

## Press Release

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[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

### Irish Placenames Website Launched by Minister Ó Cuív

A new public website which provides the official Irish language names of almost 100,000 towns, streets and post offices throughout the country has been officially launched today by Éamon Ó Cuív T.D, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Students, teachers, journalists, translators and others who need the authoritative Irish form of placenames can now find them easily by searching on [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie). The site is also of interest to people worldwide who are interested in the heritage, culture and geography of Ireland.

Visitors to the site can also play sound files of the pronunciation of placenames in Counties Waterford, Galway and Donegal, while many of the placenames on [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) are accompanied by scanned archival records from the Placenames Branch. The site also contains a facility to translate lists of placenames to and from Irish.

Work on [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) is ongoing and more placenames, sound files and new interactive features will be added to the website in 2009-2010.

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) is being developed by Fiontar, Dublin City University's Irish-medium teaching and research unit, on behalf of the Placenames Branch of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Fiontar project team are using the experience and technical know-how they have gained from creating and developing the award-winning Irish terminology website, [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie), and hope to make a similar success of [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie).

Minister Ó Cuív said: "I am delighted that this excellent resource is now available to absolutely anybody who wants to find out the correct Irish name for places in Ireland. The website is the culmination of years of hard work and diligent research and it is fitting that through modern technology, our rich heritage and cultural history is instantly accessible to the public in a very user-friendly format. I am greatly looking forward to browsing through the site myself and commend both an Brainse Logainmneacha and Fiontar on this wonderful achievement."

The project director Dr. Caoilfhionn Nic Phóidín said: "This website brings Irish placenames to the people in an attractive accessible format. [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) combines ancient sources with modern technology, bringing local knowledge to a

world audience. This productive collaboration between Fiontar and the Placenames Branch brings decades of research into practical use in the media and education. Users can now access this rich linguistic and cultural heritage 24/7 all over the world, through sound and images on their desktops."

### **Editor's Note:**

#### About The Placenames Branch / An Brainse Logainmneacha

The primary function of the Placenames Branch in the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the placenames of Ireland and to publish them for official use. Research is undertaken on a county basis usually. In addition, the Branch caters for other official needs in relation to placenames.

#### About Fiontar

Fiontar was established in DCU in 1993 as an Irish-medium teaching and research unit. It currently offers four taught programmes and runs four research projects:

#### Programmes:

BA Gnó agus Gaeilge (Business and Irish)  
BA Gaeilge agus Iriseoireacht (Irish and Journalism)  
MSc i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais (Business and Information Technology)  
MA sa Chleachtas Dátheangach (Bilingual Practice)

#### Projects:

Placenames database at [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)  
Terminology database at [www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie)  
LEX – terminology for the EU institutions and database of legal terminology in Irish  
Plean 2028 – 20yr Strategy for the Irish language

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