

# Implementing a Framework for Collaborative Action Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland

**Plenary Session: Implementing a Collaborative Framework –  
Recommendations & Agenda for Action**

**Introduction & Contextual Perspective**

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# Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland

- Introduction
- International and local contexts
- Towards a more internationally competitive Island of Ireland
- Challenges

# Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland

## International Context

- 1990s *Europe 2000* & *Europe 2000+*
- 1999 ESDP – new goals (*balanced competitiveness*) & new concepts (*polycentric urban networks*)
- 2000-2001 SPESP
- 2002-2006 ESPON (1)
- Cohesion Reports (2001, 2004) TC
- Lisbon 2000 and Gothenburg 2001 Declarations
- 2004 Constitution for Europe Art. 3 TC
- 2006 Territorial Agenda of the European Union

# European Spatial Planning

- **ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective)**
  - Development of a polycentric & balanced urban system; strengthening of the partnership between urban & rural areas
  - Promotion of integrated transport & communication concepts; securing parity of access to infrastructure & knowledge
  - Development & conservation of the natural & cultural heritage; preservation of regional identities & use of natural & cultural diversity as an asset.
- ESPON 2002-2006

# EU Context for Spatial Policy and Spatial Planning

- ***Lisbon objective – key political ambition of the EU:*** EU to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion (March 2000, 2005)

# EU Context for Spatial Policy and Spatial Planning

- ***Gothenburg Objective:*** EU policy is aimed at creating a virtuous circle within which regional development both reduces economic and social disparities **and leads to an improvement in the environment** (European Council, 2001, 2005 linked with Lisbon Strategy)

# Territorial Cohesion

## **Territorial Cohesion objectives**

- to promote economic and social progress and a high level of employment and to achieve balanced and sustainable development
- to make sectoral policies which have a spatial impact and regional policy more coherent
- to improve territorial integration and encourage cooperation between regions
- *It implies that people should not be disadvantaged by wherever they happen to live or work in the Union*

# Territorial Cohesion

- The concept of territorial cohesion is a major addition to the EU policies for social and economic cohesion.
- Represents a fundamental step in translating the goal of sustainable and balanced development into territorial terms



# Territorial Cohesion

**Strategic Territorial Planning** for all aspects of development (*economic, social, cultural, environmental,..*) at different geographical scales (*international, national, regional, local*) **is vital for success in relation to territorial cohesion.**

ESDP -> NSS - > RPGs -> CDPs - LAPs

# EU Context for Spatial Policy and Spatial Planning

2006 The Territorial Agenda of the EU

Inspiration from Jeremy Rifkin's book "The European Dream" 2004

"...to work cooperatively at the local, regional, national and continental levels, to make sure that future spatial planning across the European landmass is compatible with Europe's dream of inclusivity, diversity, sustainability, quality of life, universal human rights, the rights of nature, and peace among people"

# Territorial Capital

A region's territorial capital is distinctive, determined by factors such as

- Location, size, resource endowments, climate, traditions, urbanisation, quality of life
- Intangible interdependencies – informal understandings, ...social capital
- Other intangibles – institutions, customs, creativity, innovation, “something in the air”

# Territorial Capital

A region's territorial capital is also shaped by policies and governance structures some of which are locally determined while others are strongly influenced by external forces

The way in which space is organised is crucial – may be positively influenced by spatial strategies, or inhibited by uncoordinated sectoral policies and plans

# Territorial Planning – defining characteristics

- Places and geographical context matter
- Policies should be differentiated according to the territorial context
- Thematic integration of sectoral policies highly desirable
- Involvement of actors from all spatial levels is essential

# Territorial Planning – linking the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas

- Strategies to exploit fully the endogenous potential of regions , including natural and cultural assets
- Enhanced spatial integration and connectivity to other regions is vital
- Territorial governance structures to support horizontal and vertical policy coherence is essential
- Cooperation in territorial planning at the international level is voluntary, and guided by sometimes fuzzy concepts – balanced competitiveness

# Regional Competitiveness

## Conceptual Framework

- Transition from economic growth model to new paradigm based on economic competitiveness, social inclusion and environmental sustainability
- Concept of regional competitiveness more complex than application of concept to firms
- Equally, regional economies are more than disaggregations of national economies

# SPATIAL TRENDS & POLICY OPTIONS

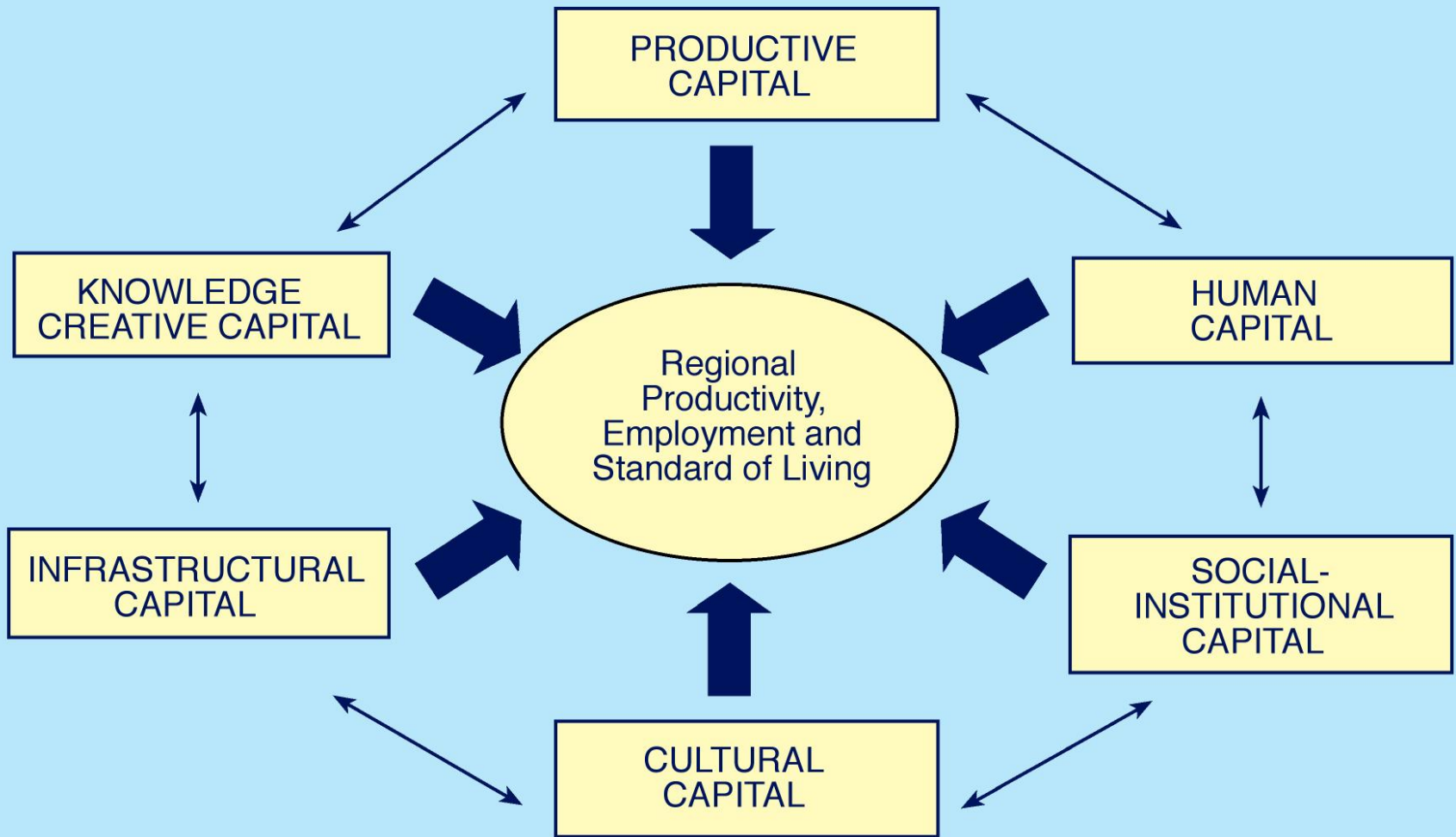
## **Conceptual Framework**

### **Drivers of regional development**

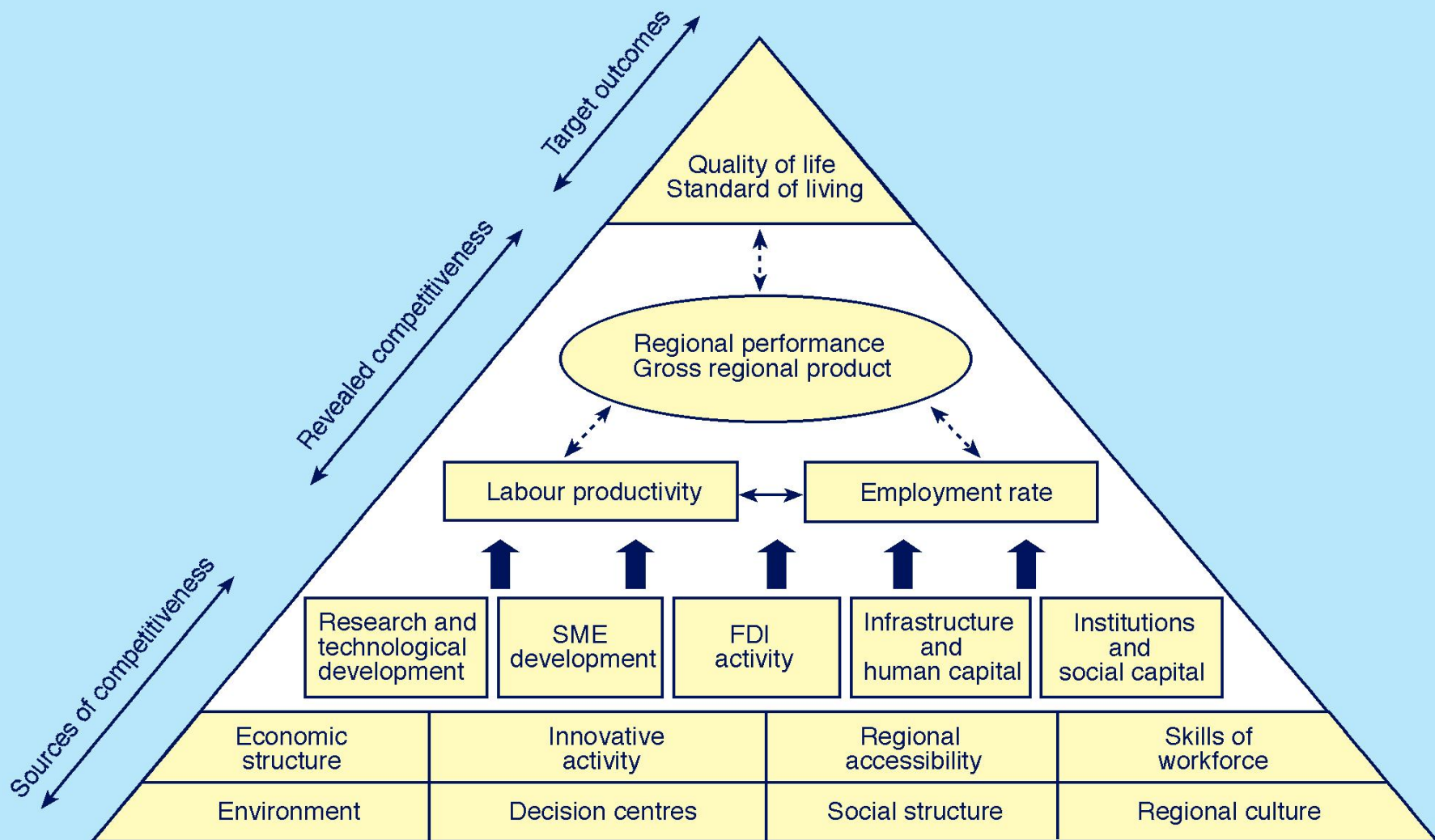
- Globalisation and Localisation
- Technology
- Natural Resources
- Productive Capital
- Human Capital
- Knowledge Capital
- Social Capital
- Quality of Life factors
- Localized externalities



# Bases of regional competitive advantage



# A 'Pyramidal model' of regional competitiveness



Sources: Based on Begg (1999), European Commission (1999), Jensen-Butler (1996), Lengyel (2000, 2003)

# Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland - Challenges

- Rep. of Ireland and N. Ireland at different levels of development, with very different historical legacies
- N. Ireland – strong industrial tradition, heavily reliant on linkages with UK for markets and also large public sector subsidies – sheltered from market forces
- Rep. of Ireland – late industrialisation, highly globalised and also very strong EU focus, but less well linked to N. Ireland, stronger commitment to knowledge economy ...

# Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland - Challenges

- Need for greater awareness of external opportunities, and greater local trust – invest in capacity building
- Two spatial strategies – identify synergies
- Commitment from governments very welcome, but

# Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland - Challenges

- Need to think beyond physical infrastructure as the principal determinant of economic development
- More emphasis on knowledge economy requirements – R&D, innovation on an Island of Ireland basis
- Remember the wider world and consider what it might look like in 20 years time rather than what we know about it today

# Thank You

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