

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Financial and development support for Fèisean

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 29-03-2016

1	Name	Fèisean nan Gàidheal
2	Language	Gàidhlig (Scots Gaelic)
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Education and Arts
4	Email and phone number for contact	Arthur Cormack arthur@feisean.org +1478 613355
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: www.feisean.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/feisean Twitter: @fngaidheal

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Financial and development support for Fèisean
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a supporting network of 47 local Fèisean (Gaelic arts tuition festivals) across Scotland. It carries out the organisation of Cèilidh Trails and the Blas Festival, some Gaelic-medium residential events and also extensive Gaelic music, drama and language tuition in schools.</p> <p>The financial and development support for Fèisean offers tuition in Gaelic arts (traditional music, dance and drama) to around 6,000 young people (8-18) each year. In addition, Fèisean nan Gàidheal organizes and promotes 7 Cèilidh Trails (traditional music tours) which offer young people a summer job playing music having been trained in various aspects of being a professional musician. Besides, the Blas Festival is an annual showcase of Gaelic arts which takes place in venues across the Highlands of Scotland and Argyll each year.</p> <p>Moreover, the organization runs a Gaelic language residential event called 5 Latha designed to ensure young people pick up vocabulary connected with non-school activities in the community. It also runs a Gaelic Drama Summer School which lasts for a fortnight and offers young people the opportunity to gain acting, writing, film-making and production skills through the medium of Gaelic.</p> <p>The Fèisgoil service delivers traditional music tuition in around 200 primary schools on a regular basis as well as Gaelic drama work in a number of secondary schools. It has also started delivering Gaelic language tuition in schools for beginner learners of the language.</p>
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	Our aim is based on a need to develop the creative talent of young people through supporting opportunities for communities across Scotland to access and

<p>4 Objectives</p>	<p>enjoy Gaelic arts and culture, promoting traditional arts and Gaelic language as unique and defining assets that contribute to Scotland's distinctiveness'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen access to and enjoyment of Gaelic arts and culture in partnership with a number of agencies • Promote work that leads to a better understanding and appreciation of Scotland's traditional arts and work inspired by the Gaelic language • Attract people to Gaelic and offer opportunities to learn, use and develop the language • Support young people to be involved in a range of creative experiences • Enhance the creative talent and life skills of young people and support experimentation in the Gaelic arts • Strengthen community confidence and improve quality of life through creativity and opportunities to use Gaelic • Maximise the economic benefits of our work supporting population retention and growth through employment in cultural activities • Support projects that enhance community cultural development • Retain a skilled workforce that uses Gaelic in the workplace and provides strong advocacy for and leadership in the Gaelic arts sector • Promote an authentic visitor experience supporting growth in cultural tourism • Promote our work internationally and ensure Gaelic language, arts and culture contribute to Scotland's distinctiveness • Be adaptive and responsive to changing priorities, evaluation of our work and external research • Ensure equality and diversity in our work • Utilise digital technology to bring our work to a larger audience and ensure greater use of Gaelic • Address sustainability issues in relation to our work
<p>5 Main and close working areas</p>	<p>Fèisean nan Gàidheal delivers a programme covering four areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and Development of Fèisean • Enhancement of Skills & Creative Talent • Enhancement of Gaelic Arts & Culture in Creative Learning • Audience Development and Engagement
<p>6 Collaborating entities and their working areas</p>	<p>Creative Scotland (whole of Scotland); Highlands & Islands Enterprise (Highlands and Islands of Scotland); Bòrd na Gàidhlig (whole of Scotland); The Highland Council (Highlands local authority); Argyll & Bute Council (Argyll and the Islands local authority); Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles of Scotland local authority)</p>
<p>7 Implementation period</p>	<p>Ongoing. Established in 1988 and or work has grown since then</p>

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

<p>8 Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)</p>	<p>Fèisean nan Gàidheal is one of Creative Scotland's regularly funded organisations and supports 46 tuition-based Fèisean that offer tuition in traditional Gaelic arts to young people across Scotland. For over 30 years, the Fèisean have been tutoring young people in traditional music, Gaelic song and Gaelic drama. We have around 6,000 young people annually taking part in such tuition. Audiences for our events and other projects we are involved in mean we reach around 60,000 people annually and that figure rises to 482,000 when television appearances and YouTube hits are taken into account.</p>
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<p>9 Investment (economic, time, people...)</p>	<p>Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Fiona Hyslop, said in <i>Past, Present & Future: Culture & Heritage in an Independent Scotland</i>: "We know that immersion in cultural activity can help bolster the resilience and well-being of communities and individuals. I'm thinking here of Fèisean nan Gàidheal which is at the forefront of Gaelic arts development, with research suggesting that participation not only increases skills in young people but also self-esteem and a sense of identity."</p> <p>Sustained investment in Fèisean means that we now employ hundreds of musicians and singers on a regular basis to teach in communities and in schools. Fèisean have played a key part in producing a large number of excellent performers and players, some of whom are now in the top flight of Scottish musicians, making their living from performing and teaching Scottish traditional music and Gaelic song across the globe. They also produce content that helps to fill the schedules of radio and television programmes as well as contributing to the earnings of recording studios and record companies. Fèisean play an important part in supporting the Gaelic language skills of young people, and engendering positive attitudes towards the language among participants, with many having gone on to develop fluency in Gaelic.</p> <p>The turnover of Fèisean and Fèisean nan Gàidheal activities is now around £2.5m per annum and the economic impact is much greater.</p>
<p>10 Results</p>	<p>http://www.feisean.org/en/information/annual-reports/</p>
<p>11 Documentation, reference material</p>	<p>http://www.feisean.org/en/feisean-en/research/</p>
<p>12 Presentation video</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/user/feiseannangaidheal</p>
<p>13 Other relevant information</p>	<p>http://www.feisean.org/en/</p>