Official Bilingualism

enshrined in the Irish Constitution

- Dyadic Nation State - Bernard Spolsky
- ‘Gaeilge’ (one of the oldest Celtic languages) is the first language
- Official status in Europe since 2007
- English is the second language
Acht na dTeangacha

Official Languages Act 2003

- Statutory requirement to maintain and preserve Irish
- Government’s 20 year Strategy 2010-2030
- Various measures to encourage the learning of Irish
- All signage and official notices must be bilingual
- All recorded voicemail messages must be bilingual
Letterkenny IoT’s ‘Sceim’ (Scheme)

- Staff provided with self-learning aids and resources such as dictionaries, DVDs, CDs etc., held centrally in the library.

  Irish language books and resources are updated on a continuous basis. A comprehensive list of these is available upon request. Irish Dictionaries have also been purchased and distributed to each functional area of the Institute.

- In-house courses for staff at different levels, dependent upon sufficient demand and resources

- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) in operation since 2008 and Irish classes for staff have been accredited by NUI Maynooth under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

- Classes are held during working hours and staff are facilitated in attending the classes during the working day

- All staff requests for training opportunities in Irish are fully supported

- Financial support for any staff wishing to undertake Irish training outside the Institute

- Incentives offered to staff to improve their Irish e.g. Gaeltacht ‘scholarships’
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Co. Donegal

https://www.google.ie/maps/dir//letterkenny+institute+of+technology/@53.5738864,-10.2521673,7.33z/data=!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x485feb3a7ad0d89d:0x27a83f5f5684fd0e!2m2!1d-7.7208889!2d54.9524134
Gaeltacht Areas
PhD investigation

Nationwide survey of IoT sector

- Impact of institutional Language Policy on Attitudes towards Languages
- Majority of IoTs do not have language policies, apart from Irish language ones
- 5 IoTs are currently considering policies; only 1 has an approved language policy
- Remaining 8 IoTs have none (apart from the Irish language)
Need for overarching Language Policy in the Republic of Ireland

- Numerous studies and Networks
- IoT Languages Strategy Network
- One Voice for Languages
- Royal Irish Academy
- EU membership - Vision of Multilingualism?
- Changing demographics  12% of population ‘New Irish’
Go raibh maith agaibh