



CIVIS Alliance – Open Lab Project

Impact Assessment Report

01 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Title of the project Addressing the social challenge of preserving and revitalizing Scottish Gaelic through comprehensive language documentation and the development of open access educational materials for use in homes and schools to support intergenerational transmission and linguistic sustainability"

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Universities involved Fernando Martínez de Carnero Calzada, SUR
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Hub theme Society, culture, heritage; Health; Cities, spaces and mobilities

Project duration March 2025 – July 2026

02 – PARTNERS/TARGET AUDIENCE

Number of internal and external stakeholders involved in and impacted by the project

INTERNAL (All CIVIS universities)				EXTERNAL (All CIVIS cities/regions)	
Academics	Researchers	Students	Admin personnel	Citizens	Other - please specify
10				22	

Non-university associations and organisations that have been involved in the project.

ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANISATIONS		
Name	Country	Description
Bòrd na Gàidhlig	United Kingdom	Public authority responsible for the preservation of the Scottish Gaelic language

03 – PROJECT IMPACT

Social dimension

The project generated a significant social impact by strengthening collaboration between several universities, a language agency, and a minority-language community across Europe. More specifically, it involved 10 academic researchers and more than 20 speakers of Scottish Gaelic distributed across different regions of Scotland. This collaboration has contributed to the establishment of a long-term partnership focused on language documentation, education, and technological development, as demonstrated by the fact that the same institutions and many of the same participants have also joined a new proposal on minority languages that is due to be submitted to the Horizon Europe 2026 call in September. The CIVIS initiative has further promoted equal opportunities and inclusion by prioritising a language community that has traditionally been underrepresented in digital environments and by helping to remove linguistic barriers that often limit access to information and technologies. Furthermore, the project has encouraged intergenerational collaboration between academics, teachers, students, and native speakers of Scottish Gaelic, thereby contributing to social cohesion and community empowerment. Unfortunately, owing to the budgetary constraints encountered during the project, it was not possible to carry out the planned fieldwork in Scotland. The purpose of this fieldwork was to establish contacts with the primary and secondary schools where Scottish Gaelic is taught in order to implement and evaluate the practical activities that had been developed and designed within the framework of the project and subsequently made available through the project website.

Cultural dimension

The project has made a highly significant contribution to the preservation and dissemination of Europe's linguistic and cultural heritage through the documentation, digitisation, and promotion of Scottish Gaelic, an endangered minority language. Its outputs have included open-access linguistic resources, educational materials, digital corpora, and multimedia dissemination activities aimed at both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Among these outcomes, particularly noteworthy is the forthcoming publication of a comprehensive grammar of complex constructions in Scottish Gaelic from both theoretical and descriptive perspectives, as it constitutes the first in-depth study devoted specifically to this topic. By linking education, technology, and cultural heritage, the project has created new opportunities for learning and cultural participation while increasing public awareness of linguistic diversity and the importance of endangered languages. As mentioned previously, it is unfortunate that the workshops, public talks, and collaborations with schools and cultural organisations originally planned to take place in Scotland could not be carried out. These activities were intended to establish a stronger connection between the project, its results, and Scottish Gaelic-speaking communities, while also facilitating wider access to minority languages and cultures.

Economic dimension

We believe that the project has the potential to generate important economic benefits, both directly and indirectly, in the long term. Both the grammar of Scottish Gaelic complex constructions and the educational materials developed within the project are intended to contribute, however modestly, to the preservation and revitalisation of the Scottish Gaelic language. In the longer term, strengthening a minority language can contribute to regional development by reinforcing cultural tourism, attracting investment, and supporting creative and cultural industries associated with local identities. The maintenance and promotion of Scottish Gaelic may therefore not only benefit the speaker community culturally and socially, but also create new economic opportunities linked to education, heritage, and language-related services.

Added value for the beneficiaries

We believe that the results of this project will improve the social, cultural, economic, and technological conditions of the Scottish Gaelic-speaking community by providing access to a comprehensive grammatical description of a hitherto neglected area of Scottish Gaelic grammar, together with high-quality educational resources designed for use by both teachers and learners. Consequently, the project will contribute not only to language documentation and revitalisation, but also to digital inclusion and the long-term sustainability of a minority language in contemporary technological environments.

Furthermore, all members of this project consortium are currently involved in the preparation of a European research proposal aimed at the creation of multilingual corpora, machine translation systems, and AI-based applications that will facilitate the use of several minority languages, including Scottish Gaelic, in education, public administration, social networks, and digital communication. These developments are expected to enhance the prestige of Scottish Gaelic, encourage language learning among younger generations, and strengthen cultural identity and well-being within the speaker community.

Relevance to the context

The project addressed a challenge that was highly relevant at local, national, and international levels, particularly the preservation and revitalization of a minority and endangered language and its underrepresentation in digital technologies and artificial intelligence. It is closely aligned with current European strategies promoting multilingualism, digital inclusion, open science, and cultural diversity. The participating institutions have managed to make a significant contribution to community engagement, language preservation, and interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring that project activities respond directly to the needs and expectations of the speaker community. Through collaborations with a number of universities, a language agency, and the speaker community, the project has tried to foster a stronger sense of belonging and reinforce the role of an ancestral minority language in contemporary society.

Explain how the project has fulfilled the goals and objectives of the European project CIVIS2 (Erasmus+, 2022-2026).

The project has successfully contributed to the objectives of CIVIS 2 Stream 1 by strengthening civic engagement through direct collaboration between researchers, educational institutions, language organisations, and Scottish Gaelic-speaking communities in addressing the societal challenge of language endangerment and linguistic diversity. It has operated as an open and collaborative laboratory in which academics, students, native speakers, and community stakeholders have jointly participated in the documentation, analysis, and revitalisation of Scottish Gaelic. Furthermore, the project has promoted challenge-based learning by developing innovative technology-enhanced educational materials that respond to real social and educational needs while equipping students and learners with new digital resources for language learning and preservation. Finally, the initiative has fostered long-term international partnerships between universities and institutions in Spain, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Italy, while strengthening collaboration with a public educational organisation like Bòrd na Gàidhlig, thereby expanding the civic and educational impact of the project beyond academia and contributing to the preservation of Europe's linguistic and cultural heritage.

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