

**DOCUMENTS OF PAN-EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**  
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**Abstract:** *the article analyzes the documents of pan-European organizations for the protection of the Linguistic diversity in the Republic of Ireland. The laws that support the national language are necessary for the harmonious development of the language. The state fully supports the revival of the Irish language, creates the necessary legislative framework, provides organizational and financial support to all involved in the process of reviving the language. The language is the most significant symbol of national identity, the use of language as a cultural symbol is a consequence of identity, the existence of language is a necessary condition for self-identity.*

**Keywords:** *the Irish language, the language diversity, the national language, supporting laws.*

**ДОКУМЕНТЫ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ ПО ЗАЩИТЕ ЯЗЫКОВОГО  
РАЗНООБРАЗИЯ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ ИРЛАНДИЯ**  
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**Аннотация:** *в статье анализируются документы общеевропейских организаций по защите языкового разнообразия в Республике Ирландия. Законы, поддерживающие национальный язык, необходимы для гармоничного развития языка. Государство всемерно поддерживает возрождение ирландского языка, создает необходимую законодательную базу, оказывает организационную и финансовую поддержку всем, кто участвует в процессе возрождения языка. Язык является наиболее значимым символом национальной идентичности, использование языка как культурного символа является следствием идентичности, существование языка является необходимым условием самоидентификации.*

**Ключевые слова:** *ирландский язык, языковое разнообразие, законы, поддерживающие национальный язык.*

The laws that support the national language are necessary for the harmonious development of the language. The XX century was a turning point in the world and especially European politics in relation to the society's attitude to regional or little-used languages. Despite the fact that Ireland remained basically Irish-speaking until the 1940s, signs of the decline of the Irish language were obvious. The Irish Catholic bourgeoisie, which had emerged at this time, spoke English to demonstrate their loyalty to the mother country. In this regard, a new relationship arose: to speak English meant to be respectable, to have prospects for advancement on the social ladder, while Irish became the language of the poor, illiterate and politically unreliable. During the same period, the system of free public education was developed, and education was possible only in English. It is particularly worth noting that many Irish families supported the government's policy because of the widespread opinion that the child's own interests are to learn English and forget the Irish language.

For many ethnic groups, the language is the most significant symbol of national identity. On the one hand, the use of language as a cultural symbol and marker is a consequence of identity. On the other hand, the existence of language is a necessary condition for self-identity.

Anyway, the kaleidoscope of the different cultures around all over the world means the huge variety of the different national languages used among the ethnic groups. Speaking about the development of these languages existing, it is a good idea to mention that there are a lot of the European documents in support of linguistic diversity in the European Union member-states. The world Declaration on Human rights, proclaimed by the United Nations in 1948, was the first significant international legislative document also related to this problem.

Since the early 1980s, the European community has begun to express its support for little-used and regional languages. In 1982, the European Parliament established the European Bureau of little-used languages [1], which is a non-governmental organization with the main goal of preserving and maintaining the languages of the European Union and the cultures of small peoples. In 1984 there was the permanent conference of local and regional authorities, one of the legislative bodies of the Council of Europe.

Authorities of Europe, organized a public reading in Strasbourg to decide how to preserve little-used languages, ethnic minority languages, and regional languages and how to protect the language rights of their speakers. The main conclusion of this hearing was the need to create some kind of legislative document. An

expert group was approved to create the text of such a document. Its efforts resulted in the first draft of the document known today as the European Charter for regional and minority languages [2]. In 1988, the project was sent to the Parliamentary Assembly for discussion. The European Charter for regional and minority languages was approved by the Committee of Ministers and adopted the legal form of the Convention. It was opened for signature on 5 November 1992. The preamble of the Charter states that the linguistic richness of Europe is the value of the entire continent. In turn, each state, by signing and ratifying the Charter, agrees that the country's linguistic wealth is its national heritage. The Charter requires firm commitments in respect of regional and minority languages, and these commitments apply to all areas of life in which the language is used: education, the judiciary, administrative bodies and public services, the media, economic and social life, and international relations. This document sets out not only the general principles, but also a list of practical measures aimed at promoting and preserving the regional and minority languages. By 2005, thirty European democratic states had signed the Charter and seventeen of them had ratified it. Any country can join the Charter, even if it is not a member of the Council of Europe.

Briefly, by 2000, UNESCO had developed about twenty conventions and recommendations in the field of education. Issues of language development and teaching in these languages are also at the centre of attention of this organization. Even the decade from 1994 till 2004 was declared as the "Decade of the world's indigenous peoples" by UNESCO.

In 1996 and 2001, UNESCO published an Atlas of the world languages [3]. One of the UNESCO projects developed by the language Department aimed at developing language diversity and expanding the teaching of native languages is "LINGUAPAX"[4]. This project has appeared in 1986, to solve specific language problems. Its goal is to promote the peace through the respect for linguistic diversity and the promotion of multilingual education. On December 6, 1921, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in London. As a result, it was decided to create the Irish Free State (a dominion in the Commonwealth of Nations) [5].

In December 1937, the Constitution of Ireland was adopted, the Irish Free State ceased to exist, and Ireland was declared a sovereign, independent and democratic state in its place. The office of Governor-General of the Irish Free State was abolished, replaced by the office of a President elected by universal suffrage. In 1948, Parliament passed the Republic of Ireland Act, which came into force on Bright Monday in 1949 (the anniversary of the Easter rising in 1916). The Republic of Ireland was proclaimed and the country left the Commonwealth of Nations.

In the 1960s, an internal conflict broke out in Northern Ireland between supporters of the Union with Great Britain and Irish nationalists, which ended in 1998 with the signing of the Belfast agreement [6]. The Belfast agreement (*Comhaontú Bhéal Feirste*), or the Good Friday Agreement (*Comhaontú Aoine Chéasta*) is a significant document that should be considered in a framework of the Irish language revival question. This agreement creates the cooperation Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and also the intergovernmental Council of the British Isles, where the Great Britain, Ireland, Ulster, Scotland and Wales rules cooperate. Highly significant points of this agreement are the additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Ireland where the question of territory sharing of the island with Northern Ireland is revealed. The agreement was signed in Belfast on 10 April 1998 (it was Friday) by the British and Irish governments and approved by most political parties in Northern Ireland. On 23 May 1998, the Agreement was approved by the voters of Northern Ireland in a referendum. On the same day, voters in the Republic of Ireland voted to change the Constitution in accordance with the Agreement.

On 23 June 2016 there was a referendum according to the Brexit, the UK's exit from the EU. More than a half of those who voted supported the exit and after that the question about further settlement of the agreement appeared. The European Union, Ireland and the United Kingdom are opposed to the restoration of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which is enshrined in the provisions of the Treaty, as well as reflected in the preliminary final Memorandum of the first phase of Brexit negotiations, which ended in December 2017. However, the British government, under the leadership of British Prime Minister Theresa May, has recognized that Northern Ireland, in case if their government want to unite with the Republic of Ireland, should be able to join the European Union through the reunification with the Republic of Ireland.

Thus, summarising all mentioned above it is logically to say that the existence of the board between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland can lead to the great hitch in the process of the Irish language revival and spread of it on the territories. While there is no board between countries, the Irish language has got a chance to be distributed. The most important step for the revival and maintenance of the Irish language was the Official Languages Act, signed up in 2003. The Official Languages Act proclaims the provision of public services in the Irish language [7]. The 2003 law was finalized and amended in 2014 and 2017.

The Office of *An Coimisinéir Teanga* was created to control providing the public services in the Irish language and ensuring the quality of public services in the Irish language. The special Language schemes are being developed to enable public services to be provided in Irish. The Irish Language Support Schemes are providing the financial support to organizations that promote the development of the Irish language. Funds are allocated for the construction and organization of Irish language centers.

In December 2010 the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 was accepted, it provides support for all organizations promoting Irish as the main language of family and communication. One of the main features of the strategy is the attempt to create the Language plan together with the *Údarás na Gaeltachta* and *Foras na Gaeilge*. The 20-Year Strategy for the Irish aims to increase the number of people who speak Irish to 2 million by 2030, the number of daily Irish speakers outside the education system up to 250,00. It is planned that the number of people who speak Irish in the Gaeltacht areas will increase by 25% [8]. Measures are also being developed to provide public services in the Irish language and to use the Irish language in the mass media, in particular: on television, radio, and printed publications.

In 2018 five year Action Plan 2018-2022 was created, its aim is to implement the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish language. The plan reflects the need for close collaboration between the government, departments, and communities to maintain and develop the Irish language, as well as shared responsibility for implementation of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish language. All the actions and events for realising the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish language are reflected.

Ireland is a full member of The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD). It is a European system of the special language policy that works together with *Foras na Gaeilge* Company on the project of popularization of the Irish language. The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity at the European level supports the development of languages, protects the lesser-used European languages. The question about the linguistic equality for these languages is revealed by this system at the European and international level. Thus, we can conclude that the state fully supports the revival of the Irish language, creates the necessary legislative framework, provides organizational and financial support to all involved in the process of reviving the language.

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