An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Public Accounts Committee
Members' briefing

- **Appropriation Account 2020: Vote 33 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media**

- **Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2020: Chapter 7 Oversight of funding for the European Capital of Culture 2020**

November 2021

Background

Vote 33 was re-configured during 2020 with responsibility for Heritage functions (including Waterways Ireland) moving to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and responsibility for Islands functions transferring to the Department of Community and Rural Development.

Responsibility for Tourism and Sport functions has transferred into Vote 33 from the former Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Responsibility for Broadcasting and Media functions has moved from the former Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to Vote 33.

Vote 33 is therefore now comprised of five programme areas viz:

- Tourism Services
- Arts & Culture
- Gaeltacht
- Sports & Recreation Services
- Broadcasting

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media was formally established on 27 June 2020. In accordance with Government Accounting guidance, the Appropriation Account for 2020 reflects the full year's activity in respect of all five programme areas notwithstanding the fact that the Department did not manage all of these areas for the full year.

Functions and Role

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media was established on 27 June 2020 and its mission is:

To lead the sustainable development of Tourism and promote participation in the Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Sectors, supporting social progress and enhancing cultural and economic growth across Irish society.

The goals of the Department are to:

- support the recovery and economic growth of a competitive tourism sector that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.
- support and develop engagement with and in, the arts, culture and creativity by individuals and communities, enriching lives through cultural activity; to promote Ireland's arts, culture and creativity globally; and to coordinate the Decade of Centenaries 2012 –2023 commemorative programme.
- support the use of the Irish language throughout Ireland, in the European Union and globally and to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht.
- promote greater sports participation by all, with particular focus on female participation and diversity, while continuing to invest in new sports facilities, high performance athletes and the hosting of major events.
- support the provision of commercial, community and public service media that meet the needs of Irish audiences and provide a regulatory environment that supports online safety and a free, plural and diverse media sector in Ireland.
- promote North-South cooperation, within the context of the Government's Shared Island Initiative, particularly in the context of the work of An Foras Teanga and Tourism Ireland

The Department is comprised of 5 divisions:

- Tourism Division
- Culture and Arts Division
- Gaeltacht Division
- Sport Division
- Media and Corporate Affairs Division

Key Outputs in 2020

Tourism

The necessary actions taken to contain COVID-19 and mitigate the risks to public health affected the tourism industry more than most other economic sectors. The focus in 2020 was therefore to help the sector navigate through the crisis and introduce measures to assist and lead businesses towards survival and recovery.

Almost €44m in targeted support schemes, administered by Fáilte Ireland, was delivered to over 6,700 businesses. This support provided under the Covid-19 Adaptation Fund, Coach Tourism Business Continuity Scheme, Inbound Tour Operators Scheme and a B&B Restart Grant was vital to the survival of business that suffered most because of Covid-19.

A Tourism Recovery Taskforce was established to prepare a Tourism Recovery Plan, to include recommendations on how best the Irish tourism sector can adapt and recover in the changed tourism environment as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Subsequently, a Recovery Oversight Group was established to keep the Minister apprised of progress on the implementation of the Recovery Plan and the recovery of the sector. A Hospitality and Tourism Forum was also established to provide a platform for structured engagement between the Hospitality and Tourism sector, the tourism agencies and relevant Government Departments.

Despite the global challenges of COVID-19, Tourism Ireland undertook many initiatives including the Global Greening campaign to mark St Patrick's Day. Some 430 landmark sites in 59 countries took part in the initiative. Tourism Ireland participated virtually in a number of trade promotions around the world, in the latter part of 2020. To establish a comprehensive understanding of the changed consumer and the new marketplace Tourism Ireland commissioned its largest ever programme of research in major markets to help identify when consumers will be ready to consider holidaying again and which of our markets will offer us the best short-term prospects.

Arts and Culture

The Covid-19 pandemic and associated health restrictions had a devastating impact on the Arts & Culture sector in 2020. A cross industry Taskforce was set up to better understand the myriad of issues and concerns and a number of very specific and targeted measures were introduced to mitigate the sectoral impacts including:

- Pilot Live Performance Support Scheme providing support to small and large venues, producers and promoters (59 successful applicants)
- Music Industry Stimulus Package of €1.7m supporting some 184 musicians / bands, 79 song writing camps and 56 new album releases
- Hot Press Young and Emerging Series provided support for artists to perform a series of concerts online to fans at home and abroad
- Culture Ireland's Ireland Performs in association with Facebook Ireland showcased the best of Irish artists through virtual events and music sessions
- Cruinniú na nÓg presented as part of Creative Ireland allowed for our youth to showcase their creativity online

Increased funding of €105m for the Arts Council ensured Artists and Organisations continued to receive necessary supports - funding was granted to 831 Arts organisations in addition to 775 individual artists in 2020.

The National Cultural Institutions (NCIs) continued to play a central role in relation to the development of and access to Irish arts and culture with a pivot to an online or virtual experience for much of their cultural offering in 2020 on foot of health restrictions / closures necessitated by the pandemic. In addition to this enhanced virtual audience, there were 731,084 visitors to the NCIs in 2020, with 232,694 attending some 1,230 Learning and Participation Events

Screen Ireland funding in 2020 allowed for investment in 334 projects; production funding for 40 feature film projects; and 1,403 participants in Film skills development

Gaeltacht

The impact of Covid-19 was also significant across all of the Gaeltacht regions, not least in terms of Irish summer colleges, and compounded in many instances by the impact of BREXIT.

Notwithstanding the challenges, funding under this programme area in 2020 enabled:

- 427 new jobs in the Gaeltacht
- Maintenance of 7,363 jobs in the Gaeltacht
- Funding for 33 Co-operatives
- Opening of 16 digital hubs
- Participation of 81 schools/organisations in Clár Tech Space
- Support for 800 organisations and festivals via an Foras Teanga

Further funding was provided to 153 Naíonraí/early years services/Clubanna Óige with 3,161 children attending the facilities in 2020, an increase on 2,724 children in 2019.

Sport

A funding package of €85m was provided to the sports sector (IRFU, GAA, FAI, National Governing Bodies of Sport, clubs and communities) in 2020 in response to the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) continued to provide assistance to clubs and associations, big and small throughout the country with the payment of 1,452 grants, with a total value of €26.2m. In addition, 32 grant allocations were made under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund in 2020 with a total value of €82.4m.

Dormant Accounts Funding in 2020 provided for a wide range of sport and physical activity measures with a focus on people with disabilities or those disadvantaged.

Covid-19 meant that international competition was curtailed - however 14 medals were won in international competitions at elite level sports supported by Sport Ireland.

Broadcasting

Increased funding under the broadcasting and media programme area in 2020 allowed for:

- An increase in the reach of all RTÉ services among adults 18+ from 93% in 2019 to 95%;
- 6,030 hours of distinctive indigenous programming broadcast across all genres by RTÉ;
- €36.5m expenditure by RTÉ on independently produced television and radio programmes;

In addition, 235 new television and radio programmes and new projects were offered funding through the Broadcasting Fund Sound and Vision Scheme in 2020. Additional funding provided to the Scheme in 2020 enabled a specific round of funding for the independent and local radio sector.

In terms of supports for the local print sector, at least €4.4 million was spent by Government on regional and local print advertising from March 2020 to April 2021.

Galway 2020 - European Capital of Culture (ECoC)

Chapter 7 of the 2020 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General examines the oversight of funding for the European Capital of Culture.

Background

The European Capital of Culture (ECoC) is the longest running and one of the most high profile and successful European Union actions in the cultural space. The initiative was developed in 1985 to highlight the richness and diversity of cultures in Europe, celebrate the cultural heritage that Europeans share, increase European citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area and foster the contribution of culture to the development of cities.

Galway

Galway 2020 held the title of European Capital of Culture from February 2020 to April 2021. During this period, and in the five years preceding it, Galway 2020 worked to realise the aims of the European Capital of Culture action through a multifaceted project comprised of:

- a cultural programme built around the themes of language, landscape and migration;
- a volunteer programme that had over 800 volunteers from over 50 countries;
- a community engagement programme that delivered 67 Small Towns Big Ideas projects as well as a host of other events;
- an international promotional programme spanning Europe, America and parts of Asia and the Middle East that contributed to a number of travel designations for Galway; and
- a partnership programme with local institutions and enterprises.

Funding & Expenditure

Funding commitments of €12 million were secured by Galway 2020 from Galway City and Galway County Councils in advance of the final selection phase for the ECoC 2020 and this formed part of the budget submitted in the application to the EU selection panel. Also in advance of the final selection, the Department committed in principle to provide €15 million in Exchequer funding from the Vote. The Galway 2020 ECoC application envisaged €6.8 million private sector income which comprised sponsorship and box office receipts

Galway 2020 Expense Categories	Bid Book (€m)	Actual to end Sept 2021 (€m)
Programme Expenditure	33.4	14.6
Promotion & Marketing	5.5	1.8
Wages, Overheads & Administration	6.9	5.8
	45.8	**22.2**

C&AG

The review by the Comptroller and Auditor General examined a number of aspects of the project including governance, income and expenditure, and arrangements to evaluate effectiveness with reference to the key performance indicators in the performance delivery agreement between the Department and Galway 2020 as well as the independent evaluation still in progress.

At the outset, it was envisaged that the majority of the funding for the activities of the Galway 2020 company would be non-Exchequer sourced. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the projected level of funding for Galway 2020, especially from private sector sources, did not materialise and as a result, the Department/Exchequer became the majority funder of the ECoC 2020, supplemented by local authority funding paid between 2017 and the onset of the pandemic.

The reduced private sector funding did impact on the delivery of the planned programme for Galway but the restrictions imposed nationally in response to Covid-19 pandemic had a much more significant impact in terms of how events were delivered and virtual versus physical audience participation

During the title year, in excess of 500 events were delivered for Galway 2020 by over 600 artists and other cultural workers, including produces, technicians and crew. These events were developed over a number of years and ultimately had to pivot to a hybrid delivery model of physical and online events in the face of an unprecedented global pandemic.

A process is underway to formally assess the effectiveness of the ECoC. This is being undertaken by independent evaluators, and should help to identify lessons that will inform similar projects or proposals in the future.

Highlights

Online presentation resulted in wider audiences for some projects than would have been possible in a physical sense. For example, *Gilgamesh* by Macnas saw the renowned street performers produce filmed pieces for the first time ever, exponentially increasing their audience on a global level with over 400,000 views of four filmed pieces.

High profile physical performances included the *DruidGregory* tour of Galway County where outdoor spaces such as on the grounds of Coole Park and Kylemore Abbey were used as venues for 38 theatrical performances seen by 1,200 members of the public and, the Galway International Arts Festival-John Gerrard work Mirror Pavilion which exhibited in Claddagh Pier, Galway City, from 3-26 September 2020 drawing over 120,000 attendees.

The delivery of Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture in the midst of a volatile pandemic environment illustrated Ireland's continuing commitment to our place in the EU, and to our fellow Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission – who collectively supported Ireland to deliver the initiative, including through the extension of Ireland's designated year to April 2021.

Recommendations

The review of the C&AG recommended that:

The Department should put in place robust controls to ensure compliance of future grantees with relevant grant management and reporting requirements.

The Department accepts this recommendation and will continue to work to ensure that all relevant grant management provisions are fully incorporated and implemented as part of future oversight of and reporting on grants.

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Coiste na gCuntas Poiblí
Treoir Eolais do na Baill

- **Cuntas Leithreasa 2020: Vóta 33 An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**

- **Tuarascáil ar Chuntais Seirbhísí Poiblí 2020: Caibidil 7 Maoirseacht ar mhaoiniú Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa 2020**

Samhain 2021

Cúlra

Athleagadh amach Vóta 33 le linn 2020 agus aistríodh an fhreagracht as feidhmeanna Oidhreachta (Uiscebhealaí Éireann san áireamh) chuig an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil agus an fhreagracht as feidhmeanna Oileán chuig an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobal.

Tá an fhreagracht as feidhmeanna Turasóireachta agus Spóirt aistrithe chuig Vóta 33 ón iar-Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt. Tá an fhreagracht as feidhmeanna Craoltóireachta agus Meán tar éis bogadh ón iar-Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil chuig Vóta 33.

Dá bhrí sin, is iad seo a leanas na cúig réimse cláir i Vóta 33:

- Seirbhísí Turasóireachta
- Na hEalaíona & An Cultúr
- An Ghaeltacht
- Spórt agus Seirbhísí Fóillíochta
- Craoltóireacht

Cuireadh an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán ar bun go hoifigiúil ar an 27 Meitheamh 2020. De réir threoir Chuntasaíochta an Rialtais, léiríonn an Cuntas Leithreasa do 2020 gníomhaíocht na bliana ina hiomlán maidir le gach ceann de na cúig réimse cláir d'ainneoin nár bhainistigh an Roinn na réimsí seo go léir don bhliain iomlán.

Feidhmeanna agus Ról

Cuireadh an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán ar bun go hoifigiúil ar an 27 Meitheamh 2020 agus is é misean na Roinne:

Ceannaireacht a thabhairt d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe na Turasóireachta, agus rannpháirtíocht sa Chultúr, sna hEalaíona, sa Ghaeltacht, sa Spórt agus sna Meáin a chur chun cinn, ag tacú le dul chun cinn sóisialta, agus ag cur le fás cultúrtha agus eacnamaíoch shochaí na hÉireann.

Seo a leanas spriocanna na Roinne:

- tacú le téarnamh agus fás eacnamaíoch an earnáil turasóireachta atá iomaíoch agus inbhuanaithe ó thaobh na timpeallachta de, go heacnamaíoch agus go sóisialta.
- tacú agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar rannpháirtíocht dhaoine aonair agus phobail sna healaíona, sa chultúr agus sa chruthaitheacht, ag saibhriú saolta trí ghníomhaíocht chultúrtha; ealaíona, cultúr agus cruthaitheacht na hÉireann a chur chun cinn ar fud an domhain; agus clár comórtha Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán 2012–2023 a chomhordú.
- tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge ar fud na hÉireann, san Aontas Eorpach agus ar fud an domhain agus a húsáid mar phríomhtheanga phobal na Gaeltachta a neartú.
- Níos mó rannpháirtíochta sa spórt a chur chun cinn, le béim ar leith ar rannpháirtíocht na mban agus éagsúlacht, agus leanúint ag infheistiú in áiseanna nua spóirt, lúthchleasaithe ardfheidhmíochta agus óstáil mórimeachtaí.
- tacú le soláthar meán seirbhíse poiblí tráchtála agus pobail a fhreastalaíonn ar riachtanais lucht féachana na hÉireann agus a sholáthraíonn timpeallacht rialála a thacaíonn le sábháilteacht ar líne agus le hearnáil meán saor in aisce, iolraíoch agus éagsúil in Éirinn.
- comhoibriú Thuaidh-Theas a chur chun cinn, i gcomhthéacs thionscnamh Oileán Comhroinnte an Rialtais, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs obair an Fhorais Teanga agus Thurasóireacht Éireann.

Tá 5 rannán sa Roinn:

- Rannán na Turasóireachta
- Rannán an Chultúir agus na nEalaíon
- Rannán na Gaeltachta
- Rannán an Spóirt
- Rannán na Meán agus Gnóthaí Corparáideacha

Príomhthorthaí in 2020

Turasóireacht

Chuaigh na bearta riachtanacha a cuireadh i bhfeidhm chun srian a choimeád ar COVID-19 agus chun na rioscaí do shláinte an phobail a mhaolú i bhfeidhm níos mó ar earnáil na turasóireachta ná an chuid is mó de na hearnálacha eacnamaíocha eile. Cuireadh béim in 2020, dá bhrí sin, ar chuidiú leis an earnáil bealach a dhéanamh tríd an ngéarchéim agus bearta a chur i bhfeidhm chun cabhrú le gnóthais maireachtáil agus téarnamh.

Cuireadh beagnach €44m ar fáil do níos mó ná 6,700 gnó i scéimeanna tacaíochta spriocdhírithe a riar Fáilte Ireland. Bhí an tacaíocht seo a cuireadh ar fáil faoi Chiste Oiriúnaithe Covid-19, Scéim Leanúnachais Gnó um Thurasóireacht Chóitseála, Scéim na nOibritheoirí Turas Isteach agus Deontas Atosaigh Leapa agus Bricfeasta ríthábhachtach le go mairfeadh na gnólachtaí is mó a d'fhulaing mar gheall ar Covid-19.

Bunaíodh an Tascfhórsa Téarnaimh Turasóireachta chun Plean Téarnaimh Turasóireachta a ullmhú, le moltaí san áireamh ar an mbealach is fearr is féidir le hearnáil turasóireachta na hÉireann oiriúnú agus téarnamh a dhéanamh sa timpeallacht athraithe turasóireachta mar thoradh ar ghéarchéim Covid-19. Bunaíodh an Grúpa Maoirseachta Téarnaimh chun an tAire a choinneáil ar an eolas faoin dul chun cinn maidir le cur chun feidhme an Phlean Téarnaimh agus téarnamh na hearnála. Bunaíodh Fóram Fáilteachais agus Turasóireachta freisin chun ardán a sholáthar do rannpháirtíocht struchtúrtha idir an earnáil Fáilteachais agus Turasóireachta, na gníomhaireachtaí turasóireachta agus na Ranna Rialtais ábhartha.

In ainneoin na ndúshlán domhanda a bhaineann le COVID-19, thug Turasóireacht Éireann faoi go leor tionscnamh lena n-áirítear an feachtas um Ghlasú Domhanda chun Lá Fhéile Pádraig a cheiliúradh. Bhí baint ag 430 sainchomhartha suntasach i 59 tír leis an tionscnamh. Ghlac Turasóireacht Éireann páirt go fíorúil i bhfeachtais thrádála ar fud an domhain, sa dara cuid de 2020. Chun tuiscint chuimsitheach a fháil ar an tomhaltóir athraithe agus ar an margadh nua choimisiúnaigh Turasóireacht Éireann a clár taighde is mó riamh i mór-mhargaí chun a dhéanamh amach cathain a bheidh tomhaltóirí réidh le dul ar saoire arís agus cé acu dár margaí a chuirfidh na torthaí is fearr ar fáil go gearrthéarmach.

Na hEalaíona agus an Cultúr

Bhí tionchar uafásach ag paindéim COVID-19 agus na srianta sláinte a ghabhann léi ar earnáil na nEalaíon & an Chultúir in 2020. Cuireadh Tascfhórsa trasearnála ar bun chun tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar an iliomad fadhbanna agus cúiseanna imní agus cuireadh roinnt bearta spriocdhírithe agus sonracha i bhfeidhm chun na tionchair earnála a mhaolú lena n-áirítear:

- Scéim Phíolótach chun Tacú le Taibhiú Beo a chuireann tacaíocht ar fáil d'ionaid, léiritheoirí agus poiblitheoirí beaga agus móra (59 iarratasóir rathúil)
- Pacáiste Spreagtha €1.7m don Earnáil Cheoil ag tacú le thart ar 184 ceoltóir/banna, 79 campa scríbhneoireachta amhrán agus 56 albam nua a eisiúint
- Chuir sraith óige agus ag teacht chun cinn Hot Press tacaíocht ar fáil d'ealaíontóirí sraith ceolchoirmeacha a chur ar stáitse ar líne do lucht leanúna sa bhaile agus thar lear

- Chuir Cultúr Éireann Éire i mBun Taibhithe i gcomhar le Facebook Éireann an chuid is fearr d'ealaíontóirí na hÉireann ar stáitse trí imeachtaí fíorúla agus seisiúin ceoil
- Thug Cruinniú na nÓg a cuireadh i láthair mar chuid d'Éire Ildánach deis do dhaoine óga na tíre a gcuid cruthaitheachta a thaispeáint ar líne

Chinntigh maoiniú méadaithe €105m don Chomhairle Ealaíon go leanfadh ealaíontóirí agus eagraíochtaí ag fáil na tacaíochtaí riachtanacha - tugadh maoiniú do 831 eagraíocht Ealaíon i dteannta le 775 ealaíontóir aonair in 2020.

Lean na Forais Náisiúnta Cultúir sa ról lárnach atá acu i ndáil le healaíona agus cultúr na hÉireann a fhorbairt agus rochtain a thabhairt don phobal orthu. D'fhorbair siad eispéiris fhíorúla nó ar líne don chuid is mó dá dtairiscint chultúrtha in 2020 de dheasca shrianta sláinte/dhúnadh áiteanna mar gheall ar an bpaindéim. Chomh maith leis an lucht féachana fíorúil feabhsaithe seo, thug 731,084 duine cuairt ar na Forais Náisiúnta Cultúir in 2020, agus d'fhreastail 232,694 duine ar thart ar 1,230 Imeacht Foghlama agus Rannpháirtíochta.

Cheadaigh maoiniú Fhís Éireann in 2020 infheistíocht i 334 tionscadal; maoiniú léiriúcháin do 40 tionscadal scannáin lánfhada; agus 1,403 rannpháirtí i bhforbairt scileanna scannánaíochta.

An Ghaeltacht

Bhí tionchar suntasach ag COVID-19 ar fud na réigiún Gaeltachta go léir chomh maith, maidir le coláistí samhraidh Gaeilge go háirithe, agus chuir tionchar an Bhreatimeachta leis i go leor cásanna.

D'ainneoin na ndúshlán, chuir maoiniú faoin réimse cláir seo in 2020 na rudaí seo a leanas ar fáil:

- 427 post nua sa Ghaeltacht
- Cosaint 7,363 post sa Ghaeltacht
- Maoiniú do 33 Chomharchumann
- Oscait 16 mhol dhigiteacha
- Rannpháirtíocht 81 scoil / eagraíocht i gClár Tech Space
- Tacaíocht do 800 eagraíocht agus féile tríd an bhForas Teanga

Cuireadh maoiniú breise ar fáil do 153 Naíonra/seirbhís luathbhlianta/Club Óige le 3,161 leanbh ag freastal ar na háiseanna in 2020, méadú ar 2,724 leanbh in 2019.

Spórt

Soláthraíodh pacáiste maoinithe €85m don earnáil spóirt (IRFU, CLG, FAI, Coistí Náisiúnta Rialaithe Spóirt, clubanna agus pobail) in 2020 mar fhreagairt ar thionchar uafásach phaindéim Covid-19.

Lean an Clár um Chaipiteal agus Threalamh Spóirt ag tabhairt cúnaimh do chlubanna agus do chumainn, idir bheag agus mhór ar fud na tíre, le 1,452 deontas íoctha, le luach iomlán €26.2m. Ina theannta sin, rinneadh 32 leithdháileadh deontais faoin gCiste Infreastruchtúr Spóirt ar Scála Mór in 2020 le luach iomlán €82.4m.

Cuireadh maoiniú ar fáil ó Chuntais Díomhaoine in 2020 do raon leathan bearta spóirt agus ghníomhaíocht fhisiciúil ag cur béime ar dhaoine faoi mhíchumas nó faoi mhíbhuntáiste.

Gearradh siar ar chomórtais idirnáisiúnta mar gheall ar COVID-19 - ach buadh 14 bhonn i gcomórtais idirnáisiúnta ag leibhéal scothspóirt le tacaíocht ó Sport Éireann.

Craoltóireacht

Cheadaigh maoiniú méadaithe faoin réimse chlár craoltóireachta agus meán in 2020:

- Méadú ar lucht féachana sheirbhísí RTÉ go léir i measc daoine fásta 18+ ó 93% in 2019 go 95%;
- 6,030 uair an chloig de chlársceidealú dúchasach sainiúil a chraol RTÉ thar gach seánra;
- Caiteachas €36.5m ag RTÉ ar chláir teilifíse agus raidió a léiríodh go neamhspleách;

Ina theannta sin, tairgeadh maoiniú do 235 clár nua teilifíse agus raidió agus tionscadal nua trí Scéim Fuaime agus Físe an Chiste Craoltóireachta in 2020. Cuireadh babhta sonrach maoinithe don earnáil raidió neamhspleách agus áitiúil ar fáil le maoiniú breise a cuireadh ar fáil don Scéim in 2020.

Maidir le tacaíochtaí don earnáil áitiúil clódóireachta, chaith an Rialtas €4.4 milliún ar a laghad ar fhógraíocht réigiúnach agus áitiúil i gcló ó mhí an Mhárta 2020 go dtí mí Aibreáin 2021.

Gaillimh 2020 - Príomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa

Scrúdaítear maoirseacht ar mhaoiniú do Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa i gCaibidil 7 de thuarascáil 2020 an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste.

Cúlra

Tá Príomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa ar an bhfód ar feadh tréimhse níos faide ná aon ghníomh cultúrtha eile de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh agus tá sí ar cheann de na gníomhartha is rathúla agus is mó i mbéal an phobail. Forbraíodh an tionscnamh in 1985 chun saibhreas agus éagsúlacht chultúir na hEorpa a léiriú, ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an oidhreacht chultúrtha a roinneann Eorpaigh, cur le mothú shaoránaigh na hEorpa go mbaineann siad le comhlimistéar cultúrtha agus chun cultúr a chothú i bhforbairt cathracha.

Gaillimh

Bhí teideal Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa ag Gaillimh ó mhí Feabhra 2020 go dtí mí Aibreáin 2021. Le linn na tréimhse seo, agus sna cúig bliana roimhe sin, d'oibrigh Gaillimh 2020 chun aidhmeanna ghníomh Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa a bhaint amach trí thionscadal ilghnéitheach a chuimsigh:

- clár cultúrtha a tógadh timpeall ar théamaí na teanga, an tírdhreacha agus na himirce;
- clár oibrithe deonacha a raibh os cionn 800 oibrí deonach as níos mó ná 50 tír páirteach ann;
- clár rannpháirtíochta pobail a sheachaid 67 tionscadal Bhailte Beaga Smaointe Móra chomh maith le go leor imeachtaí eile;
- clár poiblíochta idirnáisiúnta a chuimsigh an Eoraip, Meiriceá agus codanna den Áise agus den Mheánoirthear a chuir le roinnt mhaith turas go Gaillimh; agus
- clár comhpháirtíochta le hinstitiúidí agus fiontair áitiúla.

Maoiniú & Caiteachas

Fuair Gaillimh 2020 gealltanais mhaoinithe €12 mhilliún ó Chomhairlí Cathrach agus Chontae na Gaillimhe roimh an gcéim dheiridh roghnúcháin do Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa 2020 agus bhí sé seo mar chuid den bhuiséad a cuireadh isteach san iarratas chuig painéal roghnúcháin an AE. Roimh an roghnú deiridh, gheall an Roinn i bprionsabal €15 mhilliún a sholáthar i maoiniú an Státchiste ón Vóta. Samhlaíodh in iarratas Phríomhchathair Chultúir Ghaillimh 2020 ioncam €6.8 mhilliún ón earnáil phríobháideach a chuimsigh fáltais urraíochta agus oifig na dticéad.

Catagóirí Caiteachais Ghaillimh 2020	Leabhar Tairisceana (€m)	Iarbhír go dtí deireadh mhí Mheán Fómhair 2021 (€m)
Caiteachas Cláir	33.4	14.6
Poiblíocht & Margaíocht	5.5	1.8
Pá, Forchostais & Riarachán	6.9	5.8
	45.8	**22.2**

An tArd-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

Scrúdaigh an t-athbhreithniú ón Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste roinnt gnéithe den tionscadal lena n-áirítear rialachas, ioncam agus caiteachas, agus socruithe chun éifeachtacht a mheas ag tagairt do na príomhtháscairí feidhmíochta sa chomhaontú seachadta feidhmíochta idir an Roinn agus Gaillimh 2020 chomh maith leis an meastóireacht neamhspleách atá fós ar siúl.

Samhlaíodh ag an tús nach dtiocfadh an chuid is mó den mhaoiniú do ghníomhaíochtaí chuideachta Ghaillimh 2020 ón Státchiste. Níor tháinig leibhéal réamh-mheasta an mhaoinithe do Ghaillimh 2020 mar gheall ar an bpaindéim, áfach, go háirithe ó fhoinsí earnáil phríobháideach, agus mar thoradh air sin, mhaoinigh an Roinn/Státchiste an chuid is mó de Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa 2020, agus mhaoinigh údaráis áitiúla cuid de chomh maith idir 2017 agus tús na paindéime.

Bhí tionchar ag an maoiniú laghdaithe ón earnáil phríobháideach ar sheachadadh an chláir phleanáilte do Ghaillimh ach bhí tionchar i bhfad níos suntasaí ag na srianta a cuireadh i bhfeidhm go náisiúnta mar fhreagra ar phaindéim Covid-19 maidir le conas a reáchtáladh imeachtaí agus rannpháirtíocht fhíorúil an lucht féachana seachas rannpháirtíocht fhisiciúil.

Chuir breis agus 600 ealaíontóir agus oibrí cultúrtha eile breis agus 500 imeacht ar bun do Ghaillimh 2020, lena n-áirítear léiritheoirí, teicneoirí agus criú. Forbraíodh na himeachtaí seo thar roinnt blianta agus sa deireadh bhí orthu imeachtaí hibrideacha a sheachadadh d'imeachtaí fisiciúla agus ar líne i bhfianaise paindéime domhanda nach bhfacthas riamh cheana.

Tá próiseas ar bun chun éifeachtacht Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa a mheas go foirmiúil. Tá meastóirí neamhspleácha ag tabhairt faoi seo, agus ba cheart go gcabhróidís le ceachtanna a aithint a dhéanfaidh eolas do thionscadail nó mholtaí den chineál céanna sa todhchaí.

Buaicphointí

Mar thoradh ar chur i láthair ar líne bhí lucht féachana níos leithne ann do roinnt tionscadal ná mar a bheadh indéanta go fisiciúil. Mar shampla, in *Gilgamesh* le Macnas léirigh taibheoirí cáiliúla sráide píosaí scannánaíochta den chéad uair riamh, ag méadú a lucht féachana as cuimse ar leibhéal domhanda le breis agus 400,000 amharc ar cheithre phíosa scannánaíochta.

I measc na léirithe fisiciúla ar fhéach go leor daoine orthu bhí turas *DruidGregory* ar chontae na Gaillimhe áit ar úsáideadh spásanna lasmuigh cosúil le tailte Pháirc na Cúile agus Mhainistir na Coille Móire mar ionaid do 38 léiriú amharclainne a chonaic 1,200 ball den phobal agus, saothar Mirror Pavilion John Gerrard Fhéile Ealaíon Idirnáisiúnta na Gaillimhe a bhí ar taispeáint ar Ché an Chladaigh, Cathair na Gaillimhe, ón 3-26 Meán Fómhair 2020 a mheall os cionn 120,000 duine.

Is léiriú é seachadadh Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa 2020 i measc timpeallacht phaindéimeach luaineach ar thiomantas leanúnach na hÉireann dár n-áit san AE, agus dár gcomh-Bhallstáit, do Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus don Choimisiún – a thacaigh le hÉirinn chun an tionscnamh a sheachadadh, lena n-áirítear fad a chur le bliain ainmnithe na hÉireann go dtí mí Aibreáin 2021.

Moltaí

Mhol athbhreithniú an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste:

Ba cheart don Roinn rialuithe láidre a chur i bhfeidhm chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíonfaidh deontaithe riachtanais bhainistíochta agus tuairiscithe deontais ábhartha amach anseo.

Glacann an Roinn leis an moladh seo agus leanfaidh siad ag obair chun a chinntiú go ndéanfar na forálacha bainistíochta deontais ábhartha uile a thabhairt isteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm ina n-iomláine mar chuid de mhaoirseacht agus tuairisciú ar dheontais sa todhchaí.

Update on the implementation of previous recommendations made by the Committee of Public Accounts to the then Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht following the Committee's engagement of 29 March 2018

- Committee of Public Accounts (32nd Dáil) - Periodic Report No. 3, January 2018 – May 2018
- Minute of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, October 2018

	Recommendations from the Committee of Public Accounts	Minute of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform	Update on progress of implementing the Committee's recommendations
1.	The extent of the issues with the site on which Galway Art House Cinema was constructed were not identified until the fourth site survey, three years after the initial funding application. In order to safeguard public funds, the Committee recommends that approval of applications for funding that involve construction on brownfield sites requires the completion of comprehensive site examinations in advance of construction commencing.	The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform accepts this recommendation. The Minister is advised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that, having due regard to the size, scale and complexity of the proposed project and the requirements of the Public Spending Code, site surveys/examinations are considered by them as part of the overall award, management and oversight of grants in relation to capital projects involving construction on brown field sites. In addition, the provisions of the Public Spending Code require that projects are continuously reappraised throughout the project life-cycle. A key precept of the Code is that as developments occur in project planning, design and implementation, a project must be reassessed to ensure that it continues to represent value for money. The Minister is further advised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that a number of surveys were carried out in relation to the project site, but for differing purposes e.g. an archaeological	Major capital projects are overseen in line with the Public Spending Code by officials in the Department. Revised processes have been put in place to ensure that comprehensive investigative works are completed, as required, at Strategic Assessment, Preliminary and Final Business Case stages of such capital projects, all of which occur prior to authorisation for construction to commence.

	Recommendations from the Committee of Public Accounts	Minute of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform	Update on progress of implementing the Committee's recommendations
		assessment to assess archaeological risk well above bedrock; a report on construction methods with specific reference to the site's location; and a level and elevation survey. The fourth report was a more detailed ground survey which did identify the more extensive challenges associated with the site which was undertaken after initial construction difficulties were encountered.	
2.	While the extent of the issues with the site on which Galway Art House Cinema was constructed did not become apparent until the fourth site survey was completed, the difficulties might have been dealt with more effectively had effective project management structures been in place. The Committee recommends that public bodies ensure that applications for public funding are accompanied by evidence of sufficient project management expertise.	The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform accepts this recommendation. The Public Spending Code, Stage B02 - Planning Stage, sets out 7 steps involved in planning projects, the first of which is the establishment of the project management structure. The PSC provides that *"The scale and complexity of the project should be reflected in its management structure and information system. Unless it already exists (e.g. for ongoing capital programmes) the management structure should always be identified and established once approval in principle has been obtained. In some cases, it may be possible to outline the proposed structure, filling some of the roles immediately and leaving others to be filled later on, as appropriate. However, the senior decision-makers for the project, and the senior managers should all be identified clearly at the outset, and their involvement and relative role clearly agreed."*	The Department now requires promoters for large scale projects to demonstrate that appropriate project management structures are in place as part of any application for capital funding.

	Recommendations from the Committee of Public Accounts	Minute of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform	Update on progress of implementing the Committee's recommendations
		The Minister is advised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that project management expertise is considered by them in their assessment of grant applications for capital projects having due regard to the size, scale and complexity of the proposed project and as laid down in the Public Spending Code.	
3.	The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht did not provide sufficient oversight of the project, and did not effectively deal with the project management failures that characterised the project. The Committee recommends that the Department assumes a more proactive role in the oversight of projects which it funds, including regular reporting and site visits.	The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform is advised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that the recommendation is accepted. The Department is fully committed to ensuring that all projects are effectively managed in accordance with the Public Spending Code and relevant Grant Circulars. Measto ensure that staff are appropriately trained and supported in the appraisal and oversight of grant-aided projects as part of the Department's annual quality assurance process and training provided to staff emphasises the importance of the early establishment of performance metrics to be used as a signal for action during the implementation phase, the need for regular management reports to be provided and reviewed, and how best to deal with project challenges as and when they emerge. The Minister is further advised that the Department recognises that it may not always have the required technical expertise in relation to particular capital projects and	The Department has established a revised set of operational and governance arrangements in respect of its NCI capital investment programme. These include detailed arrangements for project oversight groups that meet regularly, and ensure effective oversight and communications channels are in place that ensure that the Department is fully informed of any issues as they arise. The steering groups are made up of officials from the Department, the OPW, the relevant NCI and the project management team and invite technical experts to present at key stages during the project lifecycle to ensure that the relevant experts are in place as the projects develop. This NCI template is being adapted for use across the Department's capital programme, in tandem with the development of sector-specific guidelines for the Tourism, Gaeltacht and Sports capital programmes.

	Recommendations from the Committee of Public Accounts	Minute of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform	Update on progress of implementing the Committee's recommendations
		schemes and, as such, engages experts to provide the necessary technical advice to ensure the proper appraisal and management of the project.	
4.	The Committee recommends that the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht conducts a post-project evaluation of the Galway Art House Cinema project to see what can be learned from the project, and to ensure public accountability. The report should be completed and published within the timeframe outlined to the Committee by the Secretary General.	The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform is advised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that this recommendation is accepted and work on the post project review of the Galway Art House Cinema project will commence in quarter one of 2019 and will be delivered within a six month timeframe. The Minister is further advised that this timeframe is determined by the need to have adequate operational data available for the analysis in accordance with the Public Spending Code which provides that such reviews should be undertaken once sufficient time has elapsed to allow the project to be properly evaluated with sufficient evidence of the flow of benefits/costs from it.	This review was completed and published in October 2019. The recommendations contained in the report have subsequently been integrated into Departmental policy, including by informing the structure of the NCI Capital Investment Programme, the design of the Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-22, and the Department's current set of sector-specific tools and guidance for capital investment.
5.	The business case for the relocation of Foras na Gaeilge to its new headquarters on Amiens Street identified the purchase of a building as the better financial option, but this option was not pursued. Ongoing rental costs will result in significant financial loss to the State in the long term. The Committee recommends that the Department pursues such options fully in the future, and that	The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform is advised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that this recommendation is noted. The Office of Public Works is responsible for the management and maintenance of the State's property portfolio and as such, the consideration of the purchase of a building is a matter more appropriate to that Office. Should such a scenario arise in the future where the purchase of a building could be considered,	It remains the position that responsibility for the management and maintendance of the State's property portfolio is a matter for the Office of Public Works with whom the Department will liaise as appropriate.

	Recommendations from the Committee of Public Accounts	Minute of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform	Update on progress of implementing the Committee's recommendations
	capital support be made available where the purchase of a building is the most cost effective solution.	the Department will discuss the matter with OPW.	