



Conradh na Gaeilge

Background:

NOTE: Some terms used in this document are explained for those unfamiliar below

There has been a longstanding collaboration of the Union of Students in Ireland and Conradh na Gaeilge over the past 10 years on an ad-hoc basis.

The following, among other things, have been achieved by both organisations in that period:

- Joint campaigns have been organised
- Training provided to over 600 students from the Cumainn Gaelacha and Student Unions
- Staff members have been employed to provide ongoing support for the Cumainn Gaelacha and Oifigí na Gaeilge in Student Unions for the past three years
- Major events are organised every year, in particular Oireachtas na Gaeilge (which between 400 and 600 students with Irish attend annually)

The two organisations would like that there be an official relationship agreed, to recognise the progress made to date, and to help identify and facilitate new developments in the future aspirations of the two organisations.

Union of Student in Ireland and Conradh na Gaeilge agree:

- That both organisations will meet once a quarter to discuss joint campaigns, which will also include the sharing of knowledge
- That the two organisations will work together to establish new Cumainn Gaelacha, to sustain current Cumainn and to ensure continuity in the Irish Language movement among Students
- The two organisations will work together to develop modules to provide information to students, to ensure continuity of the ongoing goals of Cumainn Gaelacha
- The two organisations will provide support for the Cumann Gaelacha throughout the country to during Freshers' Week
- The two organisations will organise, on an annual basis, "Traenáil na Mac Léinn" or Irish Language Training, together in October
- The two organisations will organise, the "Oiche na Mac Léinn", or the Students Night at the Annual Irish Language Festival, Oireachtas na Gaeilge
- Conradh na Gaeilge pledges support for "Seachtain na Gaeilge AMLÉ", or USI Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Conradh na Gaeilge will support the Irish Forum which USI organises in the at Ard Fheis (Annual Congress of) Chonradh na Gaeilge

Representation between the two Organisations:

Vice-President Gaeilge of the Union of Students in Ireland will represent Students on the following committees:

- Representation on the Executive Committee of Conradh na Gaeilge by means of recognising a Dublin County Committee of the Students of Dublin as county committee of Conradh na Gaeilge (Cumann Gaelacha in Dublin county committee will be members of this)
- Representation on the Bliain na Gaeilge working group
- Representation on the Oireachtas na Gaeilge national committee
- Representation on the Central Committee of RITH

Cumann Gaelach: Student societies founded to promote an Gaeilge among the Students of their College, by means of organising events through the medium of Irish. Some Cumann Gaelacha also hold free Classes for those who wish to develop their own grasp of the language.

Traenáil na gCumainn: A joint initiative of USI and Conradh na Gaeilge to provide training modules to Cumann Gaelacha in organising events, understanding the different roles of those in the society, and Irish Language Rights

Oireachtas na Gaeilge: An annually held arts festival of Irish culture, which has run since the 1890s. In recent years, a massive increase on student participation.

RITH: Rith 2014 is a national festival that will take place between 7th and 15th March 2014 as one of the main events of Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish language week).

A 1000km course has been laid out for a massive relay-race run, running from morning to night, from Baile Bhuirne (Ballyvourney, Cork) to Belfast over 9 days with thousands of people taking part in over 200 towns and villages.

A special hand-carved baton has been designed that will carry a hidden message throughout Rith 2014. At the end of the run, the message of support for the Irish language will be read out, followed by a party to remember!

Rith 2014 is a new way to celebrate the Irish language an culture in a way that is visual, fun, community based and can be celebrated throughout the island of Ireland. Rith 2014 also aims to raise money to create a new fund for the promotion of the Irish language in the community.

It is also to be noted that the Secretary-General of Conradh na Gaeilge, if he is Chair of National Council will stand down during this presentation.