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Fo Chasg gu 13/05/2013 aig 00:01

Geàrr-iris Rannsachaidh Soillse 3

Beachdan a' Phobaill air a' Ghàidhlig ann an Alba

Tha **Soillse**ⁱ, am pròiseact rannsachaidh Gàidhlig a tha ga chur an sàs le grunn oilthighean, air an treas geàrr-iris rannsachaidh aige fhoillseachadh airson 2013 agus i mar phàirt de shreath dhiubh.

Tha an Geàrr-iris Rannsachaidh – a thèid fhoillseachadh¹ air 13 Cèitean 2013 – a' toirt geàrr-iomradh air toraidhean bhon **t-Suirbhidh air Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba**ⁱⁱ, 2012, a thaobh beachdan dhaoine air a' Ghàidhlig agus tha e stèidhichte air sampall de 1,229 daoine.

'S iad prìomh bhuilean rannsachaidh na Geàrr-iris:

Cho Follaiseach agus a tha a' Ghàidhlig

Tha am feum a nì an taic bhon roinn phoblaich don Ghàidhlig agus cho follaiseach agus a tha an cànan ga shealltainn ann an toraidhean an t-suirbhidh:

- Bha 70% air Gàidhlig a chluinntinn nan dachaighean tro na meadhanan – co-dhiù air an rèidio no an telebhisean.
- Bha 58% air Gàidhlig fhaicinn air soidhnichean rathaid no soidhnichean poblach eile.

A' Ghàidhlig agus Dualchas

San fharsaingeachd tha daoine a' faicinn Gàidhlig mar phàirt cudromach de dhualchas na h-Alba:

- Bha 76% de na daoine a' faicinn Gàidhlig mar phàirt cudromach de dhualchas na h-Alba.
- Bha 86% de na daoine a' smaoinichadh gun robh Gàidhlig na pàirt cudromach de dhualchas na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean.
- Bha 24% a' smaoinichadh gun robh Gàidhlig cudromach do an dualchas fhèin.

Còraichean gus a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh

Bha farsaingeachd dhaoine a' cur taic ris a' bheachd gum bu chòir còir a bhith aig daoine Gàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an àiteachan poblach, gu sònraichte sna sgìrean far a bheil

¹ Tha tionndadh slàn den Gheàrr-iris Rannsachaidh seo ri fhaotainn air làrach-lìn Soillse aig: www.soillse.ac.uk

Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn, ach bha beag-chuid a bha an aghaidh nan còraichean sin. Am measg nan eisimpleirean bha:

- A' conaltradh ri comhairlean ionadail: thuirt 38% de na daoine gum bu chòir còir a bhith aig daoine air feadh Alba Gàidhlig a chleachdadh nuair a tha iad a' conaltradh ris a' chomhairle ionadail aca, agus bha 85% den bheachd gum bu chòir a' chòir sin a bhith aig daoine sna sgìrean Gàidhlig. Bha 14% ann a bha a' smaoinichadh nach bu chòir a' chòir seo a bhith aig daoine ann an àite sam bith ann an Alba.
- A' conaltradh ri luchd-obrach meidigeach ann an Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte (SNS): thuirt 34% de na daoine gum bu chòir còir a bhith aig daoine Gàidhlig a chleachdadh nuair a tha iad a' conaltradh ri luchd-obrach meidigeach san SNS air feadh na h-Alba, agus bha 71% den bheachd gum bu chòir a' chòir sin a bhith aig daoine sna sgìrean Gàidhlig. Bha 27% ann a bha a' smaoinichadh nach bu chòir a' chòir seo a bhith aig daoine ann an àite sam bith ann an Alba.

Gàidhlig ann am Foghlam

- Bha taic fharsaing ann don bheachd gum bu chòir còir a bhith aig pàrantan an cuid chloinne a chur gu foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. ('S e a th' ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig foghlam far a bheil a' mhòr-chuid de na leasan tron Ghàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir, ionnsaichidh clann mu mhatamataig no eachdraidh tron Ghàidhlig an àite tron Bheurla.) Thuirt 48% gum bu chòir a' chòir a bhith aig pàrantan air feadh Alba an cuid chloinne a chur gu foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, agus bha 91% den bheachd gum bu chòir a' chòir sin a bhith aig daoine sna sgìrean Gàidhlig. Bha 8% ann a bha a' smaoinichadh nach bu chòir a' chòir seo a bhith aig daoine ann an àite sam bith ann an Alba.

[Nòta: tha mu 0.6% de chlann bun-sgoile na h-Alba an-dràsta ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig – 2,418 sgoilearan ann an 2011-12.]

- Cha robh an uiread taice ann nuair a thàinig e chun na ceiste, am bu chòir gum feum a h-uile sgoilear (sin sgoilearan nach eil ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig) aois 5-16 Gàidhlig ionnsachadh airson uair a thìde no dhà gach seachdain: dh'aontaich 37% gum bu chòir, thuirt 36% nach bu chòir, agus bha 26% ann nach robh ag aontachadh no a' dol na aghaidh.
- Nuair a chaidh faighneachd de dhaoine, an robh 'a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig san 21mh linn gun fheum', bha a' chuid as motha (44%) a' dol an aghaidh a' bheachd sin, cha robh ach 22% a dh'aontaich. Ach bha mu thrìan (34%) nach robh ag aontachadh no a' dol na aghaidh, no cha do rinn iad roghainn.

Ceann-uidhe na Gàidhlig

- Cha robh mòran dòchais aig daoine mu chor na Gàidhlig san ùine a tha romhainn, agus 53% den bheachd gum biodh nas lugha dhaoine a' bruidhinn a' chànain an ceann 50 bliadhna, agus cha robh ach 14% den bheachd gum biodh barrachd ga bruidhinn. Bha 31% den bheachd gum biodh mun aon àireamh de dhaoine ga bruidhinn an uair sin agus a tha an-dràsta.
- Ach bha tòrr a bharrachd dhaoine *ag iarraidh* gun tigeadh piseach air cor na Gàidhlig: bha 42% ag iarraidh gum biodh barrachd dhaoine ga bruidhinn an ceann 50 bliadhna, agus bha 39% ag iarraidh gum fuirich an àireamh de luchd-labhairt aig an aon ìre. Cha robh ach 10% a bha airson gum biodh nas lugha dhaoine ga bruidhinn.

- Bha 32% den bheachd gum bu chòir cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh air feadh Alba, agus bha 87% den bheachd gum bu chòir cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh sna sgìrean Gàidhlig. Bha 11% ann a bha ag iarraidh nach bithte a' brosnachadh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig idir.
- Bha daoine den bheachd gur ann as motha an urra ri pàrantan, sgoiltean agus coimhearsnachdan a bha e cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh.

A' bruidhinn mun rannsachadh, thuir stùiriche a' phròiseict, am Proifeasair Lindsay MacPhàdraig bho Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann:

“S e rannsachadh cliùiteach a th' anns an t-Suirbhidh air Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba, agus tha e a' sealltainn gu bheil taic fharsaing ann don Ghàidhlig – tha mi a' creidsinn gu math nas fharsainge na bha daoine a' smaoinichadh. Tha na toraidhean cuideachd a' dearbhadh gu bheil na h-oidhirpean a tha diofar Riaghaltasan na h-Alba, le diofar phàrtaidhean poilitigeach air an ceann, air a dhèanamh gus piseach a thoirt air inbhe is cho follaiseach agus a tha a' Ghàidhlig air buaidh a thoirt air cùisean. Faodaidh sinn a ràdh le cinnt gu bheil a-nis a' coimhead air Gàidhlig mar phàirt cudromach de chultar na h-Alba.”

Thuir Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, Iain Aonghas MacAoidh: “Tha an rannsachadh seo, a chaidh a dhèanamh gu neo-eisimeileach, glè chudromach oir tha e a' sealltainn gu bheil taic mhòr ann don Ghàidhlig air feadh Alba.

“Tha na toraidhean a' sealltainn dhuinn gu soilleir gu bheil a' mhòr-chuid de shluagh na h-Alba a' gabhail ris gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar nam pàirt bunaiteach de dhualchas is dùthchas na h-Alba. Tha an rannsachadh seo cuideachd air leth feumail oir tha na prìomh bhuilean a' toirt fianais dhuinn a-rithist air cho cudromach agus a tha e gun tèid na prìomh amasan againn sa Phlana Nàiseanta airson na Gàidhlig a choileanadh. Bidh na prìomh chodhùnaidhean a thig bhon rannsachadh seo a' toirt stiùireadh dhuinn nuair a bhios sinn ag ullachadh phoileasaidhean gus cor a' chànain a ghleidheadh sna bliadhnaichean a tha air thoiseach oirnn.”

¹ Nòtaichean mun rannsachadh:

Tha e na amas do **Soillse** comasan is goireasan rannsachaidh a tharraing còmhla gus na leanas a chur air adhart agus a stèidheachadh:

- Comasan is goireasan rannsachaidh cho math ri feadhainn a gheibhear gu h-eadar-nàiseanta, a bheir taic is stiùireadh do, agus a bheir buaidh air, poileasaidhean aig ìre nàiseanta is ionadail a tha ag amas air Gàidhlig a ghleidheadh agus ath-bheothachadh ann an Alba agus ann an dùthchannan eile; agus
- Lìonra rannsachaidh buadmhor eadar na h-Ionadan Foghlaim Àrd-ìre ann an Alba, a nì ceangal eadar luchd-rannsachaidh le eòlas air agus ùidh ann an cùisean co-cheangailte ri Gàidhlig nar latha fhèin agus ionadan rannsachaidh mhion-chànanan eadar-nàiseanta.

Tha trì prìomh chuspairean rannsachaidh aig Soillse: Gàidhlig mar chànan teaghlaich is coimhearsnachd; Gàidhlig ann am foghlam; agus a' Measadh Phoileasaidhean airson Ath-bheothachadh na Gàidhlig. Tha na cuspairean sin uile a' sìneadh tarsaing dà bhun-chuspair eile: dearbh-aithne Ghàidhlig agus misneachd; agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu Shoillse, cuiribh fios gu Iain Caimbeul aig iain.caimbeul@soillse.ac.uk no 01463 237935

² Nòtaichean mun rannsachadh:

Bidh **ScotCen Social Research** a' cumail an t-Suirbhidh air Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba gach bliadhna, agus e na phrìomh shuirbhidh acadaimigeach air beachdan a' phobail ann an Alba. Tha e na amas dha dàta neo-eisimeileach a chruinneachadh mu bheachdan dhaoine air cùisean co-cheangailte ri Alba. Chaidh ceistean fhaighneachd ann an suirbhidh 2012 mu bheachdan dhaoine air a' Ghàidhlig, agus chaidh agallamh a dhèanamh le 1,229 daoine (aois 18+) bho air feadh Alba agus iad air an taghadh air thuaiream. Fhuair an rannsachadh taic bho Chomhairle nan Rannsachaidhean Eaconamach is Sòisealta, Soillse, Riaghaltas na h-Alba, agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Chaidh an rannsachadh a dhèanamh leis a' Phroifeasair Lindsay MacPhàdraig agus an Dr Fiona O'Hanlon (Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann), agus Rachel Ormston, Susan Reid, agus am Proifeasair John Curtice (ScotCen Social Research). 'S e beachdan an luchd-rannsachaidh a-mhàin na beachdan a chithear an seo, agus chan eil sin a' ciallachadh gu bheil an luchd-maoineachaidh den aon bheachd.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun t-Suirbhidh air Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba faicibh: www.scotcen.org.uk/series/scottish-social-attitudes.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun Gheàrr-iris Rannsachaidh seo, cuiribh fios gu:

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Soillse Research Digest 3

Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland

Beachdan a' Phobail air a' Ghàidhlig ann an Alba

Soillseⁱⁱⁱ, the inter-university Gaelic language research project, has published a third Research Digest in the series for 2013.

The Research Digest – to be published² on 13 May 2013 – summarises results on public attitudes to Gaelic from the **Scottish Social Attitudes Survey**^{iv}, 2012, based on a sample of 1,229 people.

The key findings from the Digest are:

Exposure to Gaelic

The positive impact of public sector interventions to support the Gaelic language is shown in the findings from the survey that:

- 70% have heard Gaelic in their homes by means of the media – whether on television or on radio.
- 58% have seen Gaelic on road signs or on other public signs.

Gaelic and cultural heritage

Gaelic is widely seen as an important part of Scottish heritage:

- 76% of people saw the Gaelic language as being an important part of Scottish heritage.
- 86% of people perceived the Gaelic language to be an important part of the heritage of the Highlands and Islands.
- 24% saw it as important to their own heritage.

Rights to use Gaelic

There was widespread support for the right to use Gaelic in public places, especially to use it in areas where Gaelic is spoken, but there was also minority opposition to such rights.

² The full version of the Research Digest is available via the Soillse website at: www.soillse.ac.uk

Examples are:

- Dealing with the local council: 38% said that people should have the right to use Gaelic in dealing with their local council throughout Scotland, and 85% agreed with this right in Gaelic-speaking areas. 14% did not accept such a right anywhere in Scotland.
- Dealing with medical staff in the NHS: 34% said that people should have the right to use Gaelic in dealing with medical staff in the NHS throughout Scotland, and 71% agreed with this right in Gaelic-speaking areas. 27% did not accept such a right anywhere in Scotland.

Gaelic in education

- There was widespread support for parents to have the right to send their children to Gaelic-medium education. (Gaelic-medium education is education in which most of the lessons are in Gaelic. For example, children are taught maths or history in Gaelic rather than in English.) 48% said that parents should have the right to Gaelic-medium education throughout Scotland, and 91% thought that parents in Gaelic-speaking areas should have this right. 8% did not accept such a right anywhere in Scotland.

[Note: currently about 0.6% of Scottish primary-school pupils are in Gaelic-medium education – 2,418 pupils in 2011-12.]

- There were more mixed views on whether all pupils (that is, including pupils not in Gaelic-medium education) aged 5-16 should have to study Gaelic for an hour or two a week: 37% agreed that all should be taught Gaelic, 36% disagreed and 26% neither agreed nor disagreed.
- When asked whether 'learning Gaelic is pointless in the 21st Century', the largest group (44%) disagreed, and only 22% agreed. But a third (34%) neither agreed nor disagreed, or else could not choose.

The future of Gaelic

- Respondents were pessimistic about the future of Gaelic, with 53% believing that in 50 years' time the language would be spoken by fewer people than now, and only 14% believing that it would be spoken by more people than now. 31% believed it would be spoken by about the same number of people as now.
- But many more people *wanted* the position of Gaelic to become stronger: 42% wanted it to be more widely spoken in 50 years time than now, and a further 39% wanted numbers to be maintained. Only 10% wanted Gaelic to be spoken by fewer people than now.
- 32% believed that the use of Gaelic should be encouraged throughout Scotland, and 87% believed that it should be encouraged in Gaelic-speaking areas. 11% did not want Gaelic to be encouraged at all.
- The main responsibility for encouraging the use of Gaelic was believed to lie with parents, schools and the community.

Commenting on the research, the director of the project, Professor Lindsay Paterson of Edinburgh University, said:

“These results from the highly respected Scottish Social Attitudes Survey show widespread support for Gaelic – probably much more extensively than is often supposed. The results also confirm that official efforts by Scottish Governments of all political parties to raise the visibility and status of Gaelic are having an effect. We can safely say that Gaelic is regarded now as an important part of Scottish culture.’

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Ceannard, John Angus MacKay, said: “This is an important piece of independent research that shows the very positive attitudes to Gaelic from across Scotland.

The results clearly indicate that a large majority of the Scottish population recognise that the Gaelic language and culture are an integral part of Scotland’s identity. We also welcome this publication as a number of the key findings re-affirm the importance we place on the achievement of the priorities of the current National Plan for Gaelic. The key messages emerging for this research will also play a role in the development of future policy

initiatives that aim to create a sustainable future for Gaelic.”

¹ Notes on the research:

Soillse aims to pool research capacity to develop and establish:

- An international-quality research capability that will support, inform and influence policy at national and local levels in the effort to maintain and revitalise the Gaelic language in Scotland and beyond; and
- A powerful research network across the participating Scottish Higher Education Institutions, linking national researchers with expertise and interest in contemporary Gaelic language matters, with international minority language research institutions.

Soillse has three primary research themes: Gaelic as a family and community language; Gaelic in education; and Assessment of Policies directed towards the revitalisation of Gaelic. Each of the themes rests upon two transversal themes of: Gaelic identity and self-confidence; and Gaelic language use.

For further information about Soillse, please contact Iain Caimbeul on iain.caimbeul@soillse.ac.uk or 01463 237935

² Notes on the research:

The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey is carried out annually by **ScotCen Social Research**, and is Scotland’s premier academic survey of public attitudes. It aims to collect objective data about public attitudes on issues relevant to Scotland. Questions about attitudes to Gaelic were asked in the 2012 survey, which interviewed 1,229 randomly selected people aged 18+ from across Scotland. Funding for this research came from the Economic and Social Research Council, Soillse, the Scottish Government, and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The research was conducted by Professor Lindsay Paterson and Dr Fiona O’Hanlon (Edinburgh University), and Rachel Ormston, Susan Reid, and Professor John Curtice (ScotCen Social Research). The views expressed here are those of the researchers alone, and are not necessarily shared by the funders.

Further information about the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey can be found at: www.scotcen.org.uk/series/scottish-social-attitudes.

For further information about the Research Digest, please contact

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