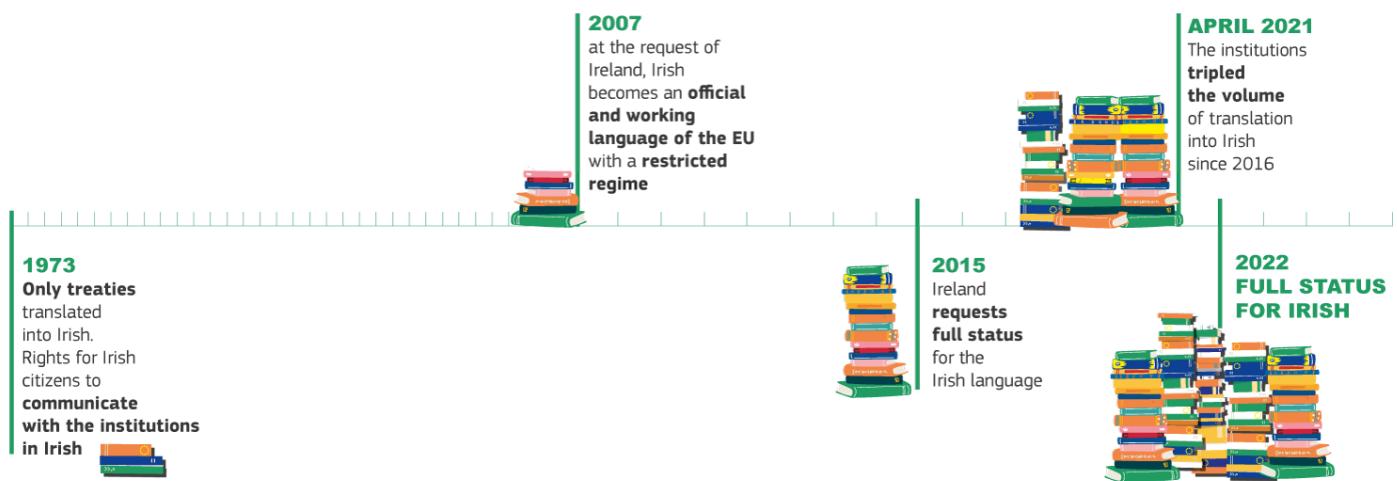


Irish in the EU: on track to reach full status by 2022

Irish has been a treaty language since 1973, when Ireland became a Member State, meaning that only the EU treaties would be translated into Irish. In 2007, at the request of Ireland, Irish became an official and working EU language. However, the Council granted a derogation, meaning that not all documents were translated into Irish at that point. In 2015, Ireland asked the Council to gradually reduce the scope of the derogation to make more material available in Irish. The aim was to progressively reach **full status** for the Irish language in the EU by 2022. In June 2021, the European Commission published a report concluding that based on the continued implementation of ongoing measures until the end of the year the EU institutions will have sufficient available capacity, relative to the other official languages, to apply Regulation No 1 without a derogation as of 1 January 2022. The EU and the Irish government have achieved this by working closely together and taking innovative measures to make progress in all areas: translation into Irish, recruitment, external contractors and Irish language resources. Cooperation will continue beyond 2021.

A. Translation into Irish in the EU. The volume of documents made available in Irish **tripled** between January 2016 and April 2021. This covers legislation, content for the web, and political, communication, consultation and reporting material. The EU institutions have successfully handled the gradual phase-out of the derogation, protecting the seamlessness of the EU's multilingual legislative process.

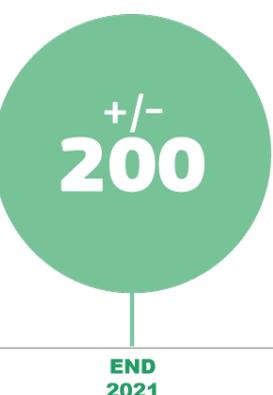


B. Recruitment. The number of Irish-language staff in the EU institutions' language services rose from **58** to **138** between January 2016 and April 2021. Recruitment will continue in 2021 to make the staffing level comparable to that of most other official languages, bringing the total number of Irish-language staff to +/- 200 by the end of 2021. The EU institutions need to remedy the high share of temporary to permanent staff by organising further competitions (open and internal competitions).

Irish-language staff in the EU institutions' language services

6 open competitions (EPSO) for permanent staff

42 selection procedures for temporary staff



C. External contractors. To complement the capacity of internal Irish-language staff, the EU institutions organised **four calls for tenders** for freelance translation services, two calls for tenders for proofreading services and four accreditation tests for freelance interpreters. The EU institutions expect to work with external contractors increasingly.

D. Irish language resources. The EU and Ireland have joined forces to build up the Irish language resources available. A new English-Irish **neural machine translation** engine was built in 2018 as part of the Commission's eTranslation system and its use in the EU's language services has increased over the years. Irish-language content in the **IATE** terminology base and in **Euramis**, the interinstitutional translation memory bank, also continued to grow.

