

COST Action 18236: Multi-Disciplinary Innovation for Social Change Training School

Limerick City, Ireland



TUS



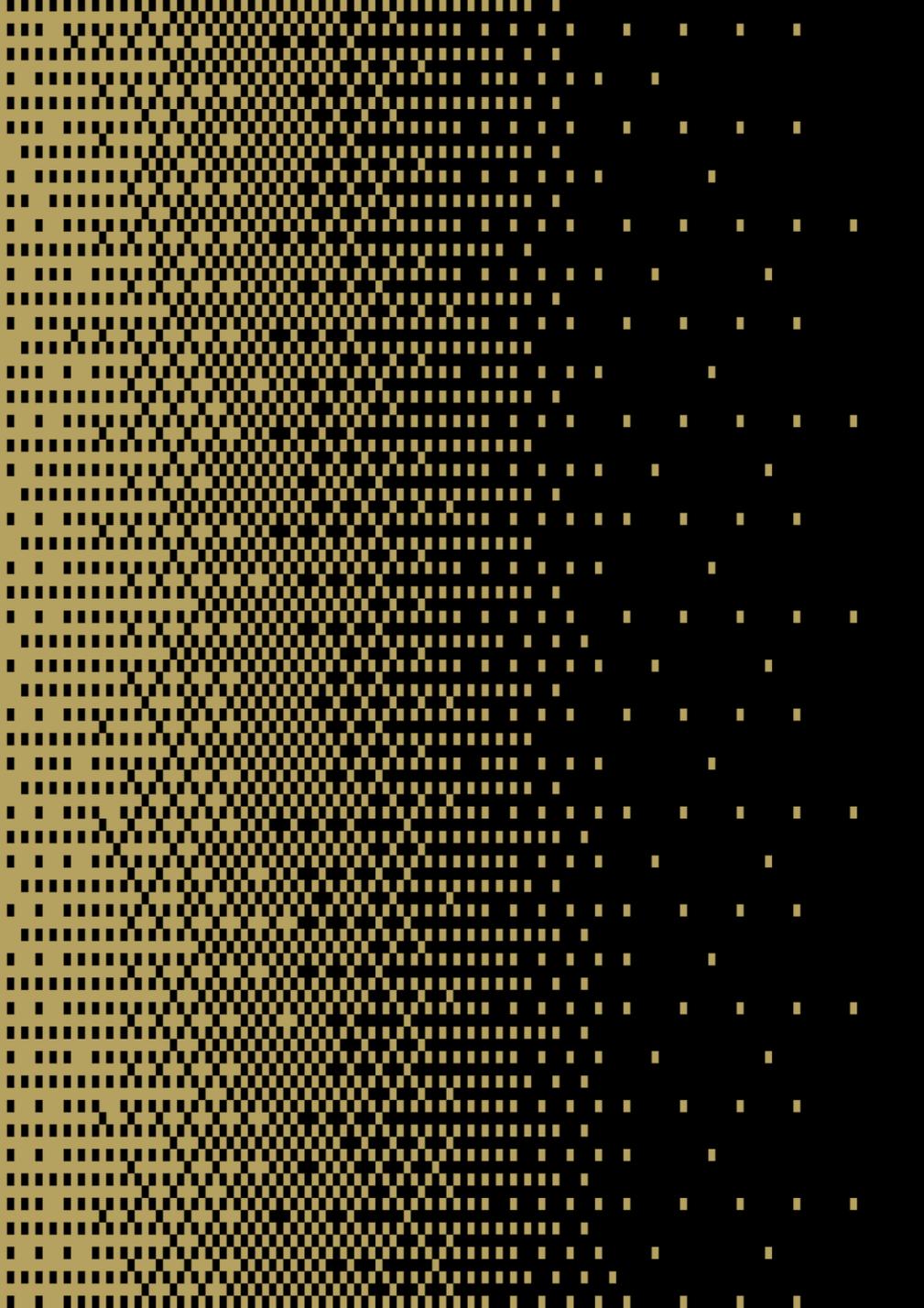
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IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Introductions





TUS



TUS – Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest

- Multi-campus university with over 14,500 students, 1200 staff members, spread across six colleges throughout Ireland's Midwest and Midlands region.
- TUS was established on 1 October, 2021. With campuses in Athlone, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary, TUS benefits from an already strong and vibrant history of education and learning in the wider region and plays a strong role in sustaining and enhancing this identity for generations to come.
- TUS' continuous focus on partnership, innovation and staying agile shows we understand the importance of working with key stakeholders across industry and society. With hundreds of courses every year across four counties, our story has only just begun.

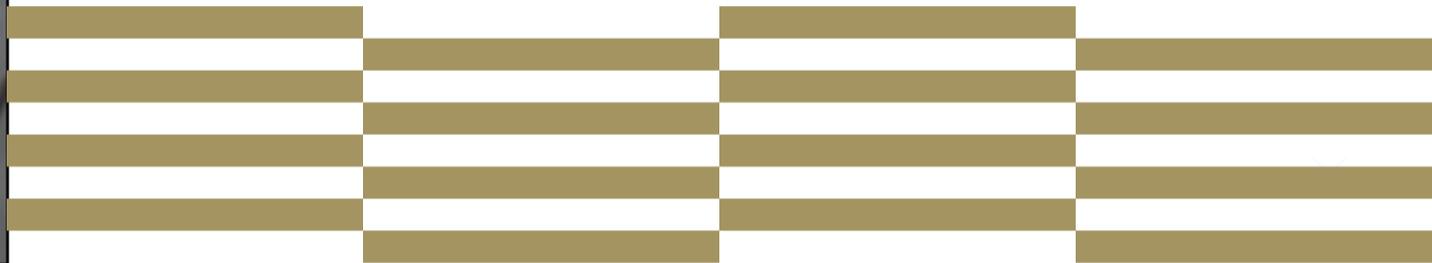


RDI

Research, Development and Innovation supports, develops, and welcomes knowledge creators, innovators, and entrepreneurs, while supporting regional and national industry and other stakeholders.

Our vision is to deliver excellence in multidisciplinary research practice and encourage collaboration between researchers and strategic European and global partners in industry and academia. The aim is to advance the key research priorities relevant to the region, aligned with national and European research priorities, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Impactful Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) are central to our TU strategy.



Development Unit - DU

At the centre of the RDI is a focus on Development. The DU is dedicated to implementing our vision of supporting individuals, companies and industries in the Mid-West to achieve social, economic and environmental changes through applying its expertise in a collaborative manner.

In the Development Unit we strive to use the UN's SDGs as an anchor and touchstone behind our research and development activities.

We pride ourselves on working with people to solve real problems and challenges

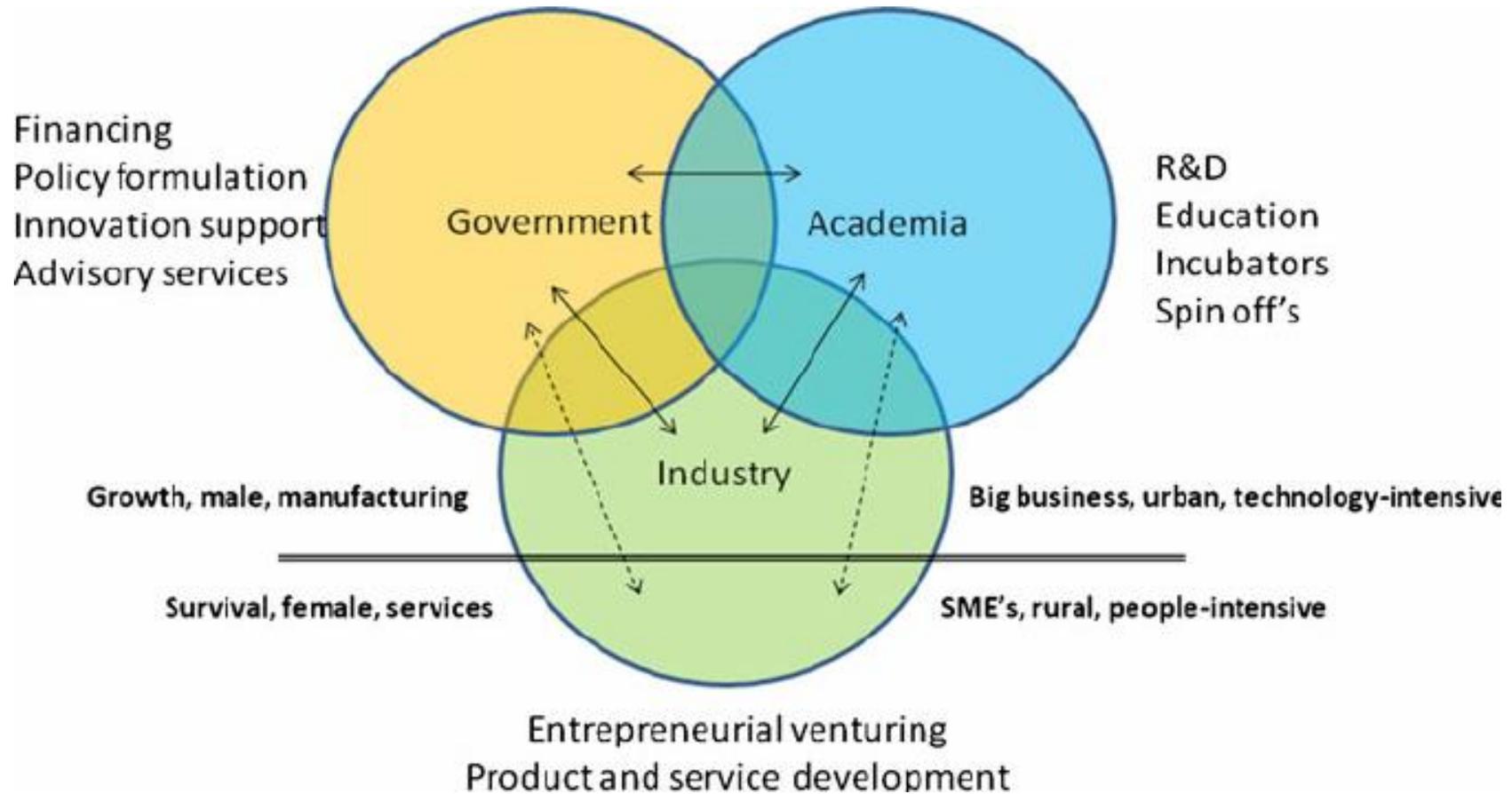
With our focus on sustainable energy, climate action, social enterprise, rural development and technology for education, our team leads and partners in projects and activities while working closely with academic staff and experts across the Institute.

We have a particular strength in securing funding from an array of EU programmes (H2020, Interreg, Erasmus+, COSME and others) both as coordinators and as partners/co-beneficiaries.



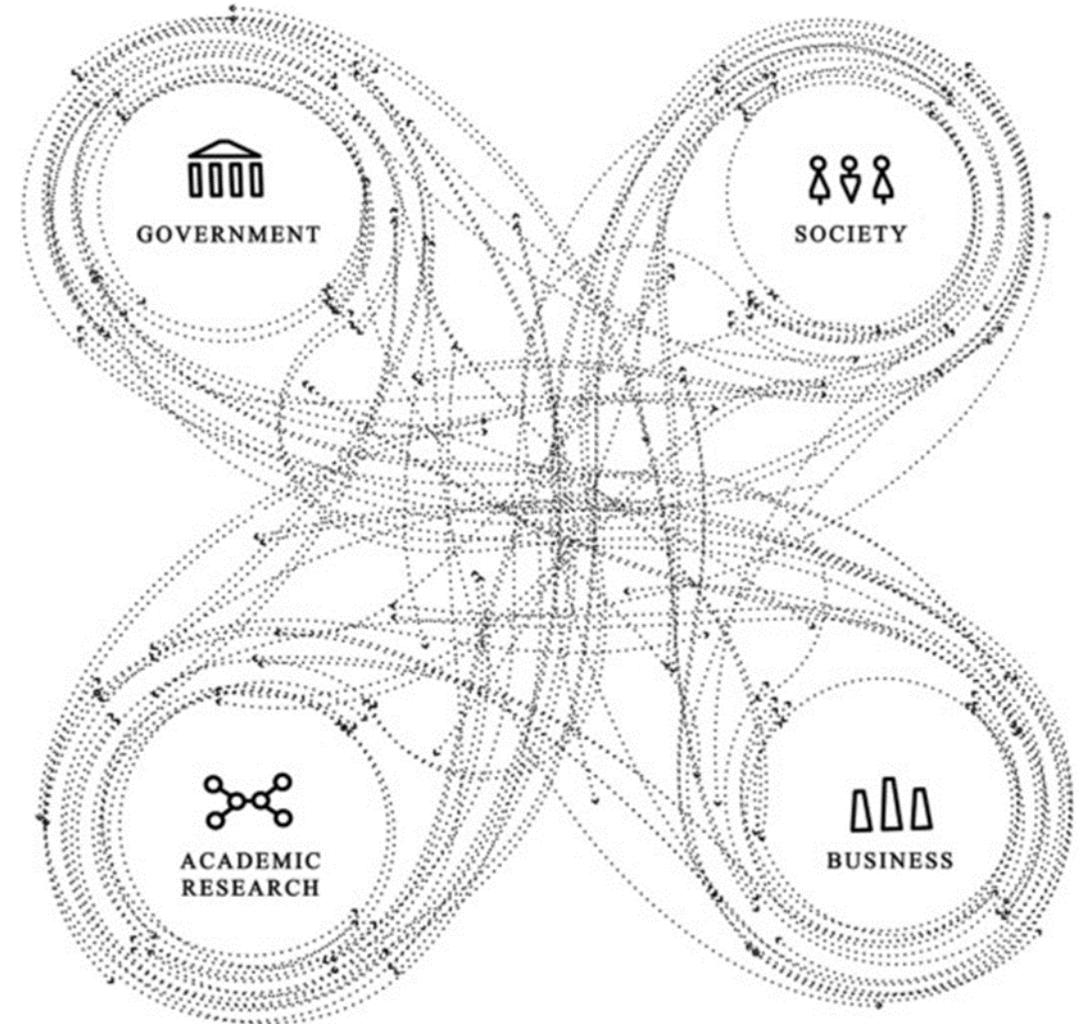


Triple Helix



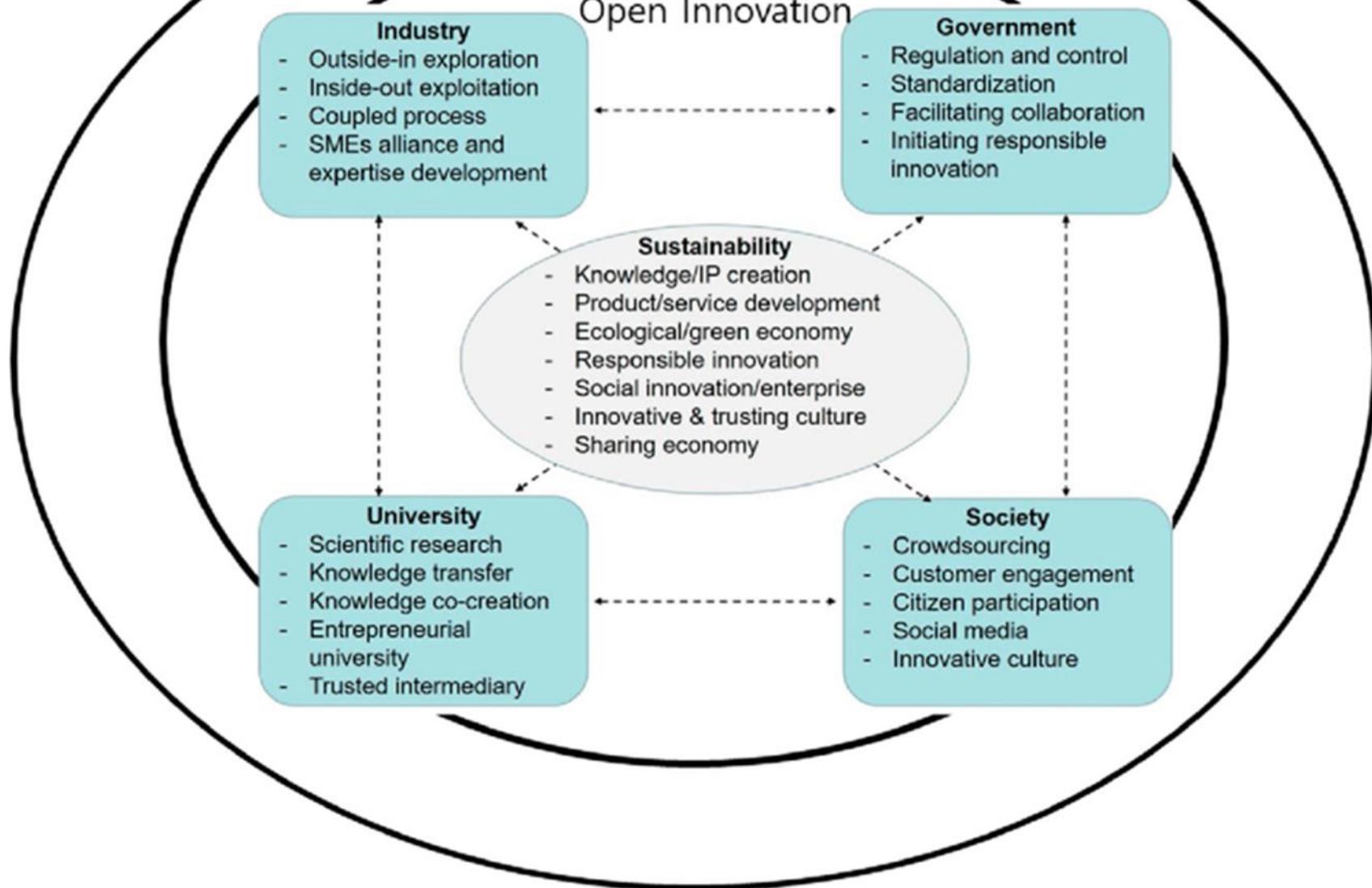
Quadruple Helix

- Recognizes four major actors in the innovation system: science, policy, industry, and society.
- In keeping with this model, more and more governments are prioritizing greater public involvement in innovation processes.
- The model was originally conceptualized by Elias Carayannis and David Campbell.
- The four core components of are not involved in unidirectional push-pull relationships, but rather in multi-layered, dynamic, bi-directional interactions.
- the role of society as a major actor in national innovation systems as well as the importance of actively integrating the public into innovation projects.



Macro-dynamics of Open Innovation

Micro-dynamics of Open Innovation





Budapest Declaration

- ***Community development is a way of strengthening civil society by prioritising the actions of communities and their perspectives in the development of social, economic and environmental policy.***
- ***It seeks the empowerment of local communities, taken to mean both geographical communities, communities of interest or identity and communities organising around specific themes or policy initiatives***

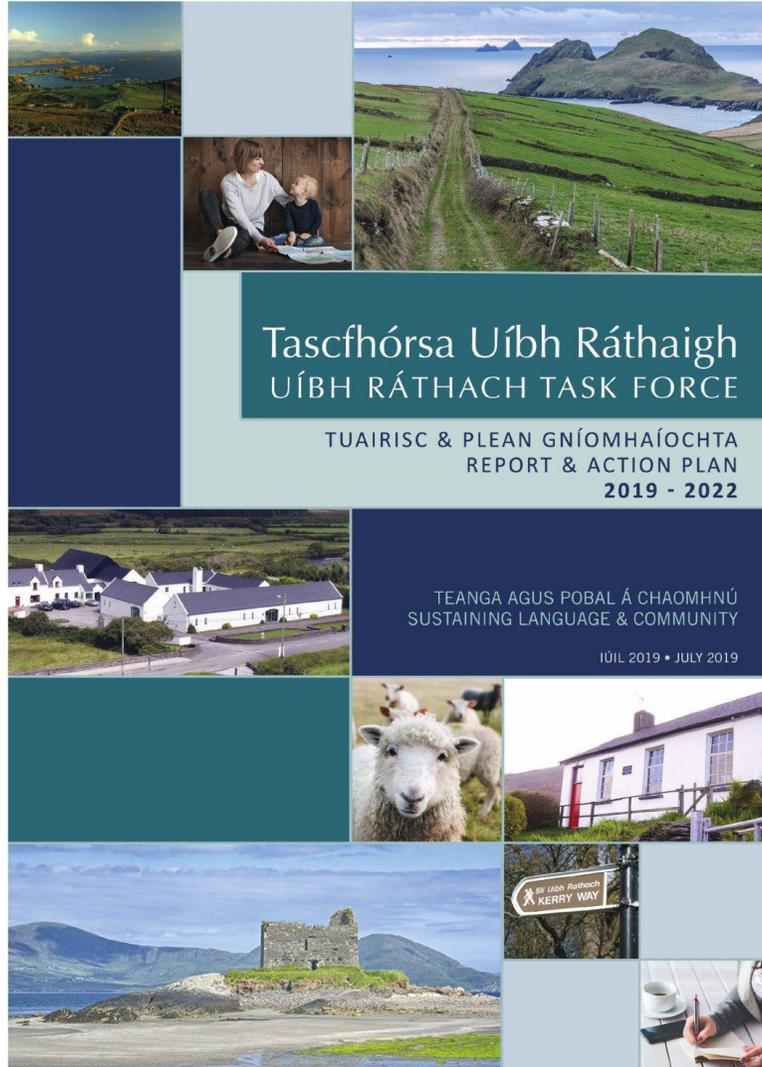
Budapest Declaration

- ***It strengthens the capacity of people as active citizens through their community groups, organisations and networks; and the capacity of institutions and agencies (public, private and non-governmental) to work in dialogue with citizens to shape and determine change in their communities.***
- ***It plays a crucial role in supporting active democratic life by promoting the autonomous voice of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.***
- ***It has a set of core values/social principles covering human rights, social inclusion, equality and respect for diversity, and a specific skills and knowledge base***

Living Labs – Participatory Technique

- The case study method of research is an umbrella term for a family of research methods that have the objective of examining dynamics around a specific subject.
- As case studies are “...the preferred strategy when “how” or “why” questions are being posed ... and when the focus is on contemporary phenomenon within some real life context” (Yin, 1994: 1), the selection of a living lab study area allows a research team to investigate different areas within a contiguous space, examining them both individually and comparatively.
- A living lab territory should be selected based on its functional geography, and in partnership with local and national partners.
- The exact criteria for detailed selection of the sectors and cohorts to engage with a living lab should be established during the early stage of a research project.

Quadruple Helix – Case Study



Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh Próifíl Dhéimeagrafach agus Socheacnamaíoch

Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile



March 2017



Údarás na Gaeltachta



The Gaeltacht

“The term ‘Gaeltacht’ is used to denote those areas in Ireland where the Irish language is, or was until the recent past, the main spoken language of a substantial number of the local population. The Gaeltacht areas are defined by Government order and every successive government has recognised the need for specific measures, structures and funding to ensure the maintenance of these communities. The existence of areas where Irish lives as a community language is an important cornerstone in the building of a bilingual society in Ireland, and it provides an environment where the language can evolve naturally in a modern setting” (Udaras na Gaeltachta, 2017).

The current boundaries are in existence since 1956. The total population of the Gaeltacht is 100,716 (Census, 2011), with a significant proportion living in the suburbs of Galway City (15,300).

The 1956 re-drawing of Gaeltacht boundaries considerably reduced the size of Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh, such that today it is “physically disjointed and scattered” (Mac an tSíthigh, 2009: 335).

While the current geographical delineation reflects the position of the population’s use of An Ghaeilge in 1956, and is based on criteria that were applied throughout the State, it does not take account of school or parish catchment areas, with the result that community-level interactions are invariably conducted through the medium of English, particularly where Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht townlands interface.

Policy Considerations

The European Declarations on Rural Development (Cork, 1996 and Salzburg, 2003) promote the development of ‘A Living Countryside,’ with vibrant communities and a symbiotic relationship between people and the environment, and between spaces and places.

The Rural Action Plan states that investment in villages and small towns, and the enhancement of their roles as local service centres are integral to the sustainable development of rural communities.

The European Spatial Development Perspective also underscores the importance of accessibility to local services as part of the mix in promoting balanced regional and territorial development, and this strategic framework also emphasises the importance of partnership between town and countryside, such that town development must not be at the expense of peripheral rural areas, but that there ought to be mutual benefits associated with inter-community and inter-regional collaboration.

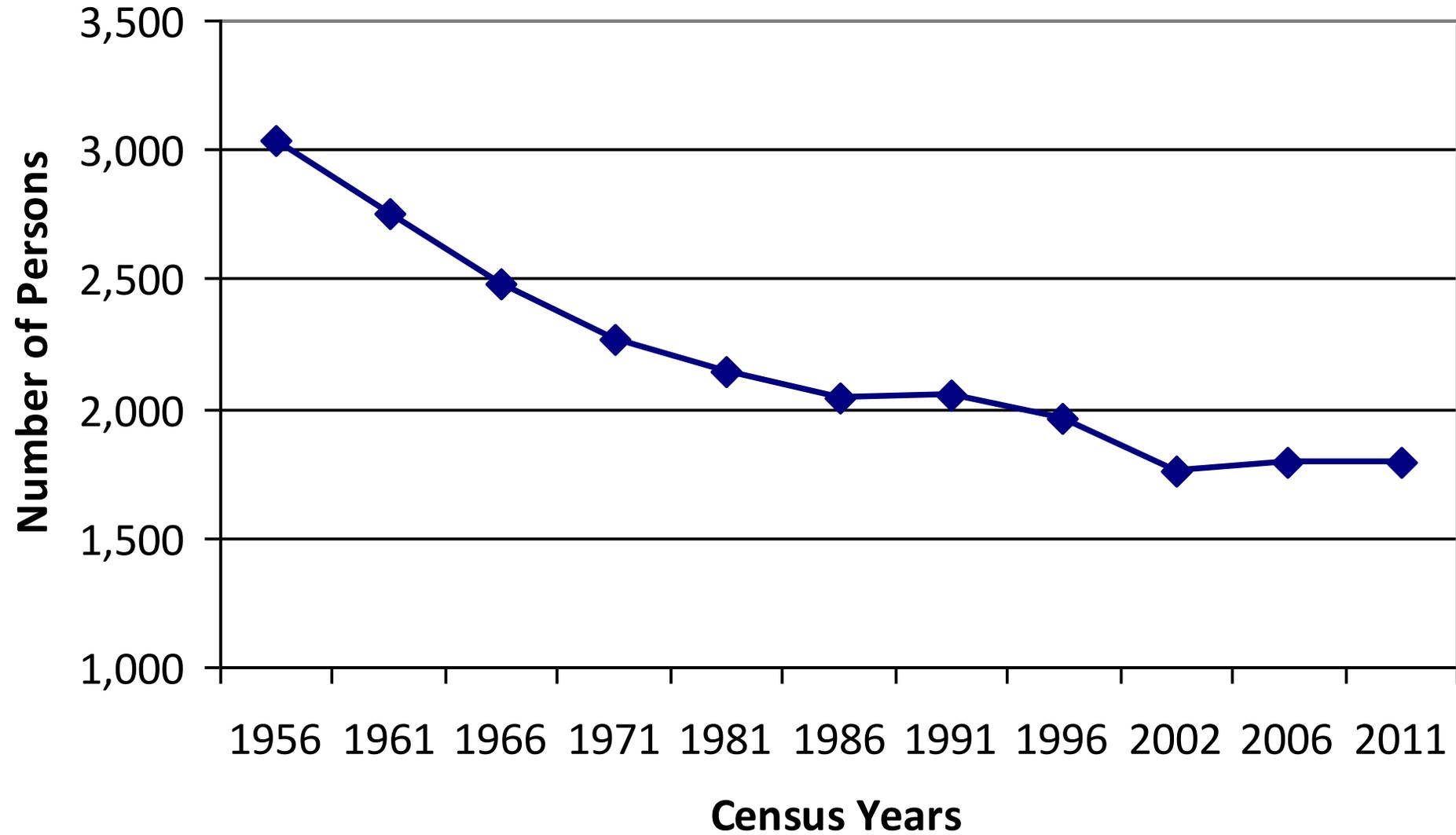
The NSS (2000) designated the Gaeltacht as a ‘culturally distinct area’ which required the following policy responses: enhanced accessibility; strengthening of existing settlements; and conserve national identity.

Methodology

- A desk-based based analysis of Census of Population returns from 1956 to 2016 at various spatial scales. These include: townland; Small Area; Electoral Division; and Gaeltacht area.
- A desk-based analysis of Census of Agriculture Data from 1990, 2000 and 2010 at ED level.
- The legally-defined area for the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht does not correspond with the boundaries of Electoral Divisions (EDs). There are 127 townlands in the designated Gaeltacht area, 4 full EDs and 8 partial EDs. Therefore, some of the analysis covers a slightly larger geographical footprint than the official boundaries of the Uibh Ráthach Gaeltacht.
- The completion of a questionnaire (110 responses) by households resident in Uibh Rathach Gaeltacht. The data collection was undertaken by Comhchoiste Ghaeltacht Uibh Ráthaigh in Autumn 2016.

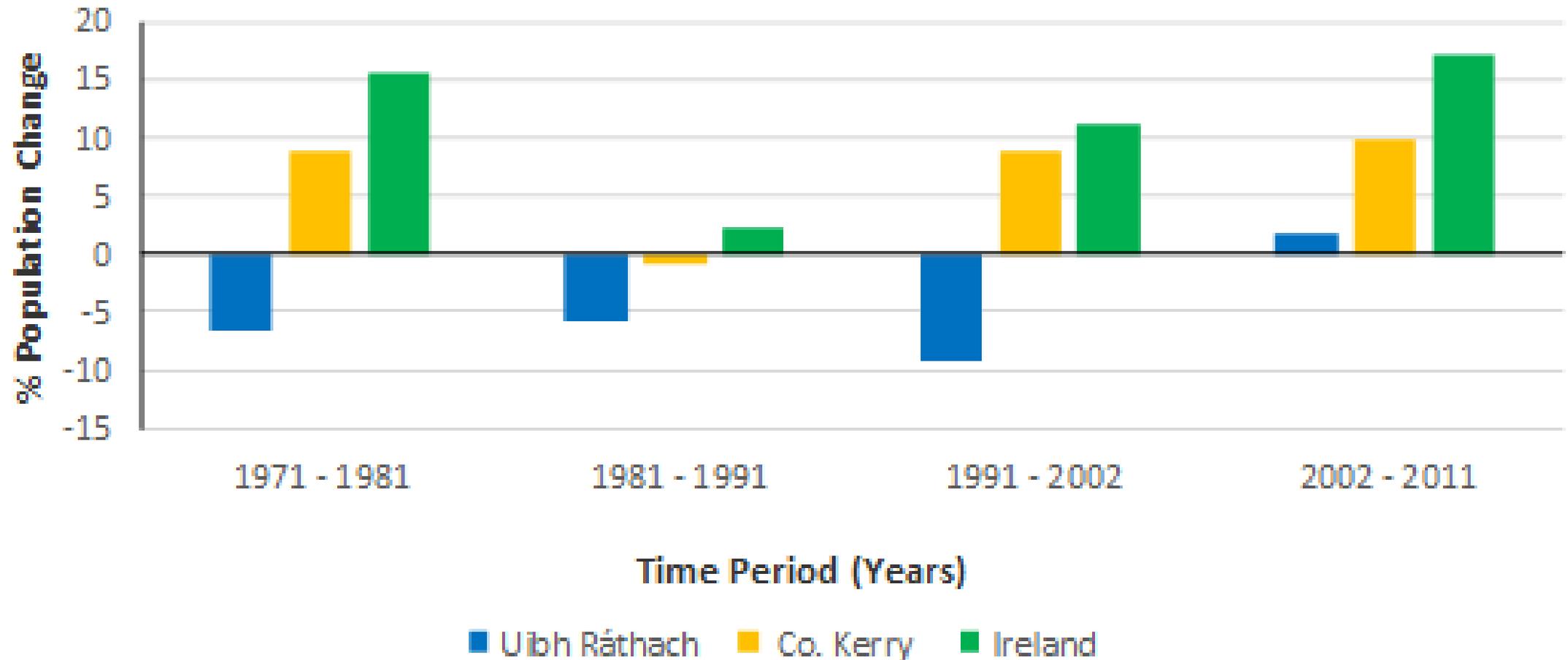


Population of Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh, 1956 - 2016

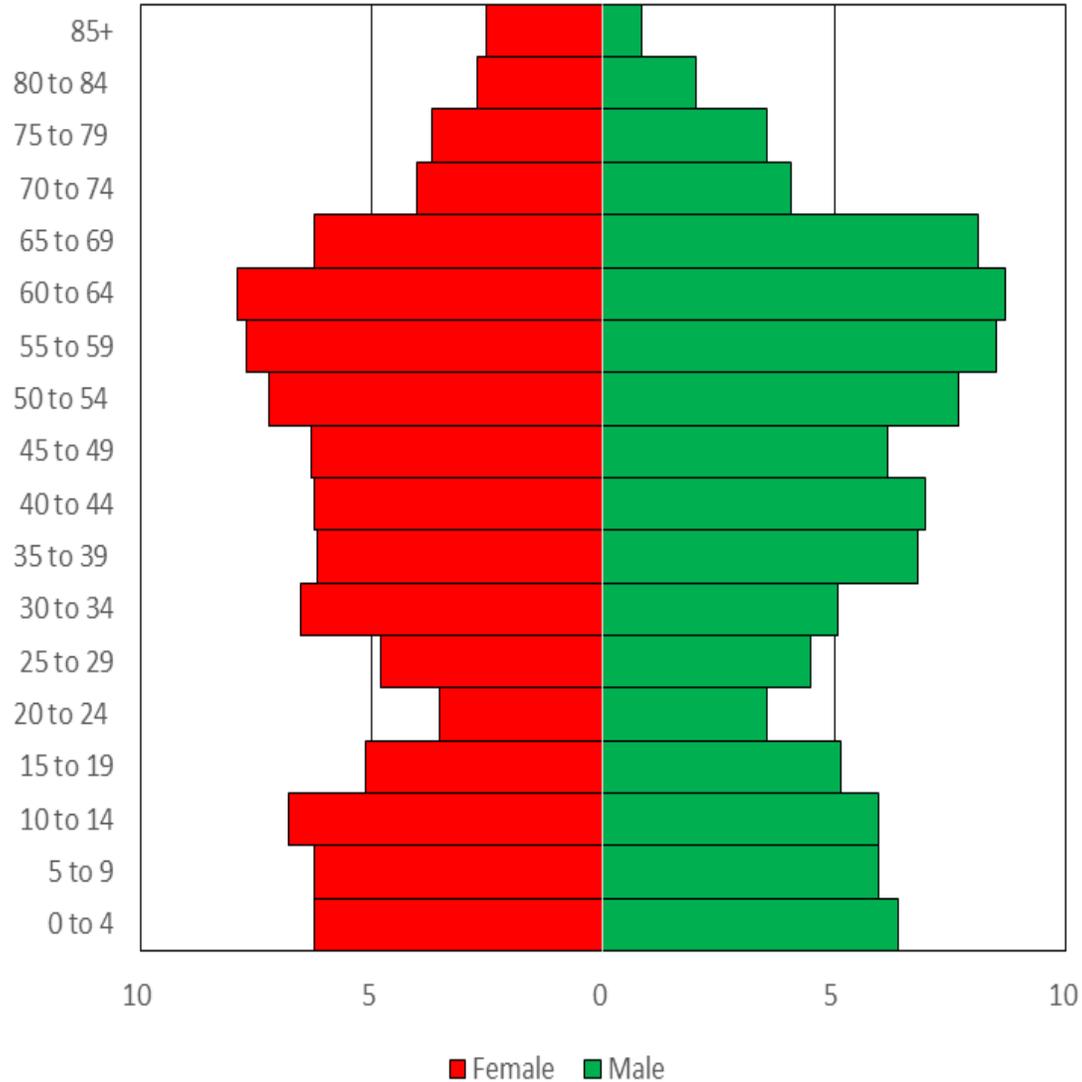


Population Change By Selected Location and Census Year

Population Change (%)



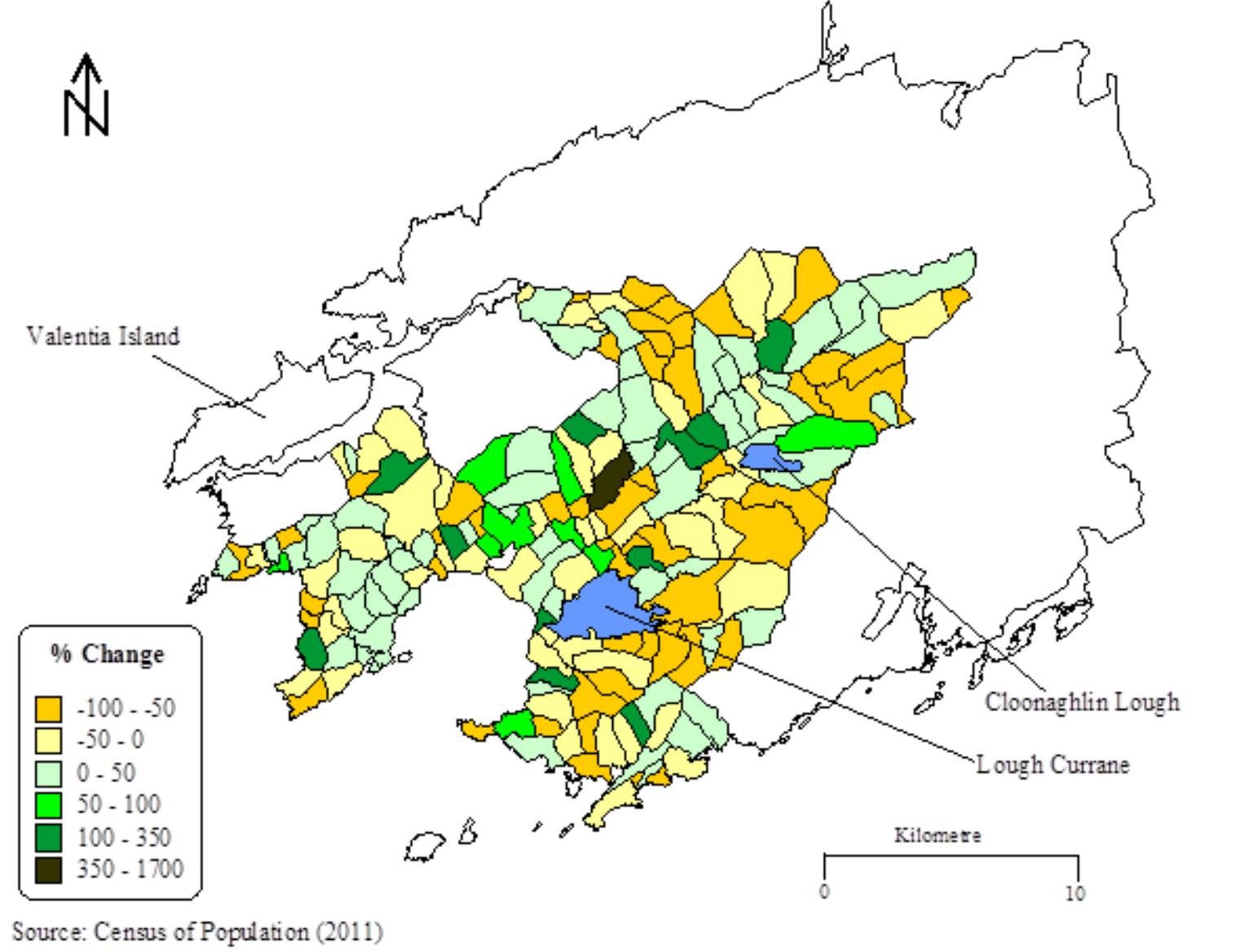
Population Pyramid (2011)



An un-balanced population structure with a significant inversion for the 20 to 24 age category.

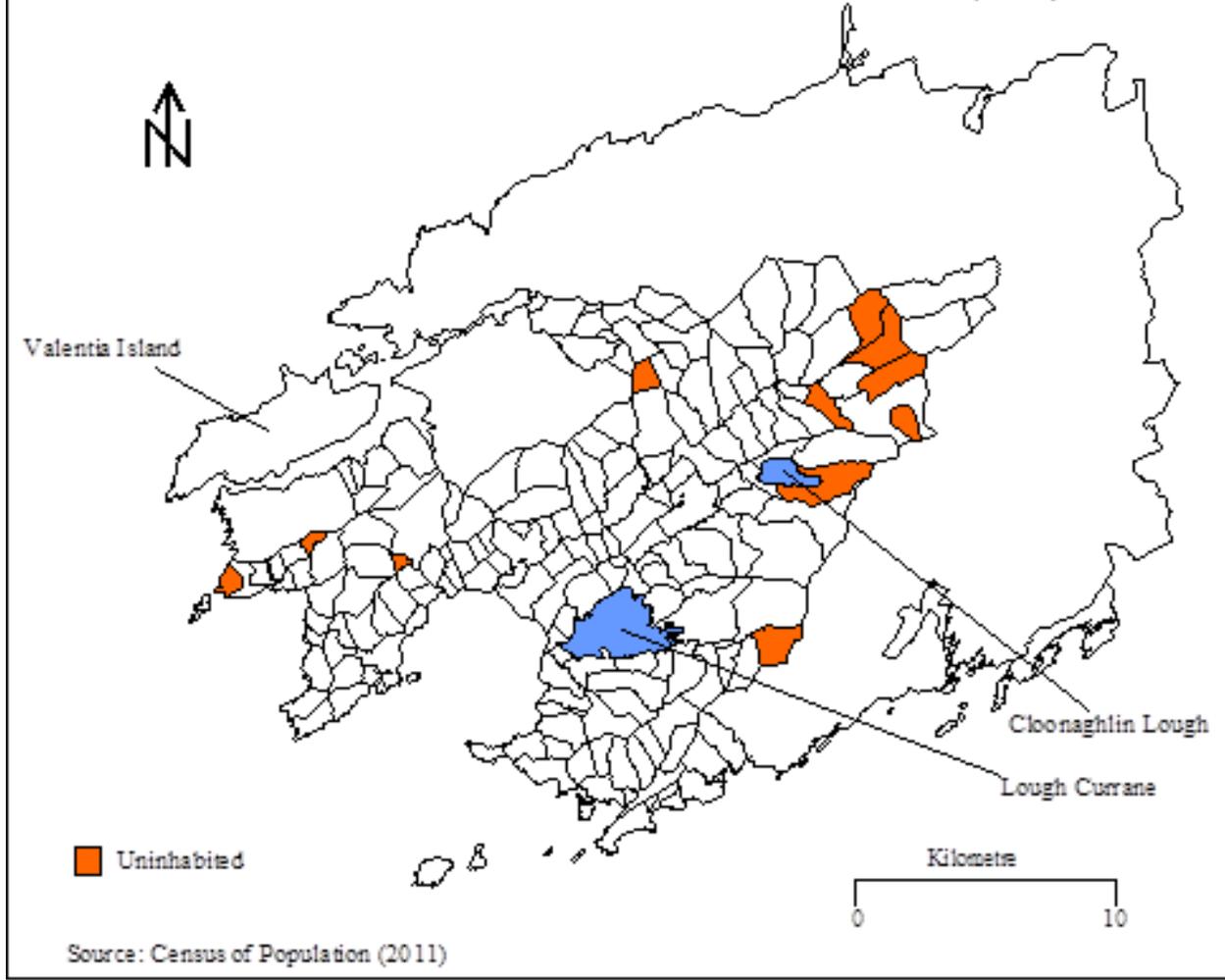
This suggests a significant proportion of this age category is migrating to other locations in order to pursue educational or employment opportunities.

Population Change (%) by Townland in Gaeltacht Uibh Ráthaigh (2002 - 2011)

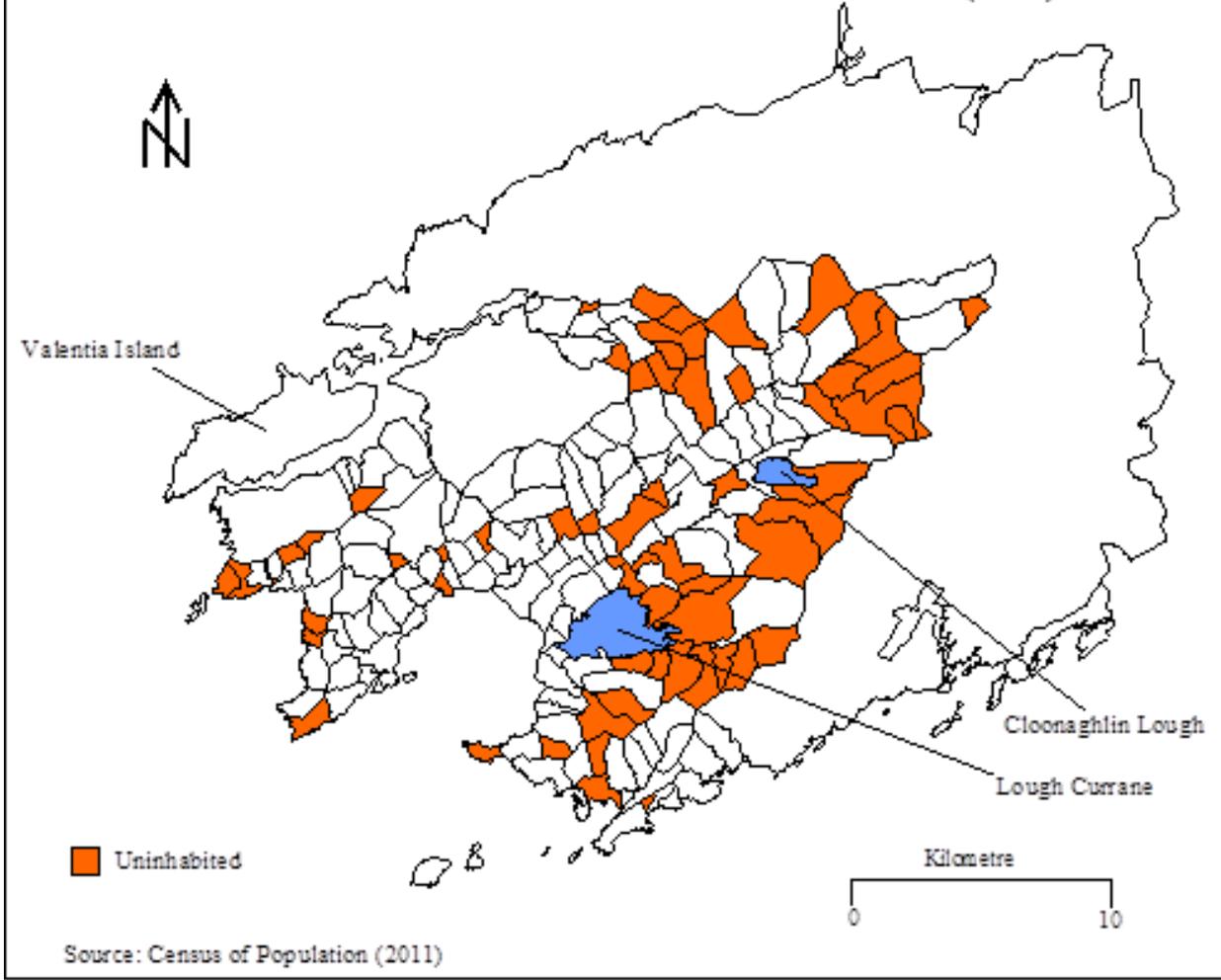


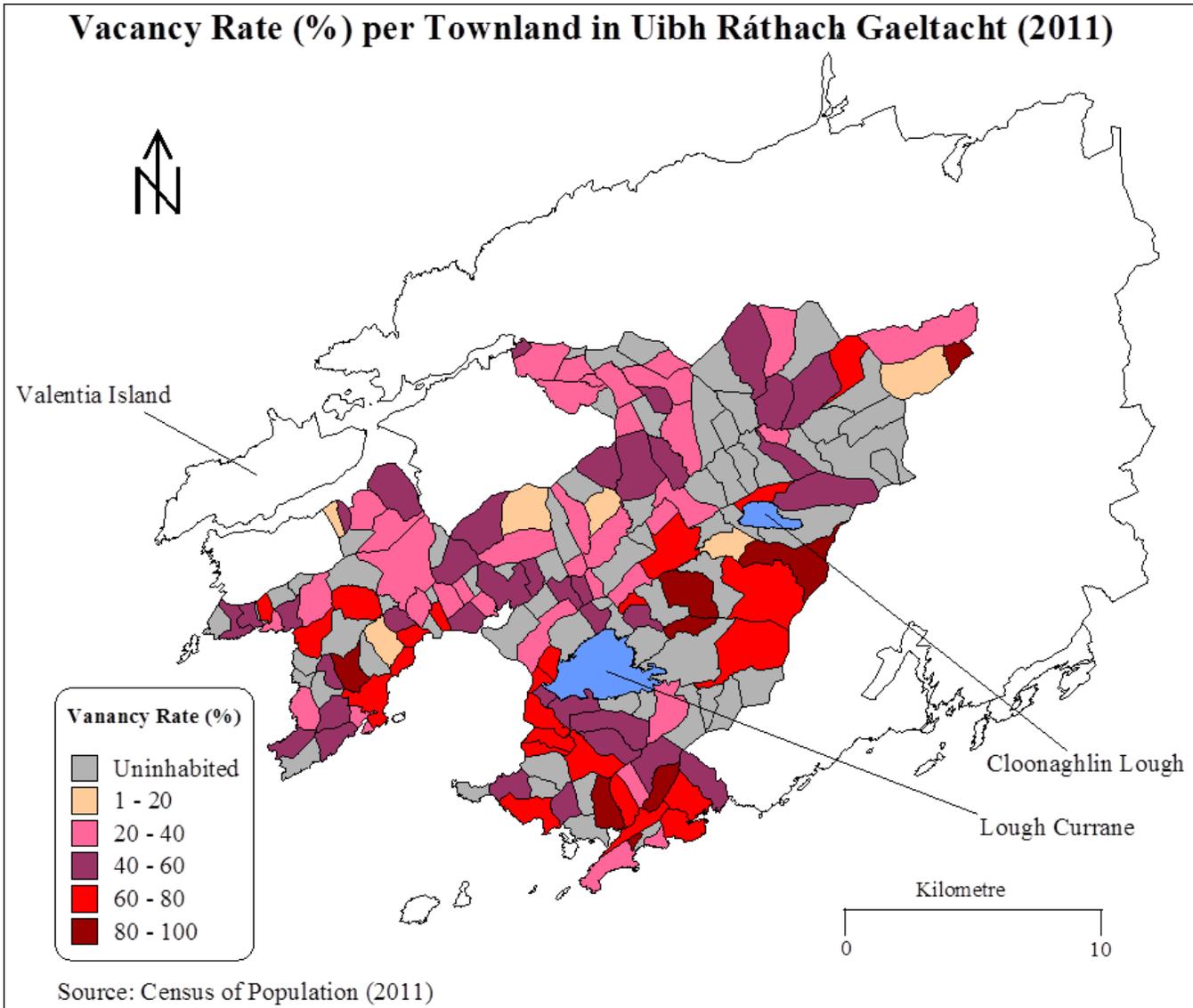
Significant Increase in Uninhabited Townlands

Uninhabited Townlands in Uibh Ráthach Gaeltacht (2006)



Uninhabited Townlands in Uibh Ráthach Gaeltacht (2011)



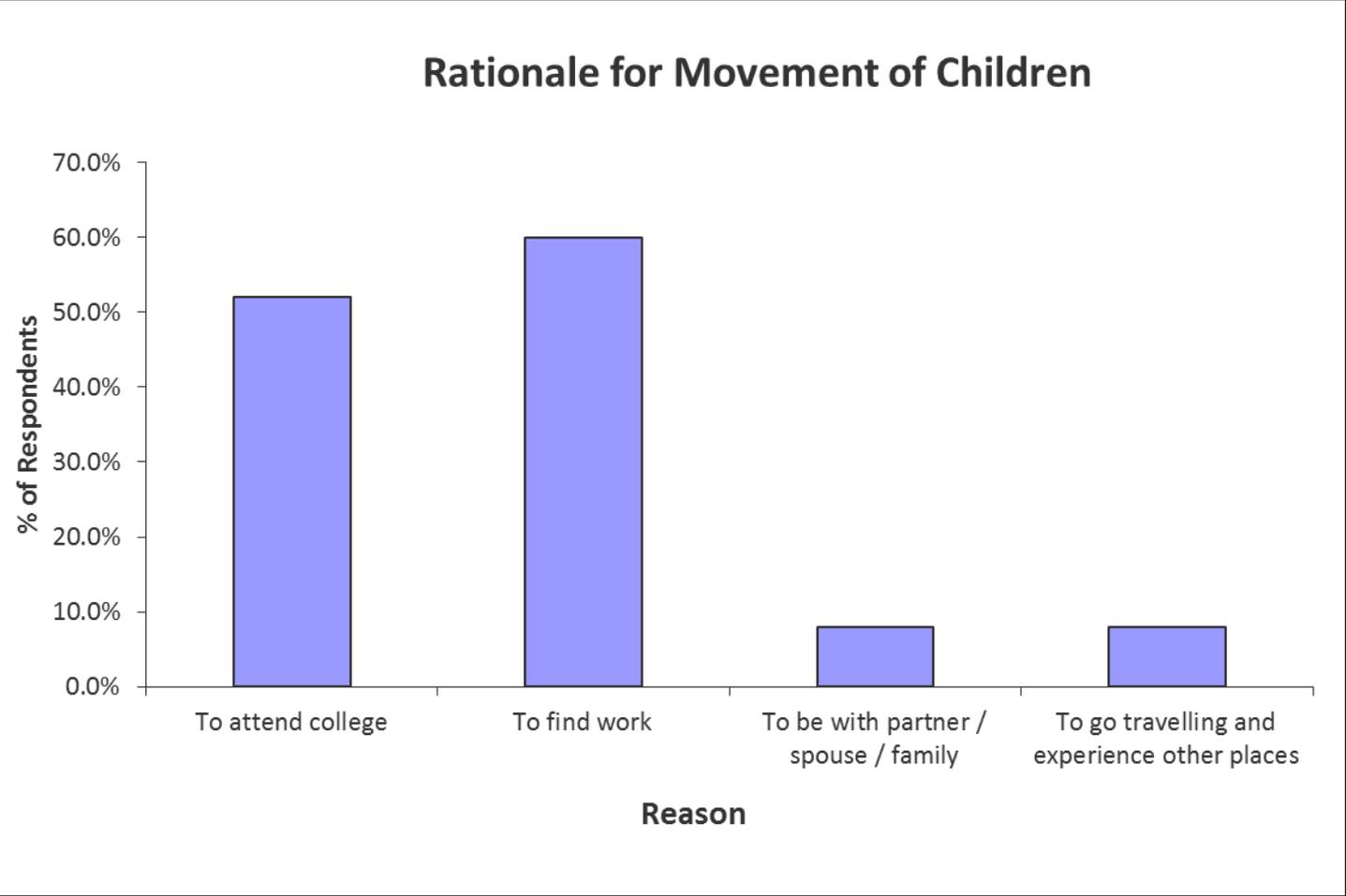
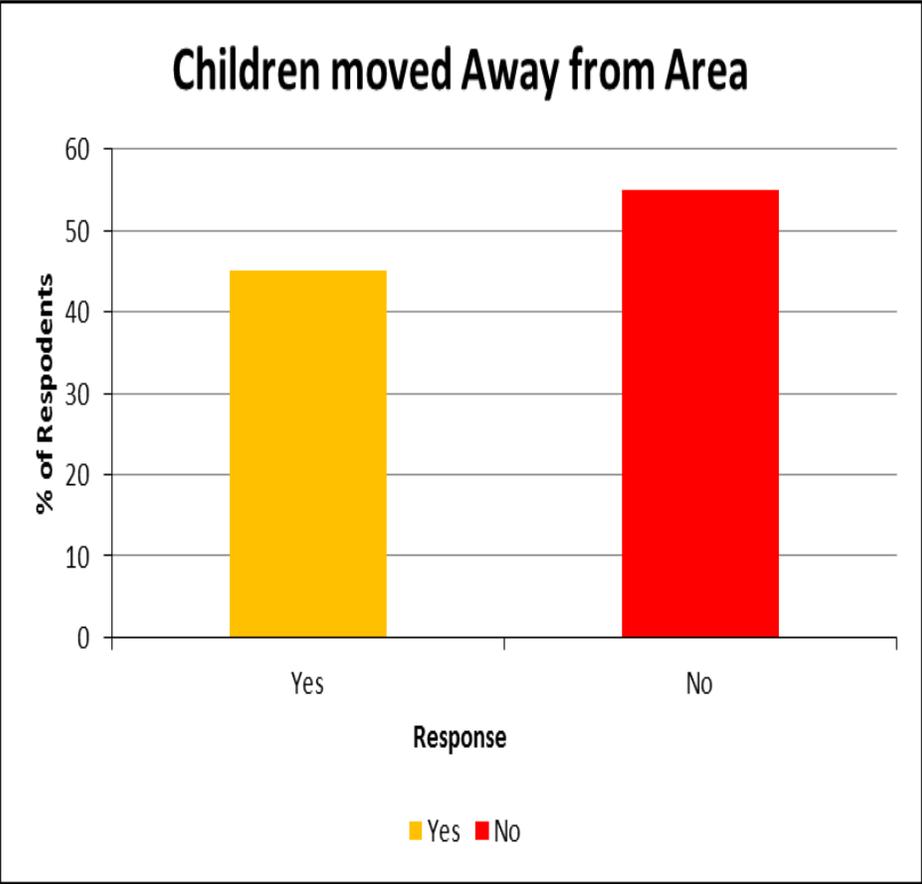


There are 1,818 vacant buildings situated within the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht, with the majority located along the coastline. The largest settlement, Waterville –Spunkane recorded a vacancy rate of 61% in the 2011 Census of Population.

This is not a unique phenomenon to the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht as ‘a spatial analysis on the location of holiday homes reveals that 29,951 (50%) were situated less than 1 Km from the Irish coastline, while 41,147 (69%) were within 5 km of the coast’ (CSO, 2012a p.40).

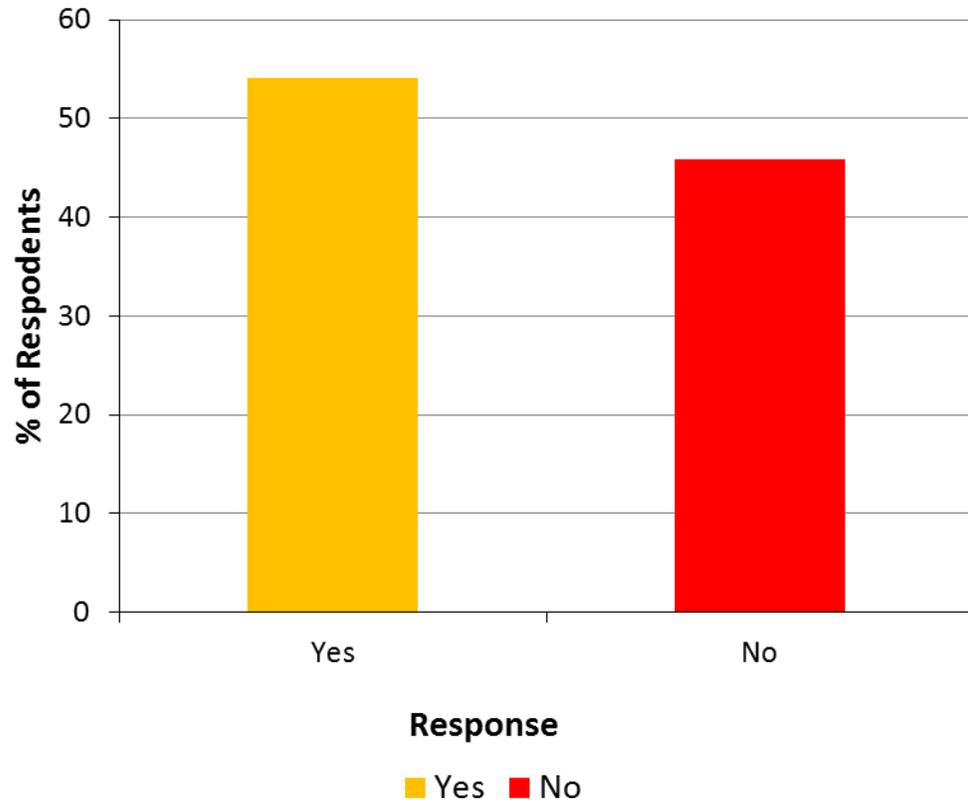
In addition to vacant holiday homes, the economic downturn and consequent outward migration has resulted in a growing number of vacant buildings, including a growing number of derelict and semi-derelict houses within the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht.

Emigration: Children

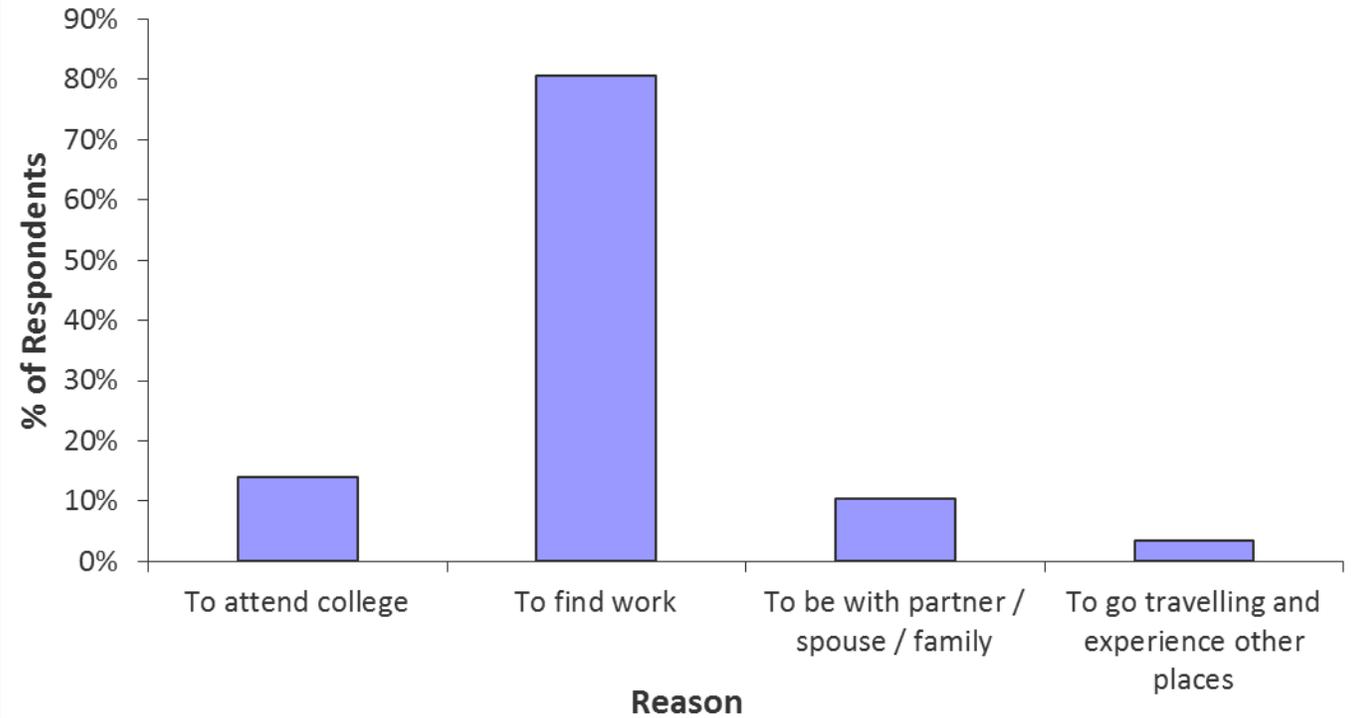


Emigration: Siblings

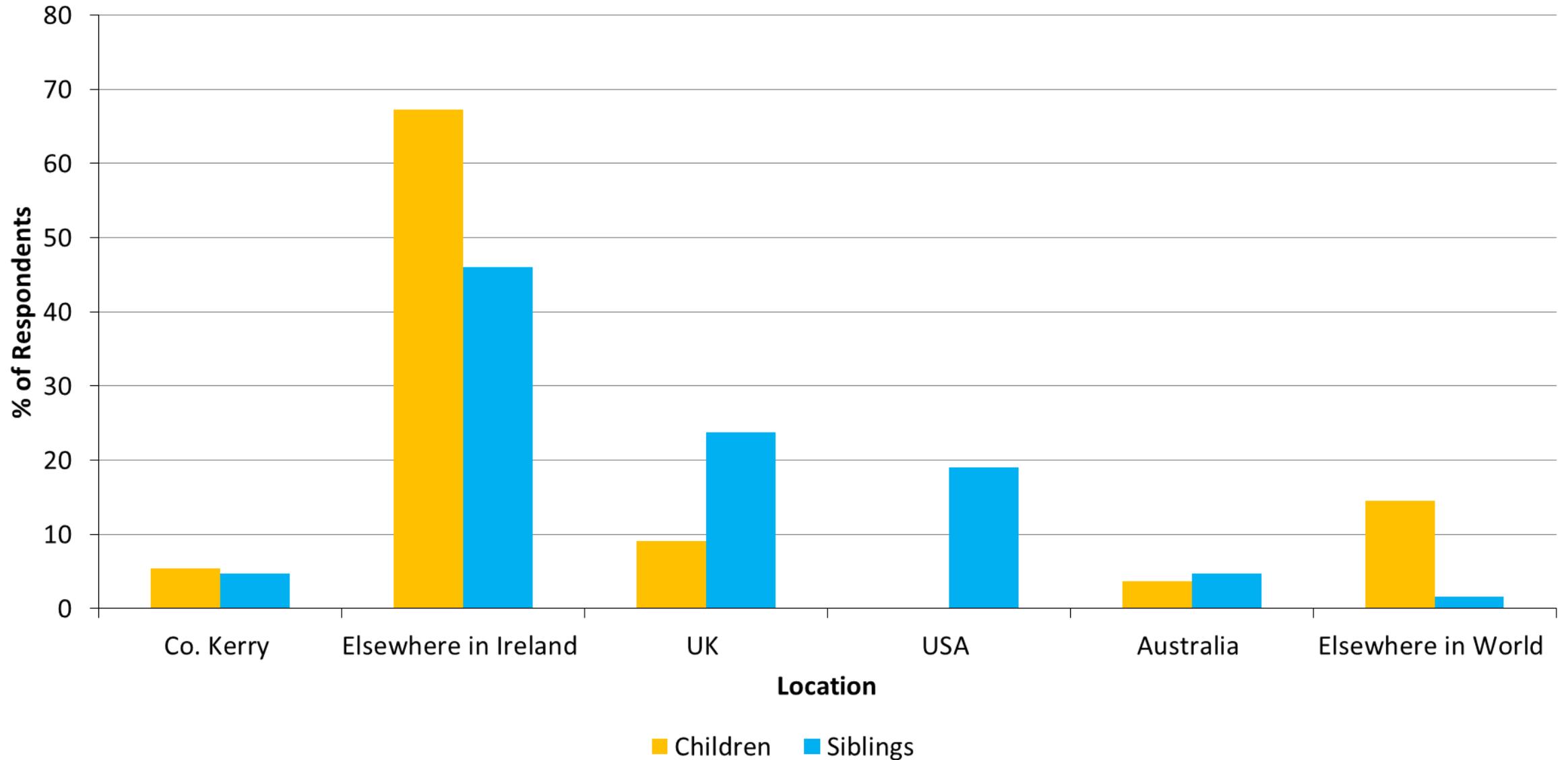
Siblings Moved Away from Area



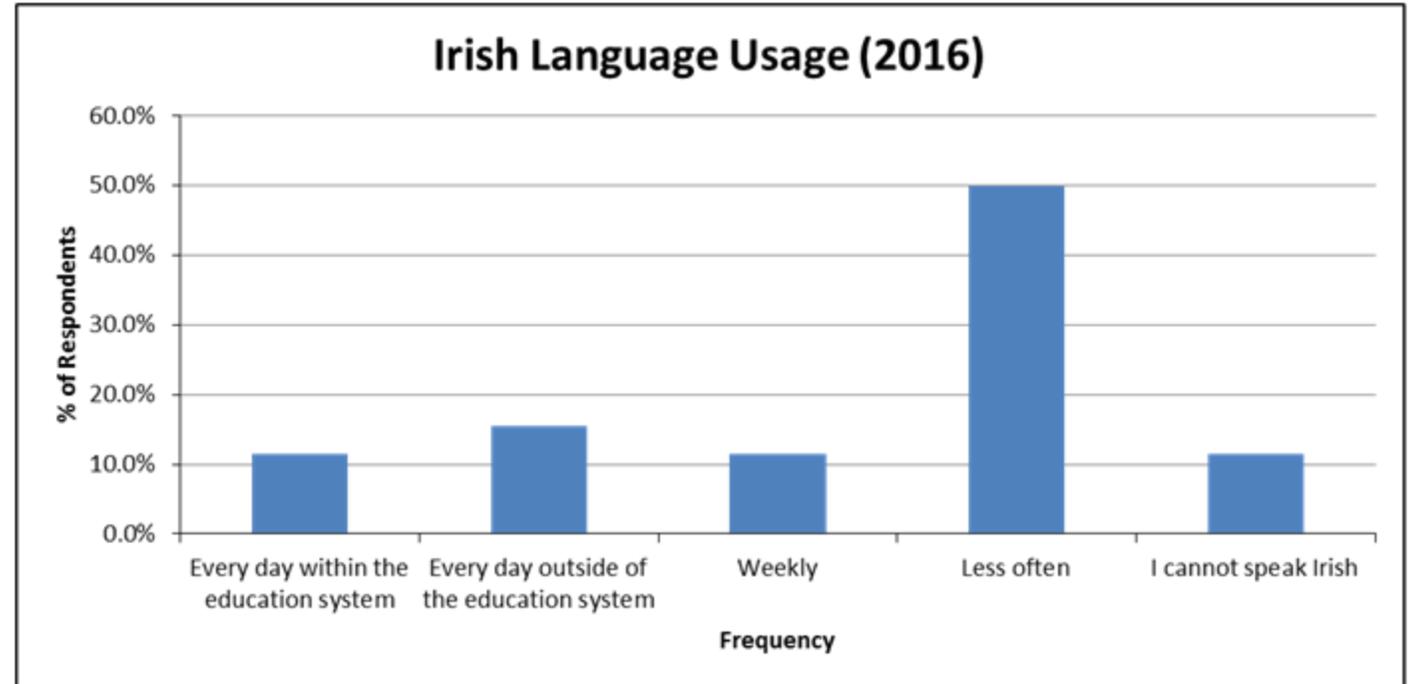
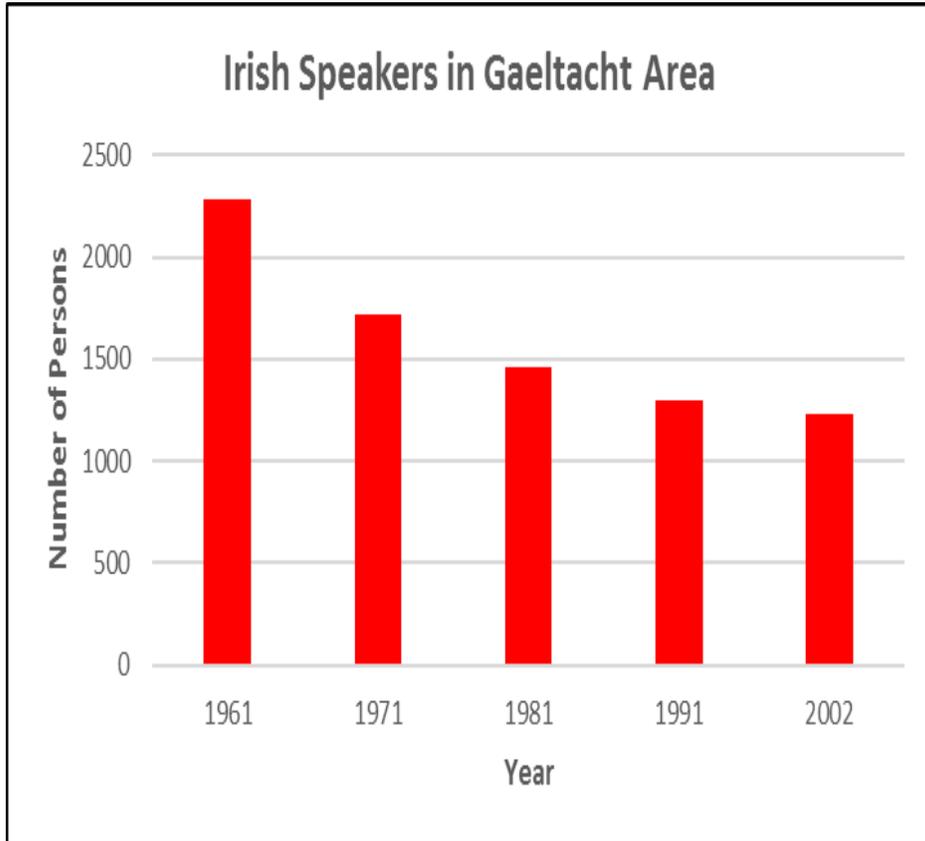
Rationale for Movement of Siblings



Emigrants Destination



Declining Usage of Irish Language



99% of respondents believe it is important to retain the Gaeltacht status into the future.

Public / Community Services and Facilities	Yes	No
Post Office	93.68	6.32
Local shop	94.51	5.49
Pub	94.44	5.56
Restaurant / Café	82.89	17.11
Community Centre	100.00	0.00
Social Housing	75.00	25.00
Medical Services	80.26	19.74
Church	100.00	0.00
School	97.92	2.08
Pre-school	69.62	30.38
Regular bus service to Caherciveen	72.97	27.03
Football field	98.94	1.06
Community gym	49.21	50.79
Tourist accommodation	97.50	2.50
Tourist activities	90.14	9.86
Garda Station	41.94	58.06
Meals on Wheels service	95.60	4.40
Meals and services in local community facility	92.68	7.32
Waste collection by truck	92.94	7.06
Bottle Bank	92.55	7.45
Community refuse service (prepaid bags)	94.51	5.49

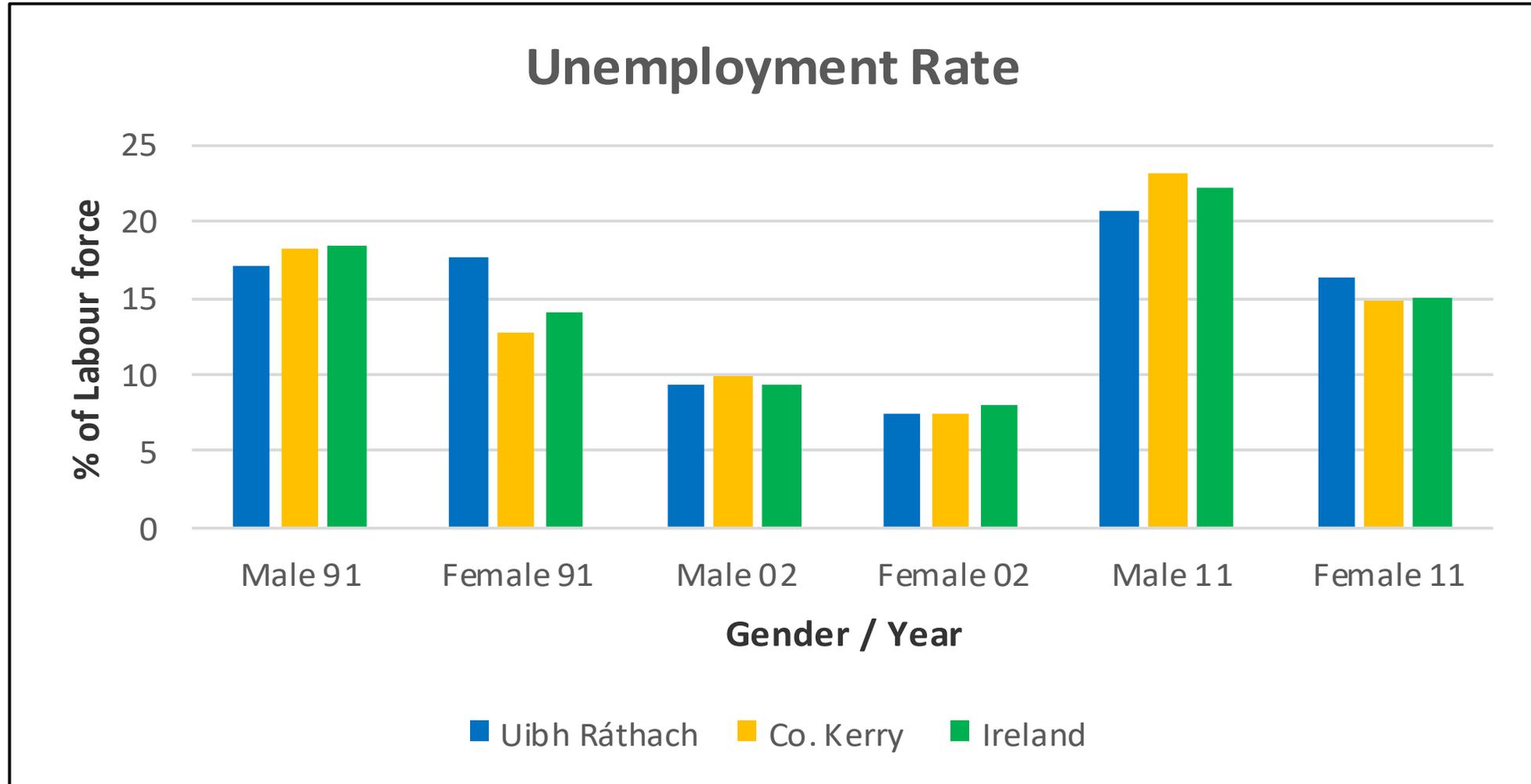
Services / Facilities Available in Local Community



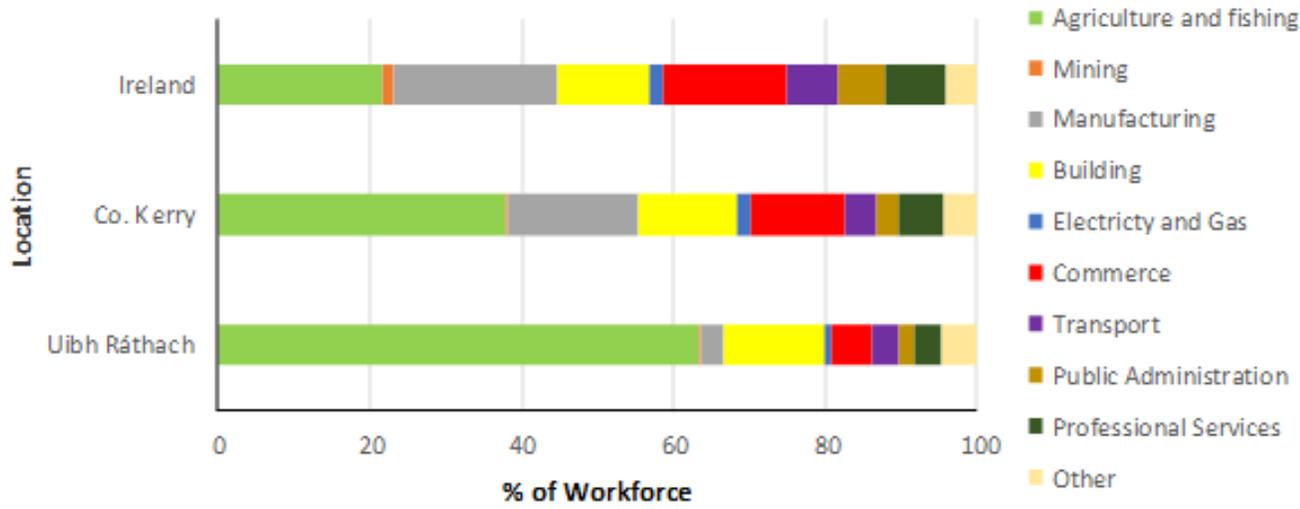
School Enrolment Figures in Uibh Ráthach Gaeltacht Primary Schools (1982 and 2017)

Primary School	1982	2017	Difference
Scoil Crochán Naofa, Cathair Dónal	64	44	-20
Scoil Mhichíl, Baile na Sceilg	89	54	-35
Scoil an Gleanna	29	30	1
Scoil Cillín Liath	116	56	-60
Scoil Naomh Fionáin, An Coireán	125	111	-14
Total	423	295	-128

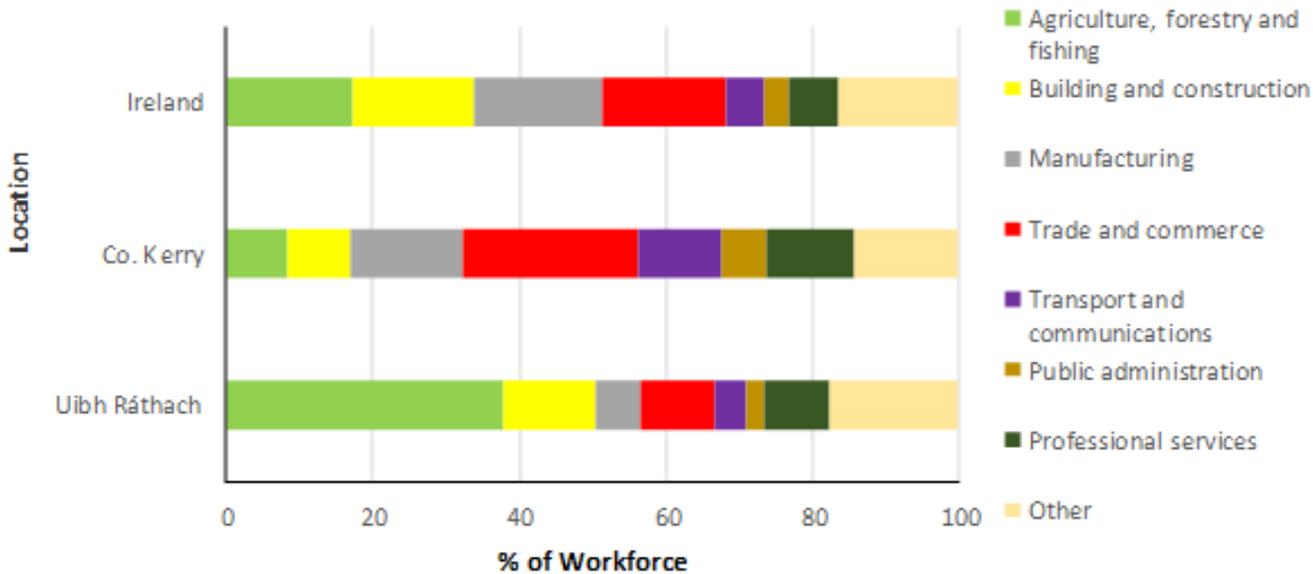
Male and Female Unemployment Rates (%) by Selected Location and Census Year



Male Workforce (1981)

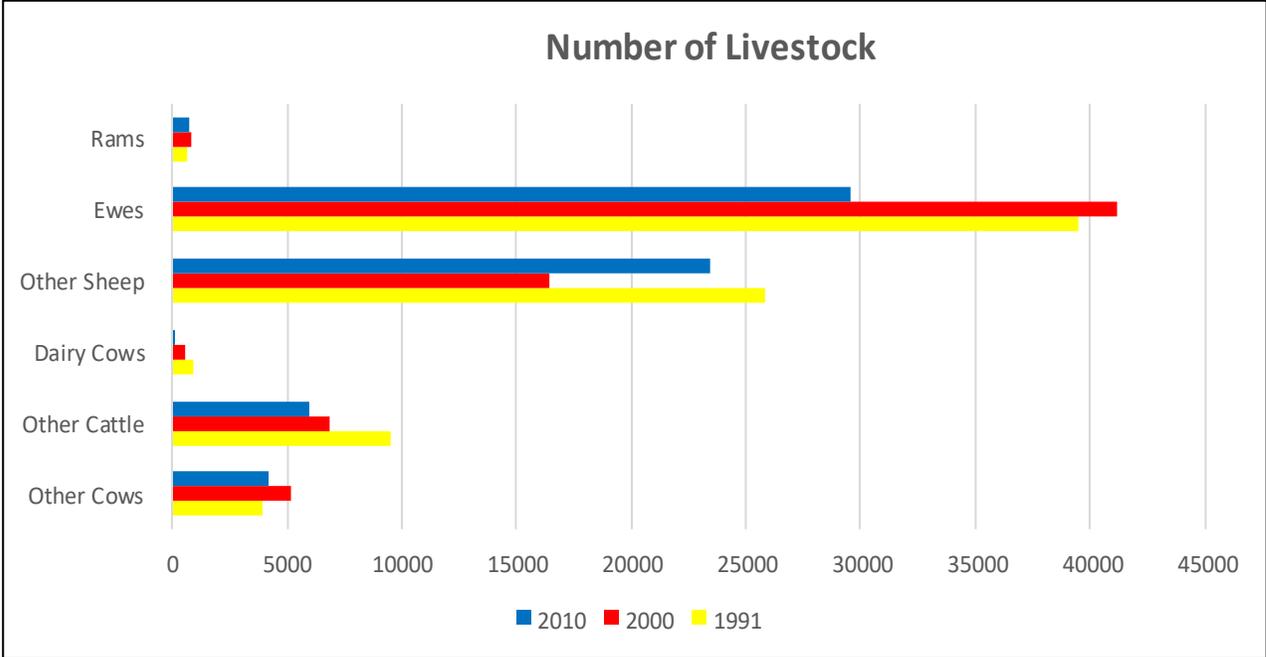
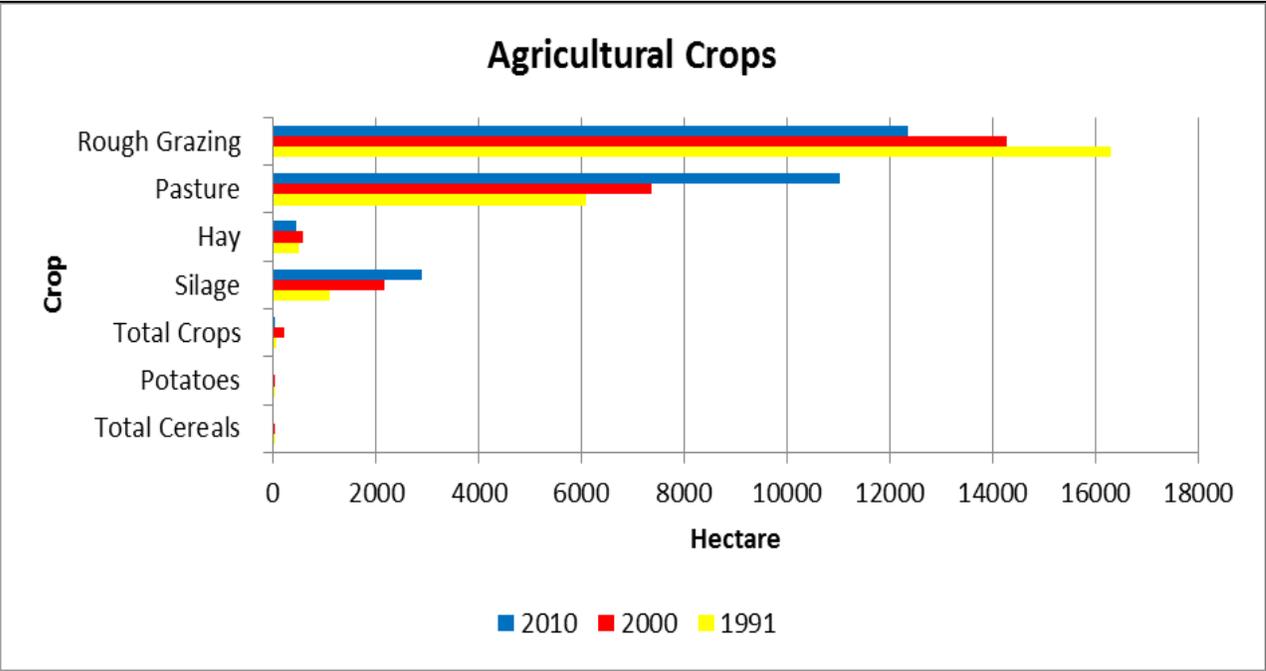


Male Workforce (2011)

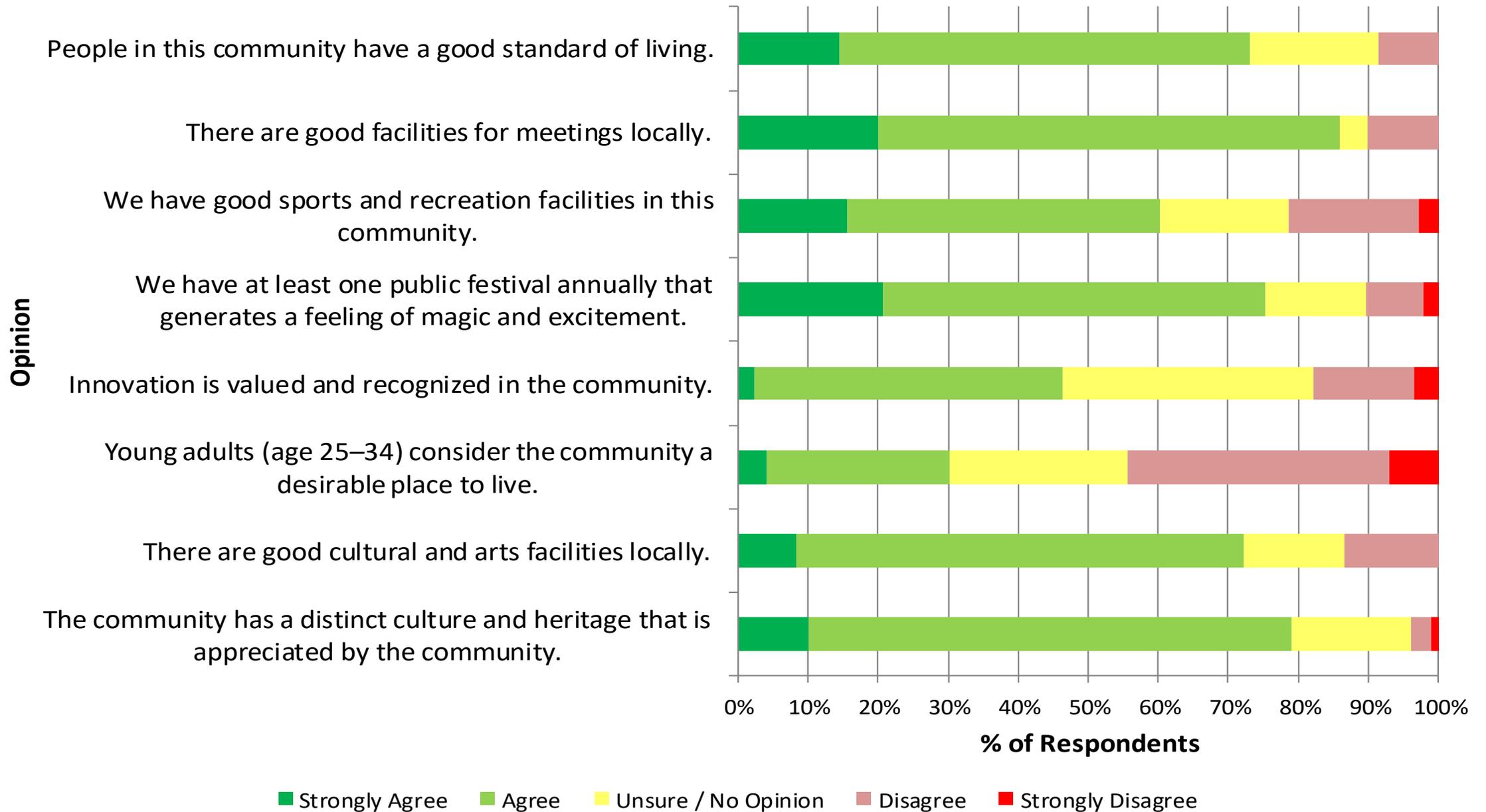


**Declining
Influence of
Agriculture**

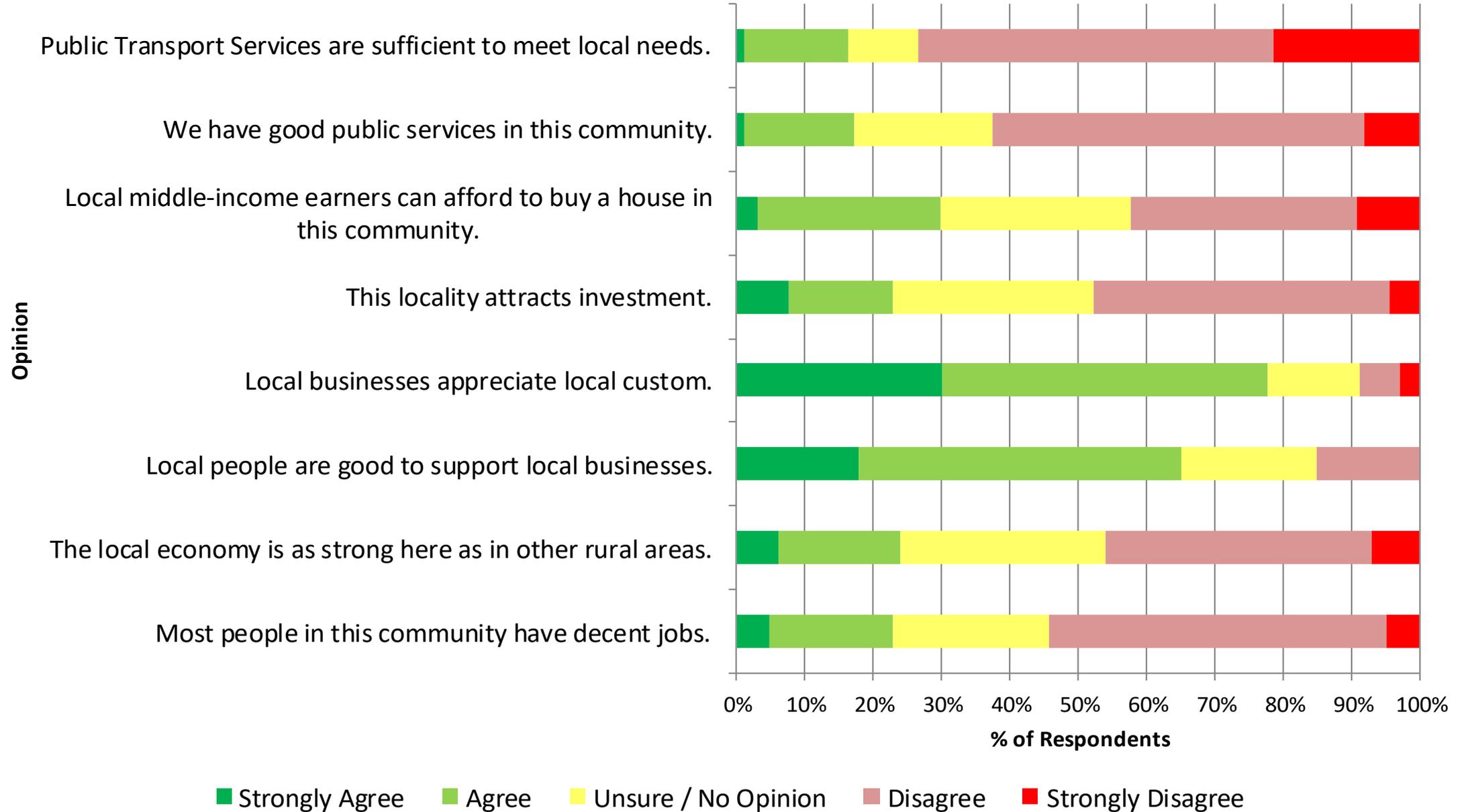
Declining Influence of Agriculture



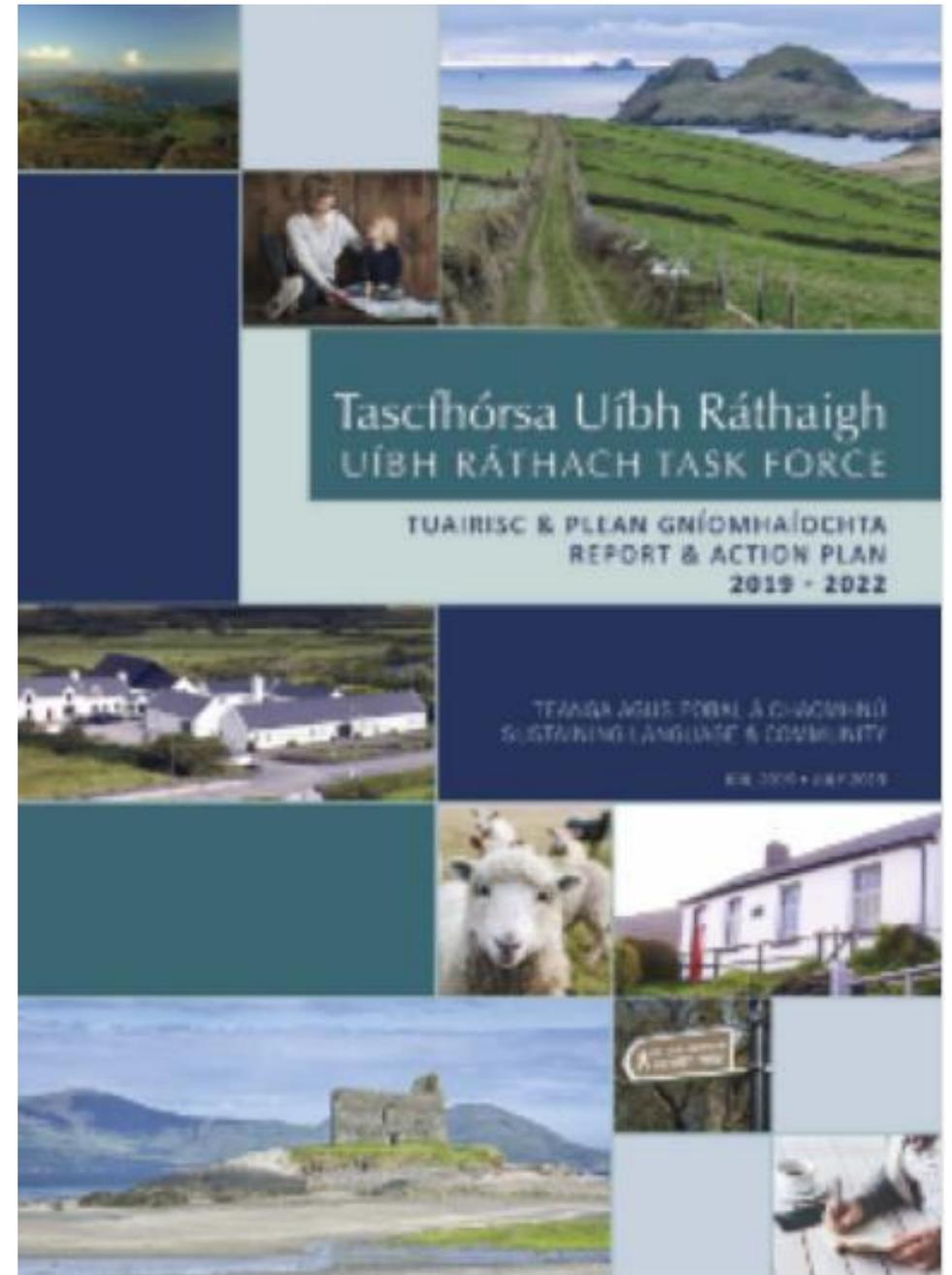
Respondents' Perceptions of Community Services / Facilities



Respondents' Perceptions of Local Economic Base



- The Report and Action Plan of the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht Interagency Taskforce, set out 100 challenging, realistic, time-specific measures aimed at addressing the severe population loss, ageing demographic profile and economic decline which has been experienced in the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht over recent decades.
- The Action Plan has been produced at the initiative of the Gaeltacht Community of Uíbh Ráthach and with the support of Government Ministers, Government Departments, public representatives and various state and local agencies and organisations.
- It was launched in 2019.



Supporting Sustainable Communities

- 3% increase in population
- Attract 10 new families to live in the area
- 20 houses to be made available for purchase or long term lease
- Develop a plan for marketing the area as a place to live for the quality of life on offer

Supporting Enterprise and Employment

- 145 new full-time jobs to be created
 - 75 jobs supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta in new private & public enterprise space
 - 40 jobs in alternative farm enterprises supported by Teagasc
 - 30 jobs created using the natural resources of the area supported by various agencies
- New gteic innovation & digital hub to be developed by Údarás na Gaeltachta in Baile an Sceilg
- 20 alternative farm enterprises to be established and supported by Teagasc
- 15 apprenticeship places per year supported by Kerry ETB

Other Targets

Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities

- Implement Plean Teanga Chiarraí Theas (South Kerry Language Plan)
- 5% increase in daily Irish speakers
- Re-establish an Irish Language College in the Area supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential

- 10% increase visitors to the area
- 20% increase in Tourism accommodation all year round

Improving Rural Infrastructure

- Reinstate 24-hour helicopter emergency hospital transfer
- Investigate differential tax subsidies as an incentive to locate in the area

Conclusion and Recommendations

Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh is culturally rich, and its landscapes and people give expression to distinctive elements of Ireland's heritage and identity that merit greater recognition, protection, promotion and investment.

The area's natural and cultural resources represent the bedrock of the local economy, and these need to be more fully harnessed in the promotion of economic development.

Despite its local and endogenous resources and strengths, and the supports provided by LEADER and Údarás na Gaeltachta among others, Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh is not performing as well as many comparable areas on Ireland's west coast and the area is not performing to its full potential. The reasons for this relative underperformance are associated with rural restructuring and the decreased ability of agriculture and fishing to sustain employment.

Structural weaknesses in Uíbh Ráthach can also be attributed to declining levels of statutory sector investment, particularly since the advent of the recent economic recession.

Thus, the reversal of cutbacks and the advancement of renewed and targeted investments in the area's infrastructure and human resources are necessary in order to enable Uíbh Ráthach to realise its full potential. Given the area's strategic importance with respect to the Irish language, there is a case for specific and positive discrimination in favour of Uíbh Ráthach.