

International Centre for Local and Regional Development
Fourth Annual Conference

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



**Delegates, Speakers and
Chairs from:**

**Republic of Ireland,
Northern Ireland, Wales,
Scotland, England,
Hungary, the Skane Region
in Sweden, Massachusetts,
Maryland and Virginia.**

**We have academics,
students, practitioners,
officials from central and
local government,
representatives from cross-
border bodies, Ministers
and Councilors.**



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development.

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development--ICLRD

- Dynamic and decentralised network
-cross-border, cross-campus, cross-disciplinary
- Local, regional and international perspective
- Working together since 2003; Legally incorporated in 2006
- An all-island platform
-independent, expert, joined-up applied research
-capacity building on spatial planning & local and regional development.



5 Partner Institutes + Associates



ICLRD

Partners

- **The School of the Built Environment at University of Ulster**
- **National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis at NUIM Maynooth**
- **The Institute for International Urban Development, Cambridge Massachusetts**
- **Athlone Institute of Technology**
- **The Centre for Cross- Border Studies**

Associates and Academic Linkages

- **Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick**
- **Queens University**
- **Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University**

Networks

- **All Island Research Observatory at NIRSA**
- **European Spatial Planning Observatory**
- **ICBAN Cross-Border Planners Forum**

Open to new partners and collaboration with individual faculty and academic institutions



Mission and Activities

- ICLRD believes that economic and social development, and peace and reconciliation, requires long-term, joined-up, strategic planning and vision. The ICLRD aims to build strategic planning capacity by:
- *Action research that* contributes to an understanding of the complex all-island and cross-border dynamics and drivers of change in cross-jurisdiction cities, towns and rural areas.
- *Annual conferences, technical workshops* and participation in *networks* that provide policy and operational linkages between central and local policy makers, academics, officials and practitioners.
- *Training programmes* to help local officials acquire the skills and the cutting-edge tools for effective planning and management in a challenging context.



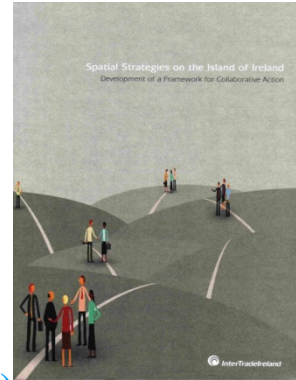
Framework for Collaboration on the island of Ireland

Research commissioned by InterTradeIreland in 2005

...to identify potential for developing framework for collaborative action

Options for a more collaborative and strategic approach

- Option 1: Continue existing informal arrangements
- Option 2: New all-island spatial planning initiative / structures
- Option 3: New framework for collaboration (building existing relationships)



Key findings of report supported Option 3

Driven by priorities of economic competitiveness

- Working towards new spatial economy
 - Strengthening economic development
 - Creating a more dynamic island economy
- Pooling resources and increasing market potential

Closer integration of spatial planning, infrastructure and business growth

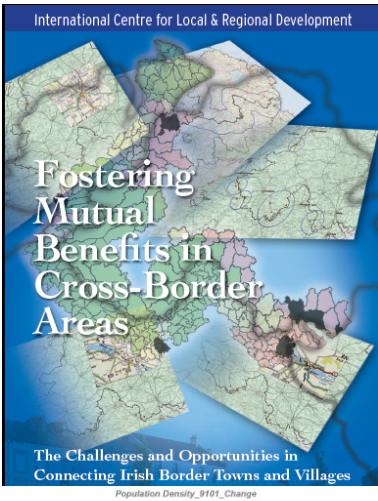


Key Elements of the Framework for Collaboration

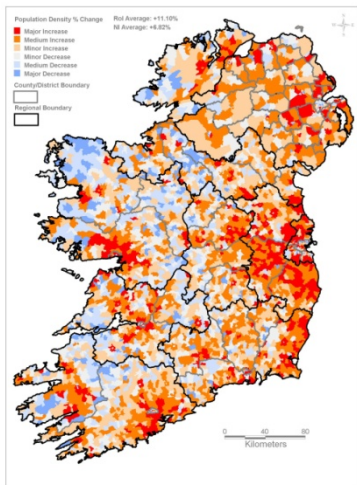
- Regional and local spatial development strategies-- Newry and Dundalk "Twin City" strategy, the North West Gateway Initiative, and Central Border Region;
- Identification of key spatial development priorities and joined-up analysis of key trends and drivers of development by monitoring spatial indicators and promoting joined-up research;
- Identifying areas for enhanced strategic cooperation during the review of both spatial strategies;
- Identify joint investment opportunities through the respective investment strategies and programmes; and
- Identify specific areas such as service delivery and environmental protection that would benefit for the economies of scale as demonstrated in other EU cross-border collaborations.



Current ICLRD Activities



- The implementation of cross-border collaborative frameworks in the Newry/Dundalk sub-region;
- Identifying best practices in cross-border planning and local development in small connected towns in the central border region;
- Sustainable Communities—achieving mixed income/integrated housing developments;
- Supporting the development of comparable and compatible data for in-depth and joined-up evidenced-based planning and analysis;
- Making ICLRD resources and knowledge available to through networks, conferences, workshops, training activities, the ICLRD website and publications.



New ICLRD Research Activities

- Rural Restructuring
- Assessing Accessibility of Services and Infrastructure
- Delineation of Functional Territories of Urban Systems on the island of Ireland
- ICLRD Journal and e-journal on Collaborative Spatial Planning Issues



New ICLRD Activities

Funded by the EU Interreg IVa Programme through the SEUPB

THE CROSS-BORDER SPATIAL PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING NETWORK (CroSPlaN)

- *International Centre for Local and Regional Development (Lead Partner), Centre for Cross Border Studies*
- Two action research projects that will enhance emerging cross-border activities and expertise in the vital area of spatial planning;
- One executive training programme for at least 30 central and local officials, councillors and community leaders to support these activities;
- Cross-Border Data and Mapping Support for research projects;
- Annual conference and one technical workshop every year for networking and addressing identified areas of need.



Support and Funding

Multi-year core funding and funding for specific projects

Core Funding

- Higher Education Authority
- International Fund for Ireland

Project Funding

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Strategic Investment Board NI
- *Inter Trade* Ireland
- Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)
- Special EU Programmes Body and Interreg IV A

Active Support

- Department of Regional Development
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- North South Ministerial Council



Three Major Cross Border Initiatives are (almost) Ready to Launch

- North West Gateway Initiative
- Newry Dundalk Twin City Region
- Collaborative Framework for Spatial Strategies

The context of the current fiscal and economic crisis provides a even greater reason for joined-up action given limited resources



Programme Change

- **Minister Michael Kitt TD**

Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and TD for Galway East



Thank you

- Caroline Creamer
- Patricia McAllister
- Mairéad Hughes
- Eimear Donnelly

