



---

## The Border

**T**he changing face of Fermanagh's Border with four southern counties was an 'alive' theme at last week's launch in Blacklion of a comprehensive 'health check' Report compiled by a high-powered research team.

It's not that long ago that people on both sides of the Border found themselves cut off from their natural hinterland and its people on the other side.

Not so, anymore. Even in the darkest years, 'soft linkages' kept these areas alive, and when inspired organisations such as the International Fund for Ireland came into being, 'peace' money began flowing into areas such as Kiltyclogher. Since the early 1980's, the IFI has contributed more than 850 million euro to productive projects in areas of the North that suffered from the 'Troubles'.

With this type of help now on the decline, there is a pressing need for projects which are self-supporting. But, it behoves the two governments to kick start them. Our own Council enjoys a good working relationship with its southern counterparts, but there has to be more of a thrust from the top down, the 'hard linkages'.

Voluntary groups who have achieved so much deserve no less.