An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

21 Meitheamh 2024

Pacáiste suntasach maoinithe trí bliana le haghaidh Kinia fógartha inniu

- **€2,374,379 leithdháilte ag na hAirí Martin agus Byrne faoi phacáiste maoinithe trí bliana**
- **Maoiniú reatha agus maoiniú caipitil suntasach fógartha do Kinia chun leanúint ar aghaidh le Clár Techspace, Tech Féile agus chun scéim nua 'Léigh Liom' a thosú**

D'fhógair an tAire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, Catherine Martin, T.D agus An tAire Stáit Spóirt, Corpoideachais agus Gaeltachta, Thomas Byrne T.D., pacáiste maoinithe trí bliana dar luach €2,374,379 san iomlán do Kinia inniu (21/6/2024). Cuirfidh an maoiniú seo ar chumas Kinia leanúint ar aghaidh lena gclár an-rathúil Clár Techspace agus le Tech Féile agus tús a chur lena scéim nua 'Léigh Liom' sna trí bliana atá romhainn.

Is gréasán náisiúnta de spásanna meán digiteach é TechSpace atá lonnaithe in ionaid óige agus scoileanna a chabhraíonn le hógánaigh a bheith gníomhach i gcruthú ábhair dhigitigh agus teicneolaíochta as Gaeilge. Cuireann Kinia oiliúint ar fáil do mhúinteoirí i réimse STEAM agus tugann na múinteoirí an t-eolas seo ar ais chuig a seomraí ranga. Táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh méadú ar líon na múinteoirí agus na n-oibrithe óige atá páirteach sa chlár agus go ndéanfar forbairt ar acmhainní foghlama STEAM/ríomheolaíochta/meán digiteacha i nGaeilge, a bheas ar fáil dóibh siúd atá páirteach sa chlár.

Is é Tech Féile an ócáid bhliantúil is mó de chuid Kinia ina dtagann na daoine óga rannpháirteacha le chéile chun an obair atá déanta acu ar a dtionscadail teicneolaíochta i rith na bliana a cheiliúradh. Tarlaíonn an ócáid seo le linn Seachtain na Teicneolaíochta Cruthaithí, ceiliúradh atá cruthaithe ag Kinia agus a aithnítear go

náisiúnta mar dheis chun tionscnaimh agus gaiscí daoine óga maidir le cúrsaí teicneolaíochta cruthaithí a aithint. Spreagann na hócáidí seo daoine óga leis na scileanna atá foghlamtha acu ó oideachasóirí traenáilte a chur i bhfeidhm agus caitheann rannpháirtithe suas le trí mhí ag ullmhú do na himeachtaí seo.

Chomh maith le leanúint leis na gníomhaíochtaí seo, beidh Kinia ag tabhairt faoi chlár nua darbh ainm 'Léigh Liom'. Is clár píolótach ar líne a bheas i gceist le Léigh Liom ina mbeidh cainteoirí dúchais Gaeilge á nascadh le daltaí i nGaelscoileanna agus i scoileanna Gaeltachta chun leabhar Gaeilge a léamh le chéile ar líne. Dearadh an clár seo chun tacú le daltaí a bhfuil leibhéil ísle líofachta Gaeilge acu trí mheantóireacht duine le duine a chur ar fáil dóibh. Tá an ghné nuamholta seo de chlár Kinia ag teacht go dlúth le mianta agus straitéis na Roinne maidir le cumas Gaeilge i measc an phobail ar fad a fheabhsú.

Ag labhairt faoin maoiniú, dúirt an tAire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, Catherine Martin, T.D:

"De thoradh na hinfheistíochta atá á fógairt ag mo Roinn inniu, déanfar deimhin de go mbeidh deiseanna den scoth ag daltaí na tíre oiliúint ar ardchaighdeán a fháil i réimsí tábhachtacha den nuatheicneolaíocht inár dteanga náisiúnta. Is léiriú é seo ar an rún daingean atá ag an Rialtas an Ghaeilge a normalú agus a chur i lár an aonaigh sa saol nua-aimseartha ina mairimid."

Ag labhairt dó ag Gaelscoil na Mí, scoil atá rannpháirteach i gClár Techspace, dúirt an tAire Stáit Spóirt, Corpoideachais agus Gaeltachta, Thomas Byrne T.D.:

"*Tá lúcháir orm an pacáiste maoinithe trí bliana seo do Kinia a fhógairt. Tá Kinia lárnach i gcruthú an naisc idir an Ghaeilge agus an teicneolaíocht le blianta anuas agus sin an fáth go bhfuilimid ag tacú lena gcuid oibre le maoiniú os cionn €2,300,000 thar 3 bliana. Cinntíonn Clár Techspace go gcuirtear daoine óga ar an eolas faoi na deiseanna atá ar fáil sa saol digiteach dóibh siúd a bhfuil an Ghaeilge acu*."

Dúirt Príomhfheidhmeannach Kinia, Marianne Checkley:

“Is mór an onóir dúinn a bheith mar chuid d’aistear Clár TechSpace leis an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán agus comhpháirtíocht mhaoinithe trí bliana eile a fhógairt . Ó thionscadal píolótach beag in 2016, tá teacht againn anois ar bhreis agus 700 oideachasóir i nGaelscoileanna agus i nGaeilcholáistí agus ócáid Tech Féile ar leith againn a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar chruthaitheacht agus nuálaíocht teicneolaíochta daoine óga. Trí úsáid na teicneolaíochta agus na Gaeilge a leathnú mar fhoinse inspioráide chun fiosracht agus cruthaitheacht a mhúscailt i ndaoine óga ar fud na tíre, tá sé mar aidhm againn muinín a chothú ina gcuid scileanna teanga agus agus a gcuid scileanna don todhchaí.”

CRÍOCH

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An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

21 June 2021

Significant 3-year funding package for Kinia announced

- **€2,374,379 allocated by Ministers Martin and Byrne under three-year funding package.**

- **Significant current and capital funding provided to continue the Techspace Programme, Tech Féile and to start the new ’Léigh Liom scheme**

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, T.D and the Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and in the Department of Education, Thomas Byrne T.D. announced a three-year financing package worth a total of €2,374,379 for Kinia today (21/6/2024). This funding will enable Kinia to continue their highly successful Techspace, Tech Féile programme and start their new ’Léigh Liom’ scheme over the next three years.

TechSpace is a national network of digital media spaces located in youth centres and schools that help young people to be active in the creation of digital and technological content in Irish. Kinia provides training for teachers in the STEAM field and the teachers bring this knowledge back to their classrooms. It is expected that the number of teachers and youth workers involved in the programme will increase and that STEAM/computer science/digital media learning resources in Irish will be developed, and made available to those involved in the programme.

Tech Féile is Kinia's biggest annual event where participating young people come together to celebrate the work they have done on their technology projects throughout the year. This event takes place during Creative Technology Week, a celebration created by Kinia and recognised nationally as an opportunity to recognise the initiatives and achievements of young people in relation to creative technology. These events encourage young people to apply the skills they have learned from trained educators and participants and they spend up to three months preparing for these events.

In addition to continuing these activities, Kinia will be undertaking a new programme called Léigh Liom. Leígh Liom is an online pilot programme in which native speakers of Irish will be connected with students in Gaelscoileanna and Gaeltacht schools to read an Irish book together online. This programme was designed to support students with low levels of Irish fluency by providing them with one-to-one mentoring. This newly proposed aspect of the Kinia programme is closely aligned with the wishes and

strategy of the Department in relation to improving Irish language fluency among the whole community.

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin T.D said:

"As a result of the investment that my Department is announcing today, it will be ensured that the students of the country will have excellent opportunities to receive high quality training in important areas of new technology in our national language. This is an expression of the Government's firm intention to normalise the Irish language and place it at the centre of the modern world in which we live."

Speaking in Gaelscoil na Mí, a school participating in the Techspace Programme, the Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht, Thomas Byrne T.D., said:

“I am delighted to announce this significant three-year funding package for Kinia. Kinia has been instrumental in creating the link between the Irish language and technology for many years and that is why we are supporting their work with over €2,300,000 in funding over 3 years. The Techspace Programme ensures that young people are informed about the opportunities available in the digital world for those who speak Irish."

The CEO of Kinia, Marianne Checkley said:

"We are honoured to be part of the Clár TechSpace journey with The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and announcing a further three year funding partnership . From a small pilot project in 2016 we now have a national reach to over 700 educators in Gaeilscoileanna and Gaeilcholaistí and a unique Tech Féile celebrating young people’s technology creativity and innovation. By expanding the use of technology and the Irish language as a catalyst to ignite a curiosity and creativity in young people around the country we aim to build a sense of agency that develops confidence in their language and in their future skills."

ENDS

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