

# An Chairt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh

## European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages



- Tá an Chairt Eorpach do Theangacha Mionlaigh agus Réigiúnacha deartha le cosaint a chur ar fáil trí chonstaicí d'úsáid na Gaeilge a bhaint.
- Daingníodh an Chairt ag rialtas na Breataine i 2001, ag déanamh roinnt gealltanais ceangailteach i dtaca le teanga na Gaeilge faoi Cuid III den Chairt
- Clúdaíonn airteagail na Cairte ábhair difriúla, m.s. oideachas, teagmhail leis an rialtas, seirbhísí atá le cur ar fáil trí theanga mionlaigh agus níos mó.
- Tá dualgas ar Chomhairlí Áitiúla Cód Cúirtéise a chruthú don Ghaeilge agus a chinntiú go bhfuil gach ball foirne ar an eolas faoi seo agus ar an eolas faoi na nósanna a bhaineann leis an teanga
- Cuireann Cuid II den Chairt dualgas ar Chomhairlí úsáid na Gaeilge idir scríobh agus labhartha a spreagadh go réamhghníomhach sa saol poiblí agus príobháideach.
- De réir Airteagal 7(4) den Chairt, beidh ar Chomhairlí “cuirfidh na Páirtithe san áireamh na riachtanais agus toilmhianta arna gcur in iúl ag na grúpaí a úsáideann na teangacha sin” i dtaca le dréachtú polasaithe teanga.
- Cuireann Airteagal 10 den Chairt roinn dualgas ar chomhairlí áitiúla, a chlúdaíonn ach nach bhfuil teoranta do:
  - Cainteoirí ag cur iarratas scríofa nó labhartha isteach trí Ghaeilge a éascú
  - Comhlachtaí poiblí ag dréachtú cáipéisí i nGaeilge a éascú
  - Úsáid na Gaeilge i ndíospóireachtaí i Seomra na Comhairle a éascú a cheadú agus a spreagadh.
  - Úsáid logainmneacha traidisiúnta agus sloinnte teaghligh thraidisiúnta a cheadú agus a éascú.
  - Seirbhísí aistriúcháin a chur ar fáil nuair is gá.
- Cuireann Airteagal 12 den Chairt dualgas ar chomhairlí áitiúla i dtaca le himeachtaí agus le háiseanna cultúrtha. Clúdaíonn sé seo:
  - Tionscadail i léith i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge a spreagadh agus cuidiú le inrochtaineacht ábhair Gaeilge
  - Ag cur grúpaí atá freagrach as eagrú nó tacú le himeachtaí cultúrtha ar an eolas faoina dualgais i dtaca le riachtanais chainteoirí Gaeilge le linn eagrú na n-imeachtaí
  - Ag cur gníomhachtaí chun cinn le cinntiú go bhfuil foireann ag grúpaí atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge chomh mhaith leis an Bhéarla.
- Clúdaíonn spriocanna agus prionsabail eile atá ag an Chairt: Foghlaim na Gaeilge a spreagadh agus a éascú, taighde, naisc agus malartuithe,
- Tá sé léirithe sna tuairiscí COMEX is déanaí gur féidir le níos mó a dhéanamh leis na constaicí i dtaca le húsáid na Gaeilge a bhaint.
- Léirigh an tuairisc is déanaí COMEX ar chur i bhfeidhm na Cairte i mí Eanáir 2014 go bhfuil teip ar rialtas na Breataine agus ar Thionól TÉ a ndualgais faoin Chairt a chomhlíonadh maidir le teanga na Gaeilge.

- The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages is designed to offer protection to regional and minority languages through removing obstacles to the use of the language.
- The Charter was ratified by the UK government in 2001 meaning that a number of binding commitments were made in relation to the Irish language under Part III of the Charter.
- The articles of the Charter cover areas such as education, contact with the administration, services which are to be provided through a minority language and more.
- Local Councils have a duty to create Codes of Courtesy for the Irish language and ensure that all staff members are aware of the procedures in place regarding the language.
- Part II of the Charter places a responsibility on Councils to proactively encourage the use of Irish in speech and writing in public and private life.
- In accordance with Article 7(4) of the Charter, councils “shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages” in relation to the drafting of language policies.
- Article 10 of the Charter places a number of duties on local councils, which include but are not limited to:
  - Facilitating speakers submitting oral or written applications in Irish;
  - Facilitating public authorities to draft documents in Irish;
  - permitting/encouraging the use of Irish in debates in Council chambers;
  - permitting/encouraging the use of traditional forms of place names in Irish and of traditional family surnames
  - the provision of translation services when necessary.
- Article 12 of the Charter places responsibilities on local councils in relation to cultural activities and facilities. This includes
  - encouraging projects specific to Irish and fostering access to works produced in Irish;
  - making sure that groups responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities take the needs of Irish speakers into consideration in their activities;
  - promoting actions to ensure such bodies have staff who have a full command of Irish as well as English.
- Other objectives and principles of the Charter include facilitating and promoting learning, research, links and exchanges, and ensuring that new or existing administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the minority languages.
- Successive COMEX reports have shown that more could be done here in order to remove barriers which exist in relation to use of the Irish language.
- The most recent COMEX monitoring report in January 2014 on the implementation of the Charter found that the UK government and the NI Assembly were still failing to comply with the provisions of the Charter in relation to the Irish language.