

International Centre for Local and Regional Development
Fourth Annual Conference

ACHIEVING BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: DYNAMIC REGIONS, SPATIAL STRATEGIES AND COLLABORATION



TO BE ADDRESSED BY

John Gormley TD, Minister for the Environment,
Heritage and Local Government, Dublin

Conor Murphy MP MLA, Minister for Regional
Development, Belfast

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Gábor Novotny, DG Regio: Urban Development
and Territorial Cohesion, European Commission

Gerrit Knapp, Executive Director,
National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland
Rupert Kawka, Federal Office for Building and
Regional Planning, Germany

Radisson SAS Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal 22-23 January 2009



PROGRAMME

Thursday 22 January 2009

12.45 **Registration and Refreshments**

1.30 **Welcome**

John Driscoll, Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) and **Feargal McCormack**, Chairman, ICLR D

Session 1: Collaborative Frameworks and Spatial Strategies – EU and US Perspectives

Chair: Peter Roberts, Professor of Sustainable Spatial Development, Leeds University

1.40 **Opening Address**
Balanced Regional Development and Territorial Competitiveness

Gábor Novotny, DG Regio: Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion, European Commission

2.00 **International Practices – Key Lessons**
Smart Growth, Maryland – **Gerrit Knapp**, Executive Director, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, University of Maryland
Achieving Balanced Regional Policy in Germany: The Role of Urban- Rural Partnerships – **Rupert Kawka**, Project Coordinator, Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Germany

2.45 **Spatial Planning Policy: The Experiences of the UK Administrations**

Spatial Planning in Wales – **Grant Duncan**, Head, Sustainable Futures Division, Strategic Policy Unit, Welsh Assembly Government

Spatial Planning in Scotland – **Jim MacKinnon**, Director for the Built Environment, Scottish Executive

Spatial Planning in England – **Steve Quartermain**, Chief Planning Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

Questions and Answers

4.00 **Refreshments**

Session 2: Collaborative Frameworks and Spatial Strategies – an All-Island Perspective

Chair: Andy Pollak, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

4.30 **Developing an All-Island Collaborative Framework**

John Gormley TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin
Conor Murphy MP, MLA, Minister for Regional Development, Belfast

Questions and Answers

5.30 **Close of Day 1**

7.30 **Reception and Conference Dinner with Speaker**

Friday 23 January

Registration

Session 3: Achieving Balanced Regional Development – Learning from each other

Chair: Aidan Gough, Strategy and Policy Director, InterTradeIreland



Session sponsored by InterTradeIreland

09.00 Growing Opportunities for Cooperation: The Review of the Regional Development Strategy, the Refresh of the National Spatial Strategy and the All-Island Collaborative Framework

Mike Thompson, Director, Regional Development Strategy, Department for Regional Development, Belfast

Niall Cussen, Senior Planning Advisor, Spatial Policy Unit, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin

09.30 **The Irish Gateways**

The Atlantic Gateway – **Brian Callanan**, Planning Officer, Shannon Development

The Cork Gateway – **Kevin Terry**, Director of Planning and Development, Cork City Council

10.00 **A Role for Gateways in Progressing Cross-Border Collaboration**

The Newry-Dundalk Gateway – **Conn Murray**, County Manager, Louth County Council, and **Tom McCall**, Chief Executive, Newry and Mourne District Council

The Letterkenny-Derry/Londonderry Gateway
Michael McLoone, County Manager, Donegal County Council, and **Valerie Watts**, Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Derry City Council

Questions and Answers

11:00 **Refreshments**

Session 4: Dynamic Regions – Capitalising on Strengths and Opportunities



Chair: **Brendan Bartley**, Deputy Director, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, National University of Ireland Maynooth

11.20 Chairman's introductory remarks

11:30 **Discussion Groups**

We have asked a distinguished group of people to lead group discussions on key issues such as dynamic regions and the private sector; the role of regeneration; evidence-informed planning and indicators; aligning central and local development policies and strategies; transnational cooperation and learning from others.

- **Pat O'Hara**, Western Development Commission
- **Ian Talbot**, Chambers Ireland
- **Cliff Hague**, ESPON Representative, UK
- **Gerard McCleave**, ILEX Urban Regeneration Company
- **Justin Gleeson**, All-Island Research Observatory

12.30 **Panel Respondents**

A panel of conference speakers representing county and district councils and central government departments will respond to questions generated during the discussion groups. Additional questions will also be taken from the floor.

1.15 **Closing Comments**

Francois Vigier, President, Institute for International Urban Development, Cambridge, Mass.

1.30 **End of Conference / Buffet Lunch**

spatial dimension of environmental management and sustainable development.



John Driscoll is Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD), an applied research centre based in Armagh which is the outcome of a North-South-US partnership between universities and research centres involved in spatial planning and related subjects. He is a Vice-President of the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is engaged in research, teaching and consultancy activities that focus on regional and city development strategies. From 1989 to 2005 he was a senior research associate and lecturer in Urban Planning at the Center for Urban Development Studies, at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is currently a research fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University.



Feargal McCormack is Managing Partner of FPM Accountants LLP, which he established in Newry in 1991 and subsequently expanded to other locations in Belfast, Dundalk and Dungannon. The firm has won numerous awards. He is the Chairman of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD), a member of the Steering Group of the North/South Roundtable Group and a former member of the Board of InterTradeIreland. He is a former Chairman of the Ulster Society of Chartered Accountants and is currently a member of the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI) and Chairman of ICAI's Strategic Development Board. Feargal recently served on the Independent Review Panel on the Location of Public Sector Jobs in Northern Ireland. He is also an Executive Member of the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade and a Patron of Special Olympics Ireland.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS



Peter Roberts, as Chair of the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC), is responsible for the strategic linkages between the ASC Steering Board and the Department for Communities and Local Government. Peter is also Professor of Sustainable Spatial Development at the Sustainability Research Institute, University of Leeds, and advises Addleshaw Goddard on sustainable communities, regeneration, planning and environmental management. He is currently Vice-President of the Town and Country Planning Association, Hon. Vice-Chair of the Regional Studies Association, Chair of the Best Practice Committee of the British Urban Regeneration Association, Chair of the Planning Exchange Foundation and an adviser to the Local Government Association. Peter was awarded the OBE for services to planning and regeneration. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences. He has written many books, reports and papers on urban and regional governance, planning, development, regeneration and management, and on the



Gábor Novotny is a seconded national expert to DG Regional Policy: Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion in the European Commission in Brussels. His responsibilities include the territorial sections of the 4th Cohesion Report; the Territorial Agenda of the EU, plus the 1st Action Programme; the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion; and preparation for the COCOF Subcommittee on Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development. Dr Novotny, who is seconded from the Hungarian Ministry of Finance, is an expert on spatial development and land use plans, budgetary allocations for spatial development and decentralisation. His PhD thesis (2003) was on 'Cross-Border Regional Networks in Europe.'



Gerrit Knapp is Professor of Urban Studies and Planning and Executive Director of the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland. His research interests include the economics and



politics of land use planning, the efficacy of economic development instruments, and the impacts of environmental policy. Funding for his research has been provided by the National Science Foundation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and numerous other federal, state, and local government agencies. He has published over 50 articles in journals and is the co-author or co-editor of six books including: *Incentives, Regulations, and Plans: The Role of States and Nation States in Smart Growth Planning*; *Land Market Monitoring for Smart Urban Growth*; and *The Regulated Landscape: Lessons on State Land Use Planning from Oregon*. Gerrit serves on the State of Maryland's Smart Growth Subcabinet and on the Science and Technical Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Commission. In 2007 he received the Outstanding Planner Award from the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association.



Rupert Kawka is a Project Coordinator for the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning in Bonn, Germany and a visiting Lecturer in Economic Geography at the Universities of Leipzig and Jena. He is a National Expert for 'Visions and Strategies for the Baltic Sea Region' and previously held research positions at the Universities

of Frankfurt and Heidelberg and at the Halle Institute for Economic Research. He has participated in and coordinated numerous research projects including a recent demonstration project 'Supra-regional Partnership – Innovative Projects for Rural-Urban Cooperation, Networking and Shared Spatial Responsibility'. Other projects he has been involved in include: Clusters, Networks and Core Competences in the East German Economy (2003-2004); Impacts of EU-Enlargement on East Germany (2003-2004); Spatial Development Report for Germany (2004-2005); New Guiding Principles of Spatial Development in Germany (2004-2006); Regional Costs of Living (2005-2007); and Index of Metropolitan Functions for Europe (2005). His PhD research topic was remote sensing in African towns and he was subsequently involved in a study on cultural change and migration in West Africa from 1992 to 2000.



Grant Duncan joined the Welsh Assembly Government in 1999. The first half of his career was in manufacturing, following a PhD in chemistry in 1982. The connection with spatial planning is catalysts, solutions and structures – across boundaries! He has been living in Wales since 1988 – the Welsh think him Scottish and vice versa. He has led a team, some of whom will be at the conference to share and learn, which has developed and embedded the Wales Spatial Plan both as a key part of government decision making and in the various areas of Wales. He also sits on the UK Interdepartmental Group on Waterways, and the UK ESPON Network Advisory Group. Within the Welsh Assembly Government, he represents Spatial Plan Wales on the Regeneration Board and on various committees, including Economic Inactivity and Climate Change. Grant is the lead senior civil servant on the Pembrokeshire-Haven Spatial Plan

Group and the Conwy Local Service Board. His last trip to Ireland was cycling from Mizen Head to Malin Head.



Jim MacKinnon is Director for the Built Environment in the Scottish Executive with responsibility for architecture and place making, building standards and planning. He joined the Scottish Office from Motherwell District Council in 1979 and has held a wide variety of posts and responsibilities in planning. He was a member of the UK delegation to the EU Committee on Spatial Development and was an expert advisor on the National Spatial Strategy for Ireland. Following a year as Head of Planning Division in the Scottish Executive, he was appointed Chief Planner and Head of Planning and Building Standards Group in 2000 where he has led the reform of the planning system, which includes the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, the National Planning Framework and a range of measures to promote culture change in planning. Jim is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and in November 2008 was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.



Steve Quartermain brings 29 years of experience to his recent appointment as Chief Planning Officer in the Department for Communities and Local Government. His first job as a trainee planner was at Epping Forest District Council where he completed his post-graduate qualification in environmental planning in 1984. Following a period of work at Dartford Borough Council, Steve moved to Hambleton where he held several senior posts, becoming Director of Planning and Environmental Services in 1998. Hambleton District Council achieved an excellent CPA rating and was a Beacon Council in 2007 for using the planning system to create sustainable communities. A member of the Royal Town Planning Institute since 1982, he has worked as a peer support for other authorities. As past-President of the Planning Officers Society, he already represented the planning profession at a national level. He will spearhead the British Government's drive to ensure the planning system supports the delivery of housing growth, climate change, sustainable economic development and works to protect and enhance the natural environment.



Andy Pollak is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, with offices in Armagh and Dublin, and Secretary of the all-island universities network, Universities Ireland. He is a former Belfast reporter, assistant news editor, religious affairs correspondent and education correspondent with The Irish Times, and co-author of a biography of Rev Ian Paisley. The Centre for Cross Border Studies researches and develops cooperation across the Irish border in education, health, ICT, the economy and other areas. It manages North-South higher education, teacher education and spatial planning networks, trains public servants in cross-border cooperation, and provides practical



cross-border information through conferences, workshops and websites (www.crossborder.ie and www.borderpeople.info). Andy is a board member of the ICLRD.



John Gormley TD is Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Leader of the Green Party (Comhaontas Glas). In 1991 he was elected to Dublin City Council and was Lord Mayor of Dublin from 1994-1995. He was first elected to the Dáil in 1997. He is the author of the *Green Guide for Ireland* (1990). He has held many positions in the Green Party including campaign director for the successful anti-smog campaign in the 1980s. In 2002 he was elected as the party's first Cathaoirleach and in June, 2007 he was appointed as Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. He had the distinction of being the first elected representative in Ireland to have an email address.



Conor Murphy MP MLA was appointed Minister for Regional Development in May 2007. A graduate of both Queen's University Belfast and University of Ulster, he first entered politics in 1989 as a member of Newry and Mourne District Council. Elected as Sinn Féin NI Assembly member for Newry/Armagh in 1998, he served as Party Spokesperson on Equality, Party Whip and Chair of the Procedures Committee, and as Deputy Chair of the Assembly's Public Accounts Committee. He was re-elected to the Assembly in 2003 and elected as MP for Newry/Armagh in 2005. He was a senior member of the Sinn Féin negotiating team in the late 1990s, and when re-elected to the Assembly in March 2007 he was nominated by Sinn Féin to the Executive ministerial portfolio of Regional Development.



Aidan Gough is responsible, as Strategy and Policy Director, for developing the strategic direction of InterTradeIreland as it seeks to deliver its legislative mandate. He is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast with an MBA and MSc in Economics. Prior to joining InterTradeIreland, he was Director of the Northern Ireland Economic Council.

He has chaired two steering committees overseeing ICLRD applied research studies: *Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Development of a Framework for Collaborative Action* (2006) and *The Newry-Dundalk Twin City Region: Supporting the Implementation of Cross-Border Collaborative Frameworks* (2009).



Mike Thompson is the Director in the Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development with responsibility for reviewing and implementing the Regional Development Strategy. He also has responsibility for reviewing the Regional Transportation Strategy and has until recently led the work to develop a rapid

transit system for Belfast. Together with his colleague, Jim Hetherington, he has been instrumental in promoting collaborative approaches between the Regional Development Strategy (NI) and the National Spatial Strategy (RoI). Previously he was the Director of the Belfast Regeneration Office in the Department for Social Development. In that capacity he was responsible for developing the URBAN II programme in North Belfast, and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Belfast; managing the city centre Victoria Square project, and representing the Department on the Laganside Corporation Board. Prior to that Mike was the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Partnership Board, responsible for £81m of EU Peace 1 funding through 26 District Partnerships. His early civil service career was as an economist working in the Department of Finance and Personnel and Department of the Environment.



Niall Cussen is a Senior Planning Adviser with the Spatial Planning Section in the Heritage and Planning Division of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Since 2000 he has been a key member of the team that prepared the National Spatial Strategy. Since the Government's adoption and launch of the strategy in November 2002, he has been closely involved in its implementation through interactions with government departments and agencies as well as regional and local authorities. A former president of the Irish Planning Institute, Niall has worked as a planner for almost 20 years in a broad range of urban and rural contexts in both forward planning and development management at both local and national level. He served on the Steering Committee for the ICLRD/InterTradeIreland Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland 2006 report and together with his colleague David Walsh, has been instrumental in promoting collaborative approaches between the National Spatial Strategy (RoI) and the Regional Development Strategy (NI).



Brian Callanan is Planning Officer in Shannon Development, the regional development agency for the Shannon Region of Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary, North Kerry and South Offaly. Key projects promoted by the agency include the Shannon industrial zone, a technology park network, tourism ventures, and regional broadband and rural initiatives. Brian has undertaken planning assignments in the use of Structural Funds, local tourism, regional development and innovation. His international experience includes work with the United Nations in Africa and South America, and with Phare and INTERREG in Europe. He is the coordinator for the Atlantic Gateway group, with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and other regional organisations.



Kevin Terry was appointed City Engineer with Cork City Council in 1998, having



previously worked in a number of local authorities including Dublin City Council and Limerick City Council. He is currently Director of Planning and Development with Cork City Council. A member of the project steering group that oversaw the updating of the Cork Area Strategic Plan this year, he is also the Chairman of the Cork City Heritage Forum.



Conn Murray is the County Manager for Louth County Council. A native of Navan, Co Meath, he began his career in local government with Meath County Council in 1979 and has since worked in eight different local authorities including Cork, Limerick and Waterford Cities. At national level, he represents the City and County Managers Association as chair of its housing committee, and is a board member of the Housing Forum, the Local Government Management Services Board, the Local Authority National Council and the Affordable Homes Partnership.



Tom McCall is the Clerk and Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne District Council. He began work with Newry and Mourne District Council in December 1974 as a clerical officer, and was appointed Personnel Officer in 1982, Director of Administration in 1989 and Clerk and Chief Executive in 1999. He aims to ensure the Council continues to work in partnership with various groups which exist within the District to assist Newry and Mourne to maximize the potential that exists for it to develop and grow as a destination for people to live, work and visit for tourism, leisure, recreation, arts and cultural activities.



Michael McLoone has been the County Manager with Donegal County Council since 1994. He also served as Chairman of the Letterkenny Institute of Technology between 1996 and 2006 and as Chairman of the Irish Blood Transfusion Board in 2001-2003. Since 1994 he has been the Chairman of the Donegal County Enterprise Board and chaired the Donegal Employment Initiative Taskforce set up to offset the job losses in Fruit of the Loom and to prepare a seven year development strategy to promote Donegal as a competitive and attractive location for job creating investment. He was Chairman of the City and County Managers Association in 2006-2007. In his post as Donegal County Manager, Michael has undertaken a series of local initiatives relating to the reform of local government. These include the decentralisation of council services to Public Service Centres in each electoral area, and a range of cross-agency and cross-departmental initiatives around economic, social and cultural developments in the county.

Valerie Watts is the Town Clerk and Chief Executive of Derry City Council, having taken up her role in 2008. She has over 25 years public sector experience and began her career in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast where she oversaw competitive



tendering and ancillary support services. Following the re-organisation of Scottish local government in the mid-nineties, she moved to the post of Head of Facilities Management, Leisure and Environmental Services with East Dunbartonshire Council, one of a number of council areas encircling Glasgow. In 2003 she was promoted to Director of Corporate Services, following further reorganisation within the Council. As Director she was one of three Strategic Directors who had responsibility for five heads of service and worked within an overall budget of £240 million. Her previous post saw her responsible for a wide range of functions including finance, ICT, human resources and organisational development, corporate services, policy and public affairs, customer relations, internal audit and the Council's call centre.



Brendan Bartley lectures in Urban Geography and Planning at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, where he is Deputy Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and the University's Programme Director for the ICLRD. He holds professional qualifications in town planning and transportation planning and worked as a professional planner in both the public and private sectors prior to joining NUI Maynooth in 1994. He is joint editor of *Understanding Contemporary Ireland*, published by Pluto Press in 2007, and is a co-author of *The Atlas of the Island of Ireland: Mapping Social and Economic Change* (2008). He is the current Irish Contact Point for the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON).



Pat O'Hara is Policy Manager at the Roscommon-based Western Development Commission (WDC), where she has spearheaded a series of well-regarded analyses and commentaries on regional issues. She also initiated the WDC's Look West campaign and website which promotes the Western Region to individuals and businesses seeking to relocate. She has served on various boards and advisory committees to government, including the Information Society Commission. She is currently a board member of Pobal, the National Statistics Board and the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NISRA). She is also on the ICLRD Advisory Board and has worked as a senior researcher at Teagasc; as a lecturer at University College Cork; and as a consultant. An expert on rural and regional development, she has written and published widely in these areas.



Ian Talbot was appointed Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland in June 2008. As Chief Executive, he is responsible for driving the future growth and strategy development of the organisation as it seeks to promote the competitiveness of business in Ireland,



represent the interests of its members, and facilitate the development of the chamber of commerce network. Prior to joining Chambers Ireland, he held positions as a Director of Citigroup and JP Morgan Chase in Ireland, and Chief Financial and Operations Officer of Fexco Consumer Products. He qualified as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse where he spent several years working in their Dublin and Luxembourg offices. Ian holds MA and BBS degrees from Trinity College Dublin.



Cliff Hague is the ESPON Contact Point for the UK. He is a freelance consultant and researcher, and has been involved in several INTERREG projects. He is Professor emeritus at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. He is a member of the UK's Academy for the Social Sciences, and was President of the Royal Town Planning

Institute in 1996. He is Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Association of Planners. He is the author of *Making Planning Work: A Guide to Approaches and Skills* (with P.Wakely, J.Crespin and C.Jasko), published in 2006 by the Intermediate Technology Development Group; and *Place Identity, Participation and Planning* (co-edited with P.Jenkins) published in 2005 by Routledge. He is currently working on a book on regional and local economic development.



Gerard McCleave is the Director of Strategy and Regeneration at Ilex, the Urban Regeneration Company for Derry/Londonderry. He has responsibility for leading and managing the implementation of the social and economic components of the Regeneration Plan for the Derry City Council area. He is currently leading the

following initiatives and interventions critical to the regeneration of the area: the Integrated Transport Strategy; a research study to address the gap in educational attainment and qualifications; Economic Impact Analysis of Londonderry Port; the Walled City Signature Tourism Project, and the Tourism Strategy for the North West Region. Before joining Ilex, he was Director of Public Sector Consultancy at BDO Stoy Hayward. He has previously held senior posts in local economic development, his earlier career being in central government.



Justin Gleeson is currently the Project Manager of the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) based in the National University of Ireland Maynooth. He is also heavily involved in a number of other projects with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), the National Centre for GeoComputation and the ICLRDR, including the recently published *Atlas of Ireland – Mapping Social and Economic Change* and a pilot project to develop a baseline of service infrastructure accessibility in both Irish jurisdictions. Justin has over six years experience working within the commercial and research GIS industry in the UK and Ireland.



Francois Vigier founded the Institute for International Development, a not-for-profit research group specialising in urban development in developing and transitional economies, with colleagues in 2005. He is a founding board member of the ICLRDR. A member of the Harvard University faculty since 1962 and Chairman of its Department

of Urban Planning and Design from 1992 to 1998, he is the Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning emeritus at the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he directed the School's Center for Urban Development Studies from 1987 to 2005. He has been responsible for numerous planning and design projects in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. His international activities have focused on building local capacity to manage a sustainable urban environment. Prof. Vigier is also an expert in the preservation of the non-monumental cultural heritage, notably the rehabilitation of the medina of Fez in Morocco, medieval Baku (Azerbaijan), and most recently, Old Damascus. He has also pioneered the creation of an inter-active database of the Old City of Jerusalem. In 1995 he was made a Knight of the French National Order of Merit.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

Thank you for joining us for the fourth International Centre for Local and Regional Development annual conference in Letterkenny. Our ICLRDR annual gatherings are growing in reputation and are now considered as leading forums for debate, networking and cross-learning on the themes of inter-jurisdictional collaboration in spatial planning and local and regional development.

As we go to press with our conference brochure, there are various cross-border policy initiatives that are due to be launched in early 2008, including the collaborative framework for spatial planning on the island of Ireland, the Northwest Gateway Initiative and an ICLRDR report on the Newry-Dundalk Twin City Region. Launching these three initiatives will represent significant milestones in cross-border cooperation on the island of Ireland.

This year's conference theme is **Achieving Balanced Regional Development: Dynamic Regions, Spatial Strategies and Collaboration**. It will consider the impact of spatial strategies and designated growth centres - such as gateways - on balanced regional and local development. We have chosen Letterkenny as the venue for our conference to highlight the ongoing efforts with Derry/Londonderry to develop the Northwest Gateway.

Both spatial strategies on the island of Ireland are being reviewed or 'refreshed', and the ICLRDR conference will offer an opportunity to learn more about emerging collaboration between the two strategies. Day 1 will focus on the potential learning emerging from EU territorial cohesion policies; international experiences from the US State of Maryland and Germany to encourage balanced regional growth; and the



spatial planning experiences of our neighbours in Wales, Scotland and England. We will close the afternoon with presentations by John Gormley TD, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Conor Murphy MP MLA, Minister for Regional Development, on the current efforts by the governments in Dublin and Belfast to establish a collaborative framework for spatial planning on the island of Ireland.

Day 2 will consider the concept of the designated gateways, including those that cross borders and jurisdictions: the Northwest Gateway, the Newry-Dundalk Twin City, the Atlantic Gateway and the Cork Gateway. Senior officials from the Department for Regional Development (NI) and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (RoI) will discuss the opportunities that are emerging for inter-jurisdictional cooperation and the role of gateways and regions between and within the respective spatial strategies. A breakout session will offer conference participants an opportunity to discuss and debate the presentations. Finally we will ask a panel representing both local and central government to respond to questions generated by the discussion groups.

As in previous years, we are bringing together an exciting group of presenters and panellists that will be of interest to policy makers, academics, practitioners, community development agencies and business networks. We are also pleased to continue our collaboration with InterTradeIreland, with its sponsorship of the Day 2 session: Achieving Balanced Regional Development – Learning from Each Other.

WHO ARE WE?

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is a North-South-US partnership project to explore and expand the contribution that spatial planning and development of the physical, social and economic infrastructure can make to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland and elsewhere. The ICLR D has developed out of a unique collaboration between academics and spatial planning specialists from the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, the School of the Built Environment at University of Ulster, Athlone Institute of Technology, the Centre for Cross Border Studies in Armagh, and the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Further information is available at www.iclrd.org

InterTradeIreland, the Trade and Business Development Body, is one of the six North/South bodies established under the 1998 Belfast Agreement. By building effective business relationships, it helps strengthen individual businesses and promotes the value of growth sectors to make the island of Ireland more competitive in a global economy. Since 2005 InterTradeIreland has supported the development of collaborative spatial strategies through a development grant to ICLR D; provided funding for the 2006 study on Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland; chaired the ICLR D Newry/Dundalk Study and supported ICLR D annual conferences.

CONTACTS

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ICLRD)

The Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development is John Driscoll and its Administrator is Mairéad Hughes. They can be contacted at the Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB, Northern Ireland. The Assistant Director of the ICLR D, Caroline Creamer, can be contacted at NUI Maynooth.

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