

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Ceòlas Uibhist

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 13-05-2016

1	Name	Ceòlas Uibhist
2	Language	Gaidhlig Alba
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Summer school for language, music and dance Teacher Training – Gaelic Immersion for Teachers Symposium annual on local cultural, historical heritage Winter festival – celebration of Chullaig
4	Email and phone number for contact	info@ceolas.co.uk +44 1878 700154
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: www.ceolas.co.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Ce%C3%B2las-121469947942666/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/ceolasuist YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/ceolas1

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Ceòlas Uibhist
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>Ceòlas is rooted within the Gaelic heartland of South Uist and is a distillation of Hebridean heritage. Over the past twenty years, Ceòlas has been a key driver in the island's social and cultural resurgence. The organisation focuses on performance and education that celebrates and promotes local Gaelic culture and heritage, as well as the strong cultural links of the Gàidhealtachd diaspora.</p> <p>We work to preserve and celebrate the community's unique Gaelic inheritance. The island's rich wealth of music, language and culture remains strong.</p> <p>Ceòlas is committed to transmitting a vibrant Gaelic culture to future generations. Since its establishment in 1996, Ceòlas has grown from a week-long music and dance school to become one of Scotland's leading Gaelic culture, heritage and arts organisations.</p> <p>Ceòlas has worked with Ireland, Brittany, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland on project development to demonstrate the outward looking aspect of our language and culture. These are some of our nowadays features:</p> <p>All participants to summer and winter school exposed to local language through a compulsory class of 45minutes daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Immersion language class for duration of Summer and Winter school

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Teachers who want to transfer to Gaelic teaching in an authentic Gaelic environment • Participation in International Projects to promote the language and culture of the Hebrides • Provide a working environment for undergraduate & postgraduate students to utilise their language skills. These are fixed term positions. Gaelic language classes at 5 different levels during summer school • Teacher Training engage with community in authentic language situations that demonstrate the living language and the customs of the rural people as well as with health professionals • Students given opportunity as placement in undergraduate years and sometimes if there is a graduate programme supported by the Enterprise agency we accept students on a 1 year placement – over years we have had 3 graduate placements
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	The Project was brought to our island by someone who observed festivals in Ireland and Cape Breton and thought Scotland had potential to offer similar experiences. The Project commenced in 1996 and became community managed in 2001 and has grown since then
4	Objectives	To celebrate our Gaelic language and culture within the community and share it with others who are interested in the language, music, song and dance
5	Main and close working areas	Music, song, dance and language. Support to the continued teaching of our children and young people in learning instruments and songs
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	We work with Feis Tir a Mhurain our local children’s festival and support visiting cultural organisations which can be in English as well as Gaelic
7	Implementation period	Since 1996. Operate with a very small part time team – have a vision for the future that is very different

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES		
8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grown from 50 participants to 120 (maximum to fit in facility) • Iain MacDonald is artistic director • South Uist is known for its Piping tradition • People come from all over the world on an annual basis
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grown from a turnover of £60,000 to £200,000 in 2015 • 3 part time permanent staff • In 2015 we also had 3 fixed term full time staff

10	Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regarded as the best Gaelic Project by many• Showcase events in Glasgow and Edinburgh to our Diaspora
11	Documentation, reference material	Been subject to extensive reports by external agencies
12	Presentation video	https://vimeo.com/87190735
13	Other relevant information	We are an Award winning organisation in the last years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MG Alba <i>Community Project of the Year</i> (Winner 2008)• MG Alba & Daily Record <i>Gaelic International Award</i> for Ceòlas' EOST Project (Finalist 2013)• Bòrd na Gàidhlig & Daily Record <i>Gaelic as an Economic Asset</i> (Winner 2014)• MG Alba & Daily Record <i>Gaelic International Award</i> for our international work and profile (Winner 2015)