SPATIAL STRATEGIES ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND: FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION

THE PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES

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ICLRD’S Seventh Annual Conference
Planning for a New Future: Can Planning and Cross-Border Cooperation Deliver Change in Ireland and Europe?

19-20 January 2012
Dundalk, County Louth.
**Challenges:**
- Despite progress, still a legacy of back-to-back planning.
- Public uncertainty about the relationship between central and local authorities.
- Local authorities on both sides facing funding cuts.

**Opportunities:**
- Policies, strategies and plans can be strengthened through n/s dialogue & actions.
- Emerging information for identifying areas for cooperation.
- Local and Regional authorities are working on collaborative initiatives in the border region.

**PREMISE**

Functional Integration → Institutional Integration
The experience of recent years showed that the region is an essential building block where functional relationships, physical proximity, shared challenges and opportunities begin to build relationships.
SPATIAL STRATEGIES ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND
STRATEGIC AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Equipping the Island
- Competitive Places
- Environmental Quality
- Spatial Analysis

Diagram 5: The Gas Network

This image was used on page 20 of the "Adjustments to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2005" document, published by DARD in June 2008.
4 pillars for fostering Territorial Cohesion, with the support of Cohesion policy 2014+, for cross border regions

1. Integrated strategies, also across borders

2. Territorial programming: place based approach

1. Horizontal and vertical coordination of policies

1. Evidence-based policy making

Source: Jean Peyrony, Director of the Transfrontier Operational Mission in France
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Regionalism</th>
<th>New Regionalism</th>
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<td>Network-Based System</td>
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**Functional Integration:**
Form and intensity of socioeconomic interactions observed across the border

**Separation → Interaction**

**Institutional Integration:**
Form and intensity of interactions between actors who are potentially willing to cooperate, whether they have political responsibility, are technical operators, or are representatives of civil society.

**Ignorance → Cooperation**

Inter-community development association “Zona Metropolitană Oradea” (OMA) is the co-operation structure set up in 2005 by Oradea Municipality and the 11 neighboring administrative units with the aim of promoting the sustainable development in the common space made up of the 12 local communities.

Oradea Metropolitan Area Population
Oradea Municipality 204,000
Communes 46,500

Source: OMA brochure
5 OBJECTIVES

1. Economic Development
   The increase of number of jobs and of revenue in the metropolitan area, and the creation of a business environment which supports the existing companies and attracts new ones.

2. Administration and public services
   The development of an efficient, competitive and transparent administration, which would cooperate with public partners, business environment and local communities, and the development of stable and equilibrated budgets.

3. Transport and accessibility
   The increase of working force’s and product’s mobility - inside and outside the metropolitan area.

4. Quality of life
   The increase of quality of life and environment for present and future inhabitants.

5. Community, culture and identity
   The recovery and preservation of local cultural and spiritual identity, and the generation of equal opportunities for participation in the metropolitan area’s community life.

Source: Andrei Luncan
ORADEA METROPOLITAN AREA PROCESS

2001
• The memorandum for inter-communal co-operation

2002
• Seminars and training
• Decisions of all local councils
• Metro plans
• Influence on national legislature

• Projects:
  o Partnership framework between Oradea Municipality and neighbouring communes for an eco-landfill
  o Oradea Gas Distribution Company
  o GIS
  o The start of Master Plans revision process and the preparation for Zonal Urban Plans elaboration
  o Application for EU funding for infrastructure
  o Mayor’s council and secretariat established
  o Metro transport coordination

2005
• Oradea Metro Area formed

Source: Andrei Luncan
MANCOMUNIDAD: HOW MUNICIPALITIES WORK TOGETHER

Source: O’Keefe, 2010, p.8, ICLRD.
A joint vision for the Basel Metro area; report summarises cooperation from 1997-2001; proposals for 32 key projects.

Published by the TAB-ATB association. Interreg II Funding for studies.

Updated version of 2001 report with new projects.

Published by the ‘upgraded’ association---the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel (TEB-ETB).

Vision for Metro Basel in 2020 with an international exhibit to promote cross-border cooperation.

Published by the TEB-ETB as a vision of Basel Metro in 2020.

Source: TEB/TAB documents and presentation
The sustained engagement through joint-studies, workshops, training and engaging policy and technical expertise led to a MOU for Cooperation between in March 2011.
NW GATEWAY INITIATIVE

Inter Departmental Steering Group

Donegal County Council
Donegal CDB

Cross Border Partnership Board
Strategy Board
Derry City Council

Cross Border Executive Forum

North West Region Cross Border Group

Joint Secretariat

ICLRD
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development
PLACING ORADEA

Continuously building its level of cooperation and the type and complexity of its programme.

It is now recognised as a region by central government and speaks on behalf of the region to access EU and central government funding and attract new businesses.
PLACING NEWRY AND LOUTH

The MOU is now creating stronger institutional linkages, and the initial structures and processes for political and official cooperation.

The two local authorities are now sharing personnel, linking their tourism, economic development and energy and renewables work and have joined-up their efforts in cooperation with the East Border Region to seek important Interreg funding.
The recent initiatives show the potential pathway towards stronger functional and integration:

- NW Partnership Board,
- Cross-border cooperation objectives in the One Plan for Derry-Londonderry
- Donegal County Development plan
- Building on joint opportunities presented by the City of Culture 2013
The Central Border Region is starting to progress its regional vision through its Spatial Planning Initiative that can identify the functional and economic linkages. The Region can move to the point where it can convincingly explain its potential and confidently argue and represent its case.
REQUIRED ELEMENTS

• Cross-Border cooperation in Europe and inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the US requires cooperation at the Political Level, the Technical Level and within Civil Society.

• These are essential to the collaborative framework between central government and among the regions.
THE ROLE OF THE REGIONS AND THE COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR SPATIAL STRATEGIES

- The regions can fill the space between central and local government;
- Within the Irish Border Region it is even more essential to build on the practical opportunities that are present. If you are a functioning region …..
- You know who you are and your starting point (shared relationships and assets);
- Understand where you want to go and agree on essential areas of cooperation (Vision, Priority Themes and Projects);
- Your capacity to undertake work (organisation, management and accessing internal and external resources); and
- Represent yourself (as other successful regions have!)

*The Collaborative Framework for Spatial Strategies on the Island can support these emerging regional initiatives, help to operationalise strategic cooperation and provide a pathway to work more constructively with government*