

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-INFORMED SPATIAL PLANNING AND ANALYSIS:

Towards the Development of Spatial Databases on the Island of Ireland



SPEAKERS:

Professor Des McCafferty
Professor Jim Berry
Dr Chris van Egeraat
Professor Rob Kitchin
Dr Ronan Foley
Dr Patricia Clarke
Mr Martin Charlton
Mr Justin Gleeson

PANEL:

Mr Niall Cussen
Mr Jim Hetherington
Mr Christopher Ryan
Ms Maria Ginnity
Mr Martin Spollen

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Thursday 15 November 2007

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-INFORMED SPATIAL P

PROGRAMME

Thursday 15th November

Hamilton Suite A

Chairman: Bruce McCormack

9.30 am *Registration and refreshments*

10.00 Opening session: Towards the Development of All-Island Spatial Databases

Spatial data and mapping: the changing island of Ireland context

- **Professor Des McCafferty**, Regional Studies Association, Irish Branch and Head of the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- **Professor Jim Berry**, ICLRD and Professor in Urban Planning and Property Development, School of the Built Environment, University of Ulster

10.20 Priority indicators for all-island mapping

- **Professor Rob Kitchin**, ICLRD and Director, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth, presenting issues in the production of all-island spatial indicators
- **Dr Chris van Egeraat**, Regional Studies Association, Irish branch and Research Fellow, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth, presenting key findings from previous workshops and a set of all-island spatial indicators

10.50 Linking to policy: how is information supporting evidence-based planning?

- **Niall Cussen**, Senior Planning Adviser, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Development, Dublin
- **Jim Hetherington**, Principal Planning Officer, Department for Regional Development, Belfast
- **Christopher Ryan**, Policy Research Manager, InterTradelreland
- **Maria Ginnity**, Head of the Enterprise Policy and Communications Department, Forfas
- **Martin Spollen**, Strategic Adviser, Strategic Investment Board

11.40 Questions and answers

12.00 *Refreshments*

Chairman: Jim Hetherington

12.20 Update on current all-island initiatives

- All-island urban clusters study: **Des McCafferty** and **Chris Van Egeraat**

- Health services on the island of Ireland: **Dr Ronan Foley**, Lecturer, Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth and **Dr Patricia Clarke**, Research Manager, Centre for Cross Border Studies, Armagh
- Small areas for the Republic of Ireland – Implications for all-island datasets, **Martin Charlton**, Deputy Director, National Centre for Geocomputation, NUI Maynooth
- Informing planning policy and practice – All-Island Research Observatory: **Justin Gleeson**, All-Island Research Observatory

13.00 Questions and answers

13.15 Closing: **Professor Rob Kitchin** and **John Driscoll** (ICLRD)

13.30 *Lunch*

SPEAKERS AND CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS



Des McCafferty is Professor and Head of the Department of Geography in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, and a Research Associate of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth. His research interests are in local and regional development, with a particular focus on the links between territorial development and urbanisation in Ireland, as mediated by the evolving Irish urban system. Publications include the books *Competitiveness, Innovation and Regional Development in Ireland* and *Local Partnerships for Social Inclusion*. He has served as President of the Geographical Society of Ireland, and as Chairman of the Regional Studies Association, Irish Branch.



Professor Jim Berry in his capacity as Professor in Urban Planning and Property Development in the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster has been actively involved in research into issues relating to regeneration, urban planning systems, property development, real estate investment, housing and economic competitiveness. As a Chartered Town Planner and Chartered Surveyor specific research interests at local, national and international levels include the interrelationships between spatial/urban planning, urban regeneration, urban design, real estate investment, and property market performance; and analysis of housing and planning policy. This has involved research contracts funded by the research councils, government departments, regeneration agencies and the private sector.

PLANNING AND ANALYSIS: TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPATIAL

Professor Berry has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and has been an invited speaker at several planning and real estate conferences. He is a member of a number of professional property and planning related institutions at local, national and international levels



Dr Chris van Egeraat, is an Associate Researcher of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD). He has a background in economic geography and a Ph.D. from Dublin City University Business School. His research interests and publications focus on the spatial configuration of production/innovation networks and regional planning/development. He is Vice-Chair of the Regional Studies Association, Irish Branch.



Professor Rob Kitchin is Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He is an Executive Board Member of ICLR and the Chair of the National Social Sciences Platform (NSSP). He is the Managing Editor of the journal *Social and Cultural Geography*, and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. He has written or edited 14 books including *Understanding Contemporary Ireland* (edited with Brendan Bartley, Pluto Press). He is interested in cross-border data issues and is a member of the All-Island Research Observatory team.



Niall Cussen is a Senior Planning Adviser with the Spatial Planning Section and Heritage and Planning Division of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government, Dublin. Since January 2000, Niall 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. Niall was educated at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and University College Dublin, where he graduated with a Masters degree in Regional and Urban Planning in 1989. He is 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 as well as at local and national levels. The experience above has included working in authorities as diverse as counties Clare and Meath, Dublin City, and An Bord Pleanála.



Jim Hetherington is a Principal Planning Officer in the Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland. Jim was part of the team that produced "*Shaping Our Future – the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025*". He now manages a team implementing the strategy with specific responsibility for developing planning policy statements, the development of information sources about development progress, promoting cross border collaboration in spatial planning, and developing key stakeholder involvement.



Christopher Ryan is a Policy Research Manager with InterTradeIreland. He has responsibility for identifying areas where the two jurisdictions could co-operate for mutual economic benefit. Current InterTradeIreland research includes projects on freight transport, business regulation and North South trade statistics.



Maria Ginnity heads up the Enterprise Policy and Communications Departments in Forfás. Maria's role focuses on the regional development agenda and on the development of sectoral strategies and publications, including digital content, wireless, ICT, internationally traded services and e-learning. Maria also played a key role in supporting the Enterprise Strategy Group which resulted in the publication of *Ahead of the Curve, Ireland's place in the Global Economy* (2004)



Martin Spollen is a Strategic Advisor with Strategic Investment Board Ltd (SIB). At SIB he has led the development of the recently published Ten Year Infrastructure Investment Strategy for the Northern Ireland Executive - currently out for public consultation. Prior to SIB, Martin was a Director of Consulting with Tribal Group PLC.



Dr Ronan Foley is a full-time Lecturer in Geography at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and teaches courses on GIS and Geographies of Health. He is also an Associate of the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) based at NUI, Maynooth. Prior to this he managed the Digital Mapping Unit at the University of Brighton for six years and has been involved for over ten years in a diverse range of

IAL DATABASES ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

research and consultancy projects allied to health, social and economic analysis using GIS.



Dr Patricia Clarke is the Research Manager for the Centre for Cross Border Studies, a cross-border policy academic unit which researches and disseminates findings on practical co-operation across the Irish border. Since returning from London in 2000 she has been central to the development of cross-border work in areas ranging across health services co-operation, public services provision for ethnic minorities, review of intergovernmental co-operation as part of the Common Chapter, responses to the foot and mouth disease outbreak, mental health promotion, patient mobility across EU borders and science and citizenship education. Her current responsibilities include the development of the Border Ireland evidence base for all-island co-operation, the management of a cross-border labour mobility information service for the North/South Ministerial Council, the analysis of cross-border personal banking, the evaluation of the cross-border GP Out-Of-Hours service which sees patients moving across the border for healthcare and the identification of all-island patterns of acute health care delivery. She has a particular affinity to cross-border issues having lived in the Irish border region for the majority of her life and is currently classified as an EU frontier worker, living and working on opposite sides of the Irish border.



Martin Charlton is Senior Research Associate in the National Centre for Geocomputation at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. An expert in the use of Geographical Information Systems, he has been a leading researcher in this area for over 20 years. Until 2004 he was

lecturer in GIS at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Together with Stewart Fotheringham and Chris Brunsdon he is one of the originators of Geographically Weighted Regression for which he has written much of the software. His research interests encompass the broad area of spatial data analysis and modelling.



Justin Gleeson is currently the Project Manager of the All-Island Research Observatory based in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Justin is also heavily involved in a number of other projects with NIRSA, NCG and ICLRD. Justin has recently been developing the soon to be released 'Atlas of the Island of Ireland – Mapping Social and Economic Change' in conjunction with ICLRD, NIRSA, NCG and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local

Government. Justin has over five years experience working within the commercial GIS industry in the UK and Ireland. He has a BA and an MA in Economic Geography from the National University of Ireland, Galway and an MSc in GIS from the University of Leeds.



John Driscoll is the 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.

Bruce McCormack is a Planning Inspector with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin. He chaired the Irish Spatial Data Infrastructure Work Group which has produced an ISDI Policy Framework document which is currently being considered prior to forwarding to government for approval. He has been involved in EU INSPIRE Directive matters and was the Irish environment representative on the INSPIRE Expert Group. He is currently Vice President of the Irish Organisation for Geographical Information (IRLOGI) and the Vice-President of the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographical Information (EUROGI).

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

Introduction

Evidence-based spatial planning and the demand for high quality data on an all-island basis is ever increasing. In 2006 the ICLRD report – *Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Development of a Framework for Collaborative Action* – highlighted the need for complete, consistent and comparable datasets for the development and implementation of all-island collaborative spatial planning. The Irish Government's recently published *National Development Plan 2007-2013* notes the importance of co-operation on spatial planning on a North-South basis. It also points out that collaborative spatial planning will be based "for the first time on new all-island datasets and thematic mapping which will greatly enhance

evidence-based policy and strategic decision-making on an all-island basis". Similar initiatives are underway by various government departments in Northern Ireland.

Purpose of this Event

The conference will present the findings of two earlier seminars which were held in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and the University of Ulster, on all-island spatial planning indicators. It will discuss the type, scale and form of future all-island datasets and the kind of spatial indicators needed to assist in high quality analysis for evidence-based planning and policy. The workshops were undertaken in co-operation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Development in Dublin and the Department for Regional Development in Belfast.

Presentations on all-island indicators, data applications and maps will be made by leading academics and researchers and senior policy-makers will comment on how these initiatives can support both policies and specific projects to foster cross-border co-operation in the areas of spatial planning, service delivery, economic competitiveness and investment strategies. The presentations, panel discussion and comments from participants will help in shaping ongoing and future programmes to support evidence-informed planning.

Who Are We?

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is a North-South-US partnership project set up 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 ICLRD has developed out of a unique collaboration between academics and spatial planning specialists from the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at National University of Ireland Maynooth, the School of the Built Environment at the 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.

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) is a learned society interested in regional development, policy and research. It has an international membership of individuals, corporate organisations and students. The Irish Branch was formed in 1974 to provide a forum to discuss regional issues in Ireland. Further information is available at www.regionalstudies.ie.

The National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) was established as a University Institute at NUI Maynooth in January 2001. NIRSA's remit is to undertake fundamental, applied and comparative research on spatial processes and their effects on social and economic development in Ireland. The Institute is a collaborative project between scholars from a number of social science disciplines, located in four partner institutions: NUI Maynooth, Mary Immaculate College at the University of Limerick, Institute of Technology, Sligo; and Queen's University, Belfast. Further information is available at www.nuim.ie/nirsa

The National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth is a resource for those interested in any aspect of the capture, storage, integration, management, retrieval, display, analysis or modelling of spatial data. Further information is available at www.ncg.nuim.ie.

All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) is a collaborative venture between the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Queen's University Belfast which seeks to produce all-island spatial datasets and tools for their analyses. Seen as a key future data resource, it has recently received funding through the HEA as part of the new National Social Sciences Platform. Further information is available at www.airo.ie

Funding Support

ICLRD's applied research programme in evidence-based planning is one of four research activities ICLRD is undertaking to support the development of a collaborative framework in spatial planning on the island of Ireland. This particular research is being led by the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), one of ICLRD's founding partners, in co-operation with the University of Ulster, the Regional Studies Association, the National Centre for Geocomputation and the All-Island Research Observatory. These activities are being undertaken in close collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Development in Dublin and the Department for Regional Development in Belfast. Funding for the two previous workshops and this conference has been made available by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Development.

CONTACTS

International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)

The Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) 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

Tel: 028 (048 from the Republic) 3751 5290

Fax: 028 3751 1721

Emails: jpdjuly52@aol.com (John Driscoll – Director)
m.hughes@qub.ac.uk (Mairéad Hughes – Administrator)

ICLRD Website www.iclrd.org

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co Louth



**We look forward to seeing you at the ICLR Annual Conference
to be held in collaboration with InterTradeIreland**

‘Cross-Border Spatial Planning – Fostering Co-operation’

17 January 2008, Armagh City Hotel

For further details please contact Patricia McAllister:
p.mcallister@qub.ac.uk or tel. 028 (048 from Republic of Ireland) 3751 1550
or visit the ICLR website: www.iclrd.org