-eolas seo leis an taighde cainníochtúil, tá léargas níos doimhne agus níos iomláine ar fáil maidir le tuairimí an phobail agus na fáthanna taobh thiar de na tuairimí sin. Rinneadh é seo trí shuirbhé a dhéanamh i bpáirtíocht leis an chomhlacht taighde Millward Brown ag tús mhí Eanáir 2016, agus trí shraith fhócas-ghrúpaí a cuireadh ar bun mar gheall ar na torthaí a tháinig chun solais sa suirbhé.

### Téamaí:

Gach bliain, díritear isteach ar théamaí áirithe éagsúla comh maith le téamaí níos ginearálta le heolas níos doimhne agus níos sonraithe a bhailiú ar na téamaí céanna. I 2015, dhírigh an saothar seo isteach ar Seirbhísí agus Tacaíocht don Ghaeilge; Foghlaim agus Úsáid na Gaeilge; Gaeloideachas; Gnó agus an Ghaeilge agus Seachtain na Gaeilge.

I 2016, ba iad na téamaí is mó a díriodh isteach orthu ná:

- Féiniúlacht agus an Ghaeilge
- Daoine óga agus an Ghaeilge
- Teaghlai ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge
- Acht na Gaeilge
- Lipéadú dátheangach
- Foghlaim na Gaeilge i measc daoine feasta
- Seirbhísí Gaeltachta

## 2. Introduction

The series *Céard é an Scéal?* was undertaken by Conradh na Gaeilge in 2015 with a view to obtaining an overview of public opinions regarding the Irish language. This research has been undertaken by Conradh na Gaeilge to, predominantly;

- Highlight and promote the needs and priorities of the Irish language and Gaeltacht communities.
- Recognise barriers to the development and growth of Irish in the larger community and to draft a working plan accordingly.
- Assess the attitudes of the wider community towards the Irish language.

As a result of this information, Conradh na Gaeilge will be able to canvass the authorities, public bodies and public life in general more effectively and on a more measured basis on behalf of the Irish language and Gaeltacht communities. Moreover, this information will be available for organisations and Irish language service providers in planning the delivery of services based on public demand.

This series is an ongoing consultation process which aims to provide the public with a voice in the conversations regarding the future of the Irish language. This research is undertaken on a yearly basis to cover the various areas in Irish language and Gaeltacht life, and to establish a deeper understanding of the development of the needs of the Irish language and Gaeltacht communities throughout the country. As well as this, we hope that this research will provide sufficient information to the other lead-organisations and to other Irish language groups which will aid their own work.

In order to achieve the most accurate and most clear results from this research, both quantitative and qualitative research was undertaken with the public. As a result of this, the public's views regarding this year's themes are clearly shown, but when this information is added to the quantitative research, a greater insight is given as regards the public's views and the reasons behind those views. This was done by survey at the beginning of January 2016, which was undertaken in partnership with Millward Brown and through a series of focus-groups which were established due to the results which came to light in the survey.

### Themes:

Every year, focus is placed on various themes as well as more general themes in order to collect more detailed and deeper knowledge. In 2015, this work was directed towards Services and Support for Irish; Learning and Use of Irish; Irish Medium Education; Business and the Irish Language and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

In 2016, the themes which were focused on the most were:

- Identity and the Irish language
- Young People and the Irish language
- Families raising their children through Irish
- The Irish Language Act
- Bilingual labelling
- Adult learners of Irish
- Gaeltacht services

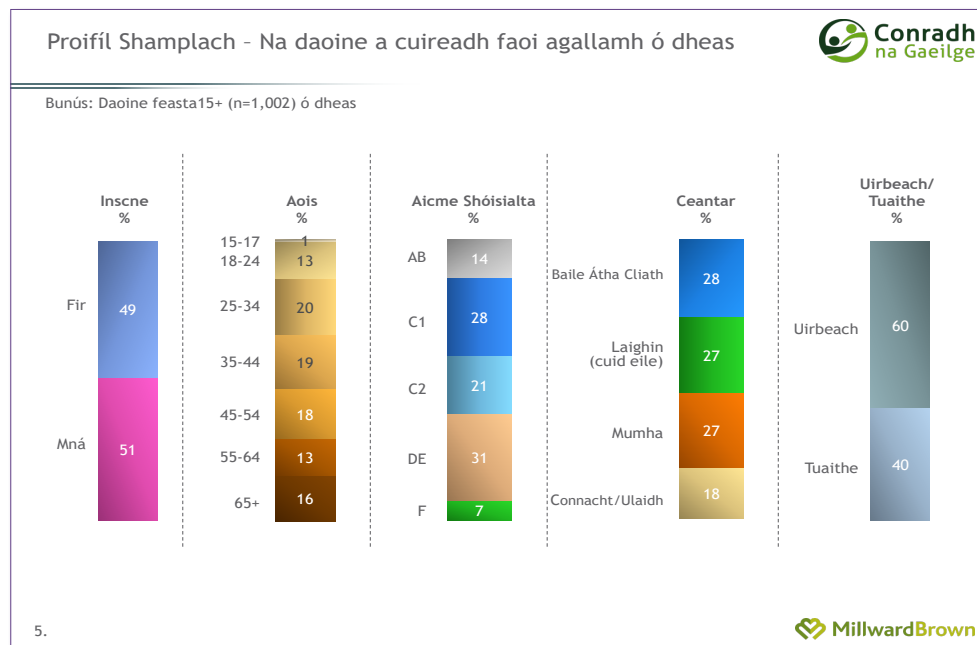
### 3. Modh Oibre

Mar chuid den tsaothar seo, rinneadh idir thaighde cáilíochtúil agus thaighde cainníochtúil le tuiscint a fháil ar na dearcthaí atá ag pobal na hÉireann ar an Ghaeilge agus ar cheisteanna a bhaineann léi. Rinneadh cinneadh faoi théamaí na bliana seo bunaithe ar chomhairliúchán leis na ceannagraíochtaí eile agus mar gheall ar na ceisteanna is mó atá os comhair phobal na Gaeilge faoi láthair. I ndiaidh socrú na dtéamaí seo, cuireadh ceisteanna suirbhé le chéile i gcomhair le comhlacht taighde neamhspléach, Millward Brown. Chuir Millward Brown na ceisteanna seo ar breis agus 2,000 duine sa tír (torthaí ar fáil sa chéad rannóg eile) bunaithe ar an chleachtas is fearr san earnáil seo. Rinneadh anailís ar na freagraí a tháinig chun solais sa suirbhé seo agus cuireadh sraith d’fhócasghrúpaí ar bun ar na téamaí ceánna a bhí sa suirbhé. Cuireadh an dhá phíos taighde seo le chéile, .i. meascán den dhá modh oibre, idir cháilíochtúil agus chainníochtúil, le léargas iomlánaíoch a fháil ar na dearcthaí atá ag daoine ar cheisteanna a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge.

#### SUIRBHÉ

Mar chuid den taighde cainníochtúil sa saothar seo, rinneadh Millward Brown suirbhé le breis agus 2,000 duine fud fad na tíre. Cuireadh na daoine seo faoi agallamh ag Millward Brown, agus d’fhreagair siad ceisteanna a bhain leis na tuairimí pearsanta atá acu faoin Ghaeilge, faoi na seirbhísí atá ar fáil trí Ghaeilge faoi láthair, agus faoi fheachtais éagsúla atá ábhartha faoi láthair. Tá liosta na gceisteanna ar fad a cuireadh ar rannpháirtithe sa suirbhé ar fáil in Agusín A.

Figiúr 1: Briseadh síos ar na daoine a cuireadh faoi agallamh ó dheas:



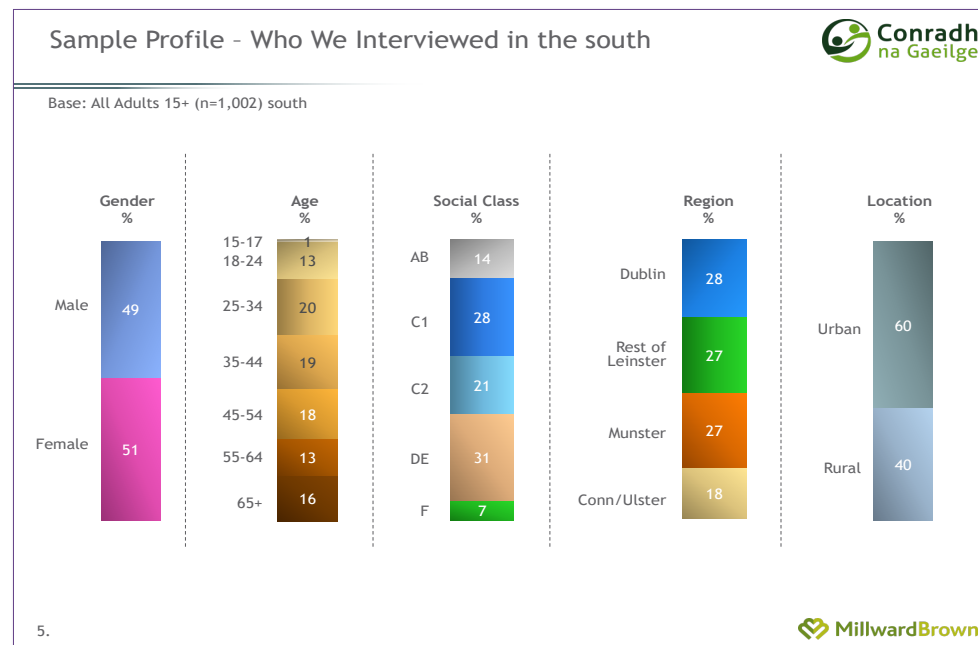
### 3. Methodology

As part of this work, both quantitative and qualitative research was undertaken to gain an insight into the views that the Irish public have towards the Irish language, and the issues surrounding it. A decision was made regarding this year’s themes based on consultation with the other lead-organisations and the main issues facing the Irish-language community at present. Having agreed these themes, and working in conjunction with the independent research company, Millward Brown, survey questions were agreed upon. Millward Brown then presented these questions to more than 2,000 people in the country (the results are available in the next section), based on best practice in this sector. The answers from the survey were analysed and a series of focus-groups was established based on the themes arising from the survey. These two pieces of research combined both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to achieve a holistic overview of people’s views on the Irish language and the main issues surrounding it.

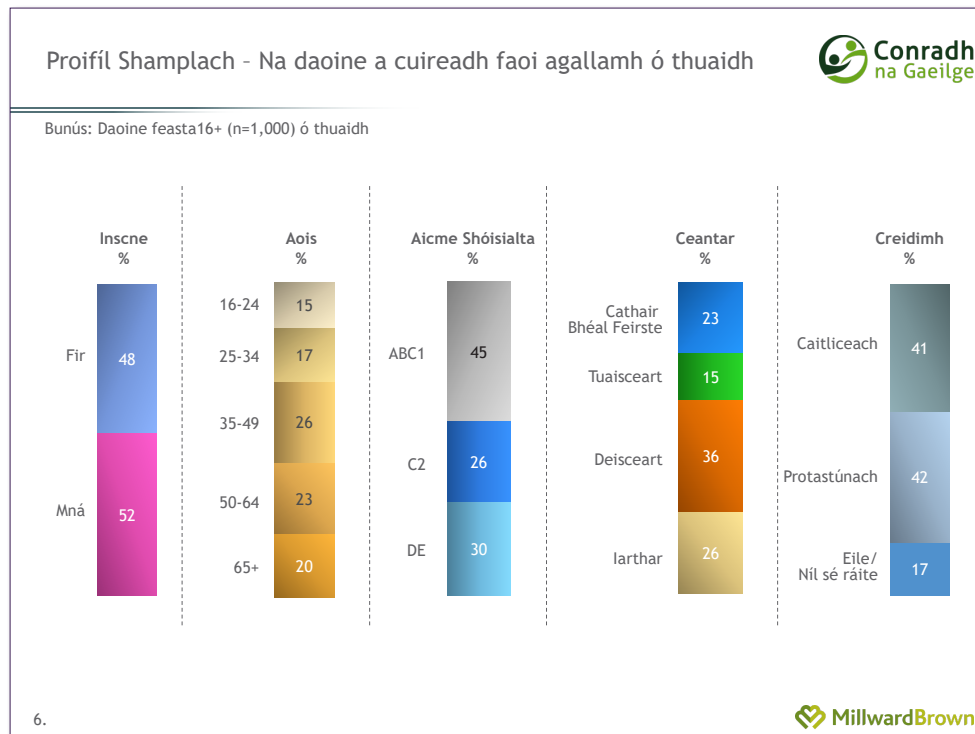
#### SURVEY

As part of this quantitative research, Millward Brown undertook a survey with more than 2,000 participants throughout the country. Millward Brown interviewed these participants, and participants answered questions concerning their personal opinions regarding Irish, the services available in Irish at present, and various current and relevant campaigns. A list of the questions which the participants were asked in the survey is available in Appendix A.

Figure 1: Breakdown of the people interviewed in the south:

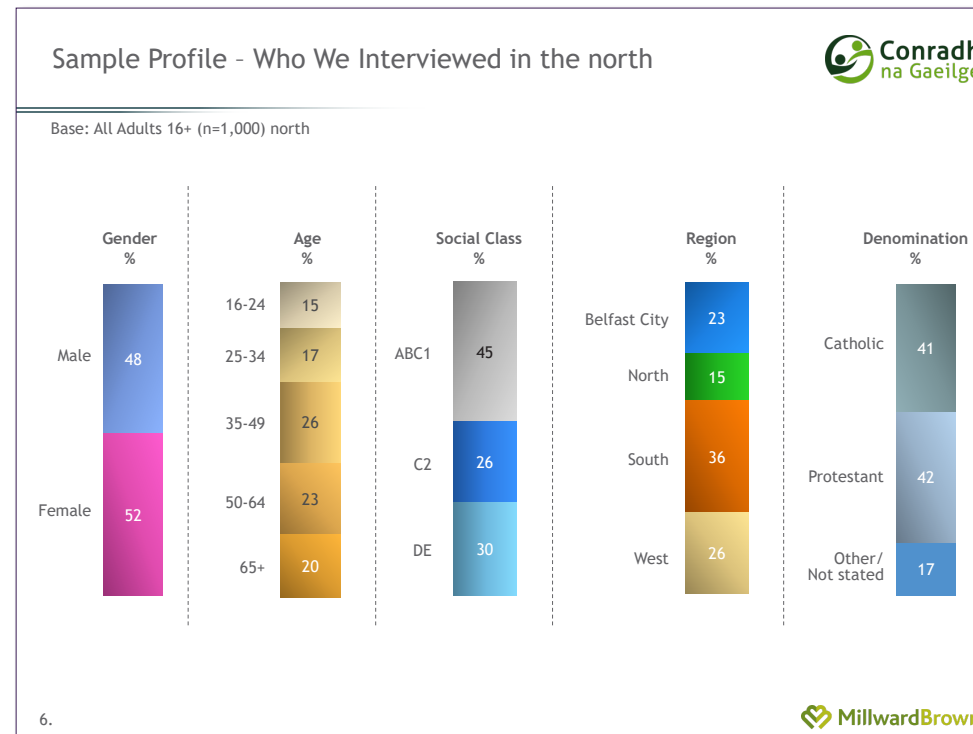


**Figúir 2: Briseadh síos ar na daoine a cuireadh faoi agallamh ó thuaidh:**



Mar a fheictear sna táblaí thuas, rinneadh an suirbhé seo le sampla ionadaíocht ar an tír ar fad, agus i measc na daoine seo is cinnte go bhfuil meascán de thuirimí maidir leis an Ghaeilge agus leis an nGaeltacht.

**Figure 2: Breakdown of the people interviewed in the north:**



As can be seen in the tables above, this survey was undertaken as a representative example of the whole country, and it is clear that different opinions existed amongst participants regarding the Irish language and the Gaeltacht.



## 4. Fócasghrúpaí

Bunaithe ar an eolas a bailíodh ón tsuirbhé, cuireadh tús le sraith d'fhócasghrúpaí le tuilleadh eolais a fháil ar na ceisteanna a bhí clúdaithe sa suirbhé.

Rinneadh fócasghrúpaí le:

- Daltaí meánscoile i meánscoil Bhéarla ó thuaidh
- Daltaí meánscoile i meánscoil Bhéarla ó dheas
- Daltaí meánscoile i meánscoil Ghaeilge
- Foghlaimeoirí fásta na Gaeilge
- Mic léinn ollscoile
- Tuismitheoirí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht
- Tuismitheoirí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge ó dheas (taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht)
- Tuismitheoirí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge ó thuaidh

Bhí idir seisear agus dhá rannpháirtí déag i ngach grúpa. Agus na grúpaí seo á socrú, rinneadh i gcónaí iarracht rannpháirtithe le meascán de chúlraí éagsúla a chur san áireamh ó thaobh inscne de, ó thaobh aois de (nuair is cuí), agus ó thaobh tíreolaíochta de. Rinneadh seo le cinntiú go raibh plé cothrom ag titim amach sna grúpaí, plé a bheadh ionadaíoch ar an mhórphobal. Díriodh isteach ar na grúpaí seo mar gheall ar an eolas a bheadh acu seo ar na saincheisteanna a bhí á bplé mar chuid de théamaí na bliana seo.

## 4. Focus Groups

Based on the information collected from the survey, a series of focus-groups were established to gather more information surrounding the issues that were covered in the survey.

Focus Groups were set up with:

- Secondary school students in an English-medium secondary school in the north
- Secondary school students in an English-medium secondary school in the south
- Irish-medium secondary school students
- Adult learners of Irish
- University students
- Families raising their children through Irish in Gaeltacht areas
- Families raising their children through Irish in the south (outside Gaeltacht areas)
- Families raising their children through Irish in the north

There were between six and twelve participants in each group. An attempt was made to ensure these groups were composed of participants of different genders and combining various backgrounds, age-groups (as appropriate), and geographical backgrounds. This was done to ensure that any discussion would be representative of the wider community. These particular groups were targeted because of the knowledge they would have of the particular issues being discussed as part of this year's themes.

## 5. Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Óga

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

Tá níos mó daoine óga sa chóras oideachais trí mheán na Gaeilge anois ná mar a bhí ag am ar bith ó bunaíodh an stát. Tá níos mó ná 5,000 dalta ag freastal ar Ghaelscoileanna ó thuaidh aoi láthair<sup>1</sup> agus tá beagnach 70,000 ag freastal ar Ghaelscoileanna ó dheas, bíodh sin sa Ghaeltacht nó taobh amuigh de.<sup>2</sup>

Rinneadh plé ar an Ghaeloideachas sna fócasghrúpaí mar chuid den saothar seo sa bhliain 2015. Sna grúpaí siúd, tháinig sé chun solais go greideann daoine go bhfuil rudaí eile de dhíth le tacú le daoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a fheabhsú agus a úsáid ar bharr ranganna Gaeilge amháin sa chóras foirmiúil.

*“Úsáid na Gaeilge taobh amuigh den chóras foirmiúil*

*Tá deiseanna de dhíth ó pháistí atá ag freastal ar Ghaelscoileanna a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh den scoil. Is féidir é seo a dhéanamh trí chlubanna óige, agus moladh na hoibre atá á déanamh ag eagraíochtaí cosúil le hÓgras, Feachtas, Cumann na bhFiann, Spleodar agus Fóram na nÓg leis na deiseanna seo a chur ar fáil do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga.*

*Is gá amharc ar na clubanna seo agus ar na deiseanna a chuireann siad ar fáil do na páistí agus do na daoine óga seo mar rud atá ríthábhachtach d’fhorbairt phobal na Gaeilge agus do na daoine óga seo. D’aontaigh na rannpháirtithe ar fad, idir iad siúd a raibh Gaeilge acu agus na faisnéiseoirí nach raibh Gaeilge acu, go mbainfeadh daoine tuilleadh úsáide as a gcuid Gaeilge dá mba rud é go raibh sult á bhaint as na deiseanna atá acu í a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid. Tá sé seo níos tábhachtaí arís do pháistí, agus tá an comhthéacs sóisialta an-tábhachtach leis na daoine seo a spreagadh leis an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus iad imithe ón scoil.*

*Ó thuaidh, tá cinnteacht de dhíth ó na hoibrithe óige atá ag obair san earnáil Ghaeilge, agus tá pleanáil de dhíth le freastal ar an éileamh seo in earnáil atá ag forbairt go gasta.”<sup>3</sup>*

Mar gheall ar na tuairimí a léiríodh anseo, díriodh i mbliana ar na deiseanna atá ag daoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid nó a fheabhsú taobh amuigh den chóras oideachais foirmiúil. Cuireadh ceist sa suirbhé maidir leis na deiseanna atá ag daoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh den scoil:

1. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, 2016

2. Ghaelscoileanna Teo. 2016

3. Céard é an Scéal? Tuairimí an Phobail i leith na Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, 2015, lch. 16

## 5. Services for Young People

### (A) Survey Results:

There are more young people currently in the Irish-medium education system than there ever were since the founding of the state. At present, there are more than 5,000 pupils attending Irish-medium schools in the north<sup>1</sup> and almost 70,000 attending Irish-medium schools in the south, including schools in the Gaeltacht.<sup>2</sup>

In 2015, Irish-medium education was discussed in the focus groups as part of this work. From the discussions held by these groups, it became apparent that people believe that more is required by young people to improve and use their Irish than Irish-language classes in the formal system alone.

*“The use of Irish outside the formal system*

*Children who attend Irish-medium schools require opportunities to use Irish outside school. This can be achieved through youth clubs, and the work being done by clubs such as Ógras, Feachtas, Cumann na bhFiann, Spleodar and Fóram na nÓg was praised for making these opportunities available for children and for young people.*

*There is a need to appreciate the importance of these clubs, and the opportunities they provide for children and young people, as vital to the development of the Irish-language community and to these young people. All participants - both those who had Irish and those who had none - agreed that people would make more use of their Irish if they enjoyed the opportunities they had to learn and use it. This is even more important for children, and the social context is vital to encourage these groups to use Irish when they finish school.*

*In the north, youth workers in the Irish-medium sector need more stability, and planning is required to ensure this is provided in an area which is rapidly growing.”<sup>3</sup>*

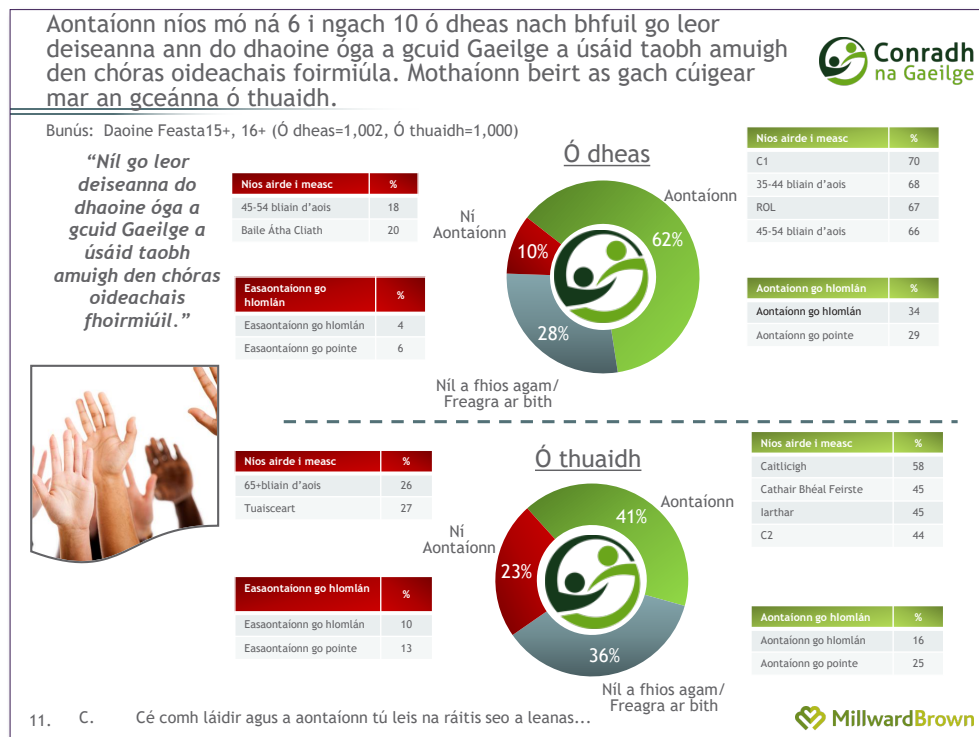
Due to the opinions expressed here, the focus this year was on the opportunities young people have to use and improve their Irish outside the formal education system. A question was asked in the survey concerning the opportunities young people have to use and improve their Irish outside school:

1. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, 2016

2. Ghaelscoileanna Teo. 2016

3. Céard é an Scéal? Tuairimí an Phobail i leith na Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, 2015, lch. 16

**Figúir 3: An n-aontaíonn tú nach bhfuil go leor deiseanna do dhaoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh den chóras oideachais fhoirmiúil?**

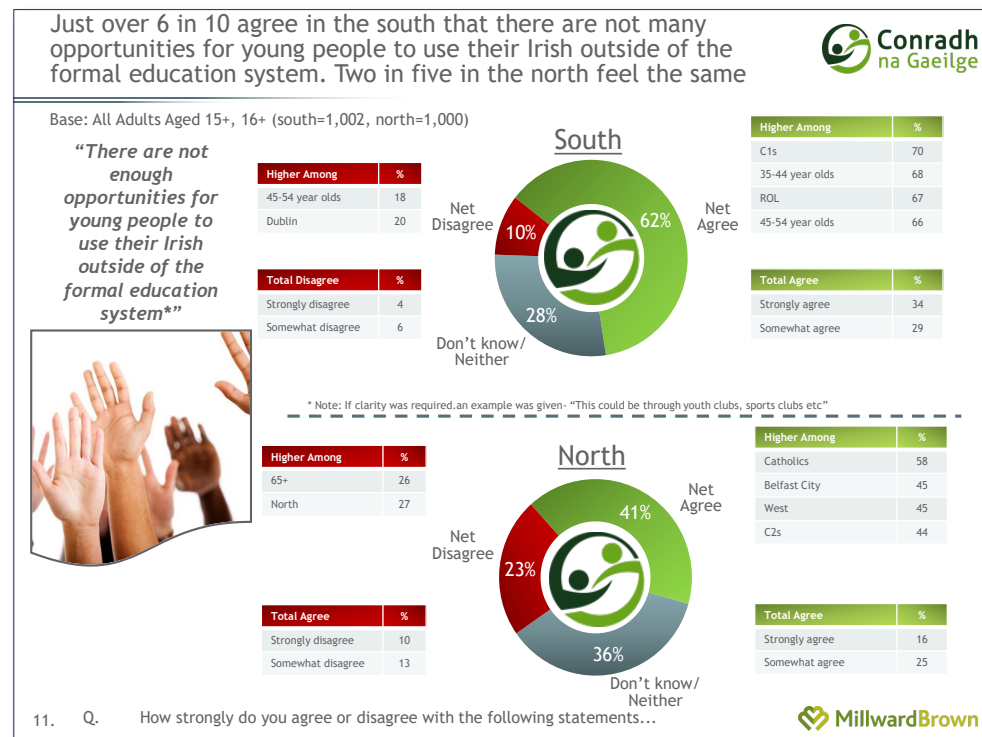


Tá sé soiléir ó na staitisticí seo nach gcreideann daoine go bhfuil go leor á dhéanamh do dhaoine óga a bhfuil Gaeilge acu taobh amuigh den chóras oideachais fhoirmiúil. Aontaíonn 62% de dhaoine ó dheas agus 41% ó thuaidh nach bhfuil go leor deiseanna ar fáil do na daoine óga seo, agus níl ach 10% ó dheas agus 23% ó thuaidh a easaontaíonn leis an tuairim seo. Is figiúirí suntasacha iad seo, go háirithe ó dheas, a léiríonn go bhfuil gá ann tuilleadh deiseanna a chur ar fáil do na daoine óga seo chun a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid.

**(B) Torthaí agus Moltaí na bhFócasghrúpaí:**

Mar chuid de na fócasghrúpaí, cuireadh ceisteanna ar dhaoine óga in aois mheánscoile faoi na tuairimí atá acu faoin Ghaeilge, agus ar mhaithe leo tuilleadh deiseanna a bheith acu lena gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid. Rinneadh fócasghrúpaí le daltaí meánscoile i scoil lánBhéarla ó thuaidh, le scoil lánBhéarla ó dheas, agus le grúpa measctha le daltaí ó mheánscoileanna Gaeilge ó thuaidh agus ó dheas. Rinneadh fócasghrúpa eile le daoine óga atá ag déanamh staidéir ar an Ghaeilge mar chuid de chúrsaí ollscoileanna éagsúla. Ba dhearfai na tuairimí a tháinig ar ais ó na grúpaí seo maidir leis an Ghaeilge, agus ardaíodh pointí agus tuairimí láidre faoi fhéiniúlacht phearsanta agus fhéiniúlacht na

**Figúir 3: Do you agree that there are not enough opportunities for young people to use their Irish outside of the formal education system?**



It is clear from these statistics that people do not believe enough is being done for young Irish speakers outside the formal education system. 62% of people in the south and 41% of people in the north agree that not enough is being done for these young people, and only 10% in the south and 23% in the north disagree with this view. These figures are significant, in particular those in the south, which show that there is a need to provide more opportunities for young people to use their Irish.

**(B) Results and Recommendations from the Focus Groups:**

As part of these focus groups, young people of secondary school age were asked about their opinions regarding the Irish language and if they would like further opportunities to use their Irish. Focus groups were set up with secondary school students in an English-medium secondary school in the north, with an English-medium secondary school in the south, and with a mixed group of students from Irish-medium secondary schools from the north and from the south. Other focus groups were formed from groups of young people studying Irish as part of different university courses. The opinions expressed by these groups regarding Irish were overall more positive, and ideas and opinions about personal

tíre roinnt uaireanta (tá tuilleadh eolais faoin téama seo sa rannóg *Féiniúlacht agus an Ghaeilge*). Le linn na ngrúpaí uilig, bhí roinnt téamaí a tháinig aníos go minic agus a bhí comónta do na grúpaí uilig.

#### DEISEANNA ÚSÁIDE

- Luaigh cuid mhór daoine óga ó gach grúpa nár mhothaigh siad go raibh go leor deiseanna acu an Ghaeilge atá acu a úsáid taobh amuigh den scoil. Mar gheall air seo, dúradh go bhfuil sé deacair orthu a mhothú go bhfuil an Ghaeilge lárnach ina saol nuair nach bhfuil an deis acu í a úsáid taobh amuigh den seomra ranga.
- Luaigh siad turais chun na Gaeltachta mar dheis thábhachtach atá acu an Ghaeilge a úsáid ar bhonn nádúrtha agus sóisialta, ach dúradh fosta go mbíonn sé iontach deacair ar dhaoine óga freastal ar chúrsaí Gaeltachta in amanna mar gheall ar chúrsaí airgid nó cúrsaí cúram sa bhaile. Fosta, ní tharlaíonn na cúrsaí seo ach uair sa bhliain. Dar leis na grúpaí, b'fhearr go mbeadh deiseanna ar fáil dóibh an Ghaeilge a úsáid cóngarach den bhaile.
- Sna fócasgrúpaí, léirigh na daoine óga an-bhá ó thaobh na Gaeilge de agus deir siad gur mhaith leo tuilleadh úsáide a bhaint aisti dá mbeadh an deis acu. Deir siad fosta áfach, gur mhaith leo rudaí a dhéanamh atá suimiúil agus sultmhar cibé, beag beann ar an teanga atá in úsáid. Dúirt siad go mbeadh imeachtaí atá ar chomhchaidheán leo siúd atá ar fáil as Béarla, cosúil le ranganna ceoil nó damhsa, cumainn óige, oícheanta sóisialta agus a leithéid, ach iad a bheith ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge an-tarraingteach.

Sa Bhreatain Beag, cuirtear an-bhéim ar imeachtaí sóisialta a chur ar fáil trí mheán na Breatnaise le cuidiú le daoine óga an Bhreatnais a úsáid mar ghnáth-theanga laethúil. Léiríonn taighde go bhfuil tábhacht ag baint le deiseanna sóisialta neamhfhoirmiúla a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga maidir le sealbhú teanga agus sóisialú na teanga. Más rud nach gcuirtear deiseanna ar fáil do dhaoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus a úsáid ar bhealach atá sultmhar agus suimiúil dóibh, is beag seans go mbainfidh siad úsáid aisti sa saol taobh amuigh den scoil. Léiríonn na moltaí agus na mianta atá léirithe ag na daoine óga thuas gur féidir tacú le daoine óga ag iarraidh a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid, ach caithfear seo a dhéanamh ar bhealach atá fóirsteanach dóibh.

#### GAIRMEACHA LE GAEILGE

Cé gur léirigh formhór na ndaoine óga sna grúpaí seo an-suim sa teanga, tháinig sé chun solais nach raibh an chuid is mó acu ar an eolas faoi na deiseanna oiliúna agus fostaíochta atá ar fáil trí mheán an Gaeilge nó leis an Ghaeilge. Dúirt duine amháin sna grúpaí (a bhí ionadaíoch ar chuid mhór de na tuairimí a nochtadh):

*“Níor mhaith liom an Ghaeilge a dhéanamh ar an ollscoil mar níor mhaith liom bheith i mo mhúinteoir.”*

Mar gheall ar na freagraí seo, rinneadh plé níos doimhne leis na grúpaí maidir le hoideachas gairmiúil go ginearálta sna scoileanna agus dar leis na scoláirí, is beag eolais a fhaigheann siad faoi na féidearthachtaí atá in ann dóibh nuair a chríochnaíonn siad lena n-oideachas scoile.

- Bhí dearthaí iontach traidisiúnta acu ar cad iad na slite beatha a bheadh ar fáil dóibh nuair a imeoidís ón scoil agus ba léir nach raibh tuiscint leathan ann faoi rólanna nó faoin réimse gairmeacha in earnáil na Gaeilge.

identity and the identity of the country were raised (there is more information about this in the section *Identity and the Irish Language*). Common themes arose amongst all groups during these discussions.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO USE IRISH

- A considerable number of young people suggested that they felt that they did not have enough opportunities to use their Irish outside school. As a result of this, they also suggested that it was difficult for them to consider Irish as central to their lives due to the lack of opportunities to use the language outside the classroom.
- They mentioned Gaeltacht trips as an important opportunity to use Irish in a natural and social way, though it was also noted that at times it can be very difficult for young people to attend Gaeltacht courses due to financial constraints and care issues at home. As well as this, these courses only happen once a year. According to the groups, it would be better if there were opportunities available to use Irish closer to home.
- In the focus groups, the young people displayed a great affinity to Irish and they said that they would like to use it more if they had the opportunity. They also said, however, that they would like to do interesting and enjoyable things, irrespective of the language in use. They said that events such as those that are available in English, like music or dance classes, youth clubs, social nights and the like, would be very attractive if they were also available through Irish.

In Wales, a lot of emphasis is placed on providing social events through Welsh to help young people to use Welsh as a normal, everyday language. Research shows that it is important to provide informal, social opportunities to young people when it comes to language acquisition and socialisation in the language. If these opportunities are not provided to help young people to practise and use their Irish in an enjoyable and interesting way, there is little chance that they will use it in their lives outside school. The suggestions and wishes expressed by these young people show that young people can be supported in using their Irish, but that this must be done in such a way that is suitable to them.

#### PROFESSIONS WITH IRISH

Whilst the majority of young people in this group showed significant interest in the language, it became clear that the majority of them were not aware of the training and employment opportunities available through the medium of Irish, or with Irish. One person (who was representative of the majority of opinions revealed) said:

*“I don't want to study Irish at university as I don't want to be a teacher.”*

As a result of these answers, more in-depth discussion was undertaken with these groups regarding careers education in general in schools and according to the students, they receive very little information about the possibilities for them when they finish their education.

- They had very traditional views of the types of jobs that would be available to them when they left school, and it was clear that they didn't have any broad understanding of the roles or ranges of professions in the Irish-language sector.

- Ní raibh an chuid is mó de na daoine óga a bhí sna grúpaí seo ar an eolas faoi na deiseanna atá ar fáil in earnálacha éagsúla do chainteoirí líofa Gaeilge sa lá atá inniu ann. Tá deiseanna fostaíochta in earnáil na Gaeilge, nó rólanna ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge de dhíth mar dhlúthchuid den phost, ag méadú i gcónaí. Tá comhlachtaí poiblí, carthanachtaí, eagraíochtaí óige, agus comhlachtaí meáin chumarsáide ag cur fostaíochta ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge ag leibhéal nach bhfacthas ag am ar bith ó bunaíodh an stát.

I suirbhé Millward Brown 2015, dúirt 53% de dhaoine ó dheas agus 46% de dhaoine ó thuaidh gur féidir leis an Ghaeilge cur go dearfach le forbairt eacnamaíochta an oileáin, agus ar a bharr sin creideann 42% de dhaoine ó dheas agus 37% de dhaoine ó thuaidh gur GUD í an Ghaeilge.<sup>4</sup>

- Bunaithe ar na torthaí seo agus ar an dearcadh atá fós ag daoine óga maidir leis an Ghaeilge agus a todhcháí, tá an-obair le déanamh chun na deiseanna atá ar fáil dóibh a léiriú dóibh agus iad ag déanamh cinntí faoina saol. Is deis le tapú í seo chun daoine óga a spreagadh i dtreo na Gaeilge. Dá mbeadh daltaí scoile agus mic léinn ollscoile ar an eolas faoi na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge, idir dheiseanna profisiúnta agus dheiseanna sóisialta agus pearsanta, mar is ceart, bheadh i bhfad níos mó seans ann go ndéanfadh siad cinneadh cloí leis na Ghaeilge agus iarracht a dhéanamh í a úsáid agus a fheabhsú ag gach leibhéal dá gcuid oideachais agus go pearsanta. Caithfear léiriú do na daoine óga seo, ní amháin gur féidir an saol a chaitheamh trí Ghaeilge, ach go bhfuil an-chuid buntáistí ag baint leis sin a dhéanamh.

#### CÚRSAÍ OLLSCOILE

- San fhócasghrúpa a rinneadh le mic léin ollscoile, dúirt cuid de na rannpháirtithe go bhfuil cumainn Ghaelacha láidre ina n-ollscoileanna féin agus gur mhothaigh siad gur chuir an cumann seo go mór leis an eispéaras a bhíonn acu ar an ollscoil. Dúirt siad go mbíonn atmaisféar dearfach ann i leith na Gaeilge de mar gheall ar an chumann, agus go mbíonn deiseanna sóisialta rialta ann rudaí a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge. Dúirt na rannpháirtithe a bhí ag déanamh cúrsaí nach bhfuil bainte leis an Ghaeilge go foirmeálta go raibh sé seo iontach tábhachtach dóibh mar gheall ar an nasc a chruthaigh sé dóibh le pobal na Gaeilge ar an ollscoil.
- Mhol cuid de na rannpháirtithe ról an oifigigh Ghaeilge agus an scéim chónaithe Ghaeilge atá á réachtáil i roinnt ollscoileanna. Cosúil leis na cumainn Ghaelacha, dúirt siad gur chuir na rudaí seo le saol na hollscoile dóibh ó thaobh na Gaeilge de.
- Cosúil leis na daltaí meánscoile, bhí cuid mhór rannpháirtithe sa ghrúpa seo nach raibh ar an eolas faoi cad é ba mhaith leo a dhéanamh agus iad críochnaithe ar an ollscoil. Cé gur léirigh na rannpháirtithe uilig spéis a bheith ag obair in earnáil na Gaeilge sa todhcháí, ní raibh cuid mhór acu ar an eolas faoi na deiseanna a bheadh ar fáil dóibh.
- Luaigh cuid den ghrúpa nach raibh siad cinnte faoi cad é ba mhaith leo a dhéanamh sa todhcháí, ach gur mhaith leo leanstan leis an staideár atá á dhéanamh acu ar an Ghaeilge le deiseanna a choinneáil oscailte maidir le post a fháil amach anseo.
- Léirigh cúpla rannpháirtí buaireamh nach bhfuil an Ghaeilge feiceálach ina n-ollscoil féin agus go bhfuil láithreach na Gaeilge ag laghdú in áit a bheith ag ardú ar an champas ollscoile faoi láthair. Ní mhothaíonn siad go n-aithníonn an ollscoil seo na cúrsaí Gaeilge ná na mic léinn atá ag déanamh staidéir uirthi mar is ceart, dar leo.

4. Céard é an Scéal? Tuairimí an Phobail i leith na Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, 2015, lch. 20-21

- The majority of these young people were unaware of the opportunities that exist in various, current sectors for fluent Irish language speakers. Employment opportunities in the Irish language sector or in role in which Irish is needed as an integral part of the job are increasing. Public companies, charities, youth organisations and media groups are providing employment through the medium of Irish at every level, at a level not seen at any time since the foundation of the State.

In the Millward Brown survey of 2015, 53% of people from the south and 46% of people from the north said that Irish can have a positive impact on the economic development of the island, and furthermore, 42% of people in the south and 37% of people in the north believe that Irish is a USP.<sup>4</sup>

- Based on these results and on the views that young people still have regarding Irish and its future, there is a considerable amount of work which still needs done to inform them of the opportunities available to them as they make decisions about their futures. The opportunity must be seized to inspire young people towards the Irish language. If school children and university students were fully aware of the possibilities arising from the Irish language, both professionally, socially and personally, there would be a much greater chance that they would decide to continue with Irish and would make an attempt to improve its use at all levels. Young people must be shown, not only that it is possible to live your life through the medium of Irish, but that there are so many benefits to doing so.

#### UNIVERSITY COURSES

- In the focus group which was conducted with university students, some of the participants said that Irish-language societies are strong in their own universities and that they felt that these societies added considerably to their university experience. They said that these societies created a positive atmosphere surrounding the language and that there are regular social occasions through the medium of Irish. The participants who were doing non-Irish related courses said that this was very important to them because of the link it created with the Irish-language community in the university.
- Some of the participants praised the role of the Irish-language officer and the Irish-language residential schemes run by some universities. Like the Irish-language societies, they said that things like this added to their university experience.
- Like the secondary school students, a considerable number of these participants didn't know what they wanted to do when they finished university. Although all participants expressed a desire to work in the Irish-language sector in the future, a large number of them were not aware of the opportunities available to them.
- Some of the group mentioned that they were not sure of what they wanted to do in the future, but that they would like to continue studying Irish in order to keep their employment options open in the future.
- A number of participants shared concerns that Irish was not visible in their universities and that the presence of Irish was decreasing instead of increasing on their university campuses at present. They don't feel that their university properly acknowledges Irish-language courses, nor the students that are studying them, according to them.

4. Céard é an Scéal? Tuairimí an Phobail i leith na Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, 2015, lch. 20-21

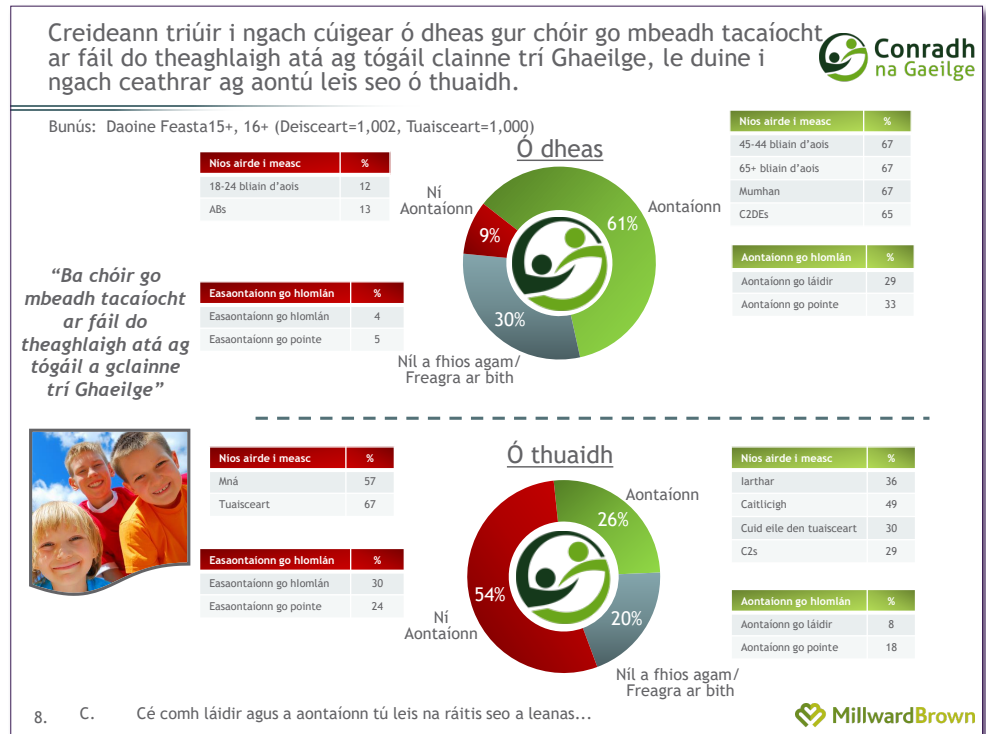
## 6. Seirbhísí do Theaghlach ag Tógáil Clainne trí Ghaeilge

De réir mar a ardaíonn líon na gcainteoirí Gaeilge agus líon na ndalta a fhreastalaíonn ar Ghaelscoileanna fud fad na tíre, tá ardú súntasach ar líon na dteaghlach atá ag tógáil clainne trí mheán na Gaeilge. Déantar infheistíocht i seirbhísí a chur ar fáil do thuistí ó thaobh tógáil clainne de maidir le cúrsaí sláinte, oideachais, cumarsáide agus eile. Agus tuismitheoir ag tógáil clainne trí mheán na Gaeilge, tá tacaíocht bhreise agus difriúil de dhíth le cuidiú le teaghlach é seo a dhéanamh.

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

Cuireadh ceist sa suirbhé i mbliana faoin ráiteas “Ba chóir go mbeadh tacaíocht ar fáil do theaghlach atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge” agus tháinig freagraí dearfacha chun cinn den chuid is mó, mar atá léirithe thíos:

Figiúr 4: An n-aontaíonn tú gur chóir go mbeadh tacaíocht ann do theaghlach atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge?



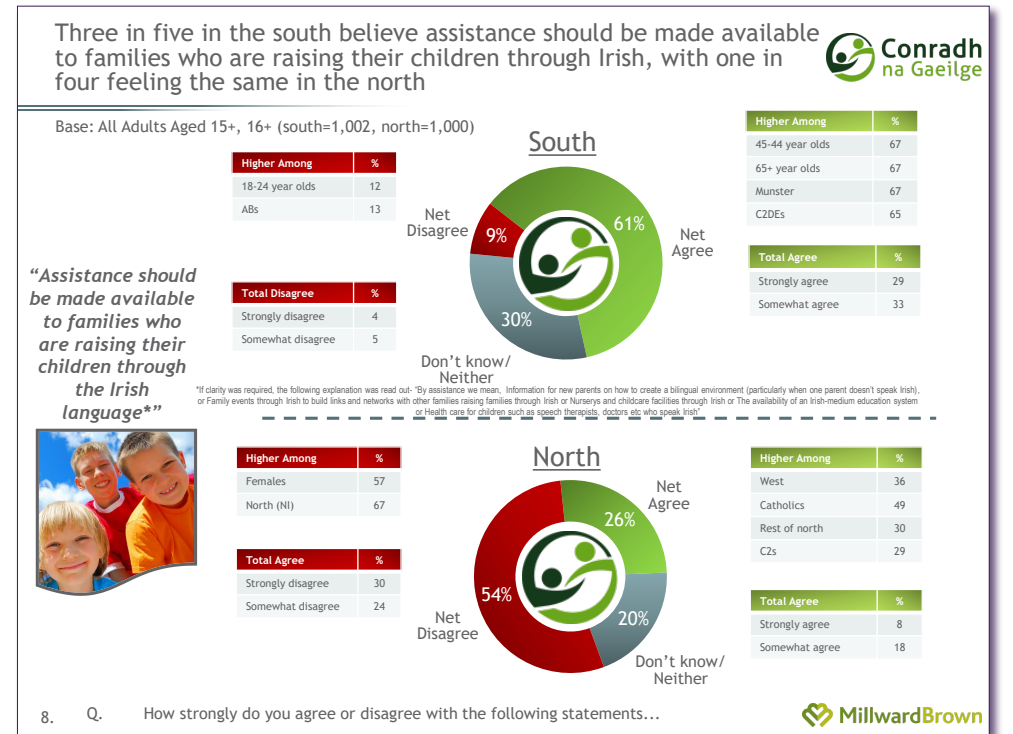
## 6. Services for Families Raising their Children through Irish

As the number of Irish speakers and the number of pupils attending Irish medium schools through the country increase, the number of families raising their children speaking Irish has increased. Investment is made in providing services for parents raising a family regarding health, education, communication and more. When a parent is raising a family through the medium of Irish, extra, different support is needed to help these families to do this.

### (A) Survey Results:

A question was asked in this year's survey about the statement “There should be support available for families raising their children through Irish” and the answers which came back were positive for the most part, as shown below:

Figure 4: Do you agree that assistance should be made available to families who are raising their children through the Irish language?



Creideann 61% de dhaoine ó dheas gur chóir go mbeadh tacaíocht ar fáil do theaghlaigh atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge. Dúirt 30% de dhaoine ó dheas agus 20% de dhaoine ó thuaidh nach raibh freagra acu ar an cheist seo nó níor thug siad freagra ar bith. Creidtear go léiríonn sé seo nach bhfuil sé soiléir a dhóthain cad é atá i gceist go díreach le ‘tacaíocht’ do na teaghlaigh seo. Tá seans ann nár thuig daoine cén sórt tacaíochta a bheadh i gceist leis seo, agus tá seans ann fosta nach dtuigtear cén fáth a mbeadh a leithéid de thacaíocht de dhíth.

Aontaíonn 26% de dhaoine sa suirbhé leis an cheist seo ó thuaidh; ní aontaíonn 54% de dhaoine ar cuireadh ceist orthu agus dúirt 20% nach raibh a fhios acu nó níor thug siad freagra ar bith.

### **(B) Torthaí agus Moltaí na bhFócasghrúpaí:**

Mar chuid de na fócasghrúpaí, rinneadh comhairliúchán le trí ghrúpa thuismitheoirí éagsúla. Rinneadh grúpa le thuismitheoirí atá ag tógáil clainne: grúpa amháin le tuistí atá ina gcónaí i gceantar Gaeltachta, grúpa le tuistí atá ag tógáil clainne ó dheas agus taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht agus grúpa eile le tuistí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge ó thuaidh. Pléadh roinnt téamaí i ngach ceann de na grúpaí a bhí ábhartha do na grúpaí uilig, cibé áit ina raibh siad.

### **NORMALÚ NA GAEILGE**

- Mura bhfuil seirbhísí bunúsacha ar nós seirbhísí sláinte ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge ar fáil, cruthaíonn sé seo deacrachtaí do thuistí agus iad ag iarraidh an teanga a normalú dá bpáistí. Dúirt roinnt de na thuismitheoirí go mbíonn sé deacair orthu mhíniú dá bpáistí cén fáth a bhfuil teanga eile ag na daoine údarásacha agus soláthraithe seirbhísí seo agus nach bhfuil Gaeilge á labhairt acu.
- Dúradh go gcruthaítear meon i measc na bpáistí go bhfuil Béarla á labhairt ag daoine proifisiúnta gairmiúla agus nach bhfuil Gaeilge á labhairt ach ag tuistí s’acu. Déantar imeallú ar na páistí seo mar gheall ar an dearcadh seo.

### **SEIRBHÍSÍ SLÁINTE**

- Cruthaítear deacrachtaí nuair nach bhfuil seirbhísí ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge agus daoine ag iarraidh scrúdú a dhéanamh ar pháistí, go háirithe más iad na scileanna cumarsáide atá ag páiste atá faoi scrúdú. Tá sé deacair fiú ceisteanna bunúsacha a chur ar pháistí atá á dtógáil trí mheán na Gaeilge maidir lena sláinte mura féidir é seo a dhéanamh ina dteanga féin.
- Cruthaíonn easpa seirbhísí deacrachtaí móra do thuistí agus dúradh sna grúpaí go mbíonn sé iontach deacair ar na tuistí iad féin rud ar bith a dhéanamh faoi seo. Níl sé réalaíoch le rá gur chóir dóibh seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a éileamh ón údarás áitiúil nó ón Fheidhmeannas Seirbhísí Sláinte mar gheall go gcaithfidh siad bheith ag obair agus ag plé leis na daoine atá siad ag obair leo mura n-éiríonn leo an tseirbhís seo a fháil. Mar shampla, ní féidir le thuismitheoir seirbhís trí Ghaeilge a éileamh go foirmiúil nuair atá dochtúir de dhíth dá bpáiste, mar tá seans go ndéanfaidh an mhóil sin tuilleadh damáiste do shláinte an pháiste, rud nach ndéanfaidh tuistí. Cé go bhfuil éileamh ann do na seirbhísí seo, ní féidir le tuistí seo a léiriú i gcónaí.

1% of people in the south think that support should be available for families who are raising children through the medium of Irish “There should be support available for families raising their children through Irish” 30% of people in the south and 20% of people in the north said that they could not answer the question or they did not give an answer. It is believed that this shows that it’s not completely clear what ‘support’ means to these families. It is possible that people did not understand the type of support this would be, and why they would require this kind of support.

26% of people surveyed in the north agreed with this question; 54% of those surveyed disagreed and 20% said they did not know or they did not give an answer.

### **(B) Results and Recommendations from the Focus Groups:**

As part of the focus groups, consultations took place with various parents’ groups. A group was made with parents who are raising a family: one group of parents living in a Gaeltacht area, one group with parents raising a family in the south, outside the Gaeltacht and one group with parents who are raising a family with Irish in the north. A number of themes were discussed which were relevant to all the groups, irrespective of where they were based.

### **THE NORMALISATION OF IRISH**

- If basic services such as health services are not available through the medium of Irish, this creates problems for parents as they try to normalise the language for their children. A number of the parents said that it is difficult for them to explain to their children why another person in authority and service providers uses a different language and why they are not speaking Irish.
- It was said a mentality is created amongst the children that professional people speak English and that the only people who speak Irish are their parents. Children are marginalised as a result of this viewpoint.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

- Difficulties are created when services are not provided through the medium of Irish when people are trying to examine children, especially if it is the child’s communication skills that are being assessed. It can be difficult to ask even basic questions to a child who is being raised through Irish regarding health if this cannot be done in the child’s own language.
- A lack of services creates huge difficulties for parents and it was said in this group that it can be difficult for the parents themselves to address this issue in any way. It is not realistic to say that they should demand Irish language services from the local authority or from the Health Service as they will still have to work within this system, even if they fail to secure these services. For example, a parent cannot formally demand an Irish language service when its child needs a doctor, because there is a chance that this will cause more damage to the health of the child, which is something a parent will not do. Although there is a demand for these services, parents cannot always show this.

## FEICEÁLACHT NA GAEILGE

- In áiteanna súgartha, in ionaid turasóireachta agus in áiteanna poiblí eile, ní bhíonn an oiread sin Gaeilge le feiceáil agus is minic nach mbíonn seirbhísí ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge. Léiríonn sé seo do pháistí, dár leis na grúpaí, gurb é an Béarla an teanga atá ag daoine amuigh sa domhain agus gurb í an Ghaeilge teanga an tí amháin.
- Dúradh sna grúpaí go mbeadh sé an-fhiúntach dá mbeadh tuilleadh comharthaíochta in áiteanna poiblí trí Ghaeilge agus go mbeidh turas treoirithe agus a leithéid ar fáil trí Ghaeilge do na páistí. Dúirt na tuistí gur chóir go mbeadh an t-eispeáras seo ag a bpáistí fosta.

## OIDEACHAS

- Luaigh na tuismitheoirí i ngach grúpa go mothaíonn siad nach bhfuil freastal ceart á dhéanamh ar an chóras oideachais dá bpáistí. Dúradh go bhfuil deacrachtaí ann maidir le hacmhainní, le soláthar múinteoirí, agus eile
- Sa ghrúpa le tuistí ó cheantair Ghaeltachta rinneadh plé ar na deacrachtaí atá ann do dhaltaí scoile atá i ranganna scoile atá ag freastal ar dhaltaí a bhfuil Gaeilge líofa acu agus atá ag foghlaim na Gaeilge. Nuair a tharlaíonn sé seo bíonn sé iontach deacair ar mhúinteoirí bheith ag obair le ranganna ar bhealach atá fóirsteanach do ghach páiste sa seomra. Cruthaítear deacrachtaí do pháistí a bhfuil Gaeilge acu ón bhaile mar gheall nach gcuirtear dúshlán rompu go minic ó thaobh teanga de agus go mbíonn an obair Ghaeilge ró-bhunúsach. Cuireadh fáilte roimh an Pholasáí Oideachas Gaeltachta atá le foilsíú ach dúradh fosta go bhfuil inní ann nach bhfeictear feabhsaithe luath go leor do pháistí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna cheana féin.
- Léirigh tuistí i ngach grúpa buairimh faoi na seirbhísí atá ar fáil do pháistí a bhfuil sainriachtanais oideachais orthu sa chóras Gaeloideachais, ó thuaidh agus ó dheas.
- Mhol na tuismitheoirí go mbeadh córas i bhfeidhm le cinntiú go mbeadh cuairteoirí ar Ghaelscoileanna in ann labhairt leis na daltaí scoile trí mheán na Gaeilge. Clúdaíonn sé seo banaltraí srl a théann chuig scoileanna le hinstealladh a thabhairt dona páistí, le daoine a thagann isteach le labhairt leo faoi shábháilteacht ar na bóithre agus le traenáil spóirt fosta. Imríonn na cuairteanna seo tionchar ar dhaoine óga agus de réir na dtuismitheoirí cuirtear droch-theachtaireacht más rud é nach ndéantar na rudaí seo trí mheán na Gaeilge. Arís, léirítear do pháistí gur rud éagsúil nó difriúil í an Ghaeilge nach bhfuil mar chuid den ghnáthshaol.
- Léirigh na grúpaí ó dheas agus ó thuaidh inní maidir le ró-éileamh ar Ghaelscoileanna. Is minic a bhíonn liosta feithimh fada ann do scoileanna áitiúla, nó nach mbíonn soláthar ar bith sa cheantar atá oiriúnach. Cruthaítear cuid mhór deacrachtaí anseo do thuistí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge mura bhfuil siad in ann spás a fháil dá bpáistí i nGaelscoil. Ar a bharr seo, labhair na tuismitheoirí faoi na deacrachtaí atá ann maidir le scoileanna nua a bhunú agus na deacrachtaí seo a phlé, agus cuireann sé seo tuilleadh brú ar thuistí.

## ÁISEANNA AGUS TACAÍOCHT AN PHOBAIL

- Rinneadh an grúpa ó thuaidh i gceantar tuaithe ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge iontach láidir. Cé go bhfuil méadú mór tágtha ar líon na dtuistí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge ó thuaidh le roinnt blianta anuas, is ceantar ar leith é seo mar gheall ar

## THE VISIBILITY OF IRISH

- Irish is not widely seen in play areas, in tourist centres nor in other public places and services in Irish are regularly unavailable. This demonstrates to children, according to these groups, that English is the only language spoken in by people out in the 'real' world and that Irish is the language of the house only.
- It was said in these groups that it would be useful if there was more signage in public places in Irish and if there was a guided tour and such like available in Irish for children. The parents said that their children should have this experience also.

## EDUCATION

- Parents in every group expressed their feeling that their children are not being properly catered for within the education system. It was said that difficulties remain regarding resources and with provision of teachers.
- In the group of parents from the Gaeltacht, a discussion was had on the difficulties faced by pupils in classes with a mixture of fluent students and those who are learning the language. When this happens, it is very difficult for teachers to work with classes in a way which suits every child in the room. Difficulties are created for children who have Irish at home as it is often the case that they are not challenged linguistically and the Irish language work can be too simplistic. The imminent Gaeltacht Education Policy was welcomed but this was tempered by a concern that this will not improve the situation for children who are currently within the system.
- Parents in every group shared concerns about the services that are available for children with special educational needs in the Irish medium system, both north and south.
- The parents suggested that a system should be put in place to ensure that visitors to Irish medium schools should be able to speak to the pupils in Irish. This includes nurses who go to the schools to give injections to the children, people who come in to speak about road safety and includes training for sport also. Visitors have an influence on young people and according to parents it sends out a bad message if this cannot be done in Irish. Again, it shows the children that Irish is something different and that it is not part of normal life.
- Both groups, north and south, expressed concern concerning too high demand for Irish medium education. There is often a long waiting list for local schools, or there is often not sufficient provision in the area. This creates difficulties for children who are raising their children with Irish if they are unable to get a place for their child in an Irish medium school. Moreover, parents spoke of the difficulties that exist in establishing a new school, and this places added pressure on parents.

## FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- The northern group was established in a rural area where Irish is very strong. Although the number of parents who are raising their children through Irish in the north has increased over the past number of years, this strength of the Irish



láidreacht na Gaeilge sa phobal ann. Sa ghrúpa seo, dúirt na rannpháirtithe go mothaíonn siad go bhfuil tuilleadh áiseanna pobal ar fáil dóibh ná mar a bheadh dá mbeadh siad ina gcónaí in aon áit eile ó thuaidh, agus go mbeadh éipseáras iomlán éagsúil ag tuismitheoirí nach bhfuil an tacaíocht phobail acu sa tslí chéanna.

- Sa ghrúpa ó dheas, dúirt na tuismitheoirí go mbíonn sé deacair orthu an oiread céanna tacaíochta a fháil timpeall orthu mar ní minic go mbíonn cuid mhór teaghlach le Gaeilge ina gcónaí cóngarach dá chéile. Ciallaíonn sé seo nach mbíonn imeachtaí teaghlach nó deiseanna sóisialta ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge ar an tslí chéanna agus go gcruthaíonn sé seo deacrachtaí do thuistí.
- De réir na rannpháirtithe i ngach grúpa, tá easpa áiseanna ar fáil do dhaoine óga a bhfuil Gaeilge acu ó thaobh leabhair de, ó thaobh siamsaíochta de agus ó thaobh deiseanna sóisialta de. Tá sé fíor dheacair, mar sin de, ar dhaoine óga an Ghaeilge a úsáid mar gnáth-theanga laethúil mura bhfuil na háiseanna seo ar fáil dóibh.
- Sa ghrúpa ó dheas, rinneadh plé ar na deacrachtaí atá ann maidir le feighlí linbh a fháil agus atá in ann cúram a thabhairt do pháistí trí mheán na Gaeilge. Dúradh go bhfuil margadh ann anois do na seirbhísí seo nach bhfuil freastal sásúil orthu faoi láthair. Tá tábhacht bainte leis an luath-thumoideachas le mionteanga ar bith a fhoghlaim. Sin ráite, dúirt na tuismitheoirí nach féidir leo teacht ar chúram leaná atá fóirsteanach ó thaobh teanga de.

Sna ceantair Ghaeltachta ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge in úsáid níos forleithne mar theanga pobail, bhí buairimh éagsúla ag na tuistí sa ghrúpaí le tuistí a bhí ina gcónaí sa chathair. Cé go bhfuil Gaeilge le coisteáil go forleathan ag páistí i gceantair Ghaeltachta ó chomharsana nó ó chairde a dtuistí, is beag Gaeilge a bhíonn ag oibríthe an stáit a bhíonn ag obair le páistí. Mar shampla, ní bhíonn seirbhísí ar fáil trí Ghaeilge ó dhochtúirí, banaltra, fiacloirí srl. Is í an fhadhb is mó a bhaineann leis seo na gurb é an Béarla an gnáth-theanga atá ag daoine taobh amuigh den teaghlach, agus go mbaineann an Ghaeilge le comhthéacs baile agus teaghlach amháin. Ciallaíonn sé seo nach dtuigeann páistí gur teanga labhartha í an Ghaeilge ina iomláine agus gur féidir gach ábhar a phlé agus gach eispéaras a bheith ann trí mheán na teanga sin. Tá na gréasáin shóisialta, atá riachtanach le teanga a chothú mar theanga bheo ag meath agus impleachtaí tromhchúiseacha aige seo ar thodhchaí na Gaeilge mar theanga phobal sa Ghaeltacht.

Ba é an rud is mó a bhí i gcoitianta i measc na ngrúpaí uilig ná go bhfuil dualgais mhírásúnta ar thuistí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge. Léiríonn na réimsí difriúla a pléadh thuas go bhfuil cuid mhór dúshláin os a gcomhair gan tacaíocht shuntasach le dul i ngleic leis seo. D'aontaigh na rannpháirtithe sna grúpaí uilig gur féidir formhór na mbearnaí seo a chomhlíonadh ach le planáil a dhéanamh ar na seirbhísí atá de dhíth ón bharr aníos agus chun sin a chur i bhfeidhm. Dúradh fosta nár thuig siad cén fáth nach raibh a leithéid a dhéanamh cheana féin toisc nach mbeadh aon airgead i gceist le cuid mhór de na moltaí a rinneadh, agus bheadh luach ar leith bainte le haon airgead breise a chaithfí ar na moltaí seo.

language is significant in this area. In this group, the participants said that they feel that they have more public facilities available to them than would be the norm if they were living anywhere else in the north, and that they would have a completely different experience to parents that did not received community support in the same way.

- In the group in the south, the parents said that they find it difficult to get the same level of support around them it is seldom that a lot of Irish speaking families live close to each other. This means that family events or social opportunities through the medium of Irish are not always available in the same way and that this can cause difficulties for parents.
- According to the participants in every group, young Irish speakers are suffering from a lack of books, entertainment and social opportunities. It is extremely difficult, therefore, for young people to use Irish as their daily language if the resources are not available to them.
- In the group in the south, the difficulties regarding sourcing Irish speaking babysitters was discussed. It was said that there is a market for such sources but that the current provision is not satisfactory. Early-years immersion education is vital in order to learn any minority language. That said, the parents said that they cannot access childcare that is sufficient in terms of language.

In those areas of the Gaeltacht where Irish is used widely as a community language, the parents in this group had some concerns which differed from those of the parents that lived in the city. Whilst children in Gaeltacht areas hear Irish spoken widely by neighbours and by their parents' friends, the state employees who work with these children have little Irish. Services from doctors, nurses, dentist, etc., aren't available in Irish, for example. The biggest problem with this is that English is the main language of those outside the family, and that Irish is viewed in the context of the home and the family only. This means that children do not understand that Irish is a spoken language in itself and that every subject matter and every experience can be discussed through the medium of that language. The social networks necessary to nurture the language as a living language are failing and this has serious implications for the future of the Irish language as a community language in the Gaeltacht.

The biggest area these groups had in common was the unreasonable level of expectation on parents raising their children through Irish. These different areas show that there are significant challenges facing them without significant support to tackle these issues. All the participants in these groups agreed that a lot of these gaps can be filled by careful planning the services that are required from the top down and then implementing them. They did not understand why this was not available already, especially as a large number of these suggestions would not cost any money, and that any money spent would be worth it

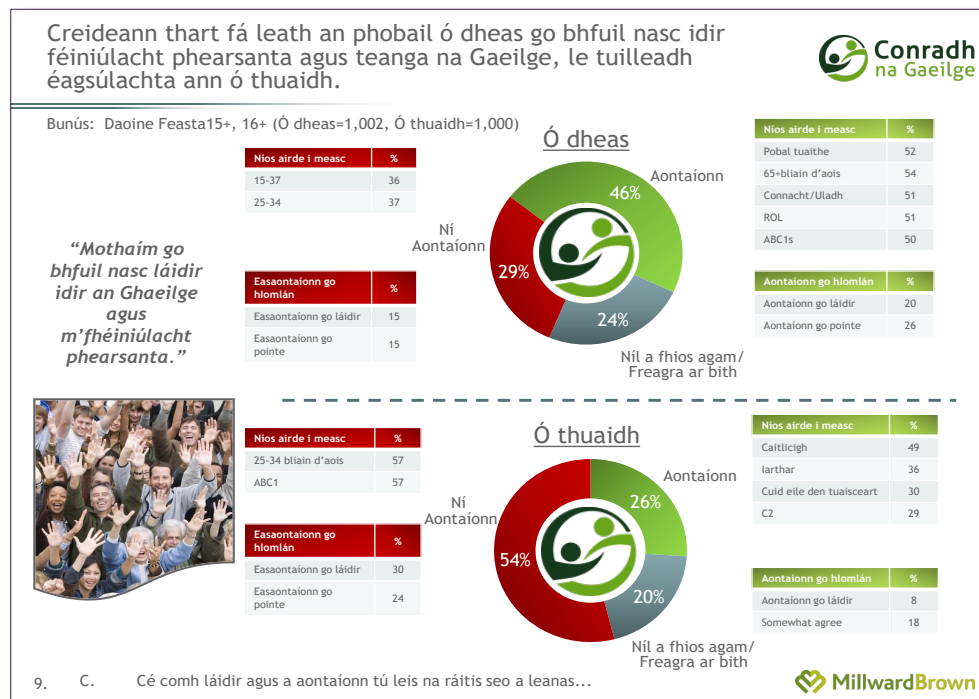
## 7. Féiniúlacht agus an Ghaeilge

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

I suirbhé Millward Brown, cuireadh dhá cheist ar leith faoi na dearthaí atá ag daoine maidir leis an Ghaeilge agus féiniúlacht. Tuigtear gur ceistanna casta iad seo do dhaoine le plé a dhéanamh orthu taobh istigh de dhá fhreagra gairid, agus mar gheall air sin clúdaíodh an téama seo i ngach ceann de na fócasghrúpaí le spás a thabhairt do rannpháirtithe an taighde seo freagraí níos iomláine a thabhairt ar an ábhar seo.

Sa suirbhé, rinneadh plé ar an ábhar seo in dhá cheist. Rinneadh idirdhealú idir féiniúlacht phearsanta an duine agus féiniúlacht na tíre. Creideann 46% de dhaoine ó dheas go bhfuil nasc idir a bhféiniúlacht phearsanta agus teanga na Gaeilge, ní aontaíonn 29% leis seo agus dúirt 24% nach raibh a fhios acu nó níor thug siad freagra ar bith. Ó thuaidh, d'aontaigh 26% de dhaoine go bhfuil nasc idir a bhféiniúlacht phearsanta agus teanga na Gaeilge agus dúirt 54% nach n-aontaíonn siad leis sin. Bhí 20% de dhaoine nach raibh a fhios acu nó níor thug siad freagra ar bith ar an cheist. Tá an céatadán daoine a d'aontaigh leis an ráiteas seo ó thuaidh iontach spéisiúil mar gheall nach bhfuil Gaeilge ach ag 11% den daonra ó thuaidh, de réir an daonáireamh is déanaí i 2011. Léiríonn sé seo go bhfuil daoine a mhothaíonn nasc pearsanta leis an teanga cé nach bhfuil sí acu.

Figiúr 6: An mothaíonn tú go bhfuil nasc idir an Ghaeilge agus m'fhéiniúlacht phearsanta?



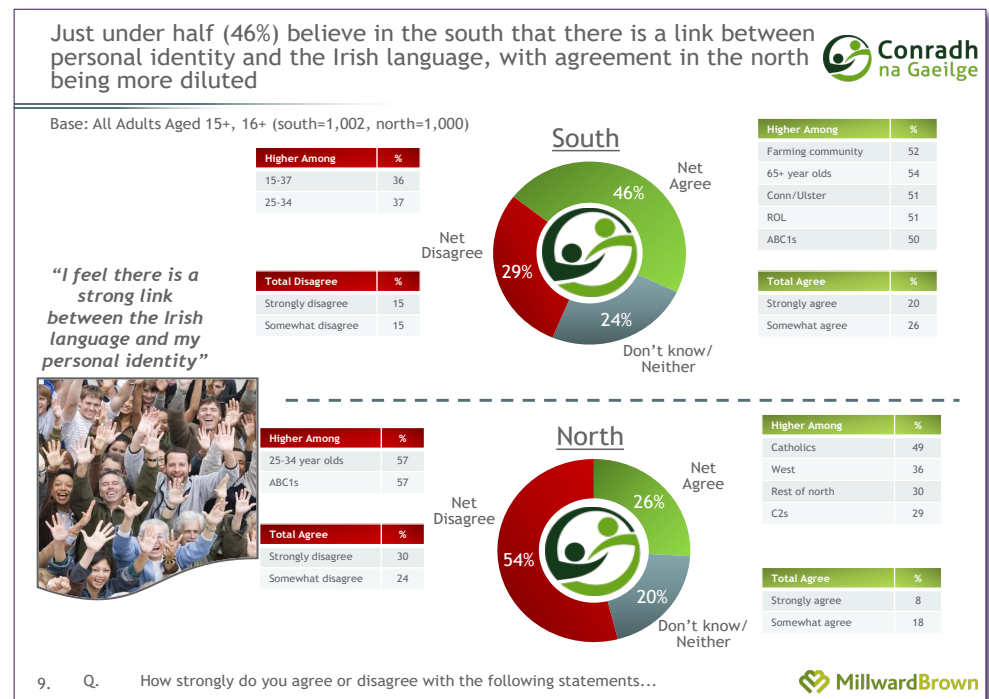
## 7. Identity and the Irish Language

### (A) Survey Results:

In the Millward Brown survey, two questions were raised concerning the views that people have regarding Irish and identity. It is clear that these were difficult questions for people to discuss within two short answers, and because of this the theme was covered by each of the focus groups to give the participants in this research an opportunity to develop their answers.

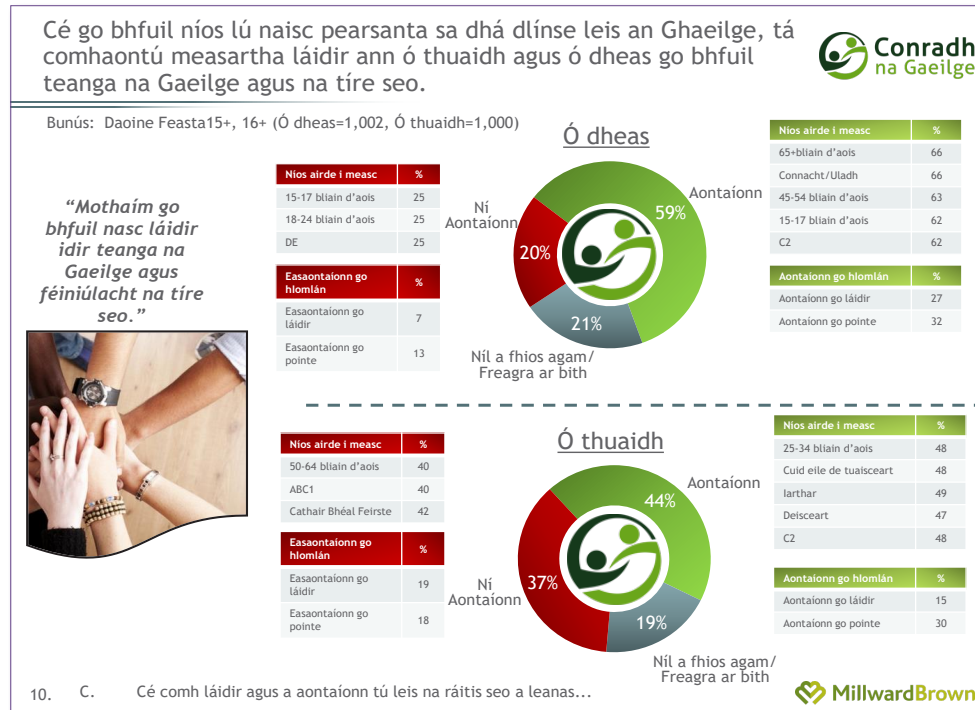
In the survey, this subject was discussed in two questions. A distinction was made between one's personal identity and the identity of the country. 46% of people in the south believe that there is a link between their personal identity and the Irish language. 29% do not agree with this, and 24% said they did not know or they did not give an answer. 26% of people in the north believe that there is a link between their personal identity and the Irish language. 54% do not agree with this, and 20% said they did not know or they did not give an answer. The percentage of those in the north who agreed with this is interesting as only 11% of the population of the north can speak Irish according to the census of 2011. This shows that some people believe that they have a personal link to the language even if they cannot speak it.

Figure 6: Do you feel that there is a strong link between the Irish language and my personal identity?



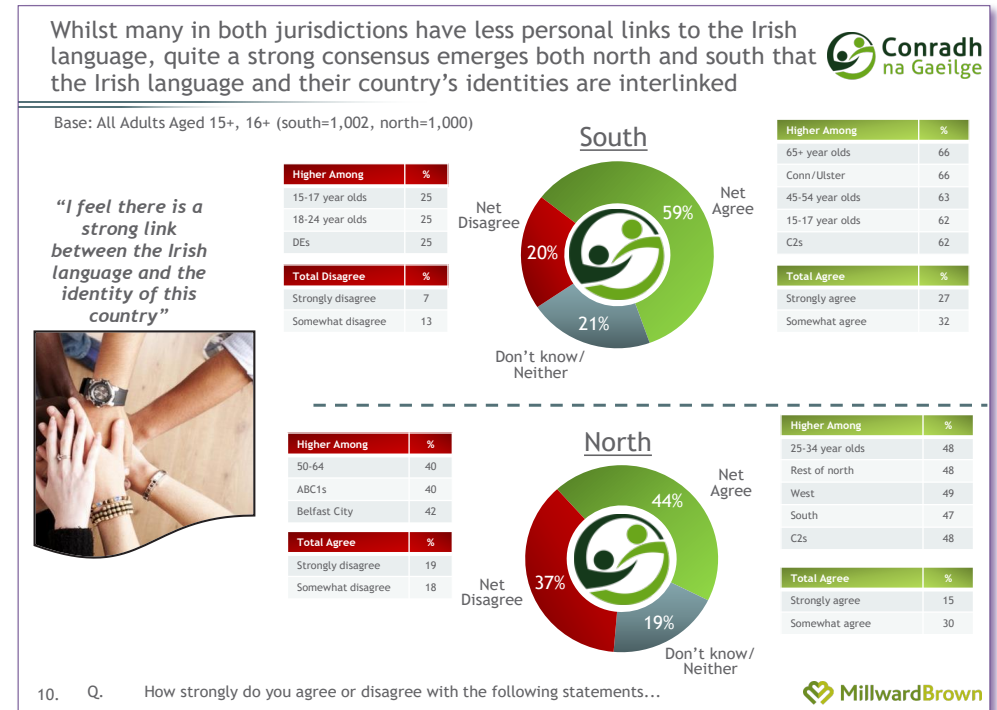
Chomh mhaith leis an cheist ar fhéiniúlacht phearsanta, cuireadh ceist eile ar rannpháirtithe an tsuirbhé maidir le féiniúlacht na tíre agus teanga na Gaeilge. Arís, ba cheist dheacair í seo mar gheall ar na mothúcháin éagsúla a bhíonn ag daoine ar na ceistanna seo agus go bhfuil sé deacair é seo a phlé go mion trí thaghdhe cainníochtúil. Áfach, dúirt 59% de dhaoine ó thuaidh agus 44% de dhaoine ó dheas go mothaíonn siad go bhfuil nasc idir an Ghaeilge agus féiniúlacht na tíre seo. Arís, tá an figiúr seo ó thuaidh i bhfad níos airde na líon na gcainteoirí atá ina gcónaí ó thuaidh faoi láthair (11% den daonra) agus léiríonn sé seo go dtuigeann cuid mhór mhaith den phobal go bhfuil dlúth-bhaint idir teanga na Gaeilge agus féiniúlacht na tíre.

Figiúr 7: An n-aontaíonn tú go bhfuil nasc idir an Ghaeilge agus féiniúlacht na tíre seo?



As well as the question of personal identity, the participants were also asked in the survey regarding the identity of the county and the Irish language. Again, this was a difficult question due to the various feelings people have towards these questions and they are difficult to fully explore through quantitative research. 59% in the south and 44% in the north said, however, that they feel there is a link between Irish and the identity of the country. Again, this figure in the North is much higher than the number of Irish speakers living in the north at present (11% of the population) and it shows that a large number of the population understand that Irish and identity are inextricably mixed.

Figure 7: Do you feel that there is a strong link between the Irish language and the identity of this country?



**(B) Torthaí agus Moltaí na bhFócasghrúpaí:**

Bunaithe ar na torthaí seo, rinneadh plé ar na ceistanna seo i roinnt fócasghrúpaí a bhí ar bun mar chuid den taighde seo.

- Nuair a cuireadh ceist ar na daltaí meánscoile maidir le féiniúlacht agus an Ghaeilge, ba léir gur mhothaigh gach duine acu nasc leis an teanga. Dúradh gur mhothaigh siad go bhfuil nasc pearsanta acu leis an Ghaeilge, cé gur ábhar scoile amháin í den chuid is mó acu ag an pointe seo. Is léiriú é seo ar na staitisticí a bhí sa suirbhé agus tá sé seo suimiúil toisc go raibh an chuma ar an scéal gur chreid na daltaí seo gur leosan an teanga, ar bhealach nach mbeadh teanga nó ábhar scoile ar bith eile.

**(B) Results and Recommendations from the Focus Groups:**

Based on these results, these matters were discussed by a number of focus groups established as part of his research.

- When the secondary school students were asked about identity and the Irish language, it was clear that they all felt connected to the language. It was said that the felt a personal connection to the language, despite the fact that it was still a school subject for most of them at this point. This highlights the statistics that were in the survey and is interesting as it appeared that these pupils believed they had ownership of the language, in a way they did not have with other languages or school subject.

- Bhí tuairimí iontach suimiúla i measc na bhfoghlaimoirí fásta a ghlac páirt sna fócasghrúpaí. Dúirt cuid mhór acu go ndearna siad cinneadh tús a chur le ranganna Gaeilge, bíodh sin den chéad uair nó in athuair, toisc gur mhothaigh siad nasc pearsanta leis an teanga mar chuid dá bhfhéiniúlacht. I measc na bhfoghlaimoirí seo bhí daoine nach bhfuil ina gcónaí in Éirinn agus a rugadh thar lear. Cé go bhfuil naisc acu le hÉirinn ina gclanna, níor chaith siad am in Éirinn go dtí gur thosaigh siad ag foghlaim na teanga.
- Tuairim eile a tháinig chun tosaigh sa ghrúpa seo le foghlaimoirí fásta ná an tuairim go síleann daoine áirithe go mbaineann an teanga le dearcadh polaitíochta nó le dearcadh saoil ar leith. Dúirt roinnt daoine a bhí páirteach sa ghrúpa gur chuir siad moill ar chlárú le ranganna Gaeilge toisc go raibh imní orthu go mbeadh a leithéid de nasc ann. Áfach, bhí sé soiléir ón chomhrá sa ghrúpa nár mhothaigh duine ar bith a bhí páirteach san fhócasghrúpa nár chreid daoine go raibh ar dhaoine tuairimí nó creidimh áirithe a bheith acu le sult, tairbhe agus eispéaras dearfach a shaothrú ón teanga. Ba mhíthuiscint í seo, a athraíodh nuair a thosaigh daoine ag foghlaim na teanga arís, agus ba é an nasc pearsanta a mhothaigh siadsan leis an teanga a chuidigh leo dúshlán a chur roimh an dearcadh sin i dtús báire.
- Sna grúpaí a rinneadh le tuisítí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge, ba léir gur chuid lárnach den tsaoil í an Ghaeilge do na teaghlaigh seo. Tá an Ghaeilge fite fuaite i ngach cuid dá saolta gan cheist nó gan choinníoll.
- The adult learners who took part in the focus groups also had very interesting views. A lot of them said that they had made a decision to start Irish night classes, whether it is for the first time or a return to classes, as they felt a personal connection to the language as part of their identity. Amongst these learners there were people not from Ireland who were born abroad. Although they have family links in Ireland, they did not spend any time in Ireland until they started to learn the language.
- Another viewpoint which came to the fore was the opinion that certain people think that the language is connected to a political viewpoint or a particular way of life. A number of the participants that this had made them reluctant to register for Irish classes initially. It was clear from the conversation; however, that no-one involved in the focus groups believed that one had to have a particular viewpoint or belief to benefit from the language. This was a misunderstanding, which changed when people began to learn the language, and it was the personal connection they felt with the language that helped them challenge those particular viewpoints initially.
- In the group which was made up of parents raising their children with Irish, it was clear that Irish was an integral part of life for these families. Irish is linked with every aspect of their lives.

## 8. Acht na Gaeilge

Rinneadh geallúintí maidir le hAcht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm ó thuidh i gComhaontú Chill Rímhín 2006. Cé gur le Rialtas na Breataine an dualgas seo chun reachtaíocht a chur i bhfeidhm de réir Chomhaontú Chill Rímhinn, is nithe cineachta í an Ghaeilge agus mar sin de deir Rialtas na Breataine gur chóir go dtiocfadh an reachtaíocht seo tríd an Tionól ar Chnoc an Anfa. Dúradh sa Chomhaontú:

*“Tabharfaidh an Rialtas Acht Gaeilge isteach ag tarraingt ó thaithí na Breataine Bige agus na hÉireann, agus oibreoidh leis an Fheidhmeannas nua chun forbairt na Gaeilge a chothú agus a chosaint.”<sup>5</sup>*

Cé go ndearnadh an gheallúint seo deich mbliana ó shin, tá Éire ó thuaidh fós gan aon reachtaíocht cosanta teanga. Ag tús 2015, rinne an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta comhairliúchán ar ‘Thogra faoi choinne Bhille na Gaeilge.’ Bhí níos mó ná 13,000 freagra ar an chomhairliúchán seo agus léirigh 95% de na freagraí seo tacaíocht d’Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm. Is léiriú láidir é seo ar an tacaíocht atá i measc an phobail i leith Acht Gaeilge, ba é seo an freagra comhairliúcháin is mó a tharla riamh ó thuaidh agus ní minic a bheadh guth chomh aontaithe seo ag teacht ón phobal ar cheist ar bith.

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

Sin ráite, cuireadh ceist ar shuirbhé Millward Brown ag tús 2016 maidir le Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm ó thuaidh. Cé gur léiríodh tacaíocht láidir d’Acht Gaeilge cheana féin sna comhairliúcháin a rinneadh go dtí seo, cuireadh an cheist seo san áireamh le fáil amach cé chomh leathan agus atá an tacaíocht d’Acht Gaeilge i measc sampla ionadaíoch den phobal ar fad.

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5. Comhaontú Chill Rímhinn: Human Rights, Equality, Victims and Other Issues, 2006

## 8. An Irish-Language Act

Commitments were made in relation to the implementation of an Irish-Language Act in the St. Andrew’s Agreement 2006. Even though the responsibility lies with the British Government to implement this legislation according to the St. Andrew’s Agreement, the Irish language is a devolved matter and therefore the British government has stated that this legislation should come through the Stormont Assembly. The Agreement stated:

*“The Government will introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.”<sup>5</sup>*

Although these commitments were made ten years ago, there is still no language protection legislation in the north. At the beginning of 2015, the Department of Arts, Culture and Leisure conducted a consultation on *Proposals for an Irish Language Act*. There were more than 13,000 responses to this consultation and 95% of these responses showed support for the implementation of an Irish-Language Act. This strongly shows the support that there is in the community for an Irish-Language Act, this was the largest consultation response that there has ever been in the north and it is rare that the community would show such a united voice on any question.

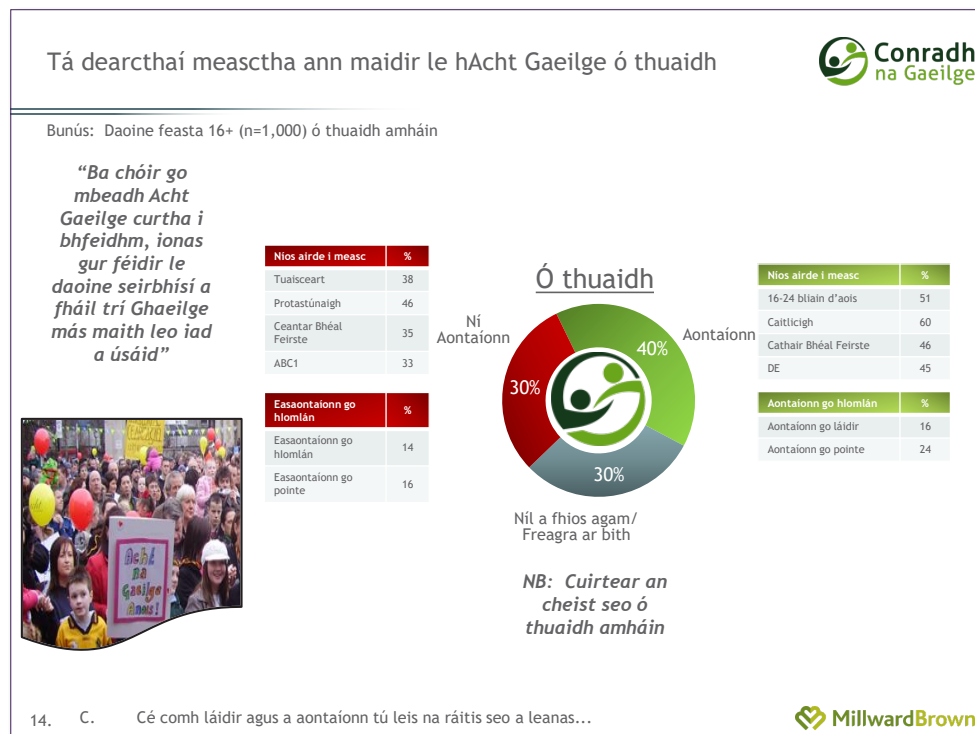
### (A) Survey Results:

That said, a question was asked in the Millward Brown survey at the beginning of 2016 on the implementation of an Irish-Language Act in the north. Even though strong support has already been shown for an Act in the consultations that have been done before now, this question was asked in order to determine how widespread support is for an Irish-Language Act among a representative sample of the entire community.

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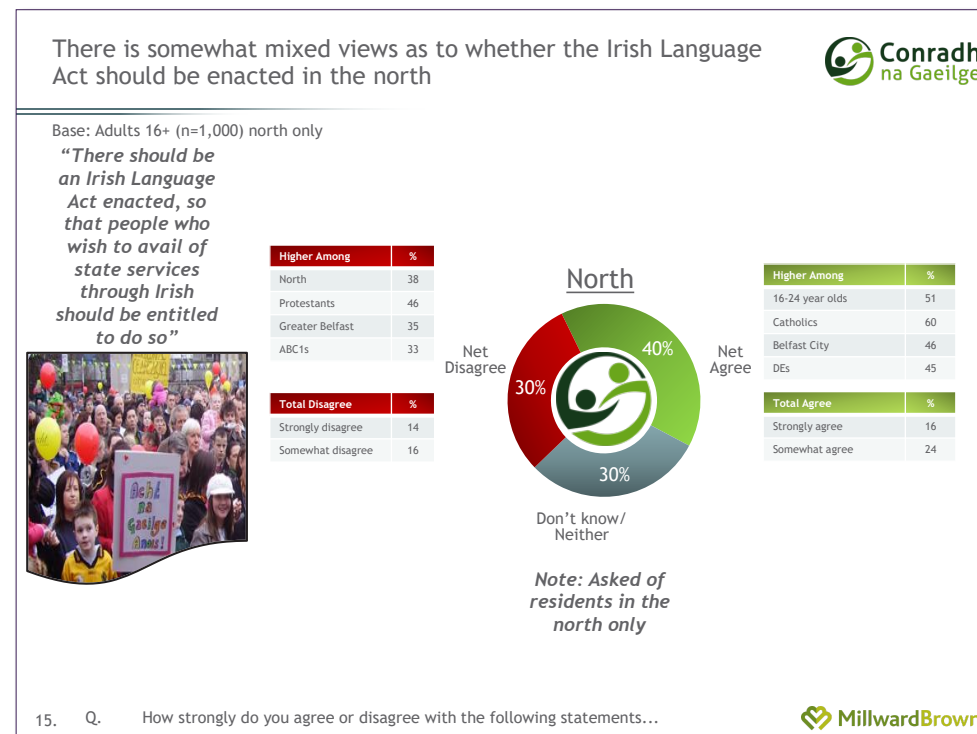
5. St. Andrews Agreement: Human Rights, Equality, Victims and Other Issues, 2006

**Figióir 8: An n-aontaíonn tú gur chóir go mbeadh Acht Gaeilge curtha i bhfeidhm, ionas gur féidir le daoine seirbhísí a fháil trí Ghaeilge más maith leo iad a úsáid?**



Dúirt 40% de dhaoine gur chóir go mbeadh Acht Gaeilge ann ó thuaidh ionas gur féidir le daoine seirbhísí a fháil trí Ghaeilge más maith leo iad a úsáid. Dúirt 30% nár chóir agus dúirt 30% eile nach raibh a fhios acu nó níor thug siad freagra ar bith. Tá tacaíocht ina measc siúd a bhfuil suim acu sa teanga léirithe cheanna féin tríd na comhairliúcháin poiblí a rinneadh go dtí seo, ach léiríonn an freagra seo go bhfuil níos mó daoine i bhfabhar Acht Gaeilge a fheiceáil ná mar atá in éadan sin a dhéanamh. Tháinig an freagra seo ó shampla ionadaíoch ar an mhórphobal agus mar gheall air sin, is féidir a rá anois go soiléir go bhfuil tacaíocht ‘daonlathach’ ann, bunaithe ar thaighde cainníochtúil neamhspléach, reachtaíocht teanga a chur i bhfeidhm ó thuaidh.

**Figure 8: Do you agree that there should be an Irish-Language Act enacted, so that people who wish to avail of state services through Irish should be entitled to do so?**



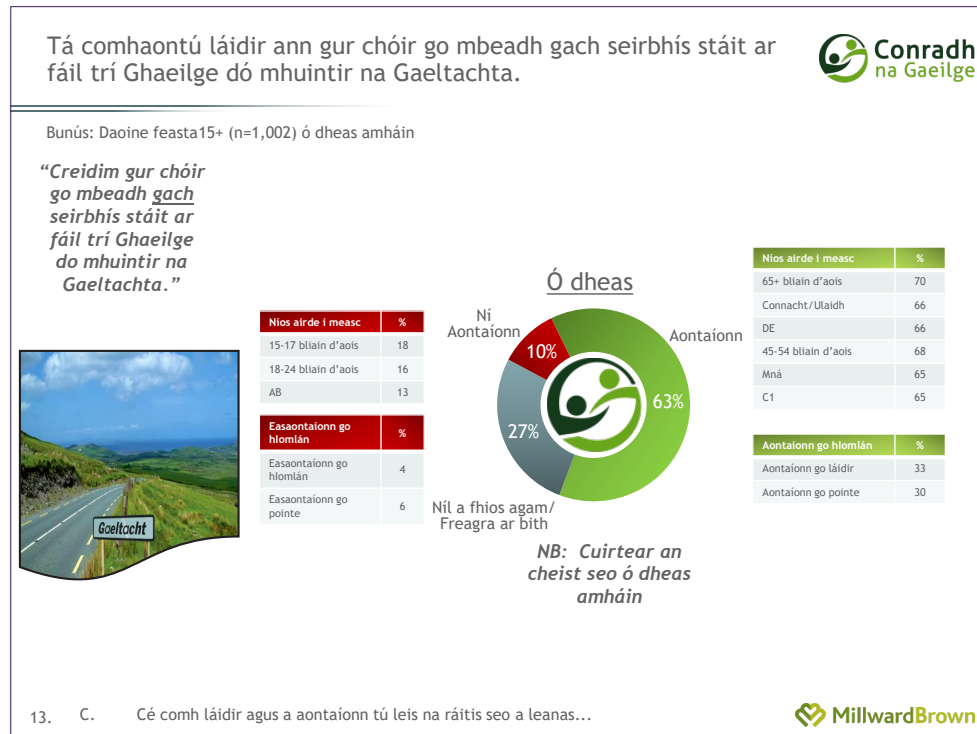
40% of people stated that there should be an Irish-Language Act in the north so that services can be accessed through Irish by those who wish to use them. 30% of people said that there shouldn't be and another 30% said that they don't know or didn't give an answer. The support of those who are interested in the language has already been shown in the public consultations that have been done before, but this answer shows that there are more people in favour of an Irish-Language Act than there are against it. This answer came from a representative sample of the entire community and, because of that, it can now be said that there is clear ‘democratic’ support, based on independent qualitative research, to implement language legislation in the north.

## 9. Seirbhísí Gaeltachta

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

Cuireadh ceist ar leith sa suirbhé faoi sholáthar seirbhísí sa Ghaeltacht trí mheán na Gaeilge. Rinneadh é seo toisc gurb í an Ghaeilge príomh-theanga labhartha sna ceantair seo le riachtanais ar leith, agus caithfeadh bheith airdeallach ar na saincheisteanna seo in anailís ar bith atá á déanamh ar sholáthar seirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge.

**Figióir 9: An n-aontaíonn tú gur chóir go mbeadh gach seirbhís stáit ar fáil trí Ghaeilge do mhuintir na Gaeltachta?**



Cuireadh ceist ar dhaoine cé chomh láidir agus a aontaíonn siad leis an ráiteas “Creidim gur chóir go mbeadh gach seirbhís stáit ar fáil trí Ghaeilge do mhuintir na Gaeltachta.” D’aontaigh 63% de dhaoine leis an dearcadh seo agus ní raibh ach 10% nár aontaigh leis an ráiteas. Léirítear anseo tacaíocht súntasach maidir le soláthar seirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge i gceantair Ghaeltachta. Ba chóir go mbeadh gach seirbhís ar fáil do dhaoine trí Ghaeilge mar gheall ar stádas na Gaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil an Stáit de réir Alt 8 de Bhunreacht na hÉireann, ach is minic nach mbíonn na seirbhísí seo ar fáil nuair ba mhaith le daoine iad a úsáid.

## 9. Gaeltacht Services

### (A) Survey Results:

A specific question was asked in the survey about the provision of services in the Gaeltacht through the medium of Irish. This was done because the Irish language is the main spoken language of these areas which therefore have particular needs, and in any analysis of the services provided particular attention should be paid to these questions.

**Figure 9: Do you agree that all services provided by the state should be made available through Irish to those living in Gaeltacht areas?**



People were asked how strongly they agree with the statement “I believe that every state service should be available through the medium of Irish for those living in Gaeltacht areas.” 63% of people agreed with this view and there were only 10% of people who disagreed with the statement. This shows that there is significant support for the provision of services through Irish for those living in Gaeltacht areas. These services should be available through Irish because of the status that the Irish language has under Article 8 of the Irish Constitution, but very often these services aren’t available when people would like to use them.

Léiríonn na torthaí seo gur chóir go ndéanfaí iarracht níos fearr na seirbhísí seo a chur ar fáil mar is ceart agus is cúí trí mheán na Gaeilge.<sup>6</sup>

**(B) Torthaí agus Moltaí na bhFócasghrúpaí:**

Mar chuid den fhócasghrúpa a rinneadh le tuismitheoirí ó cheantair Ghaeltachta, rinneadh plé ar sholáthar seirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge i gceantair Ghaeltachta.<sup>7</sup> Is léir ón mhéid a bhí le rá ag rannpháirtithe an ghrúpa go bhfuil géarghá le tuilleadh béime a chur ar riachtanais phobal na Gaeltachta maidir le soláthar seirbhísí stáit trí mheán na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht. Ní féidir, dár leis an ghrúpa seo, an cur chuige céanna a úsáid maidir le soláthar seirbhísí i gceantair Ghaeltachta is atá in úsáid sa chuid eile den tír toisc go bhfuil difear bunúsach ann .i. teanga labhartha an phobail. Ní mór don rialtas agus do gach eagraíocht stáit an difear seo a aithint agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le seirbhísí cuimsitheacha d'ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil do phobal na Gaeltachta.

These results show that there should be more of an effort made to provide the services in a properly and timely manner through the medium of Irish.<sup>6</sup>

**(B) Results and Recommendations from the Focus Groups:**

As part of the focus group that was carried out with parents from Gaeltacht areas, there was a broader discussion on the services that are available through the medium of Irish in those areas.<sup>7</sup> It was clear from what was said by the participants in the group that there is an urgent need to place more of an emphasis on the needs of the Gaeltacht community in terms of the services that are available through Irish. According to the group, the same approach cannot be used for the provision of services in the Gaeltacht as that which is used in the rest of the country because there are fundamental differences. i.e. the spoken language of that community. The government and every state agency must recognise this difference and the importance of providing comprehensive high quality services to the Gaeltacht community.

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6. Tá na ceisteanna maidir le hAcht Gaeilge ó thuaidh agus seirbhísí Gaeltachta ó dheas éagsúil ó na ceisteanna eile. Tá coimhlintí idirnáisiúnta nó bunreachtúla déanta i leith na gceisteanna seo agus ba chóir go mbeadh siad á gcomhlíonadh ag na húdaráis beag beann ar staitisticí mar seo. Baineadh úsáid as leithscéalta maidir le heaspas éilính nó easpa tacaíochta i measc an phobail, áfach, le bac a chur ar sholáthar seirbhísí nó ar chur i bhfeidhm reachtaíochta roimhe seo. Léiríonn na torthaí seo go bhfuil tacaíocht i measc an mhórfhobail chun na rudaí seo a chur i gcrích.

7. Tá tuilleadh anailíse ar na difríochtaí a ardaíodh idir soláthar seirbhísí sa Ghaeltacht agus sa Ghalltacht sa rannóg 'Seirbhísí do Theaghlacha atá ag Tógáil Clainne trí Ghaeilge.'

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6. Matters concerning an Irish-Language Act in the north and Irish-language services in the Gaeltacht in the south differ from other issues. International or constitutional commitments have been made regarding these matters and should be fulfilled regardless of statistics such as these. However, excuses citing lack of demand or lack of support within the community have been used in the past to impede the provision of services or the implementation of legislation. These results demonstrate that there is support within the wider community to implement these things.

7. Further information with regard to the differences raised between provision and services in the Gaeltacht available in the section about 'Services for Families Raising their Children through Irish'.



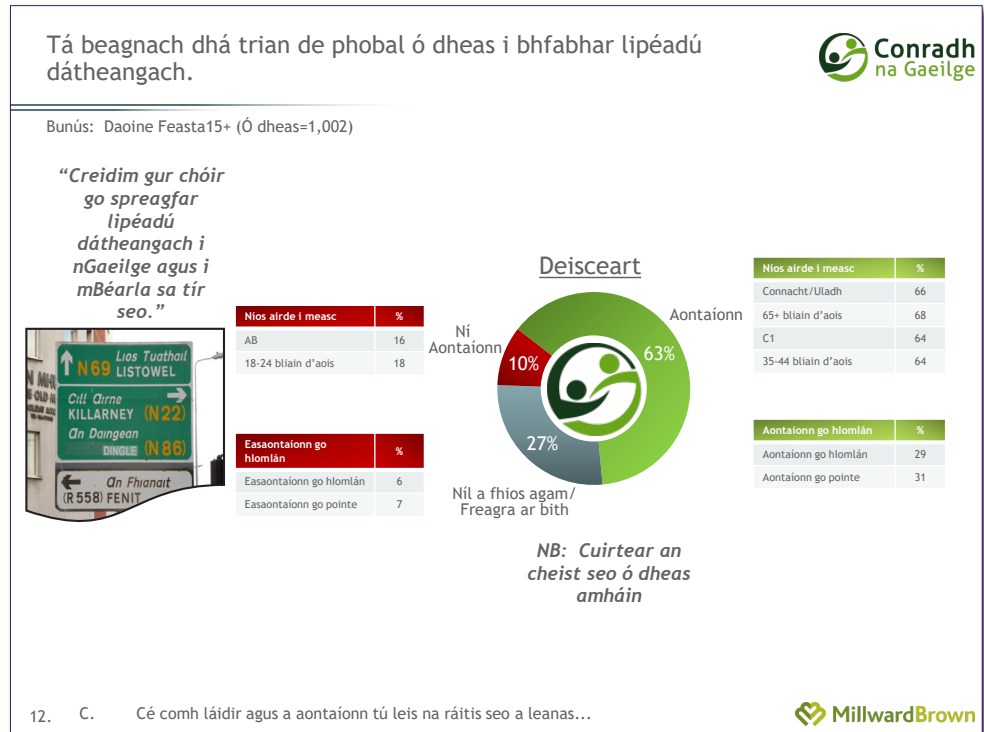
## 10. Lipéadú

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

Tá dhá thraen de dhaoine sa suirbhé ó dheas i bhfabhar lipéadú dátheangach a fheiceáil, agus ní raibh ach 10% de dhaoine sa suirbhé in éadán seo.

Sa suirbhé a rinneadh i 2015 bhí tacaíocht láidir ann d'úsáid na Gaeilge mar gnéithe uathúil díolacháin i ngnó agus léiríodh go gcreideann daoine gur féidir leis an Ghaeilge cur go dearfach le forbairt eacnamaíochta na hoileáin seo (níos mó eolais ar fáil in aguisín B).

**Figiúr 9: An n-aontaíonn tú gur chóir go spreagfar lipéadú dátheangach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla sa tír seo."**



## 10. Labelling

### (A) Survey Results:

Two thirds of people in the survey stated that they are in favour of bilingual labelling on goods, and only 10% of people disagreed with this.

In the survey that was done in 2015 there was strong support for the Irish language as a Unique Selling Point in business and it was also shown that people believe that the Irish language can contribute positively to the economic development of this island (more information available in appendix B).

**Figure 9: Do you believe that bi-lingual labelling in both English and Irish should be encouraged in this country?**



## 11. Cumas sa Ghaeilge

Cuireadh roinnt ceisteanna suirbhé maidir le cumas sa Ghaeilge agus maidir le tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim. Cuireadh ceist maidir le cumas sa Ghaeilge i 2015 mar chuid den chéad suirbhé a rinneadh mar chuid den taighde seo agus cuirfear an cheist seo gach bliain amach anseo le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar athruithe ar bith a tharlaíonn thar na blianta agus le patrúin a aithint maidir le déimeagrafaic.

### A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

Cuireadh dhá cheist maidir le cumas sa Ghaeilge .i. an muinín atá ag daoine ina gcuid Gaeilge labhartha agus an muinín atá acu i dtuigbheáil na Gaeilge. Sa tábla thíos léirítear na torthaí ó na ceisteanna seo i 2016 agus i 2015.

*Figiúr 10 (a): Cumas Gaeilge ó dheas*

"Tá mé muiníneach as mo chumas Gaeilge labhartha"			
	Aontaím	Ní Aontaím	Eile
2015	26%	60%	14%
2016	30%	54%	16%
"Tá mé muiníneach gur féidir liom an Ghaeilge a thuigbheáil."			
	Aontaím	Ní Aontaím	Eile
2015	35%	52%	13%
2016	37%	46%	17%

*Figiúr 10 (b): Cumas Gaeilge ó thuaidh*

"Tá mé muiníneach as mo chumas Gaeilge labhartha"			
	Aontaím	Ní Aontaím	Eile
2015	5%	88%	7%
2016	8%	85%	7%
"Tá mé muiníneach gur féidir liom an Ghaeilge a thuigbheáil."			
	Aontaím	Ní Aontaím	Eile
2015	8%	84%	8%
2016	10%	81%	8%

Ag an phointe seo, tá ardú le feiceáil ó thuaidh agus ó dheas i líon na ndaoine a deir go bhfuil cumas labhartha acu sa Ghaeilge agus go dtuigeann siad an Ghaeilge fosta. Cé go bhfuil ardú ann sa dhá cheist ó thuaidh agus ó dheas, tá lamháil earráide de 3.1% sa suirbhé seo, mar sin cuirfear na ceisteanna seo arís amach anseo le feiceáil an patrún é seo agus le monatóireacht a dhéanamh air seo agus tuilleadh figiúirí ar fáil maidir leis an cheist seo.

## 11. Ability in Irish

A number of questions were asked in the survey in relation to ability in the Irish language and to learning more Irish in the future. A question on Irish language ability was asked in 2015 as part of the survey which was done for this research and this question will be asked again each year to monitor any changes that there are over the years and to identify any patterns.

### A) Survey Results:

Two questions were asked in relation to ability in the Irish language. i.e. the confidence that people have in speaking the Irish language and the confidence that they have in understanding the language. The tables below show the results from these questions in 2015 and 2016.

*Figure 10 (a): Ability in the Irish Language in the south*

"I'm am confident in my spoken Irish"			
	Agree	Disagree	Other
2015	26%	60%	14%
2016	30%	54%	16%
"I am confident that I can understand Irish"			
	Agree	Disagree	Other
2015	35%	52%	13%
2016	37%	46%	17%

*Figure 10 (b): Ability in the Irish Language in the north*

"I'm am confident in my spoken Irish"			
	Agree	Disagree	Other
2015	5%	88%	7%
2016	8%	85%	7%
"I am confident that I can understand Irish"			
	Agree	Disagree	Other
2015	8%	84%	8%
2016	10%	81%	8%

At this point, an increase can be seen north and south in the number of people who state that they have an ability to speak the Irish language and to understand it. Even though there is an increase in both questions north and south, there is a margin of error of 3.1% in this survey, therefore these questions will be asked again in the future to see if this is a pattern and to monitor this to gain more information about it.

## 12. Foghlaim na Gaeilge

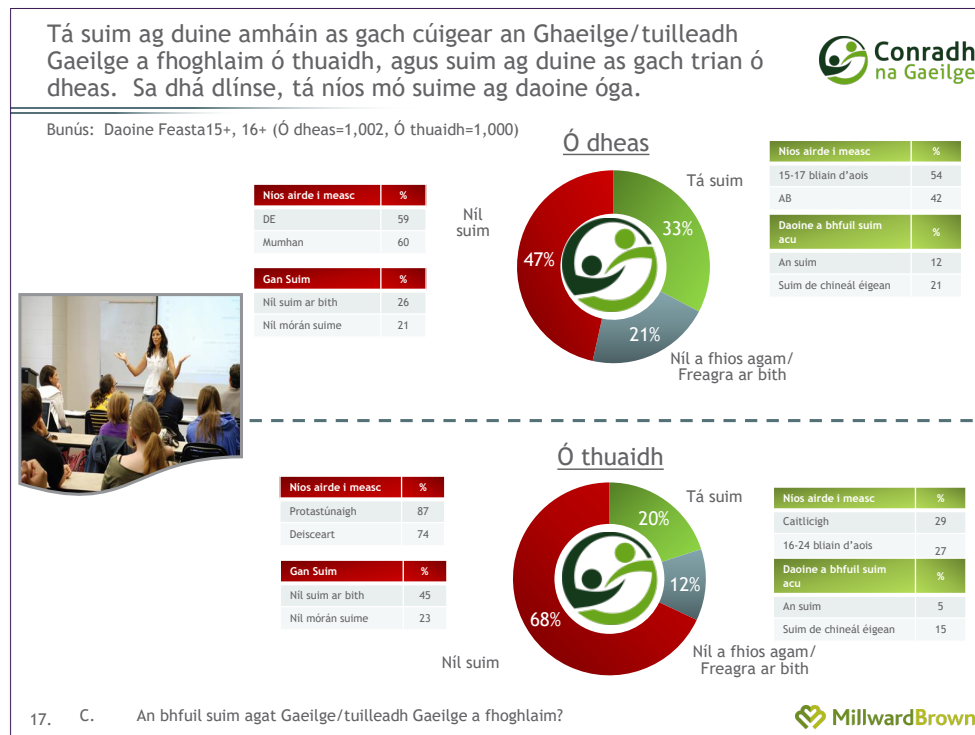
Is iomaí rang Gaeilge atá á gcur ar fáil ag leibhéil éagsúla fud fad na tíre agus níos faide anonn. Tá ranganna ar fáil ag leibhéal an phobail agus in institiúidí tríú leibhéal. Tá cúrsaí ar fáil a bhfuil structúr foirmeálta orthu le cáilíochtaí acadúla mar sprioc acu, agus tá ranganna ar fáil a spreagann comhrá agus labhairt na Gaeilge amháin, a chuidíonn le daoine snas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge agus atá dírithe ar na gnéithe sóisialta a bhaineann leis an teanga. Tá tuilleadh roghanna ag foghlaimeoirí na Gaeilge anois ná mar a bhí riamh leis na háiseanna nua atá ar fáil ar líne. Mar sin de, cuireadh ceist sa suirbhé maidir leis an toil atá ag daoine Gaeilge a fhoghlaim. Ansin, cuireadh ceist orthu siúd a léirigh suim é seo a dhéanamh faoi na na modhanna foghlama ab fhearr leo a úsáid. Is féidir an t-eolas seo a úsáid le pleanáil a dhéanamh ar sholáthar ranganna amach anseo.

### (A) Torthaí an tSuirbhé:

#### SUIM I bhFOGHLAIM NA GAEILGE

Ar dtús cuireadh an cheist 'An bhfuil suime agat Gaeilge/tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim?'

Figiúr 11: An bhfuil suim agat an Ghaeilge/ tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim?



## 12. Learning the Irish Language

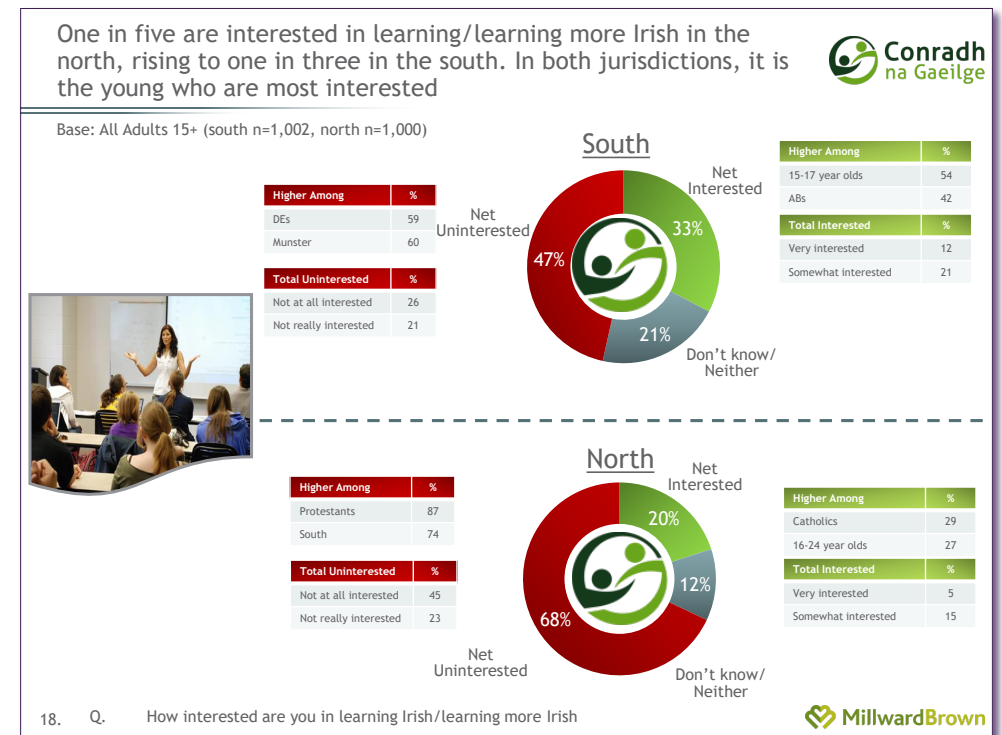
There are many Irish language classes available at different levels available across the country and further afield. Classes are available at a community level and in third level institutions. Courses are available with formal structures with the aim of leading to academic qualifications, and there are classes available which encourage conversation and the speaking of the Irish language alone, helping people to improve their Irish and focussing on the social aspects of the language. Learners of the Irish language have more options now than ever before with new resources that are available online. Therefore, a question was asked in the survey regarding whether people are interested in learning the Irish language. Then, another question was asked of those who shared an interest in doing this through the learning methods in which they prefer to use. This information can be used in the planning and co-ordination of classes in the future.

### (A) Survey Results:

#### INTEREST IN LEARNING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

To start the question was asked 'Are you interested in learning the Irish language / learning more Irish?'

Figure 11: Are you interested in learning the Irish language/ learning more Irish?

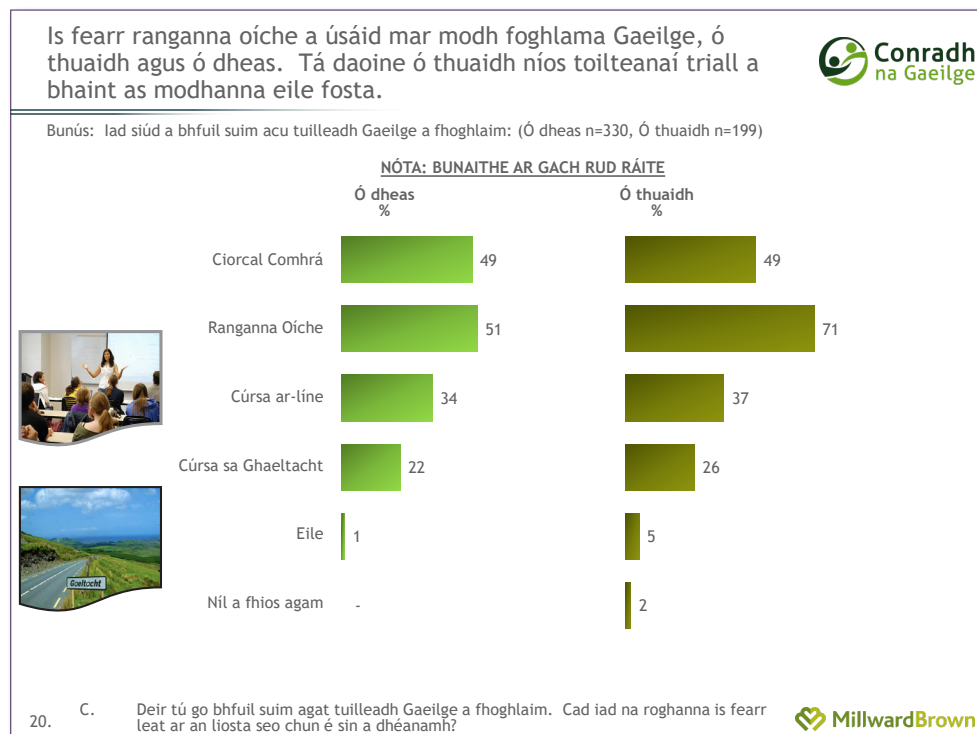


Tá na torthaí a nochtadh mar gheall ar an cheist seo iontach dearfach ó thaobh foghlaim na teanga de. Dúirt trian de na ndaoine a cuireadh ceist orthu ó dheas go bhfuil suim acu tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus dúirt duine i ngach cúigear ó thuaidh amhlaidh. Tá sé suimiúil gur dhúirt 54% de dhaoine idir 15-17 bliain d’aois go bhfuil suim acu tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim mar is iad seo an t-aon ghrúpa sa suirbhé seo atá ag déanamh staidéar ar an Ghaeilge go hoifigiúil mar chuid den chóras oideachais faoi láthair. Léiríonn sé seo go bhfuil gá ann tuilleadh deiseanna a chur ar fáil do dhaoine atá ag fágáil na scoile leanúint ar aghaidh le foghlaim agus le húsáid na Gaeilge ina dhiaidh seo. Ó thuaidh, dúirt 20% de dhaoine gur mhaith leo Gaeilge nó tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim. Is figiúr súntasach é seo mar tá an figiúr seo dhá oiread níos mó ná an figiúr a bhí ann do dhaoine a dúirt go bhfuil Gaeilge acu.

### MODHANNA FOGHLAMA

Cuireadh ceist orthu siúd a d’fhreagair go raibh suim acu Gaeilge a fhoghlaim maidir leis na modhanna foghlama ab fhearr leo chun é seo a dhéanamh. Mar gheall go mbíonn láidreachtaí foghlama éagsúla ag daoine ar aon nós, cibé ábhar ina bhfuil staidéar á dhéanamh air, ritheann sé le ciall go mbeadh spéis ag daoine i modhanna foghlama éagsúla fosta. Ar a bharr sin, ní amháin go bhfuil nósanna foghlama difriúla ag daoine, bhí sé soiléir ó bheith ag caint le grúpa foghlaimoirí go bhfuil spriocanna foghlama éagsúla acu fosta.

**Figiúr 12: Cad iad na roghanna is fearr leat chun Gaeilge a fhoghlaim?**

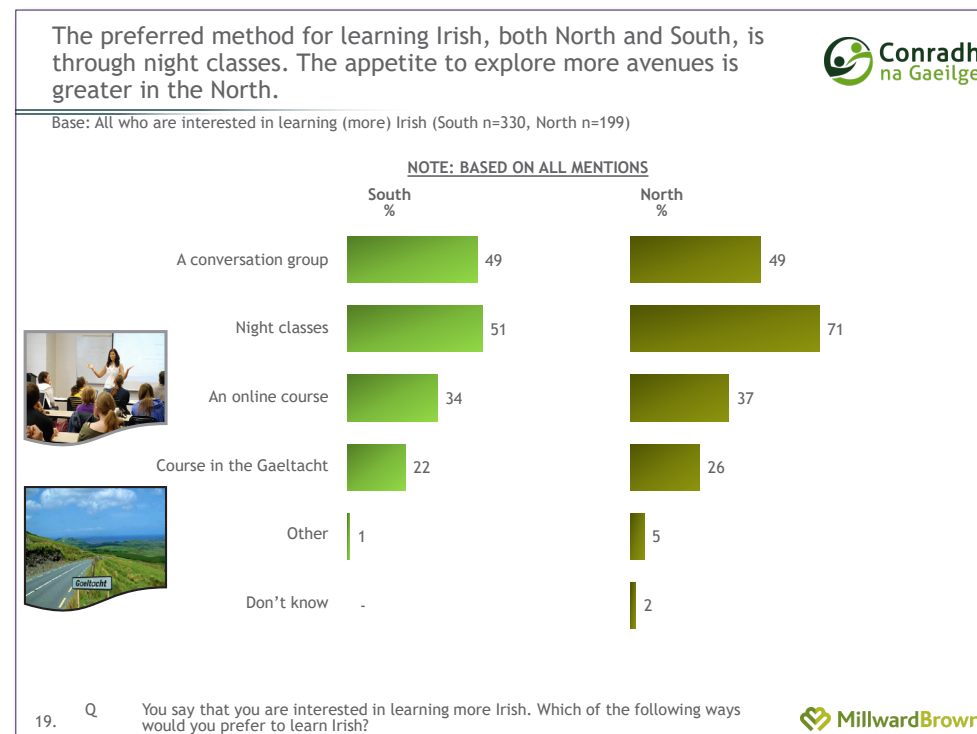


The results revealed from this question are very positive in relation to learning the Irish language. A third of the people who were questioned in the south said they were interested in learning more Irish and one in every five people from the north agreed. It is interesting that only 54% of the people between the ages 15-17 said that they were interested in learning more Irish as this age group is the only group in this survey that is currently officially studying the Irish Language as part of the education system. This shows that there should be more opportunities available for people who are leaving school to continue on learning and developing their abilities within the language and to be able to use it after this. Up north, 20% of people said they would like to learn Irish or even more Irish. This is a remarkable figure as it has two times as many people as the percentage of people who speak Irish in this region.

### LEARNING METHODS

Those who said they were interested in learning Irish were asked which learning methods they would prefer to use to do this. As people naturally have different strengths when it comes to learning, whatever subject they are studying, it makes sense that people have different preferences when it comes to learning methods also. On that note, not only do people have different learning habits, but it became clear while talking to groups of different learners that they also have different learning targets.

**Figure 12: What option would you prefer for learning Irish?**



### **(B) Torthaí agus Moltaí na bhFócasghrúpaí:**

Rinneadh plé le grúpa foghlaimoirí mar chuid de na fócasghrúpaí ar na modhanna foghlama ab fhearr leo le tuiscint níos doimhne a fháil ar na torthaí cainníochtúla seo thuas. Rinneadh é seo le grúpa a bhí ag freastal ar ardrang agus mar sin, bhí ardchaighdeán Gaeilge acu. Rinneadh é seo mar gheall ar an mhéid ama a bhí caite ag an ghrúpa seo ag foghlaim na Gaeilge mar dhaoine fásta, mar gheall go mbeadh tuiscint mhaith agus taithe acu ar na modhanna foghlama is fearr do dhaoine agus ar na dúshláin atá roimh fhoghlaimoirí.

### **GNÉITHE SÓISIALTA**

- Mar chuid den fhócasghrúpa seo, pléadh na fáthanna a thosaigh daoine ag foghlaim na Gaeilge. Ba iomaí cúis leis seo, pléadh na cúiseanna seo san fhócasghrúpa, ach ba é an chúis is soiléire ná na deiseanna sóisialta a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim agus í a úsáid. Dúradh gur spreag an ghné seo den fhoghlaim neart daoine dul ar ais chuig an teanga i ndiaidh tamaill de bhlianta gan an Ghaeilge a úsáid.
- I measc na ndeiseanna sóisialta seo a cuireadh ar fáil mar gheall ar fhoghlaim na Gaeilge, bhí ciorcail comhrá, ranganna neamhfhoirmeálta agus turais chun na Gaeltachta. Dúradh gur bhuail daoine le cuid mhór daoine eile a raibh na suimeanna ceánna acu agus mar sin de baineann siad sult as an am a chaitheann siad ar fhoghlaim na Gaeilge.
- Luaigh roinnt daoine an bac a bhí ann le cúrsaí ama agus iad ag iarraidh an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim. Dúirt cuid den ghrúpa nach raibh siad in ann freastal ar ranganna Gaeilge agus iad ag tógáil páistí nó ag obair go lán-aimseartha, nó fiú dá mbeadh an t-am sin acu ag deireadh an lae bhí fonn orthu rudaí sultmhara sóisialta a dhéanamh gan tuilleadh oibre a tharraingt orthu féin. I measc na ndaoine seo bhí daoine a d'fhan go dtí go raibh a bpáistí níos sine sular thosaigh siad ag foghlaim na Gaeilge, cé go raibh suim acu inti i gcónaí.
- Léiríonn an dioscúrsa seo go bhfuil taobh sóisialta iontach tábhachtach a bhaineann le foghlaim na Gaeilge nach bhfuil bainteach le cúrsaí acadúla ar chor ar bith. Tá suim ag daoine an teanga a fhoghlaim mar gheall go n-osclaítear doirse sóisialta dóibh agus nach bhfuil suim acu scrúduithe a dhéanamh ná cailliúintí a bhaint amach. Ba chóir go n-aithneofaí na foghlaimoirí seo agus go ndéanfaí cinnte go bhfuil ranganna neamhfhoirmeálta, sóisialta, sultmhara á gcur ar fáil dóibh siúd a bhfuil suim ach sna gnéithe seo den teanga. Fosta, tá sé tábhachtach go gcuirfí san áireamh go bhfuil dualgais cúram leanaí ar chuid mhór daoine, go háirithe orthu siúd atá ag déanamh iarrachtaí Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a bpáistí ag foghlaim na teanga ar scoil. Ba chóir go ndéanfaí iarrachtaí, mar sin, a chinntiú go bhfuil fáil ag tuistí ar dhiseanna foghlama agus a thugann tacaíocht dóibh é seo a dhéanamh agus a bpáistí óg.
- Tá an-féidearthacht ann go dtósódh daoine ag foghlaim na Gaeilge mar gheall ar na buntáistí sóisialta a bhaineann léi agus nach mbeidh siad ag smaoinemh faoi dul i dtreo cáilíochtaí acadúla, ach go mbeidh fonn orthu é sin a dhéanamh i ndiaidh am a chaitheamh ag tógáil muiníne sa teanga. Tá an fhéidearthacht sin i gcónaí ann agus ba chóir foghlaimoirí a spreagadh sa treo sin más sin a sprioc atá uathu, ach ba chóir go mbeadh meas i gcónaí ar na fáthanna éagsúla a dhéanann daoine cinneadh an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim.

### **(B) Results and Recommendations from the Focus Groups:**

As part of the focus groups, there was a discussion with a group of learners about the learning methods they would prefer to use, carried out to gain a deeper understanding of the quantitative survey above. This discussion was done with a group from an advanced class who had a very high level of Irish. This was done because of the amount of time this group has spent learning Irish as an adult, and therefore they would have experience and a good understanding as to what learning methods are preferable and the challenges that learners face.

### **SOCIAL ASPECTS**

- As part of this focus group, the reasons people started to learn Irish were discussed. There were many different reasons discussed in the focus group, but the main most obvious reason is the social opportunities to do with learning Irish and also using the language. It was said that it is these aspects of learning people go back to the language after many years without even using Irish.
- Conversation circles, informal classes and trips to the Gaeltacht are among the most social resources that are available for learning the Irish language. It was said that meeting other people who have the same interests as them added to the enjoyment of learning the Irish language.
- A few people mentioned the issue of timing when trying to learn the language. Some of the group said that they were not able to attend Irish classes while raising their children or working full time, or even if they would have the time at the end of the day as they would rather do something more enjoyable or sociable without putting too much work on themselves. Among these people there was also people who waited until their children had grown up before they started to learn the language, even though they were always interested.
- This discourse shows that there is a very important social side to learning the language that isn't connected to academia in any way. People are interested in learning the Irish language opens doors socially for people who aren't interested in doing tests or gaining academic qualifications. These learners should be recognised and it's ensured that there is informal, social, enjoyable classes available for those who are interested in these aspects of the language. Also, it's important that it is taking into account that many of these people have caring responsibilities, especially those who are trying to learn the language and their children are also learning it in school. There should be efforts made, therefore, to ensure that there are learning facilities available to these groups of people and to support to do this and their young children.
- There is a high possibility that people will start learning the Irish Language because of the social advantages associated with it without having considered pursuing academic qualifications, but there is a possibility that they may choose to do this after having spent time building their confidence in the language. That possibility is always there and learners should be encouraged in that direction if that is their target, but there should always be respect for the different reasons that people make the decision to start learning the Irish Language.

## FOGHLAIM AR LÍNE

Agus plé á dhéanamh ar na modhanna foghlama ab fhearr le daoine agus iad ag foghlaim na teanga, rinneadh an-phlé ar na háiseanna atá ar fáil ar líne do dhaoine atá ag foghlaim na Gaeilge. I measc na n-áiseanna seo ar dearnadh plé orthu sa ghrúpa, bhí meascán de shuíomhanna atá dírithe ar fhoghlaimoirí agus de shuíomhanna a chuireann seirbhís nuachta nó eile ar fáil do phobal na Gaeilge trí chéile, ach a mbaineann foghlaimoirí an-úsáid as.

- Léirigh an plé seo go bhfuil ról iontach tábhachtach ag áiseanna ar líne ar fhoghlaimoirí na Gaeilge agus gurb é seo ceann de na bealaí is saoire agus is éifeachtaí le háiseanna a chur ar fáil dóibh ar bhealach atá úsáideach agus inrochtana dóibh.
- Luaigh an grúpa go raibh an-fhéidearthachtaí ag baint le háiseanna ar líne le tuilleadh foghlama a dhéanamh ar an Ghaeilge. I measc na n-áiseanna a bhí luaite bhí PEIG, Meon Eile, Tuairisc.ie, Gaelschultúr, Duolingo agus eile. Tá sé suimiúil gur luaídh cuid mhór áiseanna foghlama nach bhfuil dírithe ar fhoghlaimoirí in aon chór, mar shampla suíomhanna nuachta srl.
- Dúradh sa ghrúpa gur féidir leas a bhaint as áiseanna ar líne gan a bheith teoranta ó thaobh ama de .i. gur féidir bheith ag foghlaim na Gaeilge taobh amuigh de chlár ama an tseomra ranga atá níos oiriúnaí do dhaoine in amanna.
- Rinneadh plé fosta ar an chumarsáid gur féidir a dhéanamh le Gaeilgeoirí eile ar líne agus faoin tacaíocht atá ar fáil do dhaoine atá ag foghlaim na Gaeilge ar na meáin sóisialta. Luaídh ‘Gaeilge Amháin’ ach go háirithe, grúpa Gaeilge ar Facebook le breis agus 7,000 ball. Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh le daoine i dtíortha eile, le canúintí eile agus le suimeanna éagsúla i spás sóisialta, inrochtannach.

## CULTÚR AGUS OIÐHREACHT NA hÉIREANN

Mar chuid den phlé san fhócasghrúpa ar cén fáth a bhí fonn ag daoine an Ghaeilge a foghlaim agus ar na modhanna foghlama ab fhearr leo, rinneadh cuid mhór plé ar na naisc atá ag an teanga le cultúr agus le hoidhreacht na hÉireann agus an tábhacht a bhaineann leis na naisc siúd.

- Tháinig téama láidir chun tosaigh sa ghrúpa a raibh fonn ar dhaoine an Ghaeilge a foghlaim mar gheall go raibh suim acu i ngnéithe eile de chultúr na hÉireann agus gur mhothaigh siad go raibh rud éigin in easnamh gan tuiscint ar an teanga a bheith acu.
- Dúradh sa ghrúpa gur mhothaigh siad go bhfuil dluthnaisc idir ceol, scéalaíocht, litríocht agus oidhreacht na hÉireann agus an teanga agus gur spreagadh iad an teanga a foghlaim le sult agus tairbhe a bhaint as gnéithe eile de chultúr na hÉireann agus le tuiscint níos doimhne a fháil ar gnéithe áirithe den chultúr seo.

## ONLINE LEARNING

While discussing the learning methods in which people prefer as they learn the language, there was also a discussion of the facilities that are available online for people who are learning the Irish language. Among the facilities that were discussed in the group, there was a mixture of sites that are directed at learners and sites that make news services or that available through the medium of Irish for the Irish people, but learners use it.

- This discussion showed the importance of online facilities for learners of Irish and that is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to make these facilities available in a way that is useful and accessible for them.
- The group mentioned the endless possibilities there are with online resources to learn even more Irish. Among the resources that were mentioned are PEIG, Meon Eile, Tuairisc.ie, Gaelchultúr, Duolingo and more. It is interesting that throughout this discussion a number of ‘resources’ were mentioned which are not primarily directed at learners, for example, news sites etc.
- It was also said in the group that they can make use of online information and resources without being restricted by time, and they can learn Irish outside of the classroom that can be more suitable for people.
- The discussion also focussed on communication with other Irish speakers online and on the support that is available for people who are learning Irish on social media. ‘Gaeilge Amháin,’ an Irish language Facebook group with more than 7,000 members was mentioned in particular. Communication can be carried out between people in different countries, with different dialects and with different interests in an accessible social space.

## IRISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

As part of the discussion in the focus group on why people would like to learn the Irish language and the learning methods that they prefer, there was a great deal of discussion on the links between the language and Irish culture and heritage, and the importance of these links.

- A strong theme came through that people want to learn Irish because of the interests that they have in other aspects of Irish culture and that they feel that something is missing without having an understanding of the language.
- The group also said that they felt that there are deep connections between Irish music, storytelling, literature, heritage and the Irish language and that they were encouraged to learn the language in order to gain more enjoyment and understanding of these different elements of Irish culture.

## 13. Conclúid

Is léir ó na torthaí seo thuas go bhfuil formhór na ndaoine sa tír seo i bhfábhar dul chun cinn na teanga agus i bhfách le tuilleadh seirbhísí agus tacaíochta a chur ar fáil di. Ní amháin go léiríonn na staitisticí dearfacha gur mhaith le tromlach an daonra níos mó beartas ar son na teanga a fheiceáil, léirítear fosta go bhfuil cúiseanna éagsúla, leathana taobh thiar de seo. Spreagtar daoine mar gheall ar chuid mhaith fáthanna éagsúla. Do roinnt daoine, tá baint láidir ann idir an Ghaeilge agus an fhéiniúlacht phearsanta atá acu. Aithníonn daoine eile dlúthnasc idir an Ghaeilge agus féiniúlacht na tíre seo, cé nach mothaíonn siad go bhfuil an nasc ceánna acu léi. Tá tacaíocht leathan ann do seirbhísí a bheith ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge i gceantair Gaeltachta agus tá tacaíocht ann fosta do reachtaíocht teanga a chur i bhfeidhm leis an Ghaeilge a chosaint.

I measc Gael óg na tíre seo, is iomaí fáth a bhfuil suim acu sa teanga agus atá siad spreagtha chun í a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid. Is léir go mbaineann cuid mhór daoine óga sult as an teanga toisc go mothaíonn siad nasc pearsanta léi, ach tá obair le déanamh go fóill maidir leis an eolas atá ag daoine óga ar na deiseanna a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge i dtaca le fostaíocht agus eile sa saol.

Cibé áit in a bhfuil siad sa tír, tá dúshlán mhóra roimh thuistí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge. I gceantair Ghaeltachta, ceantar ina bhfuil páistí á dtógáil i bpobal lán-Ghaeilge, tá sé fíordheacair ar thuistí an Ghaeilge a normalú dá bpáistí mura bhfuil seirbhísí bunúsacha ar fáil dóibh tríd an Ghaeilge. Moltar anseo tuilleadh comhairliúcháin a dhéanamh agus cumarsáid leanúnach a dhéanamh le tuistí atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge leis na seirbhísí atá ag teastáil uathu ag gach stad i saol an pháiste a sholáthar mar is ceart.

Tugann an saothar seo ábhar machnaimh ar cad é is gá a dhéanamh le soláthar seirbhíse níos fearr agus níos cuimstí a chur ar fáil a fhreastalaíonn ar mhianta phobal na Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta. Ag gach pointe sa phróiseas pleanála teanga ní mór aird chúramach a thabhairt ar mhianta na ndaoine á úsáideann an teanga, bíodh sin mar chainteoirí laethúla nó mar fhoghlaimoírí, mar is iadsan na daoine a mhothaíonn na himpleachtaí a thagann ó pholasaithe, soláthar seirbhísí, pleanáil teanga nó eile.

## 13. Conclusion

It is clear from the results above that the majority of people in this country are in favour of the development of the language and would like to see more services and support provided for it. Not only do the positive statistics show that most of the population would like to see more being done for the language, it is also clear that there are different reasons behind this. People are inspired to learn the language for a range of different reasons. For some people, there is a strong link between the Irish language and their personal identity. Others recognise that there are connections between the Irish language and the country's identity, even though they don't feel this link to themselves. There is widespread support for services to be made available through the medium of Irish in Gaeltacht areas and there is also support for language legislation to be implemented to protect the Irish language.

Among young Irish speakers in this country, there are many reasons why they have an interest in the language and that they decide to learn and speak it. It seems as though many young people use the language because of the personal connection they feel to it, but there is still work to be done in relation to the information that young people have on the opportunities that there are with the Irish language in terms of employment and other aspects of their lives.

Wherever they are in the country, parents who are raising their children through Irish face many challenges. Even in Gaeltacht areas, where children are being raised in an all Irish speaking community, it is very difficult for parents to normalise the language when basic services are not available to them through Irish. This report recommends that more consultation and continuous communication is carried out with parents who are raising their children through Irish to properly provide the services which are needed at every stage in a child's life.

This research provides food for thought on what is needed to provide better and more comprehensive services which meet the needs of the Irish language and Gaeltacht community. At every point in the language planning process there is a need to listen carefully to the needs of those who use the language, whether that is as a daily speaker or a learner. These are the people who feel the implications which come from policies, service provision, language planning etc.

## Aguisín A: Ceisteanna Millward Brown

(Feabhra 2016)

1. Cén leibhéal Gaeilge atá agat?
  - a. Níl Gaeilge ar bith agam
  - b. Cúpla focal
  - c. Scileanna Comhrá Bunúsacha
  - d. Leibhéal Réasúnta Maith
  - e. Líofacht
2. A. An bhfuil suim agat tuilleadh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim?
  - a. Tá
  - b. Níl

B. Más rud go bhfuil, cén dóigh ar mhaith leat é seo a dhéanamh?

  - i. Grúpa comhrá
  - ii. Ranganna Oíche
  - iii. Cúrsa ar line
  - iv. Eile  
(Tabhair sonraí le do thoil)
3. Ar chóir go mbeadh tacaíocht ar fáil do theaghlaigh atá ag tógáil clainne trí Ghaeilge?
4. A. An síleann tú go bhfuil nasc idir an Ghaeilge agus d'fhéiniúlacht phearsanta?

B. An síleann tú go bhfuil nasc idir an Ghaeilge agus féiniúlacht na tíre seo?
5. Ar mhaith leat lipéadú dátheangach a fheiceáil ar earraí in Éirinn?
6. An síleann tú go bhfuil go leor deiseanna ar fáil do dhaoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh den chóras oideachais foirmiúla?
7. An síleann tú gur chóir go mbeadh gach seirbhís stáit ar fáil trí Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht?
8. An síleann tú gur chóir go mbeadh Acht Gaeilge curtha i bhfeidhm le seirbhísí a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge dóibh siúd ar mhaith leo iad a úsáid?

## Appendix A: Millward Brown Questions

(February 2016)

1. What level of Irish do you have?
  - a. I have no Irish at all
  - b. A few words
  - c. Basic conversational skills
  - d. A reasonably good level
  - e. Fluency
2. A. Are you interested in learning more Irish?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

B. If yes, how would you like to do this?

  - i. A conversation group
  - ii. Night classes
  - iii. An online course
  - iv. Other  
(Please give information)
3. Should assistance be available for families who are raising their children through Irish?
4. A. Do you feel that there is a link between the Irish language and your personal identity?

B. Do you feel that there is a link between the Irish language and the identity of the country
5. Would you like to see bilingual labelling on goods in Ireland?
6. Do you think that there are enough opportunities for young people to use their Irish?
7. Do you think that services should always be available from the state through Irish in the Gaeltacht for Irish speaking communities? (South only)
8. Do you think that there should be an Irish Language Act to make services available through Irish for those who wish to use them? (North only)



## Aguisín B - Suirbhé Millward Browne 2015

#	Ráiteas	Theas nó Thuaidh	Aontaíonn	Ní aontaíonn	Níl a fhios / Gan freagra
1.	"Chuala mé faoi Sheachtain na Gaeilge"	Theas	50%	47%	3%
		Thuaidh	11%	86%	3%
2.	"Ghlac mé páirt in imeacht nó tionscadail a bhí bainteach le Seachtain na Gaeilge" <i>*ó na daoine a chuala fuithi</i>	Theas	33%	65%	2%
		Thuaidh	25%	74%	1%
3.	"Ba mhaith liom deis a bheith agam níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt."	Theas	45%	37%	18%
		Thuaidh	26%	55%	18%
4.	"Ba mhaith liom an deis a bheith agam Gaeilge / níos mó Gaeilge a fhoghlaim."	Theas	44%	39%	17%
		Thuaidh	29%	55%	16%
5.	"Ba chóir go mbeadh an ceart ag gach páiste oideachas a bheith acu trí Ghaeilge, más é sin an rogha atá acu."	Theas	72%	11%	17%
		Thuaidh	63%	21%	16%
6.	"Ba chóir go mbeadh ainmneacha Gaeilge ar eagraíochtaí rialtais / stáit nua ar bith."	Theas	53%	21%	26%
7.	"Ba chóir go mbeadh comharthaíocht dhátheangach curtha in airde ag údaráis agus comhairlí áitiúla, nuair a bhíonn éileamh áitiúil ann."	Thuaidh	50%	27%	23%
8.	"Ba chóir don stát tacaíocht a chur ar fáil do phobail ar mhaith leo straitéis Gaeilge dá gceantar féin a fhorbairt."	Theas	65%	16%	19%
		Thuaidh	55%	25%	20%
9.	"Ba chóir don stát tuilleadh tacaíochta a chur ar fáil don Ghaeilge."	Theas	61%	18%	21%
		Thuaidh	48%	28%	24%
10.	"Ba chóir go mbeadh seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge curtha ar fáil ag an Stát do dhaoine ar mhaith leo iad a úsáid."	Theas	70%	13%	17%
		Thuaidh	54%	26%	20%
11.	"Is acmhainn i léith í an Ghaeilge gur féidir léi cur go dearfach le forbairt eacnamaíochta an oileáin seo."	Theas	53%	22%	25%
		Thuaidh	46%	27%	27%
12.	"Cuireann úsáid na Gaeilge USP ar fáil do ghnóthaí."	Theas	42%	28%	30%
		Thuaidh	37%	32%	31%

## Appendix B - Millward Browne Survey 2015

#	Statement	North or South	Agree	Disagree	Unknown / No Answer
1.	"I have heard of Seachtain na Gaeilge"	South	50%	47%	3%
		North	11%	86%	3%
2.	"I have taken part in an events or initiatives associated with Seachtain na Gaeilge" <i>*from those who have heard of it</i>	South	33%	65%	2%
		North	25%	74%	1%
3.	"I would like to have the opportunity to speak Irish more often"	South	45%	37%	18%
		North	26%	55%	18%
4.	"I would like to have the opportunity to learn Irish or learn more Irish"	South	44%	39%	17%
		North	29%	55%	16%
5.	"Every child should be entitled to have their education through the medium of Irish, if that is their preferred choice"	South	72%	11%	17%
		North	63%	21%	16%
6.	"The names of new government agencies and semi-state bodies should always be in Irish"	South	53%	21%	26%
7.	"Bilingual signs should be erected by local authorities and councils, where there is a local demand"	North	50%	27%	23%
8.	"The state should provide support for communities to develop Irish language strategies in their own areas"	South	65%	16%	19%
		North	55%	25%	20%
9.	"The state should provide more support for the Irish language"	South	61%	18%	21%
		North	48%	28%	24%
10.	"Services provided by the state should be made available through Irish for those who wish to use them"	South	70%	13%	17%
		North	54%	26%	20%
11.	"The Irish language is a unique resource which can make a positive contribution to the economic development of this island"	South	53%	22%	25%
		North	46%	27%	27%
12.	"The use of Irish by businesses provides a unique selling point"	South	42%	28%	30%
		North	37%	32%	31%





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